

Revised

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at 7:00 PM in the Library at Strong School, Durham, Connecticut.

Board members present: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Boyle, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella and Mr. Roraback. Dr. Taylor was present via telephone.

Board members absent: Mr. Yamartino

Administration present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Neubig, Business Manager; Ms. Manning, Director of Organizational Development; Mrs. DiMaggio, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment; Mr. Ford, Lyman Principal; Mrs. Heckler, Brewster Principal; Mrs. Stone, Memorial Principal; Mr. Falcone, Coginchaug Principal; Mr. Gustafson, Coginchaug Assistant Principal, Mr. Sadinsky, Strong Principal and Mr. Rossignol, Director of Student Services & Special Education

Mr. Moore called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Geraci asked to move item 7 to follow item 4.

Dr. Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hicks, to accept the agenda, as amended.

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

Public Comment

None.

Administrator Welcome - Nancy Heckler

Nancy Heckler, principal of Brewster School, thanked the Board for their support and the opportunities she has been provided as principal of Brewster School for the past 18 years. When she entered Brewster School in 2000, it was known as a really good school but the changes that have taken place have been tremendous. She is most proud of the changes in curriculum and instruction and she thanked the Board for their support in those areas. Again, she thanked the Board for the privilege of working in the District.

Recognition of BOE Scholarship Recipient

Mr. Moore reported that the Board has selected Kate Annechino, a student who reflects the core ethical values of the school system, as the Board's scholarship recipient. She had been selected as a student of the month by the Middletown Rotary Club, she was inducted into the National Honor Society and has served as secretary, she has been a member of the soccer team, has been on the varsity team for three years and was captain of the team this year. She is also a member of the travel soccer club and was in outdoor track, indoor track, student council and class council. Kate participated in the University of

Connecticut's pre-college summer academic camp for sports medicine in July, 2017. She is a Durham Fair volunteer, Benchwarmers booth volunteer and Community Round-Up volunteer. She has been part of Embrace a Veteran and held a fund raiser to purchase fabric and sew unique pillowcases for veterans with PTSD. She was also a volunteer at Yale-New Haven Hospital and trained in the patient contact program within the pediatrics medical unit. She was then selected as a volunteer student ambassador for Smilow Cancer Center for the summer of 2016 where she was responsible for leading other student volunteers. She also created a fund raiser for CCMC to raise money and purchase fabric and sew pillowcases for the children. She has volunteered at the United Churches of Durham, a Christmas Tree Giving Volunteer at Twin Maples Assisted Living Facility and Harbor Hill Rehabilitation.

Recognition of Retirements and Resignations

Dr. Veronesi wanted to acknowledge all of the people who are retiring this year, starting with Julie Selberg who has been a social studies teacher for 31 years. She is about to head north to Maine. Dr. Veronesi felt that Mrs. Selberg is one of the finest social studies teachers to grace the halls of Cuginchaug. Mrs. Selberg explained that it has been a very good fit for her with District 13 and she has tried to be the best teacher that she can be.

Dr. Veronesi also acknowledged Laurie King, a special education teacher currently at Strong School, who has been a gracious role model for the last 30 years. She honors the children in every interaction and makes her colleagues better through her example.

Dr. Veronesi went on to recognize Cheryl Weiner from the music department who has worked at four schools. She has brought pride, enthusiasm and joy to helping students learn instruments. Mrs. Weiner stated that it has been a pleasure to serve in the District and it has been a joy to witness the students improve. She felt that working as a teacher has really given her life meaning.

Dr. Veronesi recognized John Forline and explained that he doesn't like the spotlight and prefers to be behind the scenes encouraging children to become artists and athletes. He will also be sorely missed as a basketball coach as he always promoted that effort is the foundation of everything.

Dr. Veronesi explained that there had been a wonderful retirement party for Nancy Heckler yesterday and they felt the genuine enthusiasm and affection of her staff. She knows every child's name at Brewster School and is fiercely proud of her school. People always comment on how bright it is at Brewster and Dr. Veronesi felt that that was due to the sunlight, but more so to the love and energy in the building. Mr. Hicks thanked Mrs. Heckler for spending 18 years in the District and he commented about how well every child is treated at Brewster and the love that is in the building. Mrs. Boyle stated that Mrs. Heckler will be a loss for the District and that her kids still talk about her and Brewster School. Mrs. Geraci added that she remembers her kids' first day at Brewster and how Mrs. Heckler has a natural way to calm both the students and the parents. Mrs. Heckler thanked the Board once again and explained that she is still trying to figure out what she will be doing next. Mr. Moore commented that the Board will miss Mrs. Heckler's monthly reports.

Dr. Veronesi then went on to acknowledge Rob Francis and explained that he is the guy that she talks to at 4:45 in the morning after he has already been up for two hours driving around. More than that, Rob is her friend and a friend to District 13. She explained that Mr. Francis cares deeply for all people and buildings and grounds. He is beyond a company man because he refuses to do anything that would ever compromise his integrity or compromise the integrity of the District or the people for whom he is

responsible. Mr. Francis helps everyone to be people of greater integrity because of what he does. Dr. Veronesi explained that his work in the District has been remarkable and the District would not be where it is today if not for that.

Mr. Moore explained that the schools have never had to close down because of equipment failure in Mr. Francis' time with the District. Mr. Francis explained that this wasn't just a job, but is extended family for him. Twenty-one years ago, he left a place that he loved at the Jewish Home for the Elderly to come to the District. He appreciates having worked in the District and thanked the Board for their foresight and the support from the community.

Dr. Veronesi also mentioned the several people have resigned for various reasons.

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

Daniel Turecek began by thanking his favorite teacher, Mrs. Selberg, and stated that she created a class environment that allowed talk about critical and current issues in everyday society that always led back to the actual subject area. He also mentioned that his favorite activity has been class council, planning fundraisers and prom. Outside of the classroom, he loved running cross country and creating bonds with his teammates and coach that will last a lifetime. He also thanked Mrs. Heckler and explained that he absolutely loved being at Brewster. He remembers being excited to get a toy for his birthday from Mrs. Heckler.

Colleen Coogan felt that this has been the best four years she could have asked for. She specifically highlighted the soccer program because it was a family for her and Ms. Cavanaugh has been her mentor for all four years. She also thanked the music program for allowing her to participate and she has loved everything about it. She also thanked the Board for the opportunity to report to them every month.

Demarie Del Vecchio thanked Mrs. Heckler for her personal interaction with the students at Brewster. She pointed out that Mrs. Walsh was one of her favorite teachers who taught them it was okay to not be perfect every time. She loved participating in tennis and explained that speaking in front of the Board was her favorite activity. She can't wait to utilize her public speaking skills at Suffolk University in Boston where she will major in marketing and minor in public relations. She also thanked the Board for giving her a platform for her comedy career.

Dr. Veronesi thanked the students on behalf of the Board and felt that they have been remarkable representatives of the District.

Introducing the new CRHS Reporters, Lindsey Marino, a junior at Coginchaug, explained that she plays basketball and is a member of student council. She was just recently inducted into the National Honor Society and is excited to be a representative to the Board of Ed.

Tim Arcari, captain of the soccer team and indoor track team as well as a participant in outdoor track, explained that he is a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society. He looks forward to being a representative next year.

Emily Dell'Orfano, a junior at Coginchaug, participates in all of the vocal groups including the musical and is a member of the student scholarship committee, HERO, EDGE, National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. She feels very lucky to be a representative to the Board.

Approval of Minutes

- A. Board of Education special session meeting - May 7, 2018

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve the minutes of the Board of Education special meeting held on May 7, 2018, as presented.

In favor of approving the minutes of the Board of Education special meeting held on May 7, 2018, as presented: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Mrs. Boyle abstained. Motion passed.

- B. Board of Education annual district meeting - May 7, 2018

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Augur, to approve the minutes of the Board of Education annual district meeting held on May 7, 2018, as presented.

In favor of approving the minutes of the Board of Education annual district meeting held on May 7, 2018, as presented: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Boyle, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion passed.

- C. Board of Education regular session meeting - May 16, 2018

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Augur, to approve the minutes of the Board of Education regular session meeting held on May 16, 2018, as presented.

In favor of approving the minutes of the Board of Education regular session meeting held on April 11, 2018, as presented: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Boyle, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion passed.

Next Board Meeting - June 27, 2018 at 7:00 PM in the Library at Coginchaug Regional High School followed by Executive Session: Superintendent's Performance Review

Mrs. Boyle asked that the Board members fill out the performance review forms and get them back to her within a week.

Committee Reports

- A. Student Achievement Committee - May 30, 2018

Mrs. Petrella encouraged the Board members to read the minutes about the one-team model for grade seven. She explained that the proposal is to change to a one-team, one-approach for grade seven at Strong School. The reasons for this are to increase instructional time, increase professional collaboration time, enhance opportunities for students, increase intervention support time and personnel, to establish a new schedule and respond to declining enrollment.

The schedule will change to a Monday through Friday schedule as opposed to a six-day schedule. They will also have seven periods without flex time. This will increase instructional time by 10 minutes per

class and they will also change to a four marking period schedule as opposed to three. PE will now be part of the related arts rotation. They will also have a full-time math and reading interventionist at Strong School.

The incoming sixth grade has approximately 119 students and the total enrollment at Strong will be 260. Staffing levels will be slightly lower than they are this year. Much of the decision to go to one time was because of programmatic imbalances. Start and end times will not change. Reader's and Writer's Workshops will be done in the same classroom rather than separately. If all of the requests had been honored to switch programs, there would have been approximately 17 students in ID classes and 28 in contemporary. This will not affect accreditation.

They have been cross-teaming at Strong School already and this has evolved into a one-team approach. For next year, there will be one seventh grade team and two eighth grade teams. Mrs. Petrella stated that they have looked at the differences between the programs and found that humanities is the only difference in the curriculum area. There is also one field trip that is different. As for instruction, students in the ID program could have the same teacher for seventh and eighth grade, but maybe not. Assessments and grading practices are a bit different, but they are working on specific assessments. Collaboration between seventh grade ID students and their eighth grade mentors will continue. All in all, there are very few differences.

They also discussed the SAT/PSAT scores and there has been an increase in reading, writing and math for the PSAT scores. Students have made good progress between the PSAT and the SAT scores. The high school also offers SAT courses after school and on weekends.

They also talked about the assessment calendar and Dr. Veronesi stated that the test scores will be reviewed in the administration's presentation later this evening.

B. Utilization Committee Meeting - May 31, 2018

Mr. Augur reviewed that Sarah Jane Bailey had presented them with a survey she had done about an SRO. They reviewed the strategic safety and security improvement plan and discussed a variety of options for physical changes. Much more information still needs to be gathered. Scott Rossignol was also present and shared the softer side of safety and security and how the District supports student well-being.

Mrs. Neubig then reviewed the Korn School savings for the committee and it was \$595,000 in 2016-2017 and is just over \$800,000 to date this year. Mr. Augur felt that this information should go on the website.

They also touched on the utilization survey and committed to produce a report for tonight's meeting and that has been circulated to the Board members. Mrs. Boyle was very disappointed in the amount of responses that were received from the community. She felt that the Board tried very hard to reach out and give everyone an opportunity to have a voice and to only receive 367 survey results was very frustrating.

Dr. Friedrich stated that people were unaware that the defective link to the on-line survey had been repaired and never completed a survey. He felt that some of the public felt that the Board made it difficult for them. Mrs. Boyle also stated that people have told her they never received anything in the mail. Mr. Moore felt that Mr. Augur and Dr. Taylor did a good job of summarizing what has been received as well as including pages of comments.

Mr. Moore asked if they wanted to include any graphics in the report and Mr. Augur did not feel they needed to. Mr. Moore also felt that they should explain what the star rating was on the survey and Mr. Augur suggested they include a copy of the original survey at the end of the report. Dr. Veronesi also reminded everyone that they did correct the link, extended the survey and contacted both Postmasters who stated that the surveys went into every box. They also provided paper copies at both Town Halls and libraries.

Mr. Augur felt that all perspectives were represented in the survey results and all of the competing issues are presented. He then went on to review the summary of the results, explaining that option D was not specifically covered in the survey. Option D would be two K-5 schools which would preserve the element of choice. Anything leaning toward that in the survey results was credited to option D.

Option A had 153 responses as the top choice (43 percent). Option C had 127 responses (35 percent). Option B had only 31 responses (9 percent) and then option D had 48 responses (13 percent).

As for option A, the top motivator was capital costs and future savings, followed by the location of eighth grade and creating a single district-wide program. The top motivator for Option C was maintenance of the ID program, followed by location of eighth grade and maintaining the contemporary program. For option D, the top motivator was maintaining the ID program, followed by both the number of building transitions and maintaining the contemporary program. The top motivator for option B was capital costs, future savings and maintaining the ID program.

Dr. Taylor felt that the major takeaway was that having eighth grade in the high school was not a viable option. He also felt that there was a spread across the B, C and D options with regard to keeping the program choice aspect. Dr. Taylor felt that another survey will have to be done in a couple of months that will highlight option A and option D. He does feel that the Board got a good sense of what the community was feeling in the comments section.

Dr. Veronesi stated that they will make a couple of edits, have Mr. Augur and Dr. Taylor review them and then get the survey results online by Friday. She also hopes to get a newsletter out by the end of the school year that will highlight some historical information and next steps. Mrs. Petrella suggested including the dates of upcoming Utilization meetings. Mrs. Boyle suggested that the time line be included in the newsletter. Dr. Veronesi reminded the Board that the Department of Administrative Services encouraged the District to have the EDO49 submitted by January which will speed up the timeline for decision-making by about six months.

Mr. Augur reviewed that he, Mrs. Neubig and Dr. Veronesi met with the Department of Administrative Services along with two representatives from Silver Petrucelli. Mr. Costa encouraged them to get the EDO49 in by January as there will be a change in administration. Mr. Costa stated that they would be supportive of adding classrooms while closing a building. Mrs. Neubig did send a letter confirming that information, but has not heard back as of yet.

Mrs. Petrella asked if the responses were tallied as to what town they were from and Mr. Augur explained that it was quite similar to the population breakdown.

C. Finance Committee Meeting - May 31, 2018

Mr. Augur reviewed that the Finance Committee had a lengthy discussion about how best to present the facts and figures around the Utilization changes. No concrete conclusion was reached, but there were a lot of ideas that they will continue to work on.

D. Educational Resources Committee Meeting - June 13, 2018

Mr. Moore explained that the ERC meeting was adjourned until after this meeting tonight. They will look at some of the investment strategies.

Communications

Mr. Moore reported that he has received two notes from Tina McCormick with concerns about the process going forward. He also received an email from Carissa Connell about the Invention Convention at Memorial School. Mary Elizabeth Taylor had a comment about the STEAM program. Nick Faiella had continuing comments on the field house and is trying to get a meeting together. Dr. Veronesi stated that they would try to get together in July about the field house proposal.

Mrs. Petrella had heard from a resident of Middlefield who brought up a number of different considerations for the closing of Lyman. Mrs. Petrella suggested she come to a Board meeting to explain her thoughts. The resident was concerned about closing another school in Middlefield when the original regionalization included the same number of schools in both towns. She was also concerned about the student population statistics and not to be too quick to close schools as the economy is improving and more children may be moving in.

Dr. Veronesi felt it would be helpful for the Board to share the updated enrollment projections which have been on target. Mrs. Boyle reviewed some of the information from the demographic study that was completed seven to eight years ago. Dr. Taylor felt that the enrollment projections have been very accurate for the last year or two and the numbers were changed two to three years ago based on incoming data. He did feel that they may run into a few problems in the years to come.

Mr. Hicks reported that he was once again unanimously elected as Chairman of the Board of ACES.

Superintendent's Report: Strategic Coherence Plan/Strategic Visioning Progress Update

Dr. Veronesi explained that much of the Strategic Coherence Plan is included in the administrator's presentation this evening. Each school developed a school learning plan and administrators and teachers craft their own personal goals from those broad goals. Work has been done on developing district-wide educational programming aligned with building and grade configurations through the Strategic Visioning process.

Mr. Moore and Dr. Veronesi will be meeting next week with Isobel Stevenson, from the Center for School Change, as well as the board chair from Mansfield schools because they have gone through a similar process. They plan to have a recommendation for the Board by the November Board meeting.

Dr. Veronesi pointed out that they developed an equity team this year that includes parents, school members, central office staff and Laura Francis. They also added a strategic plan of improvement for

safety and security. They also included the District's approach to behavioral intervention, social/emotional learning and support that was reviewed by Scott Rossignol.

They are also working in partnership with the Durham-Middlefield Local Wellness Coalition to write a grant for suicide prevention. They are also working on improving protocols that are used to react and respond to various incidents and will include improved training for the staff.

In the area of engagement, the primary focus was on communication and aligning resources to identified priorities. Dr. Veronesi felt that the Board did an outstanding job with regards to the issues that came up with Utilization. They have also worked on communication in the budget season and on budget issues. The final area in engagement was to develop a communication plan with regard to the District's response to declining enrollment.

Dr. Veronesi also reported that Tim Fisher has been named as the 2018/2019 Teacher of the Year which was announced at last night's jazz band concert. She also explained that they are moving forward with a plan to expand the football co-op with East Hampton. The CIAC has given their approval for one year. She hoped that the Board would vote to move forward with the co-op with East Hampton.

Kory Kevorkian explained that the CIAC approval was initially for two years with Hale-Ray and they would allow East Hampton to join for a one-year temporary basis. They will reevaluate the co-op after that point.

The Board will vote at the June 27, 2018 meeting.

As for the strategic visioning process, Dr. Veronesi reported that they visited a school in Ellington where the team saw a K-5 school with very high degrees of student-directed learning and student engagement. They have also had the workshop model in that district for nine or 10 years.

They have identified using an asset model, identified priority themes, reviewed priority design elements and began to identify the student experience by having a focus group. Another focus group will be held in the fall. Planning with the Center for School Change will start this summer where a vision of the District 13 citizen will be created.

Ningbo, China Partnership

Dr. Veronesi reviewed that they have been talking about creating an international partnership and reached out to Jason Hiruo, from ACES, who is the Director of their Educational Arts Program as well as their International Program. ACES is the leader in the State of Connecticut in international programming. China was recommended as the best country to partner with. They were given profiles of several schools and both Mr. Falcone and Dr. Veronesi felt that the Ningbo school seemed like a fantastic partner for Coginchaug.

Mr. Hiruo visited China and spoke directly to the leaders of the Ningbo high school who are thrilled and would like to see us pursue a partnership. This school is on the coast, just south of Shang-Hai. They focus on science, technology and the arts. They are widely recognized for their innovative programming in astronomy. Dr. Veronesi felt that the work the District has done in Strategic Visioning is very similar to the profile of the Ningbo school. She will provide the information to the Board members for their review and hopefully to discuss this further at the June 27th meeting. There is also a suggested timeline, including a visit to Ningbo during the first week of December in order to create and sign an MOU with

the school. It was recommended that a Board member, the superintendent and principal of the high school as well as a teacher leader go on that trip.

Mr. Hicks explained that he has visited a number of the schools in China and their physical education programs are very strong. Dr. Veronesi would ultimately like to see the partnership span pre-K through 12, with an exchange program for the upper grades. Parents in China are willing to pay tuition to have their students visit and attend school for approximately three weeks. The District would have to establish families to provide homes for those students.

Mr. Moore related his granddaughter's experience with Model UN and also reminded the Board that an AFS program used to exist in the District. He feels it would be a tremendous opportunity for the District, but would require a great deal of work.

The Board then took a five-minute break.

Administrators' Year End Presentation

Ms. Manning began by explaining that everything starts with the mission and this happens with the three areas of focus, student achievement, engagement and well-being.

Mrs. DiMaggio reviewed that this has been a year of building capacity and coherence throughout the District. They began with the development of a Curriculum Institute which consists of 27 educators. They learned to write curriculum in a very consistent manner. A Curriculum Council was also developed to help vet the curriculum and keep coherence within the District. They also developed a handbook and there will be a summer writing Curriculum Institute the last week in June where 45 people will be involved. They also hosted a very successful curriculum night which had a focus on STEAM.

Processes and procedures have been developed for the Student Data Privacy Act and all software has to be vetted through the curriculum office in collaboration with the IT department. The math intervention services program has been enhanced and expanded and Mrs. DiMaggio thanked the Board for providing the interventionists.

Mrs. DiMaggio reviewed that kindergarten screening was also implemented this year and excellent data was gathered. A word study program was researched and site visits were made. They will be writing a phonics program for the youngest students and K-2 will have full implementation. Data literacy is being expanded with the development of a comprehensive K-8 assessment calendar. IReady has been piloted this year and the District will move ahead with full implementation for next year, K-8. Interim assessment blocks was also piloted, really good data was gathered and this is now part of the assessment calendar.

The District developed and hosted a Math Council Consortium where towns from around the state met and discussed math strategies and resources. Teachers will now share ideas across districts. Professional learning has also been provided that aligns with the District's goals.

At the building level for student achievement and engagement, school learning plans were developed with the focus on the growth model. Student progress and growth was monitored and learning walks and instructional rounds were held. The focus was on critical thinking throughout all schools.

Scott Rossignol reviewed that the preschool has been expanded this year to two classrooms and two teachers. The transition has been made from a skills-based to a standards-based assessment and the assessments have been aligned to the state standards. Progress reports have also been aligned to developmental milestones.

The Big Day PreK program was utilized in the classrooms and Mr. Rossignol does have some ideas on revisions to the curriculum. STEAM has also been an initiative in the preschool program, with the emphasis on the process, not the product. Mr. Rossignol played a video of a preschool student talking about one of her STEAM activities.

Tom Ford reported that there have been a number of initiatives, including the implementation of the math workshop model along with revised units of study in math. That has also been an emphasis of professional learning with teachers throughout the year. The growth has been profound. The NGSS-aligned science curriculum was launched and Mrs. Michael has been instrumental in supporting the teachers. This is year two of the reader's workshop implementation and there has been wonderful growth on the part of the teachers and the students. STEAM experiences have been expanded, both inside the core classroom and the related arts classrooms. STEAM camps have been very successful as well.

Mr. Ford explained that the focus continues to be on the 4Cs in a number of ways, with critical thinking as a primary focus. He also reviewed that a lot of thought has gone into how to communicate with parents and families about student learning and district priorities and they look forward to continuing with that work.

Mr. Ford then played a video of a fourth grade classroom at Memorial doing a math workshop.

Nancy Heckler shared the results of the STAR math and reading assessments for K-4. Students made growth in every grade level. Kindergartners do not take a STAR math test, but take an early literacy test in the spring. They are attributing the growth in math to the new math units and math workshop. In reading, growth was across all grade levels. They attribute this to the new curriculum and reader's workshop as well as the reading units of study.

Scott Sadinsky reported that some of the workshop models that started at the elementary level have shifted up in grades. The math curriculum with the math workshop model is in the grades 4-5 range and the math curriculum is being revised at the 6-8 level. They are working with some consultants and will be at a full implementation of brand-new curriculum in grades 6-8 math next year. The writing workshop model has been a great opportunity in grades 6-8. Reader's workshop model is continuing in full implementation in the second year at the fifth grade level and has been piloted at the 6-8 level. Four teachers at Strong implemented it and commented about the volume of reading that was happening and the level of excitement about it. Some bundles of NGSS have been implemented at the grades 5-7 range which has been a complete change in instructional practices. They are also continuing to revise the 5-8 schedules and know they need to look creatively at the time that is available. Next year, Strong School will have a full-time literacy coach, full-time reading interventionist and a full-time math interventionist. They also hope to have the interventionists work with the higher-end students to meet everybody's needs.

Deb Stone reviewed the STAR scores of the 5-8 students, explaining that math results are pretty consistent from the fall to spring which informs instruction and is one reason they have looked at the

math curriculum and instructional practices. The teachers have been successful at teaching the students habits of mind including perseverance and looking at another way to solve the problem.

In reading, there are some opportunities. There has been great success and focus on the writer's workshop model. In the second year of implementation of reader's workshop, great successes have been seen and they expect students to be more engaged in reading. Mrs. Stone did explain that the scores are not indicative of how hard the students and teachers work.

Patrick Gustafson reviewed that Mr. Ford and Mrs. Heckler build the foundation for learning and then Mrs. Stone and Mr. Sadinsky bolster the learning and then the students come to Mr. Gustafson and Mr. Falcone. He explained that the cafeteria at Coginchaug is filled with students who have a business plan and a model. The students win state championships and celebrate victories with class. He went on to highlight the senior learning experience and the career center. In the senior learning experience, the students pick something that interests them, explore opportunities and are supported by teachers who become mentors. Mr. Gustafson also mentioned that after graduation on Friday night, Mrs. Selberg has over 50 former students coming to her house to celebrate. The career center also supports students. Mock interviews were held a few weeks ago and the students blew everyone away with how prepared they were.

Mr. Gustafson and Mr. Falcone were charged to create STEAM courses and they include coding and robotics and creating something for the big screen. They will write scripts, act and create short films. They will then have a film festival where they will critique each other's work as well as their own. Teachers have been charged with creating authentic learning tasks and two trigonometry teachers spent months preparing and created a crime scene and had the students figure it out. The students felt that they learned more and remember more.

Dr. Veronesi challenged Mr. Gustafson and Mr. Falcone to transform the high school faculty meetings and the teachers have been empowered to take a leadership role. They do demonstrations, they show what they are working on with their students and this has fostered a culture of respect and trust.

Learning labs have been created, identifying areas of weakness in reading, writing and math, giving students specific support and then preparing them for work or college. The data clearly demonstrates that the students are learning and are able to perform.

Brian Falcone played a video of a robot that was built with a 3D printer and coded by a teacher. The technology education teacher and math teacher are working together on this STEAM course.

Mr. Falcone presented a snapshot of the junior class, comparing apples to apples. Beginning in October of their sophomore year, he showed the scores in reading, writing and math as well as their overall scores. Then, in October of their junior year, the students' scores all went up. Moving to March of their junior year, there was a 111-point increase from when they started until they finished and took their SATs in all areas of the test. There was a 70-point increase in student scores from October to March. The percentage of students meeting benchmark also grew from the sophomore year to the junior year.

This year, most SAT testing was canceled due to snow but Coginchaug did not cancel. Looking at Coginchaug compared to the state averages, we had 82 percent of students meet the benchmark in reading and writing compared to 52 or 69 in the state. We have 47 percent of students meet the math benchmarks, as compared to 41 and 27 (see attached table). A lot of the difference has to do with where the students

are in math and what levels they are taking. This assessment is very algebra heavy. The teachers at Cuginchaug align instruction with the subscores of the SAT in the hope of making the students comfortable with the types of questions that they will be asked.

They also look at the students who do not make the benchmark and put them in a semester-long SAT prep class. This year, those students went up 67 points on average on the SAT, about 30 points in math and 37 points in reading and writing. Cuginchaug also offers an SAT boot camp which is a weekend course and scores went up 72 percent as a result, evenly split at 36 points for math and reading/writing.

Mr. Falcone explained how fortunate they are to receive the students at the high school from the other schools and from the parents.

Ms. Manning explained that well-being really starts with connectedness and they established a committee for well-being. There were conversations about the challenges of the teaching profession as well as what students feel and face every day. A book club came out of that with a focus on mindful strategies that can be used in the classroom. They then piloted some of those strategies in the classrooms to prepare students to learn. They conducted site visits at several schools across the state and teachers deepened their practice within their own classroom and the school. There were also conversations with colleagues at the Wellness Coalition and they were awarded a grant to work on topics, such as mental illness, anxiety, alcohol, digital safety and overall wellness. They will also be partnering with Independent Day School as well on this. Ms. Manning then mentioned well-being as it relates to school security, safety and climate.

Well-being for staff was a priority and clubs have been expanded, yoga classes have been offered and mindfulness tips are offered in faculty break rooms and in emails. They have implemented duty fairies which has been very well-received. They have also produced Be Well Briefs with the help of Bob Nemphos, which include videos offering tips on well-being.

They have piloted the social and emotional learning strategies and embedded them into courses. This has included breathing exercises and teachers checking in with students as they enter the classroom. Feedback has been very powerful. New units were created on mindfulness and mental health, with a focus on coping skills at the high school. Areas of the classroom have been provided to give students at the elementary level the opportunity to take breaks.

Mrs. DiMaggio wrapped up by showing the robust list of focus areas for next year. She thanked Dr. Veronesi for her vision and all of the staff for their hard work. She acknowledged the Student Achievement Committee who has been so dedicated and the Board of Education for their dedication, support and commitment to the students.

Mr. Moore thanked the administrators for all of their hard work. He also suggested that the presentation be posted online for parents to see.

Business Manager's Report

A. Security Plan Update

Mrs. Neubig reviewed that the Utilization Committee had asked her for quotes, a sample of the window film and specs which she had available tonight. The 3M rep has reduced the quote by 10 percent if all five schools were done at the same time, bringing it to \$180,000. She recommended the 3M product but

explained that there is only one available vendor. There is 3M film installed now on some windows at Central Office, Coginchaug and Strong. The cost of each school is broken down in the quote and she explained that these are just first-story windows, with a few others. The film is lightly tinted and you can see out of the windows, but you cannot see in except for in the evening. Demand is exceeding supply, so Mrs. Neubig did not have a lead time available.

Regarding the SRO, Dr. Veronesi talked to Sgt. Burns last week and their team met today and they hope to have an MOU to the District by the June 27th meeting. Sgt. Burns also said that other school districts are asking how District 13 is proceeding.

Mrs. Neubig also had a list of interior door locks in each building which she will share with the Board members. A purchase order has been issued to NSC for updated cameras and buzzer systems and is being paid for with the frozen supply funds in the 2017/2018 budget. She has also asked for a quote for open door alarms which may be able to be paid from those funds as well. Buzzer stations will also be installed on the café doors.

B. Pay to Play Correction

Mrs. Neubig explained that a correction is needed to the Board minutes from March 23, 2017 where a pay-to-participate fee was voted on at \$100 per sport, with the family cap voted in at \$400. The family cap was communicated to the parents to be \$300 and that's what was done in the entire 2017/2018 year. Mrs. Neubig recommended the \$300 cap and didn't feel that it needs to be \$400.

It was generally agreed to wait until June 27th to vote on this issue.

C. End-of-Year Projections

Mrs. Neubig explained that the District is 83.64 percent expended with 92 percent of the revenue received. A big part of the revenue was the Excess Cost Grant, which was funded at 75 percent instead of the 70 percent that was budgeted. The Transportation Grant was put into the budget, but that was discontinued and has not been budgeted for the 2018/2019 school year.

The end-of-year fund balance is projected to be over \$1 million, mostly due to personnel matters and benefits. The fund balance at the end of 2016/2017 was \$1.4 million, with \$521,000 used to balance the 2018/2019 budget. If these numbers hold true, the end-of-year fund balance could reach \$2 million. The Board can then use \$1.4 million of that to balance the 2019/2020 budget.

MTA is at 92.23 percent expended with revenue over budget by \$62,000 because there was a private placement of a student (\$51,000 tuition). The end-of-year surplus is anticipated to be \$30,000 to \$50,000. MTA is projecting to have 25 students next year with two more possible additions, with the five-year student enrollment ranging from 22 to 28. There were 22 students enrolled this year.

Mrs. Neubig reported that Eversource is bringing a gas line into Durham from Wallingford with an estimate of spring, 2019 for gas on the Pickett Lane campus. In order to do that, the boilers need to be converted to natural gas. If that change is not made, the line will not come into the campus. If the Board should decide at a later time to do that, the project could be as much as \$1 million. Eversource will bring the line in for free as long as the District commits to converting to natural gas. The total cost to convert the boilers and hot water heaters at Coginchaug and Strong is \$237,000 and underground tanks would

have to be removed for approximately \$110,000. The tanks don't have to be removed, but monthly and yearly inspections will still have to be done.

Mrs. Neubig also explained that Laura Francis would like to go to natural gas at Korn, but Eversource will not bring it in unless the District is on board too. There would be an anticipated cost savings with natural gas. Mrs. Neubig will go into more detail about this project with the Utilization Committee. Mrs. Boyle felt that this would be more of an issue for the ERC as it is a financial decision for the Board. Mrs. Boyle also felt that some of the roles of Utilization and ERC are very vague.

Vote on Healthy Food Initiative and Food Exemptions

Mrs. Neubig explained that the District participates in the Healthy Food Initiative and a vote to continue needs to be done by July 1st of every year. The District would also need to allow food exemptions for fund raisers and concessions at games.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Boyle, to continue to participate in the Healthy Food Initiative.

In favor of continuing to participate in the Healthy Food Initiative: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Boyle, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion passed.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Boyle, to allow food exemptions.

In favor of allowing food exemptions: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Boyle, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion passed.

New Business

A. Vote to Accept Field Trip Request

Mr. Moore explained that the band would like to take a trip to Disney World next year.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Geraci, to approve the requested CRHS choir and band field trip to Walt Disney World in April, 2019, with the understanding that this trip may be withdrawn at any time due to actions of Homeland Security or other governmental law enforcement agencies and this action be conveyed to parents and guardians.

In favor of approving the CRHS choir and band trip to Walt Disney World in April, 2019, as described above: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Boyle, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion passed.

Public Comment

Melissa Booth, of Durham, reported that she enjoyed the visit to the Ellington school. She did not see one child who wasn't engaged in their learning or who was misbehaving. It was not a HOT or ID school, but it did incorporate some of the things that have been discussed in strategic visioning. She would be interested to go on another visit if it works with her schedule.

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, Mrs. Boyle, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

Debi Waz
Alwaz First

Class Of 2019 PSAT & SAT Results (Current Junior Class)							
Date	Assessment	Mean Score Reading & Writing	Mean Score Mathematics	Mean Total Score	Met Benchmark Reading & Writing	Met Benchmark Mathematics	Met Benchmark Both
March 2018 (Junior Year)	SAT	554	522	1077	82%	47%	47%
October 2017 (Junior Year)	PSAT	516	492	1007	74%	41%	39%
October 2016 (Sophomore Year)	PSAT	500	467	966	79%	45%	43%
2018 Coginchaug - State - National SAT Results							
Assessment	Institution	Mean Score Reading & Writing	Mean Score Mathematics	Mean Total Score	Met Benchmark Reading & Writing	Met Benchmark Mathematics	Met Benchmark Both
March 2018	CRHS	554	522	1077	82%	47%	47%
	State	528	508	1036	69%	41%	40%
	National	488	471	958	52%	27%	26%