

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, September 27, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the music room at Brewster Elementary School. Board members present: Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Fulton, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Renninghoff. Member absent: Mrs. Adams Also present: Mrs. Viccaro.

Mr. Hennick called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held at Memorial School on October 12, 2011.

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

Ms. Parsons made a motion, second Mr. Renninghoff to approve the minutes to the meeting of August 31, 2011. Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Ms. Parsons and Mr. Renninghoff voted yes. Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara and Dr. Ochterski abstained.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, second Mr. Fulton to approve the minutes to the meeting of September 14, 2011. Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Fulton, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Ms. Parsons and Mr. Renninghoff voted yes. Mrs. Flanagan and Dr. Ochterski abstained.

Communications: Mr. Hicks said he and several other Board members attended the opening football game. It was a very proud moment for Region 13. It was a great day and the crowd was wonderful. Mr. Hennick also attended with his daughter who was amazed at the facility. He felt that it was more than a football game; it is a place for people to come together as a community. The District should be very proud.

Ms. Gara has heard some positive feedback from parents regarding the new parent portal in PowerSchool. Parents feel it will help to keep kids on track. There is going to be an article in the student section of the Town Times about the student's perspective on the new program.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro distributed copies of the Healthy Assets Survey that was discussed at the last BOE meeting. Every community in Middlesex County participated in the survey the last time it was conducted. We received good data the last time that was used for many purposes such as helping to determine how funds are used by the Wellness Council. We do not have dates yet for when they will be administering the survey. They will be conducting the survey at Strong Middle School and at Coginchaug High School. Mrs. Viccaro said she thinks it is about an eight-week turn around time before we get the results.

Mrs. Viccaro spoke with Durham's 1st Selectman, Laura Francis today. She is working with Mrs. Francis to finalize the application to FEMA to get reimbursed for expenses from tropical storm Irene. Mrs. Viccaro praised Mrs. Francis and Francis Willett of the Emergency Operations Center in Durham for their handling of the shelter operations. The District has already been reimbursed by Durham for expenses incurred from having the shelter opened at Coginchaug.

Mrs. Viccaro said the Show Choir and Jazz Band preformed admirably at the fair. The fair is a major fundraiser for all of our schools and overall she thinks things went well even though it rained on Friday.

Mrs. Viccaro and Dr. Berry have been attending professional development activities regarding the Common Core Standards. Yesterday they attended a workshop entitled Connecticut's Vision for Implementation of the Common Core Standards. Dr. Berry is putting together two Curriculum Councils, one to focus on math and one for language arts. They will be looking at how we match the standards and what we need to change over the next two years. Mrs. Viccaro has been pleased with the information the State is sharing so far. They have been doing a good job getting information out to school districts.

Mr. Hennick asked if the timing will clash with the high school accreditation process and if we know what costs will be incurred. Mrs. Viccaro said we will be focusing on the K-8 curriculum for now. After the accreditation process is complete we will start to focus on the high school. Regarding the costs, Mrs. Viccaro said it is too early to know. For now it is teacher and administrator intensive, materials may be more involved later in the process.

Mrs. Boyle asked how the strict structure of the standards will work with the Integrated Day Program. If the standards expect that students will be fluent in a specific area by the end of a certain grade level it goes against allowing the students to have the same teacher for two years to allow for flexibility in mastering concepts. Mrs. Viccaro said it will have to be looked at very carefully; there will not be as much flexibility. She said there will also be implications for kindergarten and what the curriculum will look like. She feels the need for full day kindergarten will be even greater.

Mrs. Flanagan asked if there are any plans to purchase textbooks in the next two years. Mrs. Viccaro said there is because we have a textbook buying plan but we will need to be very cautious about what we buy.

Mrs. Viccaro asked the Board about a date for the Board retreat. The date of November 6th was agreed on. It will be held from 8:00am to 12:00pm.

Legislative Update: Mrs. Viccaro reviewed new legislation that was passed in 2011 that will affect education. She went over the highlights of the document that was distributed to Board members. There were two areas of change that seemed to concern Board members most. The first is the requirement to create student success plans starting in Grade 6. The creation of these plans will require students to meet with a counselor/staff member every year to update their career and academic choices. Board members did not feel that students this young have a good grasp of their career direction. The second area of concern was regarding the new legislation on bullying. Schools have to create Safe School Climate Plans and every school employee must be trained in how to respond to bullying incidents. This includes, teachers, paraprofessionals, coaches, substitute teachers and administrators. The school district will also be held responsible for incidents of bullying that take place at school bus stops and on school busses. If incidents of bullying take place outside of school but create a hostile environment for a student at school or disrupt the school environment the school must also address the issue. In the past these issues became a police matter.

Mr. Fulton would like to know the cost of complying with all of the mandates that the State requires so that the Board can look at each mandate and determine its value and then see what the cost of not complying would be. Ms. Gara said there are professional groups that have been working to quantify the costs of all of the legislation. She will try to get the data to share it with the Board.

Finance Committee: Mrs. Flanagan said the Finance Committee met this evening. It has been decided that the accounting for the cafeteria service will be done in-house. It will be reviewed once the new business manager is on-board. The committee discussed building utilization; a demographics study will be done first. They are formulating ideas and a scope and then will proceed with an RFP for the study. The BASERP contract was also discussed. The contract

language has not been updated in several years. The committee would like to proceed with the current BASREP contract for one more year and then renegotiate the terms and language for next school year.

On a motion by Mrs. Flanagan, second Mrs. Boyle, the Board of Education unanimously approved to amend the agenda to include a motion on the BASREP contract for the 2011-2012 School Year.

Mrs. Flanagan made a motion, second Ms. Parsons to approve the existing contract with BASREP for the School Year 2011-2012 at an annual rent of \$10,000.00. Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Fulton, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons voted yes. Mr. Renninghoff abstained.

Mr. Hennick said he met with Mrs. Viccaro to finalize her evaluation. Her contract has been extended for another year. One of the items that came out of this meeting was a discussion of listing action items from Board meetings that members need to act on. Sue Gaudreau and Virginia Antonelli have been asked to keep track of anything that anyone has been asked to follow-up on. The list will be repeated at the end of each meeting.

On a motion by Ms. Parsons, second Mrs. Flanagan the Board of Education unanimously approved to adjourn at 8:45p.m.