

Regional School District 13  
Board of Education  
**Minutes of the Special Meeting of Wednesday, April 17, 2013**  
Strong Middle School  
7:00 p.m.

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education, Durham Board of Finance and Middlefield Board of Finance met in joint special session on Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at Strong Middle School in Durham, Connecticut.

Members present: Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Ms. Parsons

Members absent: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Fronc, Dr. Ochterski, Mr. Renninghoff

Administrators present: Mrs. Viccaro, Mr. Melnik

Town official present: Laura Francis

Durham Board of Finance members present: Martin Anderson, Loraine Coe, Rosemarie Naples, Teresa Opalacz

Middlefield Board of Finance members present: James Irish, Lucy Petrella, Robert Yamartino

Mrs. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. after it was determined that a quorum was not present. Mr. Hicks stated that since there was no quorum, no motions could be made and no action could be taken on any item on the agenda.

### **1. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mrs. Flanagan led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

### **2. Public Comment**

Rick Parmelee spoke regarding several items including having the Devil's Advocate contain a memo stating that taxpayers finance the publication.

### **3. Discussion of 2013-14 RSD13 Budget**

It was determined that paperwork for this meeting was not distributed to all parties that are a part of the meeting.

Mrs. Flanagan began by explaining how the Regional School District 13 budget was organized and determined. Discussion continued regarding the building utilization study. Mr. Fulton provided an explanation including a timetable being 6-9 months from start to

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finish. If the budget passes, this process could start as early as July 2013. He also stated that the firms interviewed were well experienced and are objective in the process. Mrs. Petrella added that the timing of this study is excellent.

Mrs. Petrella asked if the Board of Education has considered merging the two programs (contemporary and integrated day) in the same building. Mrs. Viccaro responded that the two programs are only separate in the elementary grades. Mr. Fulton remarked about the transportation impact of the two programs. Mr. Yamartino asked if there were assumptions that the Board of Education had considered. Mr. Fulton replied saying that the first and foremost was the demographic study that was completed last year. Mrs. Opalacz mentioned that the Board of Education should go back to studies that have been done in the past ten years such as the transportation study.

Mrs. Boyle spoke regarding the capital portion of the budget including security, the boiler at Memorial School, the track and turf field and the cost of replacement in the future putting funds aside for that purpose. The committee has toured all of the district facilities this year to assess what needs to be done in the future. Mrs. Flanagan mentioned that there is a \$225,000 contribution to the capital fund. Mr. Yamartino suggested that since interest rates are quite low now might be the time to bond now for the Memorial boiler and pay later and use current capital funds to assist in financing the project. Mrs. Naples asked about the cost per student. Mr. Melnik replied that it is about \$15,000.

Mrs. Francis stated that our legislators are working with OPM to get the third and final installment for construction of the culvert.

There was discussion regarding the shift from purchasing textbooks to using tablets. Mrs. Viccaro spoke regarding the initiative that CRHS will undertake next regarding the use of technology in the classroom. She also added information regarding Common Core and the effect that it will have on assessment.

Mrs. Flanagan continued with an explanation of funding that is shifting from state to local funding as well as its effect on the fund balance. Mrs. Petrella asked about the spike in in-house tuition. Mrs. Flanagan answered that this is because of excess income from Middlesex Transition Academy.

Mrs. Petrella asked to delineate the difference between the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Director of Pupil Personnel, Special Education Coordinator. Mrs. Viccaro explained each. It was also mentioned that increases in head count were due to the inclusion of personnel that were funded by grants. Prior to this, they were not included in the count. Mrs. Petrella asked why the number of special education head count was increased. It was noted that the item cut was an increase in head count.

Mrs. Flanagan spoke of student population, union contracts, employee benefits, purchased services, property services, operating services, supplies, electricity usage, capital plan and debt service. There was also conversation regarding curriculum and achievement as well as technology.

Mrs. Coe asked what the Common Core has cost the district to date. Mrs. Viccaro explained that it has cost over \$100,000 so far. There has been some limited training from the state. Common Core is mandated but funding is not forthcoming.

Mrs. Flanagan summed up the salient points of the meeting.

Mrs. Petrella thanked the Board for meeting with the Boards of Finance. It is her hope that next year the three Boards meet well in advance of the budget season so there can be meaningful input in the budget process.

Mrs. Francis spoke of what makes up the budget including all town agencies. Mrs. Naples commented that she has a better understanding of the Board of Education budget and was appreciative of the process.

#### **4. Public Comment**

None

#### **5. Adjournment**

As there was no quorum, no motions were made and no action taken on any items on the agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Norm Hicks*

Norm Hicks, Secretary