

**Board of Education
Regional School District 13**

**Regular Meeting
Strong School, Library**

**February 12, 2014
Minutes & Motions**

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

Roll Call	Mrs. Flanagan	Mr. Renninghoff	Mr. Hicks
	Mr. Fulton	Mrs. Buckheit	Mrs. Adams
	Mrs. Boyle	Mrs. Fronc	
Absent	Dr. Onofreo	Dr. Friedrich	

Administrators	Dr. Veronesi	Mr. Melnik	Dr. Berry
	Mr. Sadinsky	Mr. Gates	Mrs. Emory
	Mr. Brough	Mr. Ford	Mrs. Stone
	Mrs. Heckler	Mr. Gustafson	Mrs. Hinson-Yokubinas

Also in Attendance: Mr. Fielding

Public Present There were 17 members of the public present.

Presentation

CRHS Show Choir

The Show Choir performed a song from "Pitch Perfect" and also the song "Good Night" by the Beatles which they perform at every concert they do.

Dr. Veronesi said that she was so impressed with the group when she attended the high school concert last month. She invited the group so that she could share that experience with the BOE members.

Public Comment

Donna Viola said that other towns have already submitted budgets and they have an advantage. Taxpayers have concerns and should have more time to review the budget. She also asked what the details of the teachers' contract are including what the salary increases will be.

Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be February 26, 2014 at Strong School.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda made by Mr. Hicks, second by Mrs. Adams. Vote: Unanimous.

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Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the Minutes dated January 22, 2014 Regular Meeting made by Mrs. Boyle, second by Mr. Renninghoff. Vote in favor: Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Renninghoff, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Fulton, Mrs. Buckheit Abstention: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks

2014-2015 Budget Presentation

Mrs. Flanagan thanked the administrative team for their hard work. The budget process is starting two weeks earlier than usual.

The overall budget is being presented with a 1.74% increase or \$35,178,402.00 total operating budget.

Mr. Melnik reviewed contractual increases, enrollment, benefits, bus contract, purchased services, dues and fees, fund balance carry-over, in-house tuition, state and federal grants, special education excess cost, capital and reduction of staff.

Dr. Veronesi reviewed proposed changes and the teamwork that was required to reach these decisions.

Proposed Additions:

- K-4 Technology Teacher
- 4 AP classes at CRHS
- 1 to 1 program – Chrome Book initiative /grade 9
- Music equipment lease – High school and middle school
- In house PSAT Administration
- Admin Assistant: increase from 10-12 months at Memorial School, Guidance/Pupil Services
- CABA membership for BOE

Proposed reductions:

- 6.1 certified teachers
- 1 related service
- 7.5 non-certified staff
- 1.5 custodians

Recent considerations include Kindergarten enrollment being higher than predicted. High school course enrollment will be complete at the end of the month; specific cuts will be looked at when this is complete. Right now, these cuts mean layoffs.

Our mission moving forward includes looking at class size, common core implementation, teacher growth and development, optimal facility use and responsible resource allocation given the decline in enrollment.

The BOE will continue to meet weekly throughout March: March 5th Board meeting with the Boards of Finance from both towns, March 12 and March 19th budget discussions with finalizing the budget on March 19th, the Public Hearing tentatively scheduled for April 10, 2014 and the referendum tentatively scheduled for May 6, 2014.

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Mrs. Flanagan said that there have been several meetings with the Education Resource Committee. There is a balance between meeting the needs and addressing the concerns about passing a budget. She also thanked all of the administration for their hard work on this budget. Class sizes for Kindergarten are already high and will need to be examined.

With the elimination of positions, long-term substitutes are being used in order to minimize the impact on the staff as we reduce. The possibility of an early retirement incentive is being examined but is unlikely.

Communications

Mrs. Fronc said that she is selling tickets for the Exchange Club Spaghetti Dinner on March 9th. The tickets are \$20.00 per family.

Mr. Fulton reminded everyone that Community Workshop #3 will be on February 19, 2014 and the demographic study will be discussed.

Mrs. Buckheit spoke about the Women's Club sponsoring a Meet and Greet with Dr. Veronesi at Perk on Main on April 10th at 7 p.m.

Mrs. Boyle gave a "shout out" to Rich Fielding regarding a Twitter post about the high school video production class creating a newscast once a month and they streamed it into the classrooms. There is a link to the video on the website. One of the highlights was how students love Mr. Gates. This is great PR for the district.

Mr. Renninghoff talked about the Benchwarmers Dodge Ball Fundraiser on April 11th at CRHS. Entrance is \$150 per team to support athletics. Contact Mr. Renninghoff for more information.

Mrs. Flanagan reported that she and Dr. Veronesi met with the Middlefield Seniors to help create open communication. They have a hard time coming out in the evenings. We will also meet with them in the future to help them feel and be better informed about BOE activities.

Mr. Gates informed the Board that he nominated Bill Cahill in Benchwarmers for the CAS 2014 Distinguished Friend of Education Award for his 47 years of support toward athletics. He has been a part of the Benchwarmers since the beginning. Mr. Cahill will be presented with the award on March 11th.

Mrs. Fronc asked that the Athletic Director come in to do a small presentation. Dr. Veronesi said that Nick Barbieri will do that in March, including the CIAC report and status update.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Veronesi reported that Mr. Gates received the AASA Lifetime Achievement Service Award He was honored and presented with the award in Texas and had to ship the award home.

Mr. Gates said he has been an administrator for 39 years. His goal is to get to 50 years and write a book. Mrs. Flanagan said that RSD13 is honored to have a nationally recognized principal here helping us.

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Dr. Veronesi said that if the snow continues the way it has been, the BOE may want to look at the calendar regarding April vacation. She also said that the State Department of Education is offering flexibility options with the SEED program. We will have some flexibility including reducing the number of goals and the number of observations. For the SBAC testing, the technology needs are being addressed by Dr. Berry and Mr. Fielding and they are working on scheduling and training. Focus groups are moving along for the High School Principal search. We have 18 applicants to date. A couple of CRHS students are interested in being a representative to the BOE. They will start in March.

Mrs. Boyle complemented Dr. Veronesi on the high school principal search survey that is on the website.

New Business

RSD13 Teachers' Contract

Mrs. Flanagan said that the contract has been settled by an arbitration award and that the BOE will not vote on it. She thanked Dr. Veronesi, Mr. Melnik, Mrs. Boyle, the union and staff for their participation. Some of the highlights include:

- Maximum yearly payout for tuition reimbursement will be \$40,000.
- A 14-step salary schedule and each teacher will have full step movement each year with a 1% increase added to the top step.
- Total salary increases: 2.51% in 2014-2015, 3.25% in 2015-2016, and 3.1% in 2016-2017. This is a total of 8.8% over 3 years. The state average is 9%.
- The stipend schedule was reviewed and is now listed as dollars instead of percentage of salary except in a few stipends. If a person is in a position and the percentage of salary is higher than the dollar figure assigned to the position, the person will be grandfathered.
- Two members of the Board will be on a stipend committee with two union members to review and possibly restructure. The two members need to be assigned by March 1st and will meet from April to December. If changes are not recommended, all will remain constant.
- The insurance is a high deductible plan. There will be savings for the BOE and the Union. The co-pay will increase 15%, 16% & 17% over the three years of the contract.

Committee Reports

Policy Committee

Motion to approve the following policies as presented made by Mr. Hicks, second by Mr. Renninghoff.

Vote: Unanimous.

- FMLA 4151/4251
- Student Attendance and Truancy 5113
- Student Records 5125
- Wellness 5135

Public Comment

Karen Kean spoke about the spaghetti dinner to benefit athletics on March 9th. She also said that the tennis courts near Korn School have loose stones that are getting onto the courts and she doesn't want anyone to get hurt.

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Donna Viola asked if there would be a meeting with the Durham Seniors like there was with Middlefield. Mrs. Flanagan said it is scheduled for February 26th.

Follow Up

Mrs. Flanagan asked that if anyone has questions about the budget, to submit them to Dr. Veronesi and Mr. Melnik and they will get the information to the Board prior to the next meeting.

Mr. Fulton said that the budget is reflective on hard work and hard decisions that the administration made and reminded the Board that they are responsible for setting policy.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:03 p.m. made by Mr. Hicks, second by Mrs. Boyle. Vote: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,



Tammy A. McPherson
Regional District 13
BOE Recording Secretary