

Regional School District 13  
Board of Education  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
August 25, 2014

The Regional District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, August 25, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the library at Coginchaug Regional High School, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, Connecticut.

Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff.

Board member absent: Mrs. Boyle

Administrators present: Kathy Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools, Ron Melnik, Business Manager

Others present: None

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

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mrs. Flanagan led the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

**2. Public Comment**

As there were no members of the public in attendance, there was no public comment.

**3. Next Board Meeting:** September 10, 2014 at Memorial School

**4. Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Fulton seconded the motion.

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

Opposed to the motion: None      Motion passed.

### **5. Approval of Minutes of July 1, 2014**

Dr. Friedrich moved to approve the minutes of the special meeting of July 1, 2014. Mr. Fulton seconded the motion. Mrs. Fronc questioned why the superintendent's evaluation process was not mentioned in the minutes. Mr. Fulton explained that this discussion was not contained on the agenda. Mr. Hicks further explained that only discussion pertinent to the agenda may be included in the minutes. He also explained the necessary elements that are required of minutes. Mrs. Fronc made an amendment to the motion to include the superintendent's evaluation process. There was no second.

In favor of the main motion: Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff

Opposed to the main motion: Mrs. Fronc

Abstained from voting: Mrs. Adams      Motion passed.

### **6. Communications**

Mr. Renninghoff mentioned that he received a phone call from a parent who was concerned about the detail in individual school web sites.

Mr. Hicks reported on the New Teacher Luncheon and the Convocation. He remarked about the diversity of the new staff as well as the variety of experience they bring to the school district.

Mrs. Flanagan remarked about the Convocation stating that people were "psyched up" and that our teaching and administrative staff are fabulous. She finished by saying it was rewarding to spend time with the staff.

### **7. Superintendent's Report**

#### **A. Summer Activities Overview**

Dr. Veronesi mentioned that updates will be included regularly in the BOE meeting packet with weekly updates via email exclusively for the Board.

Dr. Veronesi stated that all of the central office staff are included in the new health plan.

Dr. Veronesi continued by stating that the central office reorganization has been completed. All twenty-two file cabinets have been moved to a central location in the newly renovated special education suite. She thanked Rob Francis and his staff for their hard work.

Dr. Veronesi reported that she attended the state superintendent's convocation where a new task force will be formed to examine assessments.

Also reported was an update on the Pickett Lane culvert project that is moving along due to good weather conditions. The East side is already complete. There was some discussion regarding traffic issues at Strong. Parent concerns regarding student pick-up and drop-off were addressed at a safety meeting. Mrs. Fronc recommended assistance in traffic issues for the first two weeks of school.

Mr. Fulton asked about the date of completion of the Pickett Lane project. Dr. Veronesi mentioned that it is still the same as originally scheduled.

Dr. Veronesi said that Mr. Falcone is instituting efficiencies at CRHS including a change in the schedule to include a 4-minute homeroom. Three of the minutes have been gleaned from passing time that has been reduced from 4 to 3 minutes. It was mentioned that an in-school suspension supervisor is being considered to monitor, perhaps via an intern. This is not their primary responsibility but a consistent person is needed in this area.

Sports sign-up included 42 girls for volleyball. If there is no freshman coach, 16 girls would be cut from the team. There appears to be funds available to support this initiative. Dr. Veronesi will follow up.

There will be a revision in the crisis management plan and the project is moving along. Submission of the plan is forthcoming to the State. The

Board will take a critical eye regarding the plan. Dr. Veronesi mentioned the assistance Francis Willett (Durham Emergency Management) provided.

Mr. Melnik responded to a question regarding items going out to bid.

Mrs. Buckheit asked about a security grant and items that will be reimbursed including training.

## **8. New Business**

### **A. Field Trip Request - Italy/Greece**

Mrs. Germond from CRHS was present to provide an explanation of the details of this planned trip. Mr. Fulton inquired about fundraising. Mrs. Germond replied that money is split between the students. Mr. Hicks indicated that the cost was too high and that it would unfairly favor students who had the ability to pay. In addition he mentioned that fundraisers, when split between 20 students were a non-issue and would make little difference in a \$4,200 trip. Mr. Renninghoff moved to approve the field trip request to Italy and Greece set for April 2016. Mrs. Adams seconded the motion.

In favor of the motion: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff

Opposed to the motion: Mr. Hicks Motion passed.

### **B. School Security & Safety Plan**

Dr. Veronesi provided an update to the school security and safety plan. She indicated that there was a need for consistency across the district yet making it school-specific. Included in the plan will be a map describing the schools with utilities and other information as well as a calendar for drill practice. Each school has a crisis team with special training for teachers and administrators as well as improvements in signage. There is a need to keep the plan ever-present in employee's minds.

## **9. Committee Reports**

### **A. Utilization Committee**

Mr. Fulton summarized the status of the utilization study. There are three aspects to the plan: (1) Review buildings, structure, components, and usage, (2) Review where we might go and (3) construction and finance. The committee spent considerable time over the summer in aspect #1. It was determined that our buildings are old but well-maintained. Critical components are being assessed to aid in buildings that will not be closed.

Mr. Fulton added that the committee will focus on three options: (1) All options include the closing of at least one school, (2) None of the options will impact program choice and (3) How will closed building(s) be repurposed. Financing is also part of the equation. There is a projected year and a half timeline with no implementation before the 2018-2019 school year.

Our next steps are to focus on the three options, perform a background analysis, estimate costs including repurposed buildings and continue a dialog with the public.

Mrs. Adams inquired about updating the demographic study. Mrs. Flanagan stated that it will be updated regularly to keep pace with trends. She also reiterated that the Board should focus on schools staying open considering STEAM, CCSS, etc., as well as discussion with the public.

## **B. ERC Committee**

Mr. Fulton reported that the committee is working on a review of investment plans, a policy statement, fuel contracts, consortium and work on the budget calendar.

Mr. Melnik cited the need to form a pension committee that is a requirement. He distributed a suggested resolution. The pension committee will focus on administrative tasks. Dr. Friedrich wanted to understand the day-to-day operation. Mr. Melnik responded that the business office will handle that aspect. Mr. Fulton added that a third-party is hired to handle investments. Dr. Friedrich moved to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That, effective as of July 1, 2014, in accordance with Section 8-5 of the Defined Benefit Pension Plan for Employees of

Regional School District No. 13 (“Pension Plan”), the Board hereby appoints the following five persons to serve on the Pension Committee for the term that is set forth next to each of their names below, which Pension Committee for the Pension Plan will serve to act for the Board in the administration of the Pension Plan in accordance with the attached Exhibit A hereto which sets forth the purpose and responsibilities for said committee, and in said capacity, the Pension Committee is hereby authorized to carry out only those duties for the administration of the Plan that are set forth in Article VIII of the Plan or any other administrative responsibility that is related thereto for the administration or operation of the Plan, as more specifically described in said Exhibit A hereto, provided that the Committee shall have no authority to amend the terms of the Plan or any authority or responsibility relating to any aspect of the investment of the Plan or any other employee benefit plans covering employees, former employees and retirees of the School District.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Original Term</u>
Patricia Toth	Two years
Mary Jane Parsons	One Year
Jenna Lombardo	Two years
Maureen Johnson	Three Years
Rebecca Adams	One Year

Dr. Onofreo seconded the motion.

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

Opposed to the motion: None      Motion passed.

### C. Other Committee Reports

Mr. Hicks mentioned that the Policy Committee will meet on Monday, September 8.

## 10. Public Comment

As there were no members of the public in attendance, there was no public comment.

### **11. Follow-Up**

Meetings posted on web site

Start-time for meetings

### **12. Anticipated Executive Session**

#### **A. Student Residency Issue**

Dr. Friedrich moved to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing a student residency issue. Mrs. Adams seconded the motion. Dr. Veronesi and Mr. Melnik were invited to participate in the executive session.

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

Opposed to the motion: None      Motion passed.

The Board returned to open session at 9:09 p.m.

### **Adjourn**

Mr. Hicks moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 p.m. Mr. Renninghoff seconded the motion.

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

Opposed to the motion: None      Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Norm Hicks

Norman Hicks