

Second revision

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, June 21, 2017 at 7:00 PM in the Library at Coginchaug Regional High School, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, Connecticut. Board members present: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff and Dr. Taylor.

Board members absent: Mrs. Boyle and Mr. Yamartino.

Administration present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Russell, Interim Business Manager.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Flanagan, to move item 13 of the agenda up to after item 3.

In favor of approving the agenda as amended: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff and Dr. Taylor. Motion passed.

Proclamations - Kerrie Flanagan and Jeremy Renninghoff

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich to present proclamations to Mr. Renninghoff and Mrs. Flanagan. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

The proclamations were read by Mr. Hicks (as attached to these minutes) and Mr. Renninghoff and Mrs. Flanagan were acknowledged by the Superintendent and fellow Board members for their years of service.

The Board then took a break for a brief reception.

Public Comment

Heather Prenzi, from Durham, stated that she and her husband wanted to thank the Board and the voters for the opportunity for their children to attend the full-day preschool program.

Carl Stoup thanked both Mr. Renninghoff and Mrs. Flanagan for all of their efforts. Mrs. Flanagan thanked Mr. Stoup for his time as well.

Anticipated Executive Session

A. Business Manager Interview

After returning from executive session, Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Flanagan, to appoint Kimberly Neubig as the Regional School District 13 Business Manager and authorize the Superintendent to engage in salary negotiations.

In favor of appointing Kimberly Neubig as the Regional School District 13 Business Manager: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mrs. Renninghoff and Dr. Taylor. Motion passed.

**Next Board Meeting - July 5, 2017 at 6:00 PM in the Library at Cuginchaug Regional High School
Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Renninghoff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Augur, to approve the minutes of June 7, 2017, as presented.

Dr. Friedrich requested that, on page 3, the sentence regarding his understanding of phone calls being made about the Memorial Day parade be deleted and suggested the word substitutes be spelled out in the following paragraph. He also asked that, on page 4, the paragraph should read that Mr. Russell does not anticipate any cash flow issues. Dr. Friedrich also suggested that, on page 5, MOU be written out to read Memorandum of Understanding. He also asked for motions to be set out from the text in the minutes. Mr. Renninghoff accepted the suggested amendments.

In favor of approving the minutes of June 7, 2017, as amended: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed. Mrs. Flanagan and Dr. Taylor abstained.

Communications

Mr. Hicks commented that Step-Up at Strong School and Memorial School were excellent and graduation at Cuginchaug was nothing short of spectacular. There were some comments about trying to shield the sun at graduation. Mr. Hicks also mentioned that Mr. Falcone did a great job.

Dr. Veronesi mentioned the MTA graduation and Mr. Hicks commented that it is always wonderful and encouraged Board members to attend.

Mr. Hicks also announced that he has been re-elected as Chairman of the Board at ACES. Mrs. Petrella commented about the ceremony for the fourth graders at Lyman and the phenomenal job that the band did. Mr. Moore also commented on the band and chorus concerts. Mrs. Flanagan mentioned the outstanding music program and how it also stood out at graduation. There was some discussion about copyrights on music and that they had to remove some of the music from the graduation video.

Dr. Taylor had some thoughts about communications ideas, but suggested it be held off until the new board members arrive. Dr. Veronesi suggested the Board talk about this issue at the Board retreat.

Business Manager's Report

Mr. Russell summarized that he has done about 80 Excel spreadsheets in his 20 weeks at the District and he will work side-by-side with Kim Neubig during the first week in July. He also mentioned that they have finished work on the Business Office Procedures Manual, but he feels that it is a working document that should continue to be expanded upon. They have looked at doing cross-training on several tasks, especially payroll, and felt that at least two people should know every job. He then went over tasks that are remaining for the end of the year. The auditors will be in in the second week of July and Mr. Russell will be here for that as well. Mr. Russell also explained that the District did receive more money from the state than was budgeted this year and Dr. Veronesi has written letters to both First Selectmen. A total of \$70,000 is owed from the two towns. Mr. Russell will meet with the Finance Directors from both towns.

Mr. Moore and Dr. Veronesi thanked Mr. Russell for all of his hard work.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Veronesi reported that they have received the preliminary results for the SBAC and there were improvements in every cohort group for English/language Arts. Only one cohort performed 1 percentage point lower than last year. In math, there was significant improvement in each cohort, with the eighth graders improving by 12 percentage points from last year. There was also improvement within the grade levels. SAT results have also been received and were very impressive with 90 percent of the students reaching benchmarks in reading and writing. There was also a 10 percent improvement in math. The District outperformed both the State and the Nation in both math and reading and writing. AP scores will be published after July 5, 2017.

Custodian and Food Service contract reopeners are currently being worked on and hopefully the District will realize significant savings. There will also be cost savings due to not having to utilize the services of an attorney.

Attorney Littlefield has some dates for Board retreat work and Dr. Veronesi asked if everyone might be available on Wednesday, August 23rd. The attorney is available August 7, 14 or 23 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. A Saturday morning in early September is also possible.

Dr. Veronesi also updated the Board that they have decided to hold one trial STEAM Camp session in October. She reviewed the proposed format and will forward it electronically to the Board members. There will be a \$30 fee to attend the camp, with students from second to sixth grade and 20 kids per school. She also mentioned that there has been interest from volunteers to come and share their expertise.

Committee Reports

A. Educational Resources Committee - June 7, 2017

Mr. Moore reported that the ERC had met and discussed the budget process, utilization issues and an infrastructure program. Minutes are available for the Board members to review. Dr. Friedrich made comments about looking at the budget process from a much higher level and Dr. Veronesi cautioned the Board to be ready to make hard decisions.

Dr. Veronesi mentioned that she has a meeting next Thursday morning that was requested by both First Selectmen to look at the budget drivers and talk about the per pupil expenditure. Dr. Veronesi also mentioned a possible meeting in the early Fall to review the state of the State, the communities and the District. Mr. Moore mentioned the challenges of the possible voucher system. Mrs. Petrella liked the idea of a community meeting and felt that it would give the townspeople a better understanding of the complete budget. Dr. Veronesi also encouraged the Board to continue to look at utilization and Mr. Renninghoff commented that closing a school should not be connected to having other buildings expanded or modified. Dr. Taylor and Mr. Augur both agreed.

New Business

A. Nurses' Contract

Dr. Veronesi had forwarded the final copies of the proposed contract to the Board members and Mr. Russell explained that the entire cost of this new contract was only \$7,833. The District did save money on healthcare benefits. The overall increase was 3.01 percent, with five people involved in the bargaining unit.

Mrs. Flanagan made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve the Nurses' contract as described.

In favor of approving the Nurses' contract as described: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff and Dr. Taylor. Motion passed.

Mr. Moore described a comparable school district in Martha's Vineyard that awarded \$1.79 million in scholarships and grants to their students. The district has many fund raisers to be able to do that. He will speak to the Scholarship Committee about doing additional fund raisers. Dr. Taylor wondered if we have records of scholarships and grants that students have received from their colleges and Dr. Veronesi thought that the students could be asked for that information.

Public Comment

None.

Anticipated Executive Session

A. Discuss a Student Matter

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Renninghoff, to go into executive session to discuss a student matter and that Dr. Veronesi be invited to participate.

In favor of going into executive session to discuss a student matter: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff and Dr. Taylor. Motion passed.

Adjournment

Mr. Renninghoff made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Flanagan, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education as their last official act as members of the Regional School District 13 Board of Education.

In favor of adjourning the meeting: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff and Dr. Taylor. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

Debi Waz
Alwaz First



**Regional School District 13 Board of Education
Durham and Middlefield, Connecticut**

***BE IT KNOWN BY ALL THOSE PRESENT**, that on this date Kerrie Flanagan, Distinguished Board of Education Member since 2005, is duly recognized and acknowledged for her dedication to the children and citizens of Regional School District 13; and*

***Whereas**, Kerrie Flanagan, having served with honor, hereby concludes this challenge for the responsibility of educating our youth. Be it known that by these words that her deeds, her courage, intelligence and financial acumen will be long remembered by her peers, the Towns of Middlefield and Durham and, indeed, our children; and*

***Whereas**, Kerrie Flanagan served this District as a Board of Education member, Treasurer and Chairperson. Her persistent dedication to developing a strong and sustained school district is second to none and will long be remembered as a guide for those that follow in future public service; and*

***Whereas**, Kerrie Flanagan brought her business acumen to the district and influenced the responsible management of financial resources in service to developing and sustaining a viable business model. Her influence on and pride in selecting a superintendent and supporting the development of a strong and cohesive leadership has served the entire District; and*

***Whereas**, Kerrie Flanagan demonstrated her tireless work ethic on many subcommittees for this Board most notably the Utilization Committee, Educational Resources Committee, and Student Achievement Committee. Her initiation of the process to accurately examine declining enrollment and responsibly and intelligently identify and respond to the associated opportunities. Her work ethic and unwavering commitment have provided insightful direction and have moved the District and the community forward.*

***Whereas**, Kerrie Flanagan is a respected and admired leader having been a tireless volunteer whose intelligence, financial sophistication, and determination have strengthened the school district and elevated the work of the entire Board of Education.*

***Therefore be it resolved** that we, the members of the Regional School District 13 Board of Education on this twenty-first day of June, two-thousand seventeen celebrate Kerrie Flanagan and encourage others to do the same and join us in recognizing Kerrie Flanagan, a leader who made an extraordinary difference in the success of this School District and the advancement of its mission. All this is with our sincere gratitude for your many years of unselfish service. By your actions, you have distinguished yourself and brought great pride upon your community, our schools and hundreds of children who will remember you for all the good work you have done.*



**Regional School District 13 Board of Education
Durham and Middlefield, Connecticut**

BE IT KNOWN BY ALL THOSE PRESENT, that on this date Jeremy Renninghoff, distinguished Board of Education member since 2011, is duly recognized and acknowledged for his dedication to the children and citizens of Regional School District 13; and

Whereas, Jeremy Renninghoff, having served with honor, hereby concludes this challenge for the responsibility of educating our youth. Be it known that by these words that his deeds, his fervent desire to maintain a responsible budget will be long remembered by his peers, the Towns of Middlefield and Durham and, indeed, our children; and

Whereas, Jeremy Renninghoff served this District as a Board of Education member. His understanding of finances and financial implications has served the Board and the district well throughout his tenure; and

Whereas, Jeremy Renninghoff brought a unique perspective to the Board of Education due to his remarkable institutional knowledge and uncanny memory for facts, figures and details; and

Whereas, Jeremy Renninghoff demonstrated ongoing commitment on many subcommittees for this Board most notably the Utilization, Educational Resources, and Policy committees; and

Whereas, Jeremy Renninghoff is a dedicated member having been a volunteer whose vast knowledge of district operations contributed to the work of the entire Board of Education.

Therefore be it resolved that we, the members of the Regional School District 13 Board of Education on this twenty first day of June, two-thousand seventeen celebrate Jeremy Renninghoff and encourage others to do the same and join us in recognizing Jeremy Renninghoff, a member who made a difference in the success of this School District and the advancement of its mission. All this is with our sincere gratitude for your years of unselfish service. By your actions, you have distinguished yourself and brought great pride upon your community, our schools and hundreds of children who will remember you for all the good work you have done.