

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, May 13, 2015 in the library at Memorial Middle School, 124 Hubbard St. Middlefield, CT at 7:30 p.m. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks Dr. Onofreo and Mr. Renninghoff.

Also present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Melnik, Business Manager

Mrs. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. after it was determined that a quorum was present.

Mrs. Flanagan led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Brough, Principal of Memorial School updated the Board on happenings at Memorial School. The students at Memorial have been involved in SBAC testing and attended a play at the Ivoryton Playhouse focusing on Core Ethical Values. The sixth graders are looking forward to their field trip to New York City and the 5th graders will be visiting Old Sturbridge Village.

Public Comment

Joan Lombardo of Middlefield addressed the agenda item regarding the solar panel project at Brewster School. She stated that the concerns and wishes of the taxpayers are not being addressed by the Board.

Elizabeth Shoudy of Durham feels the proposed budget was in favor of both taxpayers and employees. She is concerned that many townspeople were not aware of the referendum date. She suggested an email could go out to parents and signs be posted around town reminding people to vote.

Donia Viola of Durham stated it is the taxpayers' civic duty to know what is going on. She would like to see \$350,000 cut from the budget. Items cut should not impact the education of the students.

A resident from Middlefield also expressed that she was unhappy about the agenda item regarding the solar panels. She stated that many of our seniors are unable to afford to live here. She agreed with Mrs. Viola that the Board should make cuts equaling \$350,000.

Next Board Meeting

Next Board meeting will be held on May 27, 2015 at Korn School.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the agenda. Mrs. Adams seconded.

In favor of approving agenda: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes of March 25, 2015

Dr. Friedrich moved to approve the minutes of April 8, 2015. Mrs. Adams seconded.

In favor of approving the minutes of April 8, 2015: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Mrs. Buckheit abstained. Motion passed.

Communications

Mr. Renninghoff received emails from taxpayers concerned about classroom cuts.

Mr. Hicks stated he attended a Chamber meeting hosted at CRHS. Mr. Hicks thanked Mrs. Shoudy and Mr. Falcone and stated that attendees of the meeting were impressed by how clean the building was. Kudos to the custodial staff.

Mrs. Flanagan stated she also received many emails expressing concerns about cutting teacher positions. She also stated that the Connecticut State Commissioner of Education, Dr. Dianna Wentzell recently visited Lyman School. Mrs. Flanagan stated that it was a privilege to have her visit and the students were outstanding.

Business Manager's Report

Mr. Melnik asked the Board for their approval to accept closure of 2 building projects.

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the resolution for the closure of the 2015 Oil Tank Projects

WHEREAS, the oil tank project at Brewster Elementary School (State Project No. 213-044 CV) and the oil tank project at Middlefield Memorial School (State Project No. 213-045 CV) (collectively, the "2015 Oil Tank Projects") are now complete;

NOW, THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of Regional School District Number 13 hereby accepts the 2015 Oil Tank Removal Projects as complete and determines that the projects are to be closed out.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes and directs the Chairman of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools, and other proper officers, officials and representatives of the District to take such actions as necessary or desirable to effectuate the close out of the 2015 Oil Tank Removal Projects, and to communicate the acceptance and close out of the projects to the State of Connecticut Department of Education.

Mrs. Adams seconded.

In favor of approving the resolution for the closure of the 2015 Oil Tank Projects: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Veronesi announced that the third senior citizen event will take place at noon on May 29, 2015 at Coginchaug Regional High School. The purpose of the event is to give senior citizens an opportunity to see what is going on at the high school.

Presentation

Dr. Veronesi recognized Garrett D'Amato and Natalie Charette as recipients of the CAFE student leadership award. Dr. Veronesi stated the accomplishments of both individuals and praised them for their qualities that make them a great leader.

Food Service

Mark Basil, Director of Food Services addressed the Board regarding the increased cost of fresh fruits and vegetables, whole wheat items and also addressed participation in the Healthy Food Initiative. Mr. Basil asked for the board to approve an increase to the price of lunch at the elementary schools from \$3.00 to \$3.25.

Mr. Hicks moved to increase the elementary lunch prices from \$3.00 to \$3.25 Mr. Renninghoff seconded.

Mrs. Boyle asked about the cost of lunch in surrounding areas. Mr. Basil stated North Branford

and Middletown were presently at \$3.00.

In favor of increasing the price of elementary lunch: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Opposed: Mrs. Fronc. Motion passed.

Dr. Friedrich moved to continue to participate in the Health Food Initiative as presented. Mrs. Boyle seconded.

In favor of continuing participation in the Health Food Initiative: Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, and Dr. Onofreo Opposed: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

2015-2016 Budget Discussion

Mrs. Flanagan stated that the Board took into consideration what was said at the district meeting and reviewed the feedback from the community members before deciding what should be cut.

Dr. Veronesi stated she wanted to maintain a high level of learning experience for the children in our District. As suggested by the Town of Middlefield BOF Dr. Veronesi and Mr. Melnik took a look at the fund balance in the salary line and cut \$200,000. This cut does not impact anyone's salary; it only impacts the fund balance going forward.

Dr. Veronesi and Mr. Melnik looked at the Capital and Capital Reserve. A decision was made to not put water down on the lower fields this year. It was also decided not to fund the capital reserve funds for the upkeep of turf, track and tennis courts for one year.

A proposed Human Resource position was cut.

There is a savings of \$3,400.00 in interest with the decision not to put solar energy panels on Brewster School.

During the budget season Dr. Veronesi has expressed the need to sustain, strengthen and prepare. It was decided to keep the custodial and coaching positions in the budget. Also not being cut are Chromebooks, the technology specialist, student wellness and safety. Architectural, OPEB and enrollment studies will also remain as budget items.

The changes to the budget result in a decrease of \$340,000 which is a 1% decrease. Total net increase is 1.21%

Mrs. Flanagan thanked Dr. Veronesi and Mr. Melnik on their presentation. She is very pleased that the cuts do not impact students.

Mr. Hicks moved to go to the District Meeting on June 1, 2015 with a gross \$ 37,517,615.00 2015-16 Regional District 13 education budget followed by a referendum on June 2, 2015. Mrs. Adams seconded.

In favor of the motion presented: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, and Dr. Onofreo. Opposed: Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Brewster Elementary School Solar Energy Panel System Installation Project.

Discussion took place among Board members regarding the solar panel project. The Board agreed that they would provide over the next year additional information for the public so there is a better

understanding of the project.

Committee Reports

A. Student Achievement

Mrs. Adams announced that 6 more college level classes will be taught at the high school. Also other classes will be introduced that will be open to all students. No new staff will be added. Mrs. Adams commended the faculty and staff at CRHS for their cooperation.

B. Utilization Study Committee

Mr. Fulton referred Board members to the draft of the utilization study report found in their folders. He reviewed the issue of declining enrollment and how it affects our District. Mr. Fulton asked Board members to review the report and would like time allocated at the next Board meeting for discussion. The committee would like feedback from the Board before the report goes out to the community.

C. Educational Resources Committee

Mr. Fulton and Mr. Melnik reviewed the Durham Water Main St. Project. The proposal would connect RSD13 to the Main St. water project. Three schools, Korn, Strong and CRHS would be connected, each building having its own meter. The water will support drinking water and sprinklers.

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the resolution for the connection of District Properties to Town of Durham Water Main. Mrs. Boyle seconded

RESOLUTIONS OF DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION (February 25, 2015)

Connection of District Properties to Town of Durham Water Main

WHEREAS, the District's Superintendent of Schools has received a letter dated May 4, 2015 from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (the "EPA") confirming that EPA and the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection ("CT DEEP") believe that it is a necessary component of the Durham Meadows Superfund Site cleanup action to connect the District, which includes the F.W. Strong Middle School, Korn Elementary School, and Coghinchaug High School, to the water line being constructed as part of the cleanup action; and

WHEREAS, said letter confirms that, because the water line connection for the District's schools is within the area identified for installation of said water line, the EPA and CT DEEP will pay for full connection of the water line to each of the three school buildings, and will also pay for abandonment of the District's existing wells.

NOW, THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of Regional School District Number 13 hereby authorizes and directs the Chairman of the Board to take any and all actions necessary or desirable to implement the connection of the District's schools to the water line being constructed as part of the Durham Meadows Superfund Site cleanup action and the abandonment of the District's wells, and the payment of the costs of such project by the EPA and CT DEEP as described above, including without limitation entrance into such agreements with the EPA, CT DEEP, the Town of Durham and other parties to the project necessary or desirable to implement the project, including the execution of the District's "Consent For Access To Property" accompanying said May 4, 2015 letter from the EPA; provided that the full costs of such connection and such well abandonment is borne by the EPA and CT DEEP. Other proper officers, officials and representatives of the District are authorized to take any and all actions necessary or desirable to implement the project as described above.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes and directs the Chairman of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools, and other proper officers, officials and representatives of the District to take such actions as necessary or desirable to seek forgiveness of any State recapture of the unamortized portion, if any, of any public school building grant that may be due upon an abandonment of the District's wells and water distribution system.

In favor of approving Durham Water Main Project: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, and Dr. Onofreo. Opposed: Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

D. Human Resources

Mrs. Boyle passed out a draft of the BOE handbook. She asked each board member to review the draft and let her know by the next board meeting of any corrections that need to be made. This will become a public document.

Mrs. Boyle handed Board members a form for the superintendent's review. Mrs. Boyle stated that each Board member needs to complete the form and bring it with them to the May 27, 2015 Board meeting,

E. Other Committee Reports

Mr. Hicks stated that the policy committee meeting will take place an hour and a half before the next Board meeting. There are a number of policies they need to look at. Mr. Hick also attended Magnet School meeting and ACES meeting.

Public Comment

Chuck Stengel of Durham stated that the new courses at CRHS are a great idea. He is concerned with declining enrollment and the fact that it is going to get harder and harder to reduce staff. He also referred to page 18 of the budget proposal projected class size and was concerned why the high school was not included. Dr. Veronesi suggested that he contact Mr. Falcone at CRHS.

Donia Viola of Durham was pleased at the efforts the Board and the administrators had made to reduce the budget. She also referred to an article in the newspaper on turf fields. She asked that a copy of the article be given to each Board member to review.

Oanh Stephan of Durham thanked the Board and administrators for being creative and not cutting teachers to reduce the budget. She also stated that she is going to connect with each school's parent organization and encourage them to get people out to vote at the next referendum.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, seconded by Mr. Renninghoff the Board of Education unanimously approved to move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter and to discuss the TEMS contract. Dr. Veronesi was invited to attend.

The Board returned to regular session.

Dr. Friedrich moved to approve the unpaid leave for the 2015-16 school year of a staff member. Mrs. Adams seconded.

In favor of the motion: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, and Mrs. Buckheit. Motion passed.

Mr. Hicks moved to approve to renew the contract with TEMS. Mrs. Adams seconded.

In favor of the motion: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, and Mrs. Buckheit. Motion passed.

Adjournment

Mr. Hicks moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m. Mr. Renninghoff seconded.

In favor of adjourning the meeting: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Johnson