

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the music room at Brewster School, 126 Tuttle Road, Durham, CT. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Buckheit, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, and Mr. Renninghoff. Also present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Melnik, Business Manager. Absent: Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Fronc and Dr. Onofreo.

In the absence of the Chairperson Mrs. Flanagan, Secretary Mr. Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. after it was determined that a quorum was present.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Public Comment

None

Next Board Meeting

December 10, 2014 at Coginchaug Regional High School.

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Adams moved to approve the agenda as presented. Dr. Friedrich seconded the motion.

In favor of the agenda: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Buckheit, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes of October 8, 2014 and November 1, 2014

Mrs. Adams moved to approve the minutes of October 8, 2014. Mr. Renninghoff seconded the motion.

Mr. Fulton asked that the minutes be amended to include that members of the Board of Finance from Durham and Middlefield were invited by Mrs. Flanagan to attend the October 8, 2014 Board meeting.

Mr. Renninghoff stated that the parent from Strong School did not call him. The parent approached him in person.

In favor of the minutes as amended: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Buckheit, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Mr. Fulton moved to approve the minutes of November 1, 2014. Mrs. Adams seconded the motion.

In favor of the minutes: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Buckheit, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Communications

Mr. Hicks asked for a moment of silence for John Martino, a retired teacher who passed away this week. Mr. Martino was a teacher at Korn School and Memorial School and taught in the District for over 30 years.

Dr. Veronesi requested a moment of silence for Nanci Planeta, a teacher assistant at Coginchaug Regional High School who also passed away this week. Dr. Veronesi praised Ms. Planeta for her dedication to the students in District 13.

Mrs. Adams announced that CVEF was holding its first "Talk of Towns" on Friday, November 14,

2014 at 7:00 p.m. at Indian Springs Golf Course. Four members of the community will be delivering 10 minute talks. Admission is free however donations will be accepted.

CRHS Student Report

Naomi Rinaldo and Jeremy Cannon, seniors at Coginchaug Regional High School updated the Board on events taking place at CRHS. Their presentation informed the Board of homecoming events including a bonfire, football game, and dance and building school spirit. They also gave an update on athletics, music department events, the senior trip, and Mr. Falcone's upcoming parent forum.

Mr. Hicks thanked the students for their informative report.

Mr. Fulton commented on the bonfire and asked if there was going to be communication with the neighbors prior to the bonfire. Dr. Veronesi stated she would make certain communication with neighbors took place prior to Friday evening events.

Business Manager's Report

Mr. Melnik stated that the Trend Report should be available within the next four to six weeks. Mr. Melnik stressed the value of this report stating it provides a tool for the Board when working on the budget process.

Mr. Melnik provided an update on the Brewster School roof. The work needs to go out for bid, discussion needs to take place regarding funding and it needs to go to the towns for referendum. Mr. Melnik stated that ideally the work could be done over the summer.

Mr. Melnik received a call from Bob Drozynski at the state regarding the 2014 School Security Grant. The money for the six schools is approximately \$285,000. Mr. Melnik stated there were not a lot of details at this time. More information to follow.

Dr. Veronesi, Mr. Francis and Mr. Melnik attended a facilities conference on October 31, 2014. A PowerPoint presentation is available to Board members.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Veronesi also commented on the facilities conference and stated that there is lots of support available

Dr. Veronesi stated that the second senior citizen event took place at Brewster School. Seniors participated in classroom visits where students were engaged in technology. The students made bookmarks and placemats for the seniors. Mr. Hicks stated he was impressed by the use of technology and commended Mrs. Heckler for pulling it all together.

Dr. Veronesi announced to the BOE that the November 9, 2014 Tech Day was a huge success. There has been positive feedback from staff. Staff members volunteered to provide their colleagues with new and challenging tools.

Dr. Veronesi meet with State Representatives Vincent Candelora and Noreen Kokoruda who offered their assistance to District 13 at the legislature if needed. Topics discussed were declining enrollment and Core Ethical Values.

The budget process has been started. Administrators handed their budgets in on November 7, 2014.

Dr. Veronesi, Mrs. Adams and Dr. Friedrich will attend a conference sponsored by CAFE on November 14th and 15th.

Mr. Fulton thanked the administrators for their hard work on their budget.

Review of District Goals and BOE Action Steps

A PowerPoint presentation was provided by Dr. Veronesi that reviewed the action steps that board members created together at the Board of Education Workshop that was held at CAFE. The action steps are aligned with the District Goals. She also reviewed the Connecticut Lighthouse Focus Framework that Nick Caruso shared at the end of the Board Workshop. This framework can guide the Board in setting clear expectations and creating conditions for success associated with the suggested action steps. At the conclusion of her presentation Dr. Veronesi requested that a couple of BOE members work with her to help finalize the Board's initial plan to be presented at the December Board of Education meeting. Dr. Friedrich asked Dr. Veronesi for a copy of her work.

New Business:

Funding Raising Request Forms

Board members were asked to refer to the packet that was handed out to them. This packet provided information regarding after school events where unhealthy snacks are provided. It was also mentioned that there was an additional event that needed to be added to the list.

Mrs. Adams moved to approve the food and beverage fundraising food proposal with the addition of the 14th item. Dr. Friedrich seconded the motion. In favor of the proposal: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Buckheit, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Student Achievement

Dr. Veronesi presented to the Board information on the performance of our students stating that students are assessed three times a year using a variety of measurements. Mrs. Heckler, the principal of Brewster School was available to provide the Board with an explanation of the data shown in the PowerPoint presentation.

Dr. Veronesi praised her administrators for reading the data, questioning the results, and maintaining the data team process.

Committee Reports

Policy Committee

Mrs. Adams moved to approve Policy 9100 as presented. Dr. Friedrich seconded the motion. In favor of approving Policy 9100: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Buckheit, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Dr. Friedrich moved to approve Policy 9130 as presented. Mrs. Adams seconded the motion. In favor of approving Policy 9130: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Buckheit, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Mrs. Adams moved to approve Policy 9210 as presented. Dr. Friedrich seconded the motion. In favor of approving Policy 9210: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Buckheit, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Dr. Friedrich moved to approve Policy 9211 as presented. Dr. Friedrich seconded the motion. Mr. Hicks asked for discussion and stated that the policy was inappropriate and took away oversight. He referred it back to the Policy Committee.

Mrs. Adams moved to approve Policy 9250 as presented. Dr. Friedrich seconded the motion. In favor of approving Policy 9250: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Buckheit, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Dr. Friedrich moved to approve Policy 9261.1 as presented. Mrs. Adams seconded the motion. In favor of approving Policy 9261.1: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Buckheit, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Mrs. Adams moved to approve Policy 9321 as presented. Dr. Friedrich seconded the motion. In favor of approving Policy 9321: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Buckheit, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Mrs. Adams moved to omit Policy 9361.2. Dr. Friedrich seconded the motion. In favor of omitting Policy 9361.2: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Buckheit, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed

Other Committee Reports

ERC

Mr. Fulton reported that the committee met on October 28, 2014 and will meet again on November 20, 2014. The committee discussed the budget, Brewster roof, and reviewed the financial statements.

Mr. Fulton explained to the Board that the district has been informed by Merrill Lynch and Bank of America that, effective February 1, 2015 they will no longer be providing investment advisor or plan administration services to municipal defined benefit plans. Given this short notice, and in order to avoid any disruption to these essential services, the committee will make a recommendation at the next board meeting for the appointment of interim service providers while a complete RFQ/RFP procedure can be implemented.

TEMS

Mr. Hicks reported that the enrollment at TEMS is 713 and that there are presently three students from District 13. There was discussion regarding legislative remedies between CREC and Regional District 13, ACES supplying all special services to TEMS, other towns becoming part of TEMS, and the investigation of uniforms in Magnet schools.

Mr. Hicks also stated that he was on the policy committee at ACES and was a speaker at their convocation on Election Day.

Public Comment

Maureen Hamilton, a 5/6 grade teacher at Memorial School spoke highly of the recent Tech Day. She has already used what she learned in her classroom and shared her experience with her team. She was most appreciative of the support from administration.

Follow Up

- Communication with community regarding bonfire
- Continue work on Core Ethical Values
- Number of students who receive additional remedial services

Adjournment

Dr. Friedrich moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. Mrs. Adams seconded. In favor of adjourning the meeting: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Buckheit, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted

Maureen Johnson