

**Board of Education  
Regional School District 13**

**Regular Meeting  
Brewster School, Music Room**

**June 11, 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.

<b>Roll Call</b>	Mrs. Flanagan	Dr. Onofreo	Mr. Renninghoff
	Mr. Fulton	Mrs. Buckheit	Mrs. Adams
	Mrs. Boyle	Mrs. Fronc (arrived at 7:35 p.m.)	
<b>Absent:</b>	Dr. Friedrich	Mr. Hicks	
<b>Administrators</b>	Dr. Veronesi	Mr. Melnik	

**Public Present** There were no members of the public present.

**Public Comment**  
None.

**Next Board Meeting**

The next Board Meeting will be July 1, 2014 at the Superintendent's Office at 8:00 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the Minutes dated May 28, 2014 Regular Meeting made by Mrs. Boyle, second by Dr. Onofreo. Vote: Unanimous.

**Communications**

Mrs. Boyle asked about the new principal. Dr. Veronesi will talk about this during her report.

Mrs. Buckheit said that the concerts she has gone to have been very good.

*Mrs. Fronc arrives.*

**Senator Ed Meyer**

Dr. Veronesi welcomed Senator Meyer.

Senator Meyer said that the state standards are rigorous and teachers teach to the standards. CT believes in local control. You are doing well here but they are not doing well in the cities. The State BOE

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is weak in that they do not have the education experience. What would you like to do regarding common core, teacher evaluations and safety? Some districts have armed police at the doors. There is state funding for improvements on doors and windows. ECS money has not increased because we are in trouble in CT. We are still recovering from the recession with only 55% of jobs being recovered.

Mrs. Fronc commented that common core is great but we need time before starting the SBAC testing. The students are struggling because they haven't had the concepts.

Senator Meyer said that CT accepted common core in 2010. Why are teachers and students not prepared?

Mrs. Fronc explained that there is a shift that is not allowing the students to be caught up. The issue is starting SBAC too early.

Mrs. Flanagan said that the kids are caught in the transition.

Senator Meyer asked if the common core should be more gradual.

Mrs. Fronc said that the students have missed the concepts of common core for the SBAC testing.

Mrs. Flanagan reiterated that there are concepts in the testing that they haven't seen yet. Some students said that the results didn't matter, so they just started filling out answers. We are not going to have true results of the test.

Mrs. Adams said that some teachers let the students use scrap paper to work thru the problems and some didn't. The curriculum is prescribed because the testing is prescribed. We don't have a lot of professional development in this small district.

Mrs. Flanagan said there are a lot of unfunded mandates, dates are not complete or well thought out and how and will the timelines change.

Dr. Veronesi said there is a tremendous amount of pressure. Everyone has put their heads down and are trying to work thru this which has diverted their attention from the children. We cannot catch our breath. We are assessing the teachers but they are still learning as they go. Everyone wants to do well and have their students do well. The evaluation plan is focused on high levels of instruction. We are buried. Administrators are working nights and weekends and cannot catch up.

Senator Meyer asked what the district would like to see.

Dr. Veronesi responded that the district is too far into the process to stop or change what they are doing. Maybe a relaxing of the due date for teacher evaluations would help.

Mrs. Fronc said that the districts need a few years for the students to catch up with the common core.

Mrs. Adams said that the SBAC testing is too soon but we like the common core.

Mrs. Flanagan said that we need people at the state level to understand us at the district level. The due date for SEED is June 30 but originally it was Sept 15. Why are they able to change and not think that there will be an impact on the school system? The State BOE and the current commissioner do not have an understanding. Common core is not the problem. We have to tough it out, but we need the state board to understand. They should be required to be in the schools.

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*(Mrs. Fronc leaves.)*

Mrs. Adams said that the State BOE tells us the changes but are not interested in our reaction. Dr. Veronesi commented that people are learning and still doing the other jobs. We feel inadequate to the teachers and students.

Nancy Heckler said that there are great parts of teacher evaluation system and that a proficient teacher is hard to be. There is so much paperwork that is redundant. The time for one evaluation is approximately 3 hours. As Administrators we should be in the classrooms anyway to see if the teacher is good. I know more if I just walk in versus a scheduled evaluation. We need to be in the rooms everyday. Is there a way to minimize the paperwork? We should be given the option of doing some informal evaluations as long as we get the information that is needed.

Mrs. Flanagan commented that administrators have full time jobs. When do they have the time to fit all of this in? This is very difficult in a small district. Who is looking at this at the state level? What is it going to be used for? The ideas are great, but it was not thought out.

Senator Meyer asked if the teacher evaluation system was sufficient prior to this.

Dr. Veronesi answered that this process needs to be streamlined in what and how, but the time and cumbersome process detracts from the students

Senator Meyer said that some districts in CT had no evaluation process prior to this.

Dr. Veronesi understands the spirit behind the initiative.

Mrs. Flanagan asked if Senator Meyer had any thoughts about the CT Coalition regarding taxes to fund education and the inequity in funding education. Towns in the middle get hurt the most.

Senator Meyer said that there is not much hope in addressing this issue. There is a huge disparity.

Mrs. Buckheit said that they will need to enlarge the area of taxes. CT will not do this.

Senator Meyer said that funding of the schools is a legislative issue. You are a very engaged board. After Election Day, pull in the legislators and engage them.

Dr. Veronesi confirmed that the Safety Plan is due to the state by July 1<sup>st</sup>. The district had a safety walk thru and has made some updates. We are looking forward to applying for the safety grant.

Mrs. Flanagan thanked Senator Meyer for speaking with the Board and announced that we have cake to thank you for your years of service.

**Presentation**  
**DECA Students**

Mr. Donecker thanked the board for letting the five students from the DECA Club go to Atlanta. Erin and Morgan are two of the students who participated.

Erin said that there were 17,000 students there. They were able to network with students and business leaders from many different companies. We raised \$2,000.00 to help with the cost of the trip.

Morgan was excited to have spoken with executives, saying it was an amazing experience. She met people from all over the world. We were able to represent CRHS.

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Mr. Donecker explained that going forward the Club will compete, and if they place in the top three of the state then they are invited to go to the conference. The students compete in one of four areas. Writing and communication is key for this group.

### **Business Manager Report Landscape Contract**

Mr. Melnik said that there were four companies that bid. He handed out a sheet with the bidding information from each. We are doing background checks on each company now. This is to mow all schools, line the athletic fields, and any outside landscaping. The contract will be for one year, but we asked for a two year bid. The utilization study is driving the length of the contract. We do not have to take the lowest bidder. We would like to interview in the next week for a July 1, 2014 start.

### **Electric Contract**

Mr. Melnik said that there are 260 solar panels at Memorial and 252 solar panels at Lyman. They have brought a savings of approximately \$22,000.00 since installed. We have a locked in electric rate of .9855.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Senator Meyer referred to you as a "hot board" and you are. There is a plant and thank you note for you at each of your seats. You are the smartest and hardest working board. It is a pleasure working with you. There will be a retirement reception at CRHS on June 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. We have surveyed staff to see what the needs are for professional development and we are putting together a comprehensive calendar. The administrators met today regarding evaluations. We are doing our very best.

Mrs. Boyle asked if each staff member could write a letter to describe what their experience has been.

Mrs. Buckheit said that there is a task force to look at the process.

Mrs. Flanagan said that it creates an unfair burden on administrators. Committees are established at the state level, they do a lot of work and it goes nowhere. I wonder who is looking at the information from the evaluations.

Mr. Fulton asked if there is any flexibility with the evaluations.

Dr. Veronesi said that CAPSS went to the state, but doesn't think there is anything we can do. She said that if the deadline remained in September, the administrators would have worked all summer. The teacher scores influence administrators and administrators influence teacher scores.

Dr. Veronesi said she has heard a lot of positives about the new principal of CRHS. He is looking forward to coming.

### **New Business**

#### **Mark Basil-Fees for Revtrack and Lunch Prices**

Mark spoke about the program. We have five options and give three to the students. We have an administrative review every three years. We have brought in a chef salad option and it has been very well received by the students.

Mr. Fulton asked if staffing was being looked at in regards to decrease in enrollment, decrease in need.

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Mrs. Boyle asked if there is anything that you can do to help educate the kids on the healthy choices.

Dr. Veronesi said that there needs to be coordination between the cafeteria, and the health and science curriculum.

Mark said that it is important that the students learn to read the labels.

Motion to increase school lunch prices at CRHS and Strong School to \$3.25 Type "A" meal, effective for the 2014-2015 school year made by Mr. Fulton, second by Mrs. Adams. Vote: Unanimous.

**Support staff's contract**

Motion to accept the support staff contract with changes to insurance consistent with the other contracts made by Mrs. Adams, second by Mrs. Boyle. Vote: Unanimous.

**Committee Reports**

**Utilization Committee**

Mr. Fulton said they are focusing on viable options. It is clear that this is very complicated. We will not even be able to start on a project for 1 ½ years. We need to take our time and get it right. Any project will require applying to the state for reimbursement. We will be presenting to the Board and the community.

Mrs. Adams said that we need to get the community behind the project before we go to the state.

Mrs. Flanagan said that we need to look at building feasibility and then the impact on program and services. The community will be engaged but it is a lengthy process.

Mrs. Buckheit said that she would like to come to some of the meetings but cannot come during the day. Can some be at night? Mr. Fulton will work on the meeting schedule.

**Other Committee Reports**

None.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Follow up**

None.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 10:00 p.m. made by Mrs. Boyle, second by Mrs. Adams. Vote: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,



Tammy A. McPherson  
Regional District 13  
BOE Recording Secretary