

Revised

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 7:00 PM in the Library at Coginchaug Regional High School, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, Connecticut.

Board members present: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino.

Board members absent: Mrs. Boyle.

Administration present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools and Mrs. Neubig, Business Manager.

Mr. Moore called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve the agenda, as presented.

In favor of approving the agenda as presented: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed.

Public Comment

None.

Administrator Welcome

Scott Sadinsky, principal at Strong School, publicly invited everyone to join him next Wednesday evening for the chorus and band concert to be held at Coginchaug at 7:00 PM. He also reported that rehearsals start next week for High School Musical Junior with performances scheduled for April 26th and 27th. The administrative team and teachers from Strong, Memorial and Coginchaug will be going through the process of instructional rounds on February 1st. The focus areas will be to look at how instructional practices and classroom layout contribute to active student engagement.

Mr. Sadinsky also reported that the girls' JV basketball team has a record of 5-1 with the varsity at 2-4. The boys' JV has a record of 1-4 with the varsity team at 1-5. The teams are working hard and playing well together.

Mr. Sadinsky also told a story of a young lady at Strong School who had asked for nonperishable items for the holiday so that she could donate to the Middlefield food bank (Kayla Wickham, Mrs. Petrella's granddaughter). Kayla did, in fact, donate over 400 pounds of nonperishable items to the Middlefield food bank. Mr. Sadinsky felt that this was an amazing example of giving, caring and looking out for others.

CRHS Reporters - Colleen Coogan, Demarie Del Vecchio, Daniel Turecek

Demarie Del Vecchio reported that she has been working with Durham Market through the Career Center for about three weeks now and started by gaining more recognition on Facebook, holding a contest that got 484 likes and 221 shares as well as many positive comments.

Daniel Turecek reported that five students are working on independent senior projects with their mentors. One student is designing a house and building a model that he will enter into a statewide contest. Another student is learning welding and will make a creation to present as his final project. One

student is researching teaching styles, specifically for languages, and will be teaching a middle school class a Spanish lesson. Another student is working on researching exercise programs, such as weight lifting, and will design the track team's preseason workouts for his project. Dan is working on a book about a family friend's life story. The projects will be presented in April.

Colleen Coogan explained that she and Demarie are part of the fashion show that is being held by the fashion marketing class. The class worked on researching trends and then created three looks for three models.

Dr. Veronesi reported that Colleen Coogan recently received the Comcast Leaders and Achievers award which came with \$1,000. Dan received a DAR award from the Wadsworth Chapter of the DAR for Good Citizenship. Dr. Veronesi congratulated both students.

Approval of Minutes

A. Joint Meeting of the Boards of Education, Selectmen and Finance - November 8, 2017

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve the minutes of Joint Meeting of the Boards of Education, Selectmen and Finance meeting on November 8, 2017, as presented.

In favor of approving the minutes of November 8, 2017 as presented: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried.

B. Board of Education Meeting - December 13, 2017

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Petrella, to approve the minutes of Board of Education Meeting on December 13, 2017, as presented.

In favor of approving the minutes of December 13, 2017 as presented: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried.

Next Board Meeting - February 14, 2018 at 7:00 PM in the Library at Coginchaug Regional High School

Progress Towards Strategic Coherence Goals

Dr. Veronesi explained that the Board decided that this would be a new standing agenda item to review progress towards the Strategic Coherence Plan goals. The three focus areas are student achievement, well-being and engagement. In the area of student achievement, there are four basic improvement strategies and one of the most important is to align student outcomes with state and national standards. Historic student achievement data is being looked at and reasonable yet rigorous targets are being set. Another improvement strategy has to do with making sure that summative and formative assessments are aligned with student learning outcomes. The third improvement strategy focuses on critical thinking, including identifying a primary resource for how to define and measure critical thinking and critical thinkers. The administrators are now reviewing the resource materials (EdLeader21) so that we are using a consistent framework and rubrics. The last area has to do with discussing the academic programming for the future. A strategic visioning committee has been created and will meet on January 23rd for the first time. The committee is made up of representatives from around the District and will have two meetings a month. The first meeting of each month will be just for the committee and the second meeting will be open to all staff members, parents, and community members and will be recorded and put on the website.

Dr. Veronesi went on to explain that the second area of focus is in the area of well-being and improvement strategies have been largely overseen by the Director of Organizational Development Maryellen Manning. The primary strategy was to develop a committee which has met twice. Their work includes identifying specific strategies and focus areas for next year and looking at what research-based best practice is in this area. They have identified a shared book, *Mindful Teacher, Mindful Schools* that focuses on specific strategies to use in schools and with students.

The final area involves engagement which is defined as the Board, Dr. Veronesi and the administrators working together to engage the community so that they understand the goals and priorities, the budget and work on communication to that end. The first improvement strategy was to develop a communication plan which is well underway. Dr. Veronesi is working with a consultant from ACES who has developed a framework. The website has been redesigned and Dr. Veronesi acknowledged the work done by Maryellen Manning and Ken Piotrowski on that. She also reminded the Board that she has reached out to the communications class and now has four students working on a for-credit project. They met today and they are going to write an article on what it might look like to merge the two programs and are identifying their experiences with the programs, the similarities and the differences.

Another improvement strategy is how we very purposely and deliberating build the budget so that there is a very evident connection between goals and priorities and the decisions made regarding the allocation of resources. The final improvement strategy has to do with communicating around the decisions that are being made about the school buildings. Last night, Dr. Veronesi received the report from Silver Petrucelli and she will send it out to the Board. Utilization meets on January 25th and she hopes to be able to talk about the communication strategy from there.

Dr. Veronesi stated that Silver Petrucelli looked at the existing buildings to determine how to maximize the use while minimizing financial resources. They were specifically asked to look at a preK-2, 3-5, 6-8 configuration, also looking at potential changes within the high school. Of particular interest, the committee had asked about the cost of portables. Although Silver Petrucelli really discouraged the use of portables, they costed that out vs. reimbursement that would be available for additional classrooms at Brewster School.

Mr. Moore commented on the quality of the writing that the students produce for the Devil's Advocate in the Town Times.

Presentation - Director of Organizational Development and Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Cori DiMaggio and Maryellen Manning began by talking about district coherence and Ms. Manning stated that student achievement really is the first component and has to happen within an authentic learning environment, has to support growth, has to be innovative and the focus will be in the area of critical thinking. Well-being and engagement which will also mean engagement in the greater sense with the community.

Ms. Manning reviewed three pillars that can be seen in staff learning. It has to be creative and collaborative and it has to be tied innately to the challenges that they have today. It needs to also be closely tied to the academic content, so professional learning has to be mindful of what the students need to know and be ready to do. Innovation also needs to be included in professional learning.

Mrs. DiMaggio thanked the Board and Dr. Veronesi for their support in providing the teachers with the professional learning that they need. They are already planning for next year and making sure that it's targeted with intent. Teachers are held accountable through learning walks and instructional rounds as well as data collection. Initiatives are very data-driven in the District. Mrs. DiMaggio reiterated that the adults need to be provided with the necessary tools to get the students to goals effectively.

Ms. Manning reviewed that the Connecticut State Department of Education set standards for professional learning and are grounded innately from Learning Forward. The District designs small learning communities and provides resources for the teachers.

Ms. Manning reviewed that they have also focused on learning outcomes and have seen some great improvement and great feedback. With technology, the District also receives quick and informed data.

Mrs. DiMaggio thanked the Board for moving forward with STEAM and interdisciplinary courses are being developed for the high school, in coding and robotics as well as video production and marketing. The STEAM coordinator is working with teachers in the area of technology. There will be an after-school STEAM program for students in grades 7-12 and they are developing apps to help support the community. She is also coordinating with the District's science coordinator to work on the NGSS science standards. Teachers are in the process of writing science curriculum with the Consortium through CREC and are introducing some of the science bundles this year. A STEAM council has been created this year and STEAM camps have been held and will continue.

Mrs. DiMaggio also reported that Curriculum night will be held on March 1st for students in grade K-5 where science, technology and math will be highlighted.

Moving to math, the District is working to ensure instructional coaching in grade 6 and Mrs. DiMaggio thanked for the Board for the coaches who work with the K-6 teachers. Curriculum revision will be done this year for grades K-8 and assessments are being written for grades K-5. The coaches are also receiving additional professional learning in how to write good assessments. They are also working on developing the math workshop model.

Social studies has a social studies specialist and there are new standards as well to work through college, career and civic life. Instructional strategies are being developed, focusing on the middle and high school. The social studies teachers are also working on the writing workshop.

Expanding the preschool program has been amazing. The District is working with an early childhood and special education consultant providing the STEAM program. Mrs. DiMaggio pointed out that critical thinking is starting at the age of 3 in the District. Early childhood reading programs are being researched.

Moving to art and music, Region 13 was one of the first districts to be trained on the National Core Art standards and curriculum is being revised.

District-wide training is being provided looking particularly at the growth model. All assessments are being reviewed and a new diagnostic test is being piloted. The District is also collaborating with a data specialist to look at trends.

Ongoing training is happening with a focus on mental health, including dyslexia, apraxia and transgender. Well-being sessions have also been offered to the staff and have been well-received. The second annual regional mental health summit was hosted here in the District and Be Well Briefs produced by Bob Nymphos are being held about every six weeks. More opportunities are being offered after school for staff as well, with a yoga class being held this Friday at Strong School.

Mrs. DiMaggio and Ms. Manning thanked the Board for their support.

Dr. Friedrich asked if the slide presentation could be included in the Google Docs folder for the Board members. Mr. Roraback asked if the teachers are continuing with observing other teachers' classes and was told that learning walks are part of that. Mr. Sadinsky commented that writing teachers will be

spending time in several classrooms next Thursday. Dr. Friedrich commented that this all reflects a profound change that is urgently required and great change and great improvement is not free.

Committee Reports

A. Policy Committee - November 14, 2017

Mr. Moore reviewed that the seven policies had been read last month and tonight is for a second reading.

Dr. Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Mr. Augur, to accept the policies for the record.

In favor of accepting the policies: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed.

B. Educational Resources Committee - January 3, 2018

Mr. Moore reported that this committee met last week and reviewed a report on capital projects for infrastructure systems and also reviewed financing methods for these projects. Some would end up in bonding, others would be funded through capital expenses and some would be a combination. The committee also wanted the Utilization Committee to review the list to see which ones would be eligible for a State grant for improvements at a school. Mr. Yamartino is working on financing options.

Mr. Moore reviewed that there are a lot of improvements and replacements that need to be done and this will be a major challenge over the next five years.

Mr. Moore reported that the ERC also reviewed the roles of the Finance Committee and a draft was sent to the attorney and her comments will be presented under New Business.

C. Policy Committee - January 9, 2018

Mr. Hicks reported that discussion continued about non-Board members on subcommittees and the attorney's opinion was that a policy was not necessary at this point in time. Policy 9133 enables that to happen without a new policy and she suggested that the Board try it on a temporary basis.

The committee also reviewed Wellness, Title I and Parent Involvement, and Student Data Privacy policies and Dr. Veronesi will forward copies to the Board members to be reviewed at the next Board meeting. Questions that had been asked about those policies were answered.

They also reviewed Textbook Adoption and Removal policies and Mr. Hicks reminded the Board that that policy had been removed. The committee feels this is more of a protocol than a policy and there was some discussion about having protocols written down.

The Policy Committee also reviewed the protocol for creating new committees and again referred to policy 9133 about how to create a committee. It was also explained that Policy 9133 can be found on the District's website.

Mr. Yamartino asked if the vote that was taken at the last Board meeting established the Finance Committee since no bylaw change is needed. Mr. Hicks did not recall the exact wording of the motion, but Mr. Augur reminded everyone that the motion was to form the committee. Mr. Hicks did not feel any further action was necessary to establish the Finance Committee. Mr. Yamartino also asked how non-Board members will be appointed to other committees and Mr. Moore stated that it appears that he can just appoint anyone. Mr. Moore would like to start with the Finance Committee and see what

happens. Dr. Veronesi commented that the attorney strongly discouraged the Board from appointing non-Board members to committees.

Dr. Taylor felt that the Board did not define whether the Finance Committee is a temporary advisory committee or a standing committee. Mr. Hicks felt that that was what the attorney was alluding to and felt that the Finance Committee could be a standing committee.

Communications

Mr. Moore reported that he had received an email from Megan Morello who was supportive of the Board's discussion about the two programs. She has had students in both programs and encouraged the Board to think about how to do it correctly.

Mr. Moore also received an email from Gary Sullivan who was concerned about the budget not having funding for enough teachers and was concerned about how to interpret referendum results. Mr. Sullivan felt that the Board needs to market the budget better. Dr. Taylor commented that the Connecticut General Statutes allow you to have secondary questions on the referendum to help elucidate why people voted the way they did.

Mr. Moore also received an email from Nick Faiella asking for adjustment in some of the turf costs to possibly build a structure.

Mr. Hicks received an email about start times for the high school and elementary schools. Mr. Hicks explained that there has been a lot of research on this topic. Dr. Veronesi explained that the Board was interested in this topic about three years ago, but decided to entertain that once there was a change in school buildings. Dr. Veronesi had a conversation with the District's consulting physician at that time and he strongly supported the change in start time, primarily for high school students having a later start time. Dr. Veronesi did know of other districts that have done it, but felt that there are some definite issues with it.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Veronesi reported that the budget process is well underway and the administrative team has submitted very responsible budgets. A discussion on classroom level staffing will be held tomorrow. They hope to have the budget finalized within the next few weeks and will have an overview for the Board retreat meeting on Saturday, January 27th.

Dr. Veronesi also pointed out that the concert band from the high school has been selected as the one showcase ensemble to perform at the Connecticut Music Educators' Association conference in late April. There is also a jazz band concert tomorrow night.

Business Manager's Report

Mrs. Neubig reviewed that there is nothing out of the ordinary to report. Expenditures are running consistent, at 44 percent expended which is 2 percent less than the same time last year. Revenue is running about 50 percent. Tuition from MTA is collected in January.

Mrs. Neubig has been analyzing all of the general ledger accounts to begin end-of-year projections and will draft a list of action items. The Business Office has met with the administrators and they were made aware of procedures and policies. Things have been sent back to the different schools if the backup information is not appropriate.

Mrs. Neubig has been working with Food Service to prepare a profit and loss statement on a monthly basis.

Mrs. Neubig also felt that the budgets that have been submitted are very responsible and the process is continuing.

Buildings and Grounds has submitted an update and reported that the temperature has been raised a few degrees in the cold weather and HVAC equipment was monitored. There was an emergency repair necessary to a fuel pump at Coginchaug due to parts wearing out. A pipe in one of the portables at John Lyman froze, but there was no damage. Mr. Francis did a great job being proactive in the cold weather.

Mr. Yamartino asked the federal and state revenue and Mrs. Neubig reported that the District will not be receiving the Transportation grant as it has been discontinued. Special Ed Excess Costs have not yet been received. Mr. Yamartino also asked if Mrs. Neubig expected to have a surplus in MTA and she stated that there has historically been a surplus in revenue. Mrs. Neubig will clarify the expense side for the next meeting.

New Business

A. 2018-2019 Board of Education Meeting Schedule

Dr. Veronesi pointed out that the December meeting would normally be on December 12, however there was a Board member conflict on that date and if the meeting was moved to the week earlier, it will be Hanukkah and the week after is the date of the holiday concert. She asked if the Board would like to have the meeting on a Tuesday or Thursday in December. It was decided to have the meeting on Tuesday, December 11th. The amended schedule will be sent to the Board members.

B. 2018-2019 District Calendar

Dr. Veronesi explained that the one change in the calendar would be to have school on Veterans Day and to honor veterans in the community and teach the students about veterans. Dr. Veronesi spoke to Bill Currilin who reached out to veterans in the area and some felt that students would have a greater appreciation of veterans if they were in school that day. Others understood that the month of November is already broken up for Election Day and Thanksgiving in terms of student learning. Another issue that came up with the Veterans ceremony held on the green on that day and Dr. Veronesi felt that students could still attend the ceremony. She absolutely does not want to disrespect any veterans with this change. Mr. Hicks stated that Bill Currilin was the chair of the building committee at the time and the discussion was the same as it is tonight. At that time, people came out in droves in opposition to school on Veterans Day. Mr. Hicks felt that times have changed a bit and the perception is different.

Dr. Friedrich felt it would be a good idea to have school on Veterans Day if, in fact, some time is devoted to veterans and their service. Dr. Veronesi would want to begin planning for that day now. Mr. Hicks added that he had spoken to some people about this issue and some felt that a day off was absolutely necessary until he asked about having a planned program in each class. Mrs. Petrella stated that her husband felt it would be a great idea if there were programs in the classroom. Mr. Augur did acknowledge that activities currently exist in the schools before Veterans Day and he personally would like acknowledgment of Armistice Day. Mr. Hicks would also like to add Flag Day to that. Mr. Yamartino mentioned that Melissa Booth had asked, at the last meeting, about making up snow days and there have been discussion about teacher development days as well.

Dr. Veronesi also reported that early release days have been reduced from six to five. From talking to parents, they had asked to have the early release days be on the same day of the week so they are all scheduled to be on Fridays. Dr. Taylor asked why the District is closed on Election Day and Dr. Veronesi

explained that it had always been because Korn School was used for elections but she will look further into that.

Dr. Veronesi also summarized that the District is in school for 182 days per year which had been voted on by the Board years ago. This was in order to have more time in learning for the students. She stated that the District would have to go back to reopen the union contracts, particularly the Teachers Union, to reduce their number of days and thus reduce their compensation. Dr. Taylor felt that parents are looking for a fixed endpoint so that summer plans could be made. Dr. Veronesi stated that statutorily, the District is required to be in school for 180 days and the staff goes up to 187 days. Right now, there are three full and five half days for professional development.

Mr. Yamartino also asked about any online training that might be available for the more rudimentary training that needs to be done. Dr. Veronesi said that some of the training he referred to tends to be done at the beginning of the year faculty meeting, not during professional development. She also reported that they looked into blood-borne pathogen training online, but the cost didn't make sense. Mr. Hicks stated that the District would still need to give the employee time to do the online training.

Dr. Veronesi asked the Board members to send her any questions, comments or ideas and she will bring the calendar back in February. Mr. Moore asked if this was posted anywhere to get comment from faculty and staff, but Dr. Veronesi stated that it was not but certainly could be.

C. Continue Discussion of Roles and Responsibilities of the Finance Committee

Mr. Moore had emailed everyone a draft from the ERC meeting that had been reviewed by the attorney. He suggested that the Board take one last look and then adopt it as the charge for the committee under Policy 9133 as a temporary committee.

Mr. Hicks recommended that item 3 be changed to the chairman being appointed by the Chairman of the Board of Education as he does for all the other committees. Mr. Augur disagreed as this is a unique committee. Mr. Yamartino agreed with Mr. Augur as four members of the committee will be appointed in the same fashion as members are appointed to this Board. Mr. Moore felt that if this committee were to be formed under Policy 9133, then it should be consistent with other committees. Mr. Moore stated that the attorney felt that same, but Mr. Augur pointed out that the attorney gave a copy of the draft that does not state that. Dr. Veronesi confirmed that it had been discussed but after the draft had already been sent.

Mrs. Petrella asked if this committee will be separate from the ERC and Mr. Moore explained that it will be separate. She also agreed with Mr. Augur that the chairman should be elected by the committee members. There was then some discussion as to whether the Board of Education members are appointed or elected. Mr. Yamartino explained that they are, in fact, appointed by the legislative body of the town and are not part of a general election.

Mr. Moore asked for recommendations for people to serve on the Finance Committee from the Board of Education and was leaning toward one from the Board and two or three from the community. Mr. Yamartino explained that he and Ed Bailey have spoken to a couple of people who they would like to nominate and had a great candidate but it would be a conflict with the company he works for. They are still looking for people to nominate and asked for any recommendations.

Mr. Augur made a motion, seconded by Mr. Yamartino, to adopt the organization rules of the Finance Committee, as presented.

Dr. Taylor didn't feel that the true role of the Finance Committee has been defined and how it will proceed. He felt that it was imperative that the budget process and the role of the Finance Committee in that process be decided tonight and put into the document. Mr. Augur reiterated that the work of this

committee is at the request of the Board of Education and would request for them to be the starting point on the budget. Dr. Friedrich felt that if something were to be written like that, it needed to be as nonrestrictive as possible. The Board of Education would be clearly in charge of what the Finance Committee does and can revise their role at any time. Dr. Friedrich feels that 5a and 5b make that clear.

Dr. Taylor would like to add 5c, that the Finance Committee will not provide recommendations on the total operating budget of the District. His reason for that is the messaging that comes out of the Board needs to be consistent and he doesn't feel that is necessary. He would be happy with the Finance Committee making recommendations on specific items to the full Board. He feels that this issue is definitely not covered under anything in the existing rules of the Finance Committee. Dr. Friedrich felt it would be in violation of the charter if they did that without the Board requesting it. Mr. Augur felt that Dr. Taylor was trying to constrain things and agreed with Dr. Friedrich that 5a is sufficient.

Dr. Friedrich would feel more comfortable if the chair of the Finance Committee was appointed by the Chair of the Board of Education as the rest of the committees are structured. Dr. Taylor asked where the functionality of this committee will come into the budget process. Mr. Roraback felt that it would be taking advantage of people in the community who know more about finances than the Board members do and felt that it should be welcomed. Dr. Taylor stated that he fully welcomes peoples' expertise, but does not believe it would be within their purview to provide a recommendation or a vote on the entire budget. He feels that the vote on the budget is not just about finances, but about education. Mrs. Petrella reiterated that this committee would be advisory and could not mandate that the Board do anything. Dr. Taylor was concerned that this committee would send out a different message about the budget than the Board of Education. Dr. Taylor takes this as affront that the townspeople do not trust the members of the Board of Education to make the right decisions for the towns. Mr. Augur felt that the same could be said of Dr. Taylor not trusting the people on the Finance Committee.

Dr. Taylor repeated that he would like to amend the resolution by adding 5c; the Finance Committee will not vote or provide recommendations for the total operating budget of the District.

Mr. Augur did not accept the amendment to his motion, but Mr. Hicks stated that he did not need to and Dr. Taylor can make the amendment.

Dr. Taylor made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Geraci, to add section 5c; the Finance Committee will not vote or provide recommendations on the total operating budget of the District.

In favor of approving the amendment to the resolution: Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore and Dr. Taylor.

In opposition to approving the amendment to the resolution: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion was defeated.

Dr. Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hicks, to amend item 3a of the resolution to read that the Chair of the Finance Committee will be appointed by the Chair of the Board.

Mr. Yamartino felt that the previous item and this item as well speak volumes about the level of trust that the Board is willing to place in the community members who are willing to serve on the Finance Committee. He feels that this conveys a feeling that the Board doesn't value opinions on selecting leadership for this committee or on the budget. Mr. Yamartino reminded everyone that the last budget passed by nine votes which is less people than are on the Board of Education. He also mentioned that all town committees elect their own officers.

Dr. Friedrich asked if this is a Board committee or a Town committee and Mr. Yamartino felt it was a hybrid of the two. Dr. Friedrich felt it was a Board committee if the Board was instituting it, but Mr.

Yamartino reminded him that four members on this committee will come from the towns. Mrs. Petrella stated that the committee originates from the Board of Education per the state statute and felt that the chairman should be appointed by the chairman of the Board of Education. Mr. Hicks did not feel that this diminishes any trust and that by not letting the Board Chair appoint the chairman diminishes trust in the Board Chair.

Dr. Taylor did not like the backward way that this issue was put on the agenda in the first place and felt a level of mistrust by people of the Boards of Finance and Boards of Selectmen that the Board of Education would do the best thing for the towns. Dr. Taylor summarized that there had been a lengthy discussion during the November meeting of Middlefield's Board of Finance and it had not been noticed in the agenda. He felt it would have been common decency for the Board of Finance to let the Board of Education know that it was even being discussed. He also mentioned that some members of the Board of Ed had been clearly informed while others were not. Dr. Taylor felt that the message that came from the Board of Finance and Boards of Selectmen was that they do not have trust in the Board of Education to do what needs to be done to help the towns. Dr. Taylor feels that he has a good understanding of where the budget needs to be to get it through and not hurt people with their taxes.

Mr. Augur reminded the Board that this is an advisory committee that can't really do anything but talk. Mr. Augur made the motion because he prefers efficiency and having a meeting with all of the Boards was quite collegial but not efficient.

Mr. Yamartino felt that the Board of Education members serve on four or five committees and this would be an opportunity to enlist professionals from the community to help with the work.

Mr. Moore felt that there are some things that the Board of Education needs to know from the towns that they don't currently get and this committee can provide that. He would like to have more information on sharing services as well as debt and credit ratings. Mr. Moore would like to be able to vote on recommendations of people to serve on this committee in February. He would like to see people with accounting and education backgrounds on the committee.

Dr. Friedrich asked to reword his amendment to item 3a, seconded by Mr. Hicks, to read the Chair of the Finance Committee will be appointed from among its members by the Chair of the Board.

In favor of approving the amendment to the resolution: Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella and Dr. Taylor.

In opposition to approving the amendment to the resolution: Mr. Augur, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried.

Mr. Moore then returned the Board to the main motion.

In favor of adopting the organization rules of the Finance Committee, as amended: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried.

In opposition to adopting the organization rules of the Finance Committee, as amended: Mrs. Geraci and Dr. Taylor. Mr. Hicks abstained from the vote.

C. Vote to Accept Field Trip Request

Dr. Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Mr. Augur, to approve the request for the field trip to the Ocean Bowl.

Mr. Hicks asked to add an amendment that said trip is subject to the actions of Homeland Security or other government agencies, but further the organizer is not an employee of the District and therefore is not a teacher, as is mentioned on the form, and therefore we need to be sure that this person is covered under the hold harmless laws, insurance or other issues as recommended by legal counsel.

Dr. Veronesi explained that she will check into that and if the coverage does not exist, they will ask a teacher to accompany Lorrie Martin on the trip.

Dr. Friedrich revised his motion to approve the request for the field trip to the Ocean Bowl, provided that a person covered by hold harmless laws and insurance goes on the trip. Mr. Augur seconded the revised motion.

In favor of approving the request for the field trip to the Ocean Ball: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed.

Public Comment

Melissa Booth told the Board that Green Acres School in North Haven carries an ID and contemporary program in the same building. She also mentioned that her daughter is in the classroom in the portable where the pipes froze and also stated that there had been no heat in her classroom for a few days before that. She would like to suggest that if the Board is going to add onto a school, they should add on to the actual building and not have portables. Mrs. Booth also encouraged the Board to have parents with children in the District on the Finance Committee. She felt that the members of the Boards of Finance and Selectmen were very curt in their request for the Board of Education to drop their budget.

Adjournment

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

Debi Waz
Alwaz First