

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, October 14, 2015 at John Lyman School, 106 Way Rd. Middlefield, CT at 7:00 p.m. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle (7:05), Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo and Mr. Renninghoff.

Absent: Mr. Willett

Also present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools

Mrs. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. after it was determined that a quorum was present.

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

### **Administrator Welcome**

Mr. Ford welcomed the Board and community members. He stated that the school year was off to a great start. Mr. Ford stated that the one/two classes are experiencing a 10 day residency Kim Thibodeau on art integration in the classroom. The residency is focused on ocean habitats. Mr. Ford thanked the Board for their continued support in Hot Schools

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Stengel of Durham referenced the October 6, 2015 information meeting and the \$435,000 of savings. He asked the Board for a breakdown of this figure.

Mrs. Stephan of Durham asked the Board to take careful consideration of their vote to close Korn School this evening. She asked Board members to consider the emails that have been sent to them.

Mrs. Finnerty of Durham expressed concerns regarding the fourth grade students attending Memorial School beginning the 2016-2017 school year. She also expressed a concern to future renovations to our existing school building.

### **Next Board Meeting**

Next Board meeting will be held on November 18, 2015 at Brewster School, 126 Tuttle Rd., Durham, CT

### **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the agenda. Mrs. Adams seconded.

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

### **Approval of Minutes of September 15, 2015**

Mr. Renninghoff moved to approve the minutes of September 15, 2015. Dr. Friedrich seconded.

Mr. Hicks stated that he had left the September 15 meeting early and was not present for the adjournment of the meeting. Mrs. Fronc stated she also left the meeting early.

Mr. Renninghoff moved to approve the minutes of September 15, 2015 as amended. Dr. Friedrich seconded.

In favor of approving the amended minutes of September 15, 2015: Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, and Mr. Renninghoff. Mrs. Adams, Mr. Moore and Dr. Onofreo abstained. Motion passed.

## **Communications**

Mrs. Flanagan welcomed Mr. Moore to the Board of Education  
Mr. Moore briefly discussed his background including his family his career and his experience.

Mrs. Flanagan stated that Mr. Willet is unable to attend tonight's meeting as he is away on business. Mr. Willet however has sent his comments and views with the entire Board.

Mrs. Flanagan also shared that she attended a girl's volleyball game at Coginchaug honoring our veterans. She was pleased to announce the support of District administrators at this event.

## **CRHS Student Report**

Larissa Cade and Taylor Marino informed the Board on events taking place at the high school. Such events include Spirit week this week leading up to Homecoming this weekend, movie night, Shoreline Music Festival, Career Fair, Induction into the French and Spanish Honor Society and recognition of athletes.

## **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Veronesi commended Larissa and Taylor on their presentation.

Dr. Veronesi announced that her Executive Administrative Assistant, Rosemary Allen is retiring. Dr. Veronesi commended Mrs. Allen on her patience, kindness, and contributions to District 13 for 29 years. Dr. Veronesi invited Board members to a retirement celebration being held in honor of Mrs. Allen on November 5, 2015.

Dr. Veronesi stated she has received numerous emails and phone calls regarding the closing of Korn School. She is very aware of the concerns of parents and the District. She will work with her administrative team to make smooth transition during this time. Dr. Veronesi also added that every school has its own personality and stated that Korn School is warm, welcoming and a vibrant learning community.

Dr. Veronesi updated the Board on the NEASC report and her work with Mrs. Emory on concept of human capital.

She stated that the new Pastry class at the high school provided cookies for this evening's Board meeting.

Dr. Veronesi also advised the Board that the District Wellness Committee is focusing on mindfulness and Core Ethical Values during the month of November.

## **Presentation**

### **Educational Services Review – Amy Emory**

Mrs. Emory provided the Board with a draft of the Education Services Analysis. During her presentation Mrs. Emory outlined the findings of the study and the action plan moving forward. Her presentation included commendations to the MTA program, OT services and graduation rate. Mrs. Emory also addressed recommendations made in programming for Autistic students and reviewed state mandates.

Mrs. Flanagan and Board members commended Mrs. Emory on her presentation.

## **New Business**

Dr. Friedrich moved to approve the Model UN Club Field Trip Request on 11/13-15, 2015 to UCONN in Storrs. Mrs. Boyle seconded.

In favor of the Model UN Club Field Trip Request on 11/13-15,2015: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, and Dr. Onofreo. Mr. Renninghoff opposed. Motion passed.

Dr. Friedrich moved to approve the Model UN Club Field Trip Request on 3/18-3/20, 2016 to Boston College

In favor of the Model UN Club Field Trip Request on 3/18-3/20, 2016: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, and Dr. Onofreo. Mr. Renninghoff opposed. Motion passed.

Mrs. Flanagan thanked the support staff and Board members for their work on the contract. Mrs. Flanagan reviewed and asked for questions. Being none Mrs. Flanagan requested a motion be made.

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the Regional District 13 Support Staff Association professional agreement dated July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018. Mrs. Boyle seconded.

In favor of approving the Support Staff Association professional agreement dated July 1, 2015- June 30, 2018: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, and Dr. Onofreo. Mr. Renninghoff opposed. Motion passed.

Mr. Renninghoff moved to accept the donation from Durham Manufacturing to purchase and install a fence between Durham Manufacturing and Strong School valued at \$7,231.00. Mrs. Adams seconded.

In favor of accepting the donation from Durham Manufacturing: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Policy Committee**

Mr. Hicks led the Board through each policy.

Mr. Hicks moved to approve Policy 9111 Filling Vacancies. Mrs. Boyle seconded.

In favor of approving Policy 9111 Filling Vacancies: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Mr. Hicks moved to approve Policy 9231 Board Member Request for Information. Dr. Friedrich seconded.

In favor of approving Policy 9231 Board Member Request for Information: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Mr. Hicks moved to approve Policy 9327 Electronic Participation at Board Meetings. Mrs. Adams seconded.

Discussion took place. Dr. Friedrich stated he was uneasy as rules shouldn't be different for people walking into a meeting late and able to vote on the subject being discussed. He recommended the

Board approve the policy but refine it. Mrs. Fronc requested Mr. Hicks to read the line in the policy Dr. Friedrich was referring to. Mrs. Flanagan stated the Board does not have the technology in place at this time. Dr. Veronesi recommended the Board work with the District's IT Department. It was agreed that the policy go back to the committee.

The motion was withdrawn and Policy 9327 will go back to the committee for further discussion.

Mr. Hicks moved to approve Policy 9320 Robert's Rules of Order. Dr. Onofreo seconded.

In favor of approving Policy 9320 Robert's Rules of Order: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Mrs. Adams suggested that Policy 5132 go back to the committee. She stated that the recommended Dress Code Policy does not address the needs of our District and looks like the dress code policy of an inner city school. Mr. Moore suggested that the dress code come from the administrative team. Mr. Hicks recommended that the policy go back to the committee for further review.

### **Utilization Study Committee**

Mr. Hicks moved to approve closing Korn School at the end of the 2015-16 school year. Mrs. Adams seconded.

Discussion took place. Mrs. Fronc stated that community members have approached her regarding the schedule of the 4<sup>th</sup> graders slated to attend Memorial School during the 2016-17 school year. Parents are concerned about this issue and also about students' recess time. Mrs. Fronc asked to have Korn School closed at the end of the 2016-17 school year so schedules could be in place.

Mrs. Flanagan stated that a critical path will be discussed once the decision is made to take care of these details. She said that the Board cannot forget the declining enrollment is important.

Mrs. Adams was also concerned about the issues that have been brought up but is convinced that the District's administrative team we have will see the project through.

Mrs. Fronc stated she was surprised we don't have answers to these questions and does not want to rush into a vote without these answers.

Dr. Veronesi is confident in this administrative team and feels they will do the right thing for the students. There is much work to be done but she is confident in the team and the community. She also expressed that she was grateful for the community's feedback.

Mr. Moore recommended that since parents have expressed an interest we should a parent advisory team. Mrs. Flanagan stated that parent participation is the next step from the Utilization Committee.

Mrs. Adams moved to call the question. Mr. Hicks seconded.

Mrs. Boyle requested that she have a chance to speak. Mr. Hicks stated that the motion was on the table. A vote was taken. Motion failed.

Mrs. Boyle stated that in June she was not ready to vote on closing Korn School. Since then many of her concerns have been addressed. She cares sincerely about every student and has complete faith in Dr. Veronesi and the committee.

Mr. Renninghoff stated he has faith in Dr. Veronesi and her team to have a successful process. He said that this could be an exciting time. A new chapter.

In favor of closing Korn School at the end of the 2015-16 school year: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Mr. Moore abstained. Motion passed.

Mrs. Flanagan assured that the Board of Education will be working with the community and will address all the concerns raised.

**Other Committee Reports**

None

**Public Comment**

Mrs. Elder stated that she would like the Board to introduce the student reporters and others that are a part of the meetings. Referring to Mrs. Emory's presentation she wondered if someone was going to speak about our outstanding students. She would like to see a zero increase in the budget and would have like to have known the cost of the field trips approved. Lastly referring to the support staff contract Mrs. Elder would like to see cost items.

Mr. Brayshaw credited the Board on their work. He stated that it is evident that people are hurting and he is hoping that savings will come to the taxpayers.

Mrs. Finnerty stated that she was not familiar with the procedure of stopping questions. She felt that Mrs. Boyle should have has a chance to express her opinion

**Adjournment**

Mr. Hicks moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm. Mrs. Fronc seconded.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
*Maureen Johnson*

*Recording Secretary*