

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in the library at Memorial Middle School, 124 Hubbard St. Middlefield, CT. 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 and Mr. Melnik, Business Manager.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Public Comment

No public comment

Next Board Meeting

February 11, 2015 at Strong School.

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Flanagan asked for a motion to amend the agenda to include Executive Session.

Dr. Friedrich moved to amend the agenda to include Executive Session at the end of the regular Board of Education meeting. Mr. Hicks seconded the motion.

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

Approval of Minutes of December 10, 2014

Mrs. Flanagan asked for a motion to accept the minutes of December 10, 2014. Dr. Friedrich asked that the minutes from December 10, 2014 be amended.

Mrs. Adams moved to accept the minutes of December 10, 2014 as amended. Mr. Fulton seconded the motion.

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

Communications

None

CRHS Student Report

Naomi Rinaldo, a senior at Coginchaug Regional High School updated the Board on events taking place at CRHS. Naomi informed the Board of the December events that took place at Coginchaug Regional High School including a blood drive, Bookmark Ceremony, and winter concert. Upcoming events include Jazz Band and Show Choir concert, writing contest, mid-term exams, and scheduling for the 2015-2016 school year. Naomi also reported on the sports programs.

RSD 13 Teacher of the Year

Mr. Sadinsky, principal of Strong Middle School recognized Rebecca Sinusas as Teacher of the Year. Mr. Sadinsky stated that Mrs. Sinusas, a guidance counselor is an asset to the Strong

School community. She is very well organized, always positive, and leads by example. Mrs. Sinusas said what an honor it was to be named Teacher of the Year and a privilege to work with outstanding colleagues in District 13. Mrs. Sinusas stated she valued her work with students.

Business Manager's Report

Mr. Melnik provided the Board with an update on the safety grant and work being done in the District to address safety issues. Discussion took place regarding classroom doors only locking from the outside. Dr. Veronesi is going to follow up with Mr. Francis on this matter.

Mr. Melnik referred the Board members to the packet in their folder outlining the specifications for the Brewster School roof replacement.

Mrs. Boyle moved to approve the roof specifications for Brewster School. Mr. Hicks seconded.

In favor of approving the roof specifications for Brewster School: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Fronc, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Veronesi provided the Board with an update on the Common Core unit work. She also informed Board members of the on-going PD taking place with teachers.

Dr. Veronesi reported on a recent survey for parents specifically targeting communication.

Dr. Veronesi praised Mrs. Penney and Mrs. Vigue on the incredible job they did regarding stipends. Mrs. Penney and Mrs. Vigue looked at the responsibility of each stipend and the disparity among amounts. Mrs. Flanagan also commented on the tremendous work Mrs. Penney and Mrs. Vigue have done.

Dr. Veronesi read positive remarks from 3 of the indoor track coaches, Mr. McShane, Mr. Bellmare, and Mrs. Germond. The coaches praised the outstanding success of members of the indoor track team. Dr. Veronesi commended the students for their accomplishments. She also commended the adults involved in the program for the dedication and commitment to the students in District 13.

New Business:

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the National Ocean Sciences Bowl Team field trip request. Dr. Friedrich seconded.

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

Old Business:

Mrs. Flanagan asked the Board if they had any comments on the 2015-2016 District 13 school calendar. Discussion took place regarding religious holidays and February vacation.

Mrs. Adams moved to approve the 2015-2016 District 13 school calendar. Dr. Onofreo seconded.

In favor of approving the 2015-2016 District 13 school calendar: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Fronc, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Student Achievement:

Bill Kurtz, Technology Integrated Specialist provided each Board member a Chromebook to log

into. Mr. Kurtz demonstrated various aspects of using a Chromebook. He spoke about how teachers are using Chromebooks in their classroom and moving towards paperless. Mr. Kurtz also advised the Board how teachers and students can collaborate outside the classroom setting by video conferencing.

Dr. Veronesi as well as Board members thanked Mr. Kurtz on his presentation.

Committee Reports

Utilization Committee

Mr. Fulton gave an update on the committee work and what they thought could be done in the interim to address the declining enrollment. Mr. Fulton suggested the possibility of moving to 2 K-5 elementary schools, one 6-8 middle school and one high school. Further discussion will take place at the next Utilization Committee meeting.

Human Resource Committee

Mrs. Boyle reported that the committee was working on a new member handbook and stated it was a work in progress.

Other Committee Reports

Mr. Hicks reported that TEMS met last week. They are in the process of reviewing the partnership agreement. TEMS also voted on their calendar. Mr. Hicks will get back to the Board on how it compares to District 13's school calendar.

Mrs. Flanagan handed out a schedule of proposed Board meetings for next year and asked members to review and get back to her by next Wednesday, January 21, 2015. Mrs. Flanagan also requested that committee heads send her their schedule of meetings for next year. That is also due by Wednesday, January 21, 2015.

Mrs. Fronc asked if the Board of Education meetings could begin at 7:00 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m. beginning in July 2015. Discussion took place. Mrs. Flanagan asked for a show of hands. Six members wanted to move the meeting to 7:00 p.m., 3 members abstained, and 1 member voted no. It was decided to move the meeting start time to 7:00 p.m. The time of the Public Hearing and District Meeting would remain the same.

Public Comment

No public comment

Executive Session

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. The Board invited Dr. Veronesi to participate in the Executive Session.

The Board of Education returned to regular session.

Adjournment

Mr. Hicks moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Mr. Fulton seconded. In favor of adjourning the meeting: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Fronc, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted

Maureen Johnson

