

The Regional District 13 Board of Education held a District Meeting on Monday, May 4, 2015 in the auditorium at Coginchaug Regional High School, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, CT. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, and Mr. Renninghoff.

Members absent: Dr. Onofreo

Also present: Dr. Veronesi, Mr. Melnik

Mrs. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Hicks read the Call of the Meeting and the Return of the Call.

Mrs. Flanagan asked for a motion to elect a moderator.

Mr. Hicks moved that Jim Finley be elected moderator. Mr. Parmelee seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Finley requested a moment of silence for Dave Montgomery, a former BOE member and a former moderator in District 13.

Dr. Veronesi stated that Mrs. Flanagan was going to give a brief presentation this evening. Dr. Veronesi again stressed the importance of sustaining good work, strengthening what we are doing, preparing for the future, and upholding the District's mission. She thanked the audience for attending the meeting.

Mrs. Flanagan gave a brief overview of the budget stating that expenditures have been held below 2% over the past three years. She stated that receipts continue to decline and salaries and benefits continue to increase due to bargaining unit agreements. Mrs. Flanagan addressed the issue of declining enrollment and the work currently being done by the Utilization Committee. She also reviewed the Brewster School Roof Project. Mrs. Flanagan thanked the audience for their attendance at the meeting.

Mr. Finley opened the floor to questions.

Mr. Palmero of Middlefield asked what the cost increase per student was. Mr. Melnik stated that there is an estimated increase of 8%.

Alma Elder of Middlefield asked the Board to explain how the utilization study may change things. Mrs. Flanagan gave a brief description of the Utilization Committee's work. She also explained the impact of closing buildings due to declining enrollment.

Mr. Stengal of Durham asked what part of the benefits is health insurance. Mr. Melnik stated that 287 employees are covered and the approximate cost is \$6,000,000. Mr. Stengal addressed the cost per student and suggested a need to adjust class size.

Mr. Stoup of Durham asked if the benefits package included disability? Mr. Melnik stated that long-term disability coverage is provided for District administrators. Other staff members who would like to have disability insurance pay for the coverage at a group rate.

Mr. Parmelee of Durham said that the state has never been a reliable source for funding and asked the Board to go back and make adjustments if we don't get funds we think we are going to get. He wanted to know who is paying for the weekly publication that the townspeople get in the mail. Also he is still against the hiring of a full-time athletic director. Mr. Parmelee stated that we are still paying higher taxes even though our enrollment is declining.

Mrs. Viola of Durham stated that there are residents that are on a fixed income and new hires should not be considered in this budget. She feels the public is being short changed and the budget doesn't seem to be for the students. She also addressed the potholes on Pickett Lane.

Ms. Adams moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Hicks seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Finley adjourned the meeting to Referendum at 8:40 p.m.