

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, January 23, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the library at Memorial School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Renninghoff. Also present: Mr. Melnik, Mrs. Viccaro.

Mrs. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the recital Pledge of Allegiance led by Mrs. Adams.

Public Comment: No Public Comment.

Consent Agenda: Mrs. Flanagan asked the Board if they wanted any items removed from the consent agenda. Mr. Fulton asked that the approval of the minutes be removed from the consent agenda and a motion to reallocate pension investment funds as discussed during the Finance Committee meeting be presented under Committee Reports.

On a motion by Mr. Renninghoff, second Mrs. Adams the Board of Education unanimously approved to remove the agenda from the Consent Agenda.

Communications: Ms. Parsons stated that she attended the Show Choir performance last weekend. Not only did Coginchaug students perform but also 62 past members of Show Choir performed along with children of alumni. It was a spectacular event.

Mrs. Buckheit announced that the 14th Annual Elementary School Celebration of the Arts Awards were presented to two Lyman School 4th graders. Shane Buckheit received the music award and Nadifo Kelley received the art award.

Mrs. Flanagan received two emails regarding the portables. These emails are asking the Board to look at ways to not have students in the portables.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro stated that the VFW wanted to place a rock and a plaque at the bottom of the flagpole on the football field.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Adams the Board unanimously approved to accept the donation from the VFW for a rock and a plaque to be placed at the bottom of the flagpole on the football field.

Sgt. Calvo from Troop F will be at Coginchaug Regional High School for roll call on February 19, 2013. This is a day school is not in session. Troop F will be touring Coginchaug, Korn, and Strong on that day. Tours of Brewster, John Lyman, and Memorial schools will be scheduled for another time.

Mrs. Viccaro advised the Board that the landing page and committees page for the Board of Education are now on the website. The Quarterly Report page has also been added.

Mrs. Viccaro announced that District 13's Director of Food Services, Mark Basil has been named the New Haven Register's football coach of the year.

Mrs. Viccaro concluded her report by advising the Board that she has emailed the requested job descriptions to the Board members.

Business Manager's Report: Mr. Melnik stated that budget activities are taking place over the course of the month. He also mentioned that there will be a Safety Committee meeting on January 24th.

Presentations:

Freedom Rider: Student members of the 8th grade Green Team from Strong School gave a presentation to the Board on the Freedom Riders. Freedom Riders were civil rights activists who rode interstate buses into the segregated southern United States in the early sixties. The Freedom Riders challenged local laws or customs that enforced segregation. This exhibit will be open to the public on February 26th and February 28th at Strong School.

Mrs. Flanagan was pleased with the presentation by the students and thanked the CVEF for the funding of this event.

Mr. Fulton stated that it was rewarding to see the connections between generations. Mrs. Adams shared with the students that she wanted to be a Freedom Rider while she was attending college however her parents would not allow her to.

One to One Initiative: Mr. Hauser proposed a reallocation of funds to purchase Tablets for the Social Studies department in lieu of textbooks. Mr. Hauser stated that in the case of U.S. History when purchasing a textbook it is already out of date. He would like to move away from textbooks and move towards using technology. By taking this approach the Common Core State Standards would be addressed along with saving money. Board members showed concern over the replacement of lost devices, responsibility for the devices and cost of resources. Mr. Hauser stated that they were focusing on free resources. It was recommended that the Policy Committee take a look the policy for these devices. Mrs. Flanagan feels that with this approach we as a District would be moving in the right direction.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Adams, the Board of Education unanimously approved the reallocation of US History textbook funding (\$9,895.50 640-1115) and other relevant software and textbook funding toward the purchase

of suitable tablets for students and teachers in the pilot. \$ 12,540 for US History B, \$16,940 to include American Studies if all students take a device.

Old Business Mr. Melnik reported to the Board an estimate of \$111,000 to enclose the walkway between the school and portables. The work would take approximately 6 – 8 weeks depending on the weather.

Mrs. Flanagan stated that the Board and administration should take a serious look at moving the students back into the school building and having adults occupy the portables. Mrs. Flanagan offered an example of moving the Curriculum Director's office to the portable and using the present office as a classroom. Mrs. Boyle stated that a meeting should take place with the Building/Grounds/Transportation Committee and administrators to assess their building and see what can be done to get students out of the portables. Mrs. Flanagan thanked Mrs. Viccaro, Mr. Melnik, and the administrators for the support in this matter.

Finance Committee:

On a motion by Mr. Fulton, second Mrs. Adams the Board of Education unanimously approved to authorize the reallocation of the District 13 pension plan investment portfolio from 65% equity and 35% fixed income investments to 80% equity and 20% fixed income investments and to transfer approximately \$450,000 from Neuberger/Berman equally between two additional equity fund managers, Epoch/Mainstay Global Equity Yield SMA and The London Company – SCC in order to facilitate this change.

Curriculum Committee: The Committee is preparing to evaluate all day kindergarten.

Personnel Policy: Meetings are set for negotiations with the custodian and cafeteria workers.

Other Committees: Mr. Hicks attended the ACES meeting on school safety and stated that we are experiencing the same issues as other schools in the state.

Follow-Up:

1. Update on safety issues discussed at December 19th meeting.
2. Reschedule retreat

On a motion by Mr. Renninghoff and second by Dr. Ochterski, the Board of Education unanimously voted to go into executive session for the purpose of conducting Korn School principal interview.

Mrs. Flanagan invited the following members of the search committee to participate in executive session: Ms. Bruch, Mr. Brough, Mrs. Chupron, Ms. Grayeck, Mrs. Heckler, Mrs. Viccaro, and Mrs. Zastawsky.

The Board of Education returned to regular session.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks and second Mr. Renninghoff ,the Board of Education unanimously approved the appointment of Debra Stone as Principal of Korn Elementary School effective February 25, 2013 and placed on the administrators' salary schedule at a step to be determined by the Personnel Policy Committee.

Mrs. Flanagan welcomed Mrs. Stone to Regional School District 13.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks and second Dr. Ochterski, the Board of Education unanimously voted to adjourn at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Johnson