

**Board of Education
Regional School District 13**

**Regular Meeting
Strong School, Library**

**March 12, 2014
Minutes & Motions**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Hicks at 7:34 p.m. with the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Administrators	Dr. Veronesi	Mr. Barbieri
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Student Reps	Jeremy Cannon	Naomi Rinaldo
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Public Present	There were 20 members of the public present. After the Science Fair Winners presentation, there were 10 members of the public.		
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Science Fair Winners from Korn School

Mrs. Stone introduced the winners:

- 1st place – Cayden Bernard
- 2nd place – Nathaniel Boy
- 3rd place – Afua Amankwah

The Science Fair was sponsored by the BKPTO (Brewster/Korn PTO) on February 27th. Parents were invited and there were guest scorers. 26 students participated.

Afua Amankwah presented her project on battery size. When she started the project she thought that the bigger the battery, the more energy it would have. She found that the AA batteries lasted longer than the D batteries.

Mrs. Fronc asked if the bulb would make a difference in this experiment.

Afua Amankwah answered that it would.

Dr. Veronesi asked what she wanted to be when she grows up.

Afua Amankwah said that she would like to be a doctor.

Nathaniel Boy presented his project on magnets. He wanted to know what makes a magnet stronger. He used different size magnets and did not have different results. The more magnets that were together, the stronger the pull.

Dr. Veronesi asked if the experiment was fun.

Nathaniel Boy responded that it was.

Cayden Bernard presented his project on what makes an apple turn brown and what stops it. Oxidation makes an apple turn brown. He dipped apple slices in apple juice, water, sprite, pineapple juice and lemon juice. The control slice was not dipped in anything and turned brown within 2 ½ hours during the Science Fair. The pineapple juice worked better than the lemon juice. Any liquid will work because it stops the oxygen from getting to the fruit. Also, when you cut the apple, it turns faster.

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Mr. Hicks confirmed that each student came up with their own hypothesis for the projects and said that this is very high level thinking for the grade level.

Public Comment

Mr. Hicks reminded the public that there is a 3-minute limit for each speaker.

Donia Viola asked about the cost per pupil at the magnet school. She also asked what the state reimbursement was.

Mr. Hicks responded that he will cover per pupil cost at TEMS during his report.

Vickie Kline talked about Common Core and smaller class size being important. She said that the ideal classroom size is 15 students. She asked the Board to continue reassessing class sizes with the implementation of Common Core.

Susan Michael, teacher at CRHS spoke regarding the need for more classes at the high school. She said that too many students have study halls. She feels that if there are more electives, more students would take them. We should not cut positions by not filling them when a teacher leaves.

Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be March 19, 2014 at Strong School.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda made by Mrs. Boyle, second by Dr. Onofreo. Vote: Unanimous.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the Minutes dated March 5, 2014 Regular Meeting made by Mr. Renninghoff, second by Mrs. Boyle. Vote: Unanimous.

Communications

Mrs. Fronc asked if we could look at changing the time of the BOE meetings to 7 p.m. This would help parents and staff.

Mrs. Boyle noted that parents are emailing all Board Members.

Mr. Fulton clarified that the utilization study is looking at global enrollment and the ability of the buildings to accommodate the capacity and enrollment of the classrooms. What class size is or should be is not part of that discussion.

CRHS Student Report – Jeremy Cannon, Naomi Rinaldo

Dr. Veronesi announced the Student Report will be a standing agenda item at board meetings. The students want to have a voice and want to share what is going on at school. She said that Jeremy is a junior. He participates in show choir, he is class treasurer, sings in the a cappella group and wants to go into the Navy and use his GI Bill for college. Naomi is also a junior. She is on student council, was on the student interview committee for hiring the Athletic Director, is a 3-sport varsity athlete and wants to attend Penn State for Law. She asked that the Board be considerate of them and let them get back to us with information that we ask of them.

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Jeremy spoke about the following events: the jazz band winning 4th place in a competition in Boston in February, show choir performing at the Nutmeg Music Festival and winning 2nd place and best male vocalist, the Mr. Coginchaug fundraiser, Coginchaug student reading her essay at the state capital, the school play is “Spamalot” and the performances will be April 5 and 6 at 7:30 p.m. and April 7 at 2:30 p.m. and having a budget work session with Mr. Melnik and Dr. Veronesi.

Naomi reported that winter sports are almost over, there are two senior girl basketball players who are scholar athletes (they hold a GPA of 3.3 or higher), she reviewed the CIAC report and stated there has already been some changes and improvements. The weight room needs an increase in supervision so that it can be used more and that the spaghetti dinner fundraiser went well.

Mr. Hicks asked how that food is.

Naomi said that it depends on the day.

Mrs. Fronc asked what classes they would like to see.

Naomi said that adding the AP classes is going to be good.

Jeremy commented that study halls are helpful. Some students need them.

Mrs. Boyle asked if there is any plan to bring the information from these meetings back to school.

Jeremy said that they are the liaisons from school to the BOE. Naomi said that when the new principal is hired, the communication should be better.

Mrs. Fronc asked that they be made honorable members, sit at the table with the members and have name plates.

Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Veronesi reported that she went to see the show choir performance at Windsor Locks High School and then that same evening went to the Wolf Pack game to hear Lyman School sing “God Bless America”. She commented that seeing the 3rd and 4th grade chorus and the high school performance demonstrates the strength of the K-12 program in our district.

The BOE will receive a monthly enrollment report that will show any changes in enrollment. Class sizes are hitting the target of the class size policy. Classes are at or below where the BOE policy falls regarding class size. As staffing is reviewed, class size is a priority of the administrative team and the BOE. The key for success is the quality of the teacher, instruction and class size. As enrollment declines some districts are looking at cutting. The district will look at the best way to educate the students. Kindergarten enrollment is 15 kids more than expected.

Mrs. Fronc asked for an update on the principal committee.

Dr. Veronesi will email the members with the names of the people on the committee. We have already had the organizational meeting. The first interview will be on March 27th. Dr. Onofreo and Mrs. Boyle will represent the BOE.

Seniors’ Field Trip request to Washington, DC

Motion to approve the Senior Field Trip to Washington, DC November 19-22, 2014 as presented made by Mr. Renninghoff, second by Mrs. Boyle. Vote: Unanimous.

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Presentation – Nick Barbieri

Mr. Barbieri, Athletic Director presented the CIAC Program Evaluation Report. Any area with a “*” denotes that we are working on that piece of the report. This is a brief summary:

Purpose

Promote the value and importance of a high school athletic program, align educational expectations, reinforce character education, encourage sportsmanship and responsible behaviors, promote educational worth, lessons learned through sport supplements the same goals as the classroom, program improvement model and identify needs vs. perceptions.

Standards

1. Guiding Principles

Alignment of athletic department mission with the school and district mission

- a. Emphasis on citizenship, honesty, integrity, kindness, leadership, participation, respect
- b. *Academic Assistance Program
- c. *Acknowledging academic achievements – We use a community bulletin board to communicate
- d. *Expectations are clarified and published in handbooks. We will collecting as we go, but this will be a summer project
- e. *Require pre-season meetings (Meet the Team Night)
- f. *Formalize procedures

2. Curriculum

- a. *Promote a climate that demonstrates good sportsmanship
- b. *Promote the importance of multi-sport, 3-season athletes
- c. *Offer coaching education modules
- d. *Leadership Workshops
- e. *Collaboration with booster club to host 3 seasonal sports banquets
- f. *Research and develop a common template for writing curriculum
- g. Develop a uniform process to address NCAA requirements to encourage college sports
- h. *In-service training programs
- i. Increase staffing for the weight room

3. Resources and Equity

- a. 60% of students participate in sports and 1/3 of those do 3 sports
- b. Booster club commitment and financial support
- c. Overall equity including use of facilities, purchasing supplies and offerings
- d. *Facilities are well-maintained
- e. Mr. Lombardo secured numerous donations to enhance the facilities
- f. *Booster club guidelines for fundraising
- g. *Awards programs to recognize all teams, not just varsity
- h. Create a timeline for outdoor facility improvements and upgrades
- i. *Upgrade the fitness area and weight room
- j. *Maintain an inventory of equipment, supplies and uniforms
- k. *Conduct interest surveys for program review
- l. *Establish guidelines to outline the process for adding additional sports
- m. *Review the need to provide Unified Sports opportunities

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4. Administration

- a. *Positive culture and environment
- b. *Visibility and supervisory skills
- c. *Outstanding interaction
- d. *Maintaining coaching certificates by offering professional development
- e. *End of season activity to celebrate the achievements of all athletic teams
- f. *Initiate and publish a student-athlete handbook
- g. Full-time athletic director
- h. *All coaches review the handbook with parents and teams
- i. *Parent/Student Contract Statement
- j. *Pre-season meeting to review the mission statement, policies and procedures
- k. *Develop a coaches handbook
- l. *Expand and formulate the coaching evaluation to include parent and student feedback
- m. Develop a mentor program for new coaches
- n. *Establish an emergency action plan
- o. *Establish risk management manual

5. Program and Player Evaluation

- a. *Monitor the success of the program and report the results
- b. Satisfaction of parents and students on teams who offer off-season plans for improvement
- c. *Commitment to review and revise surveys to ensure alignment to the mission
- d. Establish an athletics advisory committee
- e. *Implement a mandatory pre- and post-season assessment for all athletes
- f. *Collect data to include in an annual report
- g. *Develop an action plan for meeting goals of the mission statement, program goals and expectations and core values

Follow-up Process

- Report progress in May 2015
- The recommendations serve as a guide to the program in the improvement of programs and services provided

Needs

- Time
- Funding
- Educating a variety of stake-holders
- Qualified and committed personnel

Mrs. Boyle commended Mr. Barbieri for all of his work and said, “We are in great hands.”

Mrs. Fronc asked if he has done anything at the K-8 level.

Mr. Barbieri said that he is working with grade 7-8, and there are intramurals in grade 6, but he has not looked at the lower grades.

Mrs. Fronc asked if the coaches were licensed in the sport they are coaching.

Mr. Barbieri responded that all coaches are certified but are not sport specific.

Mr. Fulton asked if there was a plan for formal evaluations.

Mr. Barbieri said that he is using a checklist with a narrative. He tries to give two to three things that they are doing well and a couple of areas to work on. He also provides resources as needed regarding the recommendations.

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Mrs. Fronc is glad to hear about the weight room. Is it also used during the day?
Mr. Barbieri said that it is used a little during the day. It is lacking cardio equipment.

Mrs. Boyle asked if the athletic department is using the website.
Mr. Barbieri said that all coaches are on email, the survey link is up, and communications/events are posted on the website as well. We need to get more photos from teams to post.

Mr. Hicks asked why the CIAC is critical of academic probation.
Mr. Barbieri said that it is instilled in the program. Every teacher has to evaluate the athletes on the same points. This helps to raise the bar.

2014-2015 Budget

Dr. Veronesi shared that the insurance increase came in at 5% (10% was budgeted) so there is a savings of over \$200,000. Staffing is a priority – kindergarten classes need to be looked at. Professional development will need to be increased because of Common Core. This year is for building the units for the teachers, but next year will be for implementation. There is a sense of urgency on how to support teachers and staff. The best possible training needs to be provided to the teachers.

Mr. Fulton commented that we will short change the students if we do not support the teachers.

Dr. Veronesi confirmed that we need to align resources with the priorities. Survey and direct feedback is that we need to raise the level of the academic program.

Mrs. Fronc asked about collaboration with other districts.
Dr. Veronesi said that we are trying to determine what the needs are by asking the people in the buildings. We are also taking the teachers out of the classrooms. Early release time is built into the calendar.

Dr. Veronesi handed out a chart of the absences for last year. Only 36% of the subs were covering for teachers with illness.
Mrs. Boyle said that this topic comes up when doing contract negotiations.

Committee Reports

ACES

Mr. Hicks reported a 3.28% change in the ACES budget but believes it will be lower by the final budget. Tuition is \$13,725. \$8,180 reimbursed by the state. Only have 2 students at TEMS this year. The increase is \$870.00.

Public Comment

Donia Viola asked if the magnet students are in the budget for per pupil cost.
Mr. Hicks does not think so, because they are not in the district. We will double check.

Karen Keene reported that Jessica Drop is running in NYC on Sunday for Nationals. She is 1 of 3 from CT.

Donia Viola said that she supports athletics and regular instruction but is concerned with the \$50,000 cut from the utilization study.

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Mr. Fulton said that it was funded it in the last budget, but is not necessary this year.

Donia Viola said that there are fitness places in town and we are not in the business of providing more than what is needed by the state. She feels that parents can pay for fitness as it is not part of the public education program. She also feels that there are many secretaries in the main office of the high school and wonders why Mr. Barbieri needs a secretary.

Follow Up

- PD
- Enrollment at CRHS
- Insurance
- Technology Budget - will email to the Board

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 10:06 p.m. made by Mr. Renninghoff, second by Mrs. Boyle. Vote: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,



Tammy A. McPherson
Regional District 13
BOE Recording Secretary