

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, December 9, 2015 in the Library at Coginchaug Regional High School, Durham, CT at 7:00 p.m. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Moore (7:05 p.m.), Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff left at 8:00 p.m.), and Mr. Willett.

Also present: Mr. Melnik, Business Manager, 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.

Mrs. Flanagan requested a moment of silence for Michael Camp who passed away this past week. Michael was the son of former District educators Wally and Judy Camp. Mrs. Adam also requested that the moment of silence be extended to Eileen Burnham, a former District employee who had passed away on Friday.

#### **Administrator Welcome**

Mr. Falcone, principal of Coginchaug Regional High School welcomed the Board of Education to the high school. Mr. Falcone advised the Board on the number of events happening at the high school including the fall sports banquet, band and chorus practicing for an upcoming concert, and the presentation of the Superintendent's Award. He stated that the high school is a great place to be and things don't stop. The high school is transforming academically by offering 20 additional classes this year with 13 of these classes college level courses. He commended the new pastry class who provided the cookies for the Board meeting. Mr. Falcone stated he is very proud to be the principal of Coginchaug Regional High.

#### **Public Comment**

None

#### **Next Board Meeting**

Next Board meeting will be held on January 13, 2016 at Korn School.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

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

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

#### **Approval of Minutes of November 18, 2015**

Dr. Friedrich moved to approve the minutes of November 18, 2015. Mr. Willett seconded.

In favor of approving the minutes of November 18, 2015: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, and Mr. Willett. Mrs. Boyle abstained. Motion passed.

#### **Communications**

Mr. Willett reported that he had been contacted by a Strong School parent regarding the Strong School Survey. Mr. Willett stated that Mr. Sadinsky reached out to the parent.

Mrs. Flanagan stated that the Board of Finance from the Town of Middlefield urges the Board to keep the projected budget at a 0% increase. Mrs. Flanagan said that the Board will do its best however the education value is first and foremost during the budget process.

Mrs. Flanagan also received communication from Mrs. Casserino regarding the start time at the high school and asked the Board to revisit this topic. Mrs. Casserino also applauded the progress that has been made at Coginchaug Regional High School.

### **CRHS Reporters**

Larissa Cade, Taylor Marino and Matthew Sawicki provided the Board with an update regarding the implementation of new technology taking place at Coginchaug Regional High School. Each student has received a Chromebook. Using Google Classroom students and teachers are able to enhance communication. Faculty posts notes and assignments in goggle classroom. Students are able to do group work by sharing documents through goggle docs. Each of the students shared a classroom experience they have had.

### **Superintendent Award Students**

Dr. Veronesi introduced the recipients of the Superintendent Award, Jordan Olivieri and Cameron Powers. Dr. Veronesi commented on each student stating that these students are role models for both adults and students and they follow the District's Core Ethical Values.

### **RSD 13 Teacher of the Year**

Noelle Durkin was recognized as District 13's Teacher of the Year. Dr. Veronesi commented on Noelle's enthusiasm and love of children.

Mrs. Stone, the principal of Korn School commended on Noelle's love for her students, her willingness support her team, and her leadership skills.

Mrs. Durkin stated she is humbled by this experience. She does what she loves and is surrounded by good people.

### **Business Manager's Report**

Mr. Melnik reported that ERC met on Tuesday night. A draft copy of the financial report was reviewed at the meeting. Changes are being made and will be shared at a later date.

On November 26, 2015 budget books were turned in and meeting with individual administrators have taken place over the past week.

Mr. Kurtz's provided a workshop with the Central Office staff on google docs. Mr. Melnik commended Mr. Kurtz for a great workshop.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Veronesi shared the budget calendar with the Board stating that the administrative team is carefully looking at declining enrollment, the closing of Korn, and how we are moving forward.

Dr. Veronesi attended the Chamber meeting. Mrs. Laura Francis spoke about the economic development of both communities of Durham and Middlefield. Dr. Veronesi stated that the process of PLC (Professional Learning Communities) is being looked at with respect to enhancing student learning and student engagement.

Dr. Veronesi recently met with Mrs. Emory regarding the Education Services Review and updated the BOE on steps that have been made to meet recommendations made.

Dr. Veronesi stated that she met with the Human Resources Committee. She briefly discussed her goals.

## **Senior Class Field Trip Request to Washington, DC on March 20 - 23, 2016**

Mrs. Boyle moved to approve the Senior Trip to Washington, D.C. on March 20 -3, 2016. Mr. Willett seconded.

Discussion took place stating that the Board will pay close attention to world issues as the trip approaches. Mr. Willett stated a plan was in progress to receive feedback during the trip from Mr. Bradanini and high school administrators.

In favor of approving the Senior Trip: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Student Achievement**

Mrs. Adams reported that the Student Achievement Committee had met and discussed topics such as, changes at the high school regarding technology, social studies standards and science standards working together, and the shifting of expectations making evaluation difficult.

#### **Education Resources**

Mrs. Flanagan reported that the committee met and reviewed the draft of the audit. In the past the audit was approved before it was filed with the state. It was suggested that discussion take place at the next ERC meeting. Electronic copies will be sent early next week to BOE members.

#### **Utilization Committee**

Mrs. Flanagan stated that the committee met on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. At the meeting a formal sub-committee co-chaired by Merrill Adams, representing Middlefield and Francis Willett, representing Durham were charged with the task of alternative uses for Korn School. The committee also needs to be aware that another elementary school will likely close in the future. The committee agreed to seek the help from Ed Arum for his expertise and will meet with him on Dec. 17, 2015.

Dr. Veronesi indicated that a core transition team has been meeting every Friday. There are also smaller teams that meet to plan for such things as scheduling including recess and playground equipment, staffing, room locations, packing and moving. Parents and staff members will be working on the smaller teams as appropriate.

Mrs. Boyle asked for updates on the progress of the transition for the Board and for parents and the community. Dr. Veronesi indicated that the team will create a communication plan for this purpose.

#### **Other Committee Reports**

None

#### **Public Comment**

Mr. Doyle of Durham thanked the Board for their continued work. Mr. Doyle stated he addressed an issue in June and tried to address this issue again in the fall but understands protocol. He is concerned about an issue on the horizon. Mr. Doyle has a concern with the evaluation of the athletic department and feels it needs to be addressed. He also commented on the recent football events. In closing he stated he would like to meet with Board members in private to discuss these issues.

#### **Executive Session**

On a motion by Mrs. Adams, seconded by Mrs. Boyle the Board of Education unanimously approved to move into Executive Session to discuss a student matter. The Board invited Dr. Veronesi to participate in Executive Session.

The Board of Education returned to regular session.

**Adjournment**

Mrs. Adams moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm. Mrs. Boyle seconded.

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Maureen Johnson*

*Recording Secretary*