

**Board of Education
Regional School District 13**

**Regular Meeting
Coginchaug Regional High School, Library**

**April 10, 2014
Minutes & Motions**

Revised 4/23/14

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Flanagan at 7:32 p.m.

Roll Call	Mrs. Flanagan	Dr. Onofreo	Mr. Renninghoff
	Mr. Hicks	Mr. Fulton	Mrs. Adams
	Mrs. Boyle	Mrs. Fronc	Mrs. Buckheit (arrived at 7:40 pm)
Absent:	Dr. Friedrich		
Administrators	Dr. Veronesi	Mr. Melnik	Mrs. Emory

Public Present There were 7 members of the public present.

Public Comment

Kim Terrell spoke regarding her frustration with SBAC testing. Students have said it takes 20 minutes and is a joke. Juniors have figured out they are not being graded on the test. Freshmen are not reporting to school until 9:30 a.m. This is 20 hours of instruction taken away from them. The test is doing a disservice to our kids. These tests should be done during study halls.

Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be April 23, 2014 at Korn School.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the Minutes dated March 26, 2014 Regular Meeting made by Mrs. Boyle, second by Mr. Fulton. Vote in favor: Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Fulton, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Hicks, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Fronc, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff. Abstention: Mrs. Adams

Communications

Mrs. Fronc said that the instrumental concert was very good. She also asked the administration to revisit the CRHS schedule for SBAC testing - because of the loss of instructional time is the staff meeting the needs of the students and what is the effect on teacher evaluation.

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Mr. Renninghoff referenced an email from parents from Durham regarding teacher reduction and common core.

Mrs. Boyle reported that she was at Barnes and Noble and found a “Common Core for Dummies” book. If people are struggling, there are resources.

Mr. Hicks said that ACES has appointed Dr. Thomas Denehy as Executive Director. He is currently Superintendent in Winchester and will begin at ACES on July 1st.

Mrs. Flanagan wished him our best.

Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Veronesi updated the board on SBAC, saying that the administration is looking again at the schedule. The schedule was made based on requirements for time and technology. Some of the tests are not taking as long as scheduled. Only grade 11 is required but grade 10 is also being tested.

The SpamALot performance last weekend was outstanding and another indication of the extraordinary talent in the district. Dr. Veronesi thanked the Women’s Club for the meet and greet. This was another opportunity to hear from parents about their concerns.

There were minor recommendations from the State after the Food Service Audit.

The interviews on March 27th for a CRHS Principal were unsuccessful. The position has been reposted.

New Business

Set Graduation Date

Motion to set the graduation date as June 20, 2014 made by Mr. Hicks, second by Mr. Renninghoff.
Vote: Unanimous.

Adjourn to Auditorium at 7:50 p.m. for the Public Hearing.

Reconvene the Regular Meeting in the Library at 10:10 p.m.

2014-2015 Budget

Discussion on Public Hearing

Mrs. Fronc asked that the administration look at 3rd and 5th grade because we need to try to balance it out. She is concerned about Korn School. She feels Korn is a transition school and the Board should look to add and not cut.

Mrs. Adams asked if the kids in the larger classes are students with special education needs.

Mrs. Emory confirmed that we support the special education students based on their IEPs. Parents worry because there are some very needy students going into grade 5. The support will be there.

Mrs. Adams asked if we will be adding support.

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Mrs. Emory responded that it depends on the student's IEPs.

Mrs. Adams clarified that we know how many will be in the classrooms.

Mrs. Emory clarified that we do help to support the other students in the class, not just the special education students. Parents are concerned with the additional 6 kids, but sometimes just sheer numbers affect these students.

Mr. Brough said that we should rely on the board policy regarding enrollment. Tough decisions are being made by the team and are looking at the whole system.

Mrs. Flanagan asked if with 6 additional kids per classroom we are increasing the support for these teachers.

Mrs. Emory said that reducing teaching assistants by contract is by seniority and qualifications for the position. One of five will lose their job. We are looking district wide to move the assistants to classrooms where they are needed.

Mr. Fulton said that the guidelines are in place and there are logistical transitional issues. I am confused. Are the guidelines the issue?

Class size is talked about every year. They are still within the limit, but now are on the high end of the maximum of the guidelines. Common Core has scared the parents.

Dr. Veronesi said that the administrative team came in with a 1.74% increase and the cuts were due to cuts in personnel. We are looking at a decrease of approximately 80 students over the next several years. These decisions were not easy. Kindergarten enrollment was a surprise.

Mrs. Adams said that she doesn't want to micro-manage.

Mrs. Boyle asked if we can be creative. Can we add more support without it being a big increase?

Mrs. Fronc said that she would rather find money to add the teacher, adding that she is concerned about Korn. Is there anywhere we can look for money for teachers?

Mrs. Buckheit feels the issue is with the guidelines. We need to address this. I would stick with this as it is within the guidelines. The parents are in denial that the enrollment is going down.

Dr. Veronesi reports that we have a new normal. It was clear that we were to bring in a less than 2% increase. The class sizes remain a concern for me.

Mrs. Flanagan confirmed that we hear concern from the parents, and we are concerned. Maybe the priorities need to be revisited. The administration should go back and look again about working on grades 3 and 5. Is there something else we need to give up? The directive is to tell us how to solve the problem and revisit the priorities. Are there things that can be deferred? If we raise the budget by \$160,000.00 it will not pass. We need to keep the same increase. We can vote on the bottom line and get the change to the line items after the administration meets.

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Dr. Veronesi said that the administrative team will focus on goals. We can do this, but priorities made in the fall will need to be looked at again.

Finalize Budget for District Meeting

Motion to go to the District Meeting on May 5, 2014 with a gross \$37,186,891.00 (1.74% increase) Regional District 13 education budget for school year 2014-2015 followed by a referendum on May 6, 2014 made by Mr. Hicks, second by Mrs. Boyle. Vote in favor: Mr. Hicks, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Fulton, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Adams. Opposed: Mr. Renninghoff.

Committee Reports

Will move to next meeting.

Public Comment

None.

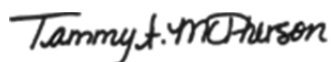
Follow Up

Administration will look at priorities and class sizes.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 10:42 p.m. made by Mrs. Boyle, second by Mr. Renninghoff. Vote: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,



Tammy A. McPherson
Regional District 13
BOE Recording Secretary