

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, November 9, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the Library Media Center at Coginchaug Regional High School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Fulton, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, and Mr. Renninghoff. Also present: Mrs. Viccaro and Mrs. Mangini.

Mr. Hennick called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Public Comment: Mrs. Viola of Durham stated that with a drop in student population the Board should seriously consider one program for the District. Mrs. Viola viewed her opinion on all day kindergarten, and questioned an elective at the high school. Mrs. Viola asked why only ½ of the ECS money was received. Mr. Hennick stated he did not have that answer but would look into it.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held at Lyman School on December 14, 2011.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Boyle, the Board of Education unanimously approved the agenda.

Mrs. Adams made a motion, second Dr. Ochterski, to accept the minutes of the October 26, 2011 meeting as amended. Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Fulton, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, and Mr. Renninghoff voted yes. Mrs. Flanagan abstained.

Communications: Mr. Hennick praised District staff for their assistance at the community shelter.

Mr. Hicks commended Mrs. Viccaro and Mr. Francis for the many hours they spent at the community shelter.

Ms. Parsons expressed concern in regards to the Attitude/Wellness survey given to Strong and CRHS students.

Mr. Fulton expressed concern about an email he received and would like to have Mr. Fielding address this issue.

Mrs. Flanagan spoke about rumors of losing April vacation and stated she set people straight. These are rumors and the Board has not made a decision on the school calendar as yet.

Mrs. Boyle commended the girls' soccer team and their coach on winning the Shoreline championship. It was the first time ever. There are twelve seniors on the team.

Special Education Resolution – Changing the Burden of Proof: Discussion took place regarding the possible resolution distributed by Mrs. Viccaro. Mr. Fulton asked that “or revise” be eliminated from the proposal.

Mr. Renninghoff made a motion, second Mrs. Flanagan to resolve that the Regional School District #13 Board of Education request that the State of Connecticut Board of Education take immediate action to repeal the regulation concerning burden of proof in special education due process hearings to place the burden of proof on the moving party. Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Fulton, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms Parsons, and Mr. Renninghoff voted yes. Mrs. Boyle voted no.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro commended Mr. Hicks, cafeteria staff, emergency personnel, town leaders, town crews, and lots of volunteers that made the shelter a success. Everyone was "rowing together".

The Board of Education retreat will be on 11/20/11 at 8:00 a.m. at the Water's Edge nursing home in Middletown.

The Craft Fair has been rescheduled to Sunday, November 13 at 11:00 a.m.

SCSU is looking for teachers interested in applying for leadership certification. There is a possibility that we may house 5 of the 10 classes in District.

Mrs. Viccaro has started the process with FEMA in regard to Hurricane Irene. Mrs. Viccaro wanted the Board to know that 30 reports need to be completed regarding the District's part in the community shelter. This is a huge undertaking involving additional work for Central Office staff.

Mrs. Viccaro introduced Pam Mangini as the District's new Business Manager. Mrs. Mangini expressed her respect for our community for pulling together during the recent power outage.

Presentation by Dr. Linda Berry:

Dr. Berry described herself as the orchestra leader. During her Assessment Presentation Dr. Berry portrayed the relationship between curriculum, instruction and assessment as hand and glove. Dr. Berry stated that we should hold adults accountable for student achievement. CMT scores were reviewed and scores were compared to other districts in our DRG. District 13's scores are consistent but are not improving. CAPT and SAT scores were also reviewed. It was noted that Coginchaug Regional High School does very well in comparison to other high schools in their DRG. The overall view of our District is that we could be better. Suggested ways to achieve this goal would be full day Kindergarten and the hiring of a reading consultant. Mrs. Viccaro commended Dr. Berry for being a great motivator and is optimistic that she will get us where we need to be. Mrs. Flanagan stated that although she is not happy about where we are as a District she appreciates Dr. Berry's uncovering of this information. Mrs. Flanagan stated that we need to make sure budget dollars are in the right area for this coming year.

New Business:

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Adams the Board of Education unanimously voted to authorize Pamela Mangini and Susan Viccaro to be the authorized signers for the ED-099 Agreement for the Child Nutrition Program.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Flanagan the Board of Education unanimously voted to delegate Pamela Mangini and Susan Viccaro to approve exceptions to the ED-099 Agreement for the Child Nutrition Program.

School Calendar: Mrs. Viccaro proposed an amended 2011-2012 school calendar to reflect the six weather related days. Mrs. Viccaro recommended we keep the 182 school day calendar. One day was made up on Tuesday, November 8, 2011. Tuesday, February 21, 2012 would become a school day for students and staff. The last four remaining days would be added onto the end of June, (June 15, 18, 19, and 20). This would still leave us 7 more available days in June if the need arises. Mrs. Viccaro recommended that teachers could make up their professional development day (Nov. 8) by having three two-hour after school sessions focusing on Common Core. Mrs. Viccaro stated that this suggestion needs to be taken to the teachers' union for approval of the three two-hour after school professional development sessions.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Adams the Board of Education unanimously voted to accept the proposed calendar pending approval of the union regarding the three two-hour after school professional development sessions.

Finance Committee: Mrs. Flanagan reported that the budget is moving forward. The committee is looking at other districts regarding declining enrollment. The committee is also taking a look at the BASREP contract and locking into a price for oil. Mrs. Mangini is going to follow up on the oil price.

Policy Committee: Mr. Hicks reported on field trips and improvements that need to be made. The non-student commitments and vendor's contracts put a burden on teachers and administrators. The committee also discussed changes in building use. The meeting was very lengthy and further discussion will take place on November 21st. Mr. Hicks also reported that he attended the ACES convocation and that the Magnet School meeting was canceled.

Personnel Policies Committee: Ms. Parsons reported that the meeting is postponed until November 21, 2011.

Curriculum Committee: Mrs. Adams reported that they are meeting on Monday.

Follow Up:

1. Mrs. Viccaro to report on the union's reaction to the new professional make-up time on the school calendar.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mr. Renninghoff, the Board of Education unanimously approved to adjourn at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Johnson