

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the library at Strong School, 191 Main St., Durham, CT. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks (7:45 p.m.) Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff (7:35 p.m.), and Mr. Willett. Also present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Melnik, Business Manager. Absent: Mrs. Fronc

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Taylor Marino and Matthew Sawicki led the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

**Public Comment**

None

**Next Board Meeting**

The next Board meeting will be March 9, 2016 at Strong Middle School.

**Approval of Agenda**

Dr. Friedrich moved to approve the agenda. Dr. Onofreo seconded.

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

**Approval of Minutes of February 17, 2016**

Mr. Willett moved to approve the minutes of February 17, 2016. Mrs. Boyle seconded.

Dr. Friedrich asked that under Other Committee Reports the minutes be amended to read career paths rather than career path.

In favor of approving the amended minutes of February 17, 2016: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

**Communications**

None

**CRHS Reporters – Taylor Marino and Matthew Sawicki**

Matthew and Taylor updated the Board on events that have taken place at the high school and events that will occur over the next few weeks. The events include a recent Show Choir, Jazz Band, and A cappella group concert and Ocean Science Bowl. The Unified Sports team attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting and also played basketball at Quinnipiac University. The Jazz Ensemble headed to Berkley in Boston for a competition and placed third. Also reported was the Girls Indoor Track team won the Shoreline Championship. Upcoming events include a parent forum on March 2 and the Senior Washington Trip March 20-23, 2016.

In concluding their report Taylor presented to the Board projects that had been done by her Physics class on how rollercoasters work.

**New Business:****Senior Class Trip to NYC**

Dr. Friedrich moved to approve a Senior Class trip to New York City May 26-27, 2016. Mrs. Adams seconded.

In favor of approving the Senior Class trip to New York City: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Willett. Motion Passed

**2016-2017 Budget Discussion**

Dr. Veronesi is approaching the budget discussions differently this year. Tonight's meeting will focus on programs. The March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting will concentrate on staffing and class size., and buildings and technology will be addressed on March 16. She stated that programs being presented this evening are the programs the District needs to enhance 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills.

Dr. Veronesi introduced Dr. Berry who began the presentation entitled 2016-17 Educational Programming.

Dr. Berry stated that a goal of the District is to provide students with engaging learning experiences. This will take place through integrated learning, inquiry based learning and the engagement of critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity.

Dr. Berry displayed a chart of Math Instruction Framework integrating Math specialist and Math tutors throughout the District. She also stated that the implementation of Instructional Coaches at the elementary school level will help support teachers.

Dr. Berry then introduced Mr. Ford, principal of Lyman School who presented Readers Workshop.

Mr. Ford thanked Dr. Veronesi and the Board for the opportunity to present a program he is very excited about. He stated that Readers Workshop is a District-wide program focusing on developing readers and writers. There is a high degree of choice and individualization. The component of Readers Workshop begins with the teacher instructed mini lesson to the entire class focused on a specific point. Students then are able to choose self selected books. The teachers then shifts to conferencing with individual students where they can evaluate progress and provide students with feedback. The goal of the program is to develop independent readers and thinkers.

Board members had various questions such as what does a mini lesson consist of, what happens to students who struggle and what happens when they leave elementary school. In answering their questions Mr. Ford provided an example of a mini lesson. He stated that the program provides for differentiation of learners. The program also reinforces routine and structures starting with Kindergarten.

Mr. Ford then introduced Mr. Sadinsky, principal of Strong School to present STEM at Strong.

STEM, Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, is a program to provide students with an opportunity to succeed in a global economy. It offers students hands-on experiences along with student choice. Students are active and engaged, they are challenged, and they are problem solving.

Mr. Sadinsky is presently exploring modular technology education programs and has been in contact with Paxton/Patterson an educational consultant. Mr. Sadinsky provided a video

during his presentation and will share the link with Board members.

Mr. Sadinsky and his committee are looking at 8 – 10 modules. Mr. Sadinsky stated that STEM will be for all students at Strong School. It would become part of the related arts rotation. The teacher would be the facilitator.

Board members asked Mr. Sadinsky the cost of the modules and the cost of consumables. A price list will be provided to the Board before the end of the budget meetings.

Mr. Sadinsky is excited about the program but is aware of challenges. He thanked the Board at the end of his presentation.

Dr. Berry commended our district teachers. She showed examples of K – 6 integrated technology. She also addressed the Next Generation Science Standards and showed a short video on the Engineering process which is a big part of the new science standards. Dr. Berry stated the NGSS timeline is a 5-year plan, however District 13 is already working on it.

Dr. Veronesi asked for questions. She also stated the the District's priority is the exploration of a career path program at Cuginchaug and she will address this at the next Board meeting.

Mrs. Flanagan stated that this was a different way to approach the budget as they usually go through each line item. She said the Board has gained an understanding of programs and student achievement. Mrs. Flanagan thanked Dr. Veronesi and the administrators for their presentation which provided the Board with a better understanding of what is needed.

Mrs. Flanagan asked for specific questions.

The following questions were asked:

- What is Paxton/Patterson charging us?
- What is the cost of each module?
- What is the cost of sending teachers to North Carolina for training?
- Provide a breakdown of the cost of STEM: modules, training, management system, and replacement of consumables.

Other discussion took place among Board members regarding fund balances.

### **Committee Reports**

None

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Hicks moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m. Dr. Friedrich seconded.

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

Respectfully submitted

*Maureen Johnson*

