

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, June 10, 2015 in the library at Coginchaug Regional High School, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, CT at 7:30 p.m. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc (left the meeting at 7:45pm and returned at 8:15pm), Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo and Mr. Renninghoff

Absent: Mrs. Buckheit, Mr. Fulton

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

Mrs. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. after it was determined that a quorum was present.

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

Public Comment

Becky Finnerty is concerned about the closing of Korn School. She wants to be sure the public has more information before a decision is made. She feels the decision is being rushed.

Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held on July 1, 2015 at the Superintendent's Office at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the agenda. Dr. Friedrich seconded.

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

Approval of Minutes of May 27, 2015

Dr. Onofreo moved to approve the minutes of May 27, 2015. Mrs. Adams seconded.

In favor of approving the minutes of May 27, 2015: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo and Mr. Renninghoff. Mrs. Fronc abstained. Motion passed.

Communications

Mrs. Fronc was contacted by a high school parent about moving the high school graduation outside in the future.

Mrs. Boyle said all board members received an email tonight from Bridgett Poturnicki concerning the closing of Korn School, asking the Board to not rush into the decision.

Mrs. Flanagan attended the senior citizen luncheon held last week at the high school. She said everyone did a fabulous job, from the food to the music to the skits and it was much appreciated by everyone in attendance.

Mrs. Flanagan, as well as the rest of the board members received an email from Nick Barbieri, asking the Board to revisit or pursue the completion of the athletic field at the high school.

Mr. Hicks attended the Brewster School Dance Festival as a grandparent. His grandson was not able to fully participate because he is in a cast. He thanked the staff for acknowledging his grandson and being sensitive to his situation.

Mr. Renninghoff received an email from a Middlefield resident who was concerned about the random drug search at the high school. They questioned if the District drug awareness curriculum is effective if there is a need to conduct this type of search.

Mr. Hicks said he was just informed that a past principal of Durham High School, Joel Davis, passed away.

CRHS Student Report

The new student representatives for next year, Larissa Cade, Taylor Marino and Matthew Sawicki discussed the many activities going on at the high school this spring including a successful Prom, the Blue Devil Fair, the Senior Picnic, the Ocean Bowl and the Envirothon teams both taking 1st place at the state level and going on to national competitions, the Spring Sports Banquet and the Quiz Bowl team being named Shoreline Champion. They also mentioned the many athletes and teams that did well in competition this spring.

Naomi Rinaldo and Jeremy Cannon, this year's student representatives thanked the Board and the administration for the opportunity to represent the student body. There have been significant changes at the high school since they were in their sophomore year and they thanked Mr. Falcone for all he has done to make Cuginchaug a better school.

Mrs. Flanagan thanked both Naomi and Jeremy and presented them with a gift from the Board of Education and the administration. They have allowed the Board to get closer to what is going on in the schools and she has always looked forward to their reports.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Veronesi said the Cuginchaug Soccer Club will be coming before the Board with a proposal to irrigate the soccer field at Memorial School.

Mr. Melnik said they have already put up fencing and donated time and labor and now they want to drill a well, bring power to the field and build a small outbuilding. They want to accomplish this over the summer so they will be bringing the proposal to the July meeting for approval.

Dr. Veronesi wanted to publicly acknowledge the six educators retiring from the district this year and to thank them for their years of service. They are: Betsy Bascom, Cheri Eames, Susan Francis, Donna Mattei, Doreen Raney and Martha Swanson.

Presentations

Troopers Calvo and DiGioia

Dr. Veronesi thanked both of them for their years of service to District 13 and presented them with a gift. Mr. Sadinsky and Mr. Falcone both thanked them for their support in the schools. They could always count on them in an emergency or with a safety issue and they are both really good people. Mr. Brough also thanked Trooper DiGioia for his years as a DARE officer at Memorial; he connected really well with the kids.

Eileen Buckheit

Mr. Hicks made a motion to approve a proclamation honoring Mrs. Buckheit's years of service on the Board of Education. Dr. Friedrich seconded.

Mr. Hicks read the proclamation aloud.

In favor of approving the proclamation honoring Mrs. Buckheit's service on the Board of Education: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Administrators' Presentation

Led by Amy Emory, the entire administrative team presented an Administrative Review of School Year 2014-15. They discussed how the District Goals and initiatives provide the framework for their work. Working collaboratively, sharing assets to meet the needs of all students has been successful.

Assessment, instruction, improving the teacher evaluation process, reenergizing focus on the Core Ethical Values, increased technology implementation and communication to parents through Facebook have been a focus. It has been a year of talent development across all levels; a year of learning for all.

Mrs. Flanagan thanked them and said it is obvious how much stronger the District is by all of them working collaboratively together.

Envirothon Competition Field Trip Request

Mrs. Adams made a motion, second Mrs. Fronc, to approve the field trip by the Cuginchaug Envirothon Team to the National Envirothon Competition in Springfield, Missouri from July 27 to August 2, 2015.

In favor of the motion to approve the field trip by the Cuginchaug Envirothon Team to the National Envirothon Competition in Springfield, Missouri from July 27 to August 2, 2015: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Utilization Study Committee

Mrs. Flanagan said the draft report was distributed at the last meeting. She thanked the Board for their comments and said they have been incorporated into the report. A purpose of the report has been added. No vote will be taken at this time regarding the closing of Korn School. The Utilization Committee will continue to work over the summer to quantify the effects of the closing and to plan the logistics of the move. Mrs. Flanagan wants to release the report to the public as an interim report, knowing that it is not a final document.

Members agreed that the report should be released. It will be posted on the District website and copies will be made available at the Town Halls and Town Libraries as of Thursday at noon.

The next meeting of the Utilization Committee will be held at 6pm on June 15, 2015 at the Superintendent's Office.

Policy Committee

Mr. Hicks briefly reviewed the policies that were previously sent to the members.

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the changes to the following policies: FMLA 4151/4251, School Calendar 6111, Code of Ethics 9271, Duties of the Secretary and Treasurer 9211, Construction of Agenda 9323, Actions of the Board 9325, Minutes 9326 and Orientation of Board Members 9230. Mrs. Fronc seconded.

In favor of the motion to approve changes to the following policies: FMLA 4151/4251, School Calendar 6111, Code of Ethics 9271, Duties of the Secretary and Treasurer 9211, Construction of Agenda 9323, Actions of the Board 9325, Minutes 9326 and Orientation of Board Members 9230: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Mr. Hicks said members also received copies of the following CABA policies to review: Dress and Grooming, Concussions, and First aid/Emergency Medical Care.

TEMS Committee

Mr. Hicks said the Thomas Edison Partnership Agreement is being voted on by the ACES Governing Board tomorrow. Mr. Hicks is not happy with the new agreement. In it Meriden is being given 5 of the 10 votes on the Board.

Human Resources

Mrs. Boyle said the Human Resources Committee met but they did not get through their entire agenda. They will be meeting again soon.

Student Achievement

Mrs. Adams asked members to send her suggestions for their agendas for next year.

Public Comment:

Donia Viola asked if the Board could afford to have microphones at the meetings so the public will be able to hear better. She also asked if they could look into having the meetings publicized on cable access TV.

Follow-up

The Interim Utilization Report will be posted on the District website by noon on Thursday, June 11th as well as distributed to the town halls and libraries.

Dr. Veronesi will look into getting microphones for the Board of Education meetings and will look into the possibility of live streaming the Board of Education meetings.

Adjournment

Mr. Hicks moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m. Mr. Renninghoff seconded.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Gaudreau