

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 7:00 PM in the Auditorium at Coginchaug Regional High School, 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: None

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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 unanimously.

Public Comment

Missy Booth, from Durham, explained that there was a lot of reservation among parents who could not be at the meeting about the vote on the strategic visioning. Mrs. Booth personally believes it sounds really great, if it is actually the way it is being presented. She is a bit concerned that it may not be that way. She also wondered if it will take two years to implement it with the building configurations or if it might be implemented sooner in the upper grades.

Maya Lis, from Durham, agreed that most of what is in the strategic visioning plan is really exciting and she is looking forward to how it will be implemented and the timeline. She wondered what will happen if the building configuration doesn't go according to the preferred timeline and hoped that parts of the strategic visioning aren't building-dependent. She is also interested to hear what the impact will be on school choice.

Administrator Welcome - Phyllis Worhunsy and Patrick Gustafson

Patrick Gustafson explained that he starts his day oftentimes at the high school and then moves to Brewster School. For the past two days, he has done mock interviews with the high school students and gave an example of that. He also gave an example of a Brewster student who wanted to shoot hoops with him as his prize for reading 10 books. Mr. Gustafson commented that he has the unique perspective at both ends of the spectrum.

Mr. Gustafson explained that, in the beginning of the year, they asked the staff, parents and students what they loved about the school and what they wanted from the administrators. They are working to help the teachers at Brewster have a voice and minor changes are being made to help make their days better. They are also working to create programs to give students a greater voice.

Phyllis Worhunsy also explained that they are working to create a safe and caring learning environment for the students and to give them a voice. They have decided to have a mascot for Brewster and have voted to become the Brewster Dragons. Drew the Dragon, the protector of the core ethical values, was introduced on the last Friday of November. Drew spent the day in lunch and recess with the students and was even there for dismissal.

Mrs. Worhunsy also reported that they had asked staff and students to present names of people who have served in the military and a Wall of Honor was created. They also created a gift for veterans and sang as a group at the Veterans' Day ceremony. Every grade level prepared and performed a presentation and veterans and their families were invited to attend the ceremony. Every classroom had at least one veteran guest who shared their experiences or read a book to the students. During the ceremony, the third grade students presented the flags, lead the pledge, reading the history of Veterans' Day and announced each grade level's performance. A reception for the guests was held afterwards in the library.

Mr. Gustafson also reported that there has been at least one school gathering a month and the next big gathering will be the Winter Concert. In the past, space has limited the school community from coming together so this year, the concert will be held at Coginchaug. On December 18th, the Brewster students will come to Coginchaug at 8:30 AM to do some activities and then parents, teachers and the community will come together for the concert at 9:15 AM. Thanks to Mr. Fisher and Ms. Schilling, high school students will also perform with the Brewster students. Mr. Gustafson also commented that Mr. Fisher was honored at the Bushnell last week.

Regional School District 13 Teacher of the Year - Timothy Fisher

Dr. Veronesi explained that Mr. Fisher has a poster in his classroom that says, "Integrity, Compassion and Creativity" and those are guiding principles for him. A quote from Mr. Fisher's application for Teacher of the Year was featured at the Bushnell which read, "Teachers create all other professions; no one gets to where they are today without the guidance of a teacher."

As the director of bands at Coginchaug, there are students who come out of the music room and say that they want to be a music teacher. Mr. Fisher also wrote about the people who were most influential in his life, including his mom (a now-retired teacher) and his band director.

Tim Fisher was very humbled by the award and thanked Dr. Veronesi and the Board of Education for what they do for the district. He also mentioned Mr. Falcone and Mr. Gustafson as well as Mr. Brough who actually hired him into the district right out of college. Mr. Fisher explained that he loves to come to school and teach. He appreciates the district and what he is allowed to do as well as this honor.

Dr. Veronesi also noted that Mr. Fisher is connected through music to the senior citizens in the community. She also thanked him for his work on the strategic visioning committee. A short video was then played.

Mr. Fisher also reported that the Holiday Concert will be held at Coginchaug on Wednesday, December 19th at 7:30 PM, including the choir, chamber choir and concert band.

Middlesex Superintendent/Student Award Recipients - Margaret Fiondella and Cole Niedmann

Dr. Veronesi commented that Margaret and Cole have a lot in common, in terms of the fact that they truly are role models and the teachers and guidance counselors talk about them as people who demonstrate the

core ethical values each day. They also both have a fantastic GPA, six AP courses and several leadership activities.

Margaret Fiondella was selected for the Daughters of the American Revolution good citizen award, her academic performance is outstanding and she is a member of the National Honor Society, Latin Honor Society and also participated in the Discovery to Cure internship at Yale University. She is described as a natural leader. She received the CABE student leadership award and is captain of both the indoor and outdoor track teams and president of student council. She also volunteers her time and has a part-time job.

Cole Niedmann was recognized because of his academic success and his exceptional character. He has shown strong leadership, as a role model and as a leader in several activities and is currently president of DECA and he has earned sixth place in state competitions for the last two years. He is also captain of the baseball team and an officer for the Latin Honor Society. He was selected for National Honor Society and has given many hours of service.

Cole Niedmann and Margaret Fiondella both thanked Dr. Veronesi for the award.

CRHS Reporters - Timothy Arcari, Emily Dell'Orfano and Lindsey Marino

Tim Arcari reported that the fall sports banquet was held two weeks ago. The volleyball team went 19-1 this season, the girls' soccer team made the semi-finals of the state tournament and the boys' soccer team qualified for both states and Shorelines. The first indoor track meet is tomorrow and the girls' first basketball game is going on right now. Tim also updated the Board on the career center and explained that there are over 100 students enrolled right now. The first semester students are wrapping up their job shadows and they are doing mock interviews. Tim is enrolled in the career center next semester and recently toured Medtronic, where he will be doing his job shadowing, and he hopes to be interviewed for an internship next summer. Tim also reported on the "Snack and Learn" event that they have in partnership with the Workforce Alliance.

Emily Dell'Orfano reported on the "Exploring Teaching and Learning" class where the members led a second STEAM camp last Friday. The students went to Brewster, Memorial and Lyman and each group had to design, plan and carry out an entire lesson that included two of the five components of STEAM. Emily also reported that the Music Department is preparing for the holiday concerts. Auditions were recently held and the cast list was finalized for Beauty and the Beast. There are 43 cast members and 20 stage crew members. Performances will be held on April 4, 5, 6 and 7, with rehearsals starting in January.

Mr. Moore also noted that Emily will be playing the part of Belle and asked about their experience at Disney World. Emily reported that she participated in the National Choir of the National Association for Music Education. It was her second time going and she had a lot more confidence this year. She felt it was helpful for her to gain more experience working with another conductor and meeting students from around the country who are as passionate about music. She also explained that her father joined the parents' program as well.

Mr. Moore also commented that he did three mock interviews earlier today and was very impressed with the students' ability.

Approval of Minutes

A. Board of Education regular session meeting - November 14, 2018

Dr. Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Dr. Taylor, to approve the minutes of the Board of Education regular meeting of November 14, 2018.

Dr. Friedrich asked that the wording “Lyman is now the least viable school” to “Lyman is now the least viable building” on page 5, second paragraph. There was no objection to the proposed change.

In favor of approving the minutes of the Board of Education regular session meeting of November 14, 2018, as amended: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Mrs. Geraci abstained. Motion passed.

Next Board Meeting - January 9, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Library at Coginchaug Regional High School

Strategic Visioning Recommendations

Dr. Veronesi wanted to underscore that, as they have talked about strategic visioning and considered the concept of one program/two programs, the committee did not say that the district should have a one-program or a two-program design. They felt that all students should experience what has been identified as priority themes and experiences. The priority themes are connection, collaboration and contribution; voice, choice and impact; innovation, creativity and movement; and observation, inquiry and awareness.

Dr. Veronesi stated that they were able to identify examples of the priority themes in the current work as well as keeping these priorities organized for the future. They also talked about what the approach to learning would look like in the district and one priority was the idea of project-based teaching and learning. That approach encompasses virtually everything that the committee talked about as being critically important. Best practice tells us that when students learn in an integrated manner, their learning is enhanced. STEAM learning is important and has begun to be developed and will continue. They want to be able to guarantee a curriculum that includes innovation, creativity and movement.

Particular approaches and design elements were identified as very, very important. The issue of sustaining multi-grade options has been discussed and the fact that high school students are working with the Brewster students is a prime example of that. They would also like to continue offering multi-grade learning options as they exist now, first/second and third/fourth grade, but other multi-graded approaches should be continued and further developed. Looping options are available in the ID program, but also exist at other schools as well.

Dr. Veronesi also explained that she had asked Mr. Gustafson and Mrs. Worhunsy to begin an assembly program at Brewster for the purpose of having the school come together to celebrate a sense of community. She did encourage them to look at the assembly program at Lyman to help develop the program at Brewster.

Dr. Veronesi also commented on developing a type of HOT school model at the elementary school level and explained that the HOT school model itself is “sunsetting” at the state level. She will be participating in a statewide committee on with the HOT school directors on what the program will look like moving into the future.

Dr. Veronesi described project-based learning and developing extended learning opportunities. The district wants to be sure that opportunities for students who are performing above their grade level exist. They would like to explore beginning world languages at the elementary level and daily time for movement as well as daily time for quiet and stillness. They also want to sustain and enhance the social emotional learning for all students as well as the district's well-being practices. They want to expand school partnerships at all levels, including the community, the school in China and with Wesleyan. Enhancing parent involvement will be a priority as well.

Moving forward, they will be working on the "Portrait of the Graduate" work with guidance from the Center for School Change. Isobel Stevenson, from the Center, will talk to the Board at the January meeting about this process which involves describing what knowledge and skills graduates of Coginchaug High School will have. They will work to create a guarantee of what each student will have when they graduate and then will engage in the process of backwards planning to be sure that student experiences are aligned throughout their school experience in order to honor that guarantee. This process will then address how assessment so that there is a method for determining the success of our approaches and the impact on students. The strategic coherence plan will be aligned with the "Portrait of the Graduate" description. They expect this work to take about eight months.

Dr. Veronesi explained that the district's system that has included a two-program design that has worked for many years and the challenge of looking at building usage and necessary resources have necessitated this process. It appears that doing what is best for the students is to assure that every single student has a quality education.

A. Vote to accept recommendation from Strategic Visioning process

Mr. Moore explained that they hoped to have the Board accept this strategic visioning as the framework for the future direction of the district. Dr. Veronesi mentioned the question that has come up about whether the two elementary school configuration would include a choice for parents or be defined geographically and what those geographic boundaries would be. Mrs. Neubig explained that the boundaries were originally looked at as a horizontal boundary and the numbers coincided with Durham students going to Brewster and Middlefield students going to Memorial. There would be a few neighborhoods in Durham that would go to Memorial, but it would essentially be almost a straight line. This would save time and money on transportation.

Dr. Friedrich asked if they had looked at the cost difference in transportation and Mrs. Neubig explained that there would be fewer buses needed if it were done geographically. Buses are about \$50,000 each, but it's difficult to say exactly how many buses would be needed.

Mr. Moore felt that the concept of a single program is what needs to be talked about before the actual building configuration. The Utilization Committee is working on a survey to address the other issues. Mr. Moore reviewed some of the options in the single program, including looping, multi-grade, etc. which would be available regardless of the building configuration.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Petrella, to accept the recommendation and the report of the Strategic Visioning process.

Dr. Friedrich stated that he only saw goals, not specific recommendations and he wasn't sure what was being voted on. Mr. Moore felt that the vote would be to support the vision that has been laid out with the

variety of goals. Specific steps will come over the next couple of years. Dr. Taylor thought there was some confusion about whether the Board would be endorsing concepts vs. endorsing a program. He felt that there really was no endorsement of a one-program approach in the recommendations. Dr. Taylor felt that people want to know details, but basically what kind of choice would be available within the one program. Dr. Veronesi stated that she didn't know exactly what it would look like at this point. She personally didn't see choice outside of the multi-grade or looping aside from geographic location. She would not propose having the two schools based on different themes and noted that feedback indicated a desire for greater connection and less competition. The desire to keep the Lyman School programming intact would be the reason to maintain choice. Dr. Veronesi did not believe that the committee decided that there was a greater value to maintaining a single building design and choice rather than moving forward with a more dynamic educational system.

Mrs. Geraci summarized that the Board would be voting on the framework for this in order to move forward on the details. Dr. Veronesi explained that the Board had asked if they needed to vote on this and she felt that this would mean the Board would be in favor of moving forward with a single approach. Dr. Friedrich felt it was very important that they are clear about what they are voting on. He felt that this one-program design would incorporate the elements of the current HOT program for all students. Dr. Veronesi wasn't sure that she would use the term "HOT" to identify this. Again, Dr. Veronesi summarized that the vote would be support for a single-approach design rather than sustaining a two-program design.

Mr. Yamartino asked to see the bullet points to refresh a few key elements, such as sustaining the assembly program at the elementary level but he would like to see that at the middle school and perhaps the high school level as well. He also wanted to be sure democratic practices were included and felt that the STEAM learning curriculum is important. Dr. Veronesi stated that democratic practices and student leadership are a very big part of what happens at Lyman and their discussion about that at different levels would then characterize the district as one where student voice and choice are honored and upheld.

Mr. Yamartino asked to amend the motion to include the bullet points on the slides, but Mr. Augur felt that the full document should be referenced. Mr. Hicks restated his original motion which was to accept the recommendations and report of the strategic visioning process. Mr. Augur asked if Mr. Hicks would amend the motion to include wording about a single program moving forward. Dr. Veronesi asked for it to be termed "approach" rather than "program," knowing that specifics will be detailed later.

Mr. Augur made a motion, seconded by Mr. Yamartino, to amend the motion to include "in pursuit of a single approach for Region 13."

Dr. Taylor supports the concepts, but is very apprehensive about the implementation of this. He doesn't feel that there is a guarantee that the design elements are going to be there at the end of the process. Dr. Taylor reviewed that the visioning process came out of the Utilization Committee and was meant to be within the context of building configurations. Based on this, it is now being moved outside of the building configuration and into a larger context. He wanted the Board members to think about whether that has been effectively communicated to the public and what will be done based upon the message that is received from the public at the referendum in May.

Mr. Moore felt it was the Board's responsibility to evaluate and support/not support specific details as they are developed. Dr. Taylor does not want to vote on a fluid document that produces a completely different product at the end. Dr. Taylor felt that the priority items should be included in any system that is developed. Mr. Augur agreed that it would be the Board's intent to pursue those items, but also felt that

things may change. Dr. Friedrich reiterated that he did not see any recommendations, but more of a layout of advantages and disadvantages. He felt it was reasonable to make a decision that planning go forward with a one-track design, regardless of building configuration. Dr. Friedrich stated that he does not see a recommendation that the two-track approach be abandoned. He felt that the words “one-track design” should be what is voted on as that is what is referred to in the report.

Mr. Hicks reviewed that the motion was to accept the recommendation and report of the Strategic Visioning process in pursuit of a single approach and Mr. Moore added that it would be across Region 13. Dr. Friedrich would like it to say single-track design as those are the words that were used in the report. Mr. Augur would be fine with those specific words. Dr. Taylor didn't see the necessity to having a vote and that the Board's support for the Superintendent should allow her to move forward with planning. Mr. Augur would rather publicly state that they are supporting a single approach, to be able to move forward constructively and with clarity. Mr. Moore also felt that if the public knows that the Board is moving to a single program, that will make a difference in what they feel about the configuration as well.

Dr. Taylor felt that their messaging has been terrible and worries that they did not tell the public that they would be making a decision on a single-track approach. This vote was never discussed in any of the Utilization meetings and it was always a vote on the building configurations and then the programming within that. Dr. Taylor just wants the Board to be really clear about this decision and whether they have reached out to the public about this decision. Mr. Augur would rather publicly support the Superintendent's ability to make these decisions and support this direction for the future.

Mrs. Geraci felt that it has always been the understanding that a vote would be taken at this meeting and she knows of many parents who are under that same assumption. She also pointed out that a number of parents spoke at the last meeting and asked that the Board not slow down and that they want a decision to be made.

Dr. Veronesi pointed out that she believes that people thought that the grade configuration was going to be voted on tonight and that is not what this vote is. Mr. Moore also pointed out that Utilization will be sending out another survey regarding the building configuration and that is why that is not being voted on tonight.

Mrs. Petrella stated that the district has been moving forward educationally and that is the Superintendent's decision. She felt that this vote to support the evolution into a one-track system is really just a vote to say that the Board agrees, but it is moving in that direction anyway. She gave the example of coaches and interventionists that have been implemented as part of the evolution of education and best practices. Mrs. Petrella doesn't feel that it makes any difference if the building configurations stay exactly as they are or change to either option.

Hearing no further discussion, Mr. Moore called for a vote on the amendment which was to add the words “in pursuit of a single approach.” Mr. Yamartino seconded Dr. Friedrich's suggestion to use the words “single-track” as that is what is used in the document that is being referenced. Dr. Friedrich was still confused about the language and Mr. Hicks stated that they cannot amend an amendment. They can reject the amendment and then propose another amendment. Mr. Augur agreed to retract his amendment at this point and Mr. Yamartino agreed to the retraction.

Dr. Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Mr. Augur, to amend the motion to add the following words to the original motion: “in pursuit of a district-wide, one-track design.”

Dr. Taylor is much more in favor of “approach” than “track” because track means there is really no choice or options. Mrs. Petrella doesn’t like track either and felt that approach was fine. She also suggested that the title of the document be referenced in the motion. Mr. Moore reminded everyone that the committee did not reach a final consensus, but Dr. Veronesi summarized that work and came forward with a recommendation for a single approach. Dr. Friedrich then concluded that the vote is actually to support Dr. Veronesi’s recommendation, not the actual report. Mrs. Petrella felt that it was important to have this vote because the district has had two programs for many years.

Hearing no further discussion, Mr. Moore called for the vote on the amendment which is to add the words “in pursuit of a district-wide, one-track design.”

In favor of approving the amendment: Dr. Friedrich. In opposition to the amendment: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion failed.

Mr. Augur made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to propose an amendment that the Board supports the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools as the culmination of the Strategic Visioning process in pursuit of a single educational approach district-wide.

Mr. Hicks then reread the amendment to support the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools as the culmination of the Strategic Visioning process in pursuit of a single educational approach district-wide.

In favor of approving the amendment: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Dr. Taylor abstained. Motion carried.

Mr. Hicks then reread the motion, as amended: Vote to accept the recommendation and report of the Strategic Visioning process and support the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools as the culmination of the Strategic Visioning process in pursuit of a single educational approach district-wide. That motion was seconded by Dr. Friedrich.

In favor of approving the motion, as amended: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Dr. Taylor abstained. Motion carried.

The Board took a five-minute break at this point.

District-Wide Approach: Social Emotional Learning - Scott Rossignol, Director of Student Services and Special Education

Dr. Veronesi reviewed that the purpose of this presentation is within the context of safety and security and the acknowledgment that that is a focus on the social and emotional learning and social and emotional well-being of the students within the framework of safety and security.

Scott Rossignol explained that social emotional learning is a tiered approach much like academics. They want to be sure to meet student needs across all levels. Students can have skill deficits in social, emotional or behavioral components. Dr. Ross Greene founded Lives in the Balance which is a foundation aimed at promoting the basic concept that kids do the best they can, given their current circumstances and the environments that they have been brought up in. Mr. Rossignol stated that this was

one of the first things that he wanted to accomplish and they have made significant strides since the end of last school year.

Mr. Rossignol explained that the first step in the process was to work with the school psychologists and school social workers on conducting an informal audit to get a sense of what is being done proactively to support the social emotional well-being of the students and what some of the interventions look like. They also looked at what is being done on a tier two level, the approximately 15 percent of students who cannot have their needs met from a tier one framework. They also talked about what is being done from a tier three perspective, which is students that represent approximately five percent of students who have needs beyond what most educators are accustomed to dealing with. In the interest of inclusion and keeping the students in the public school setting as much as possible while allowing them to have a positive and meaningful experience, there needs to be a deepened understanding of what that experience is.

Over the summer, Mr. Rossignol took that information and created a tiered intervention behavioral support system. This supplies the schools with a centralized resource with a tool kit to look at different potential interventions at all tiers. Ideas such as peer mediation, social skill instructions, etc. are included in this tool kit. It would be ideal to catch students at a tier one or tier two level for their continued success.

Mr. Rossignol sent most of the school psychologists and social workers to a two-day conference in Massachusetts in October led by Dr. Greene and his foundation. They overwhelmingly felt that the conference was positive and a couple said that it was the best conference they had ever been to.

On November 6th, the third annual Mental Health Consortium was held at Coginchaug and one of Dr. Greene's associates presented to the group. She was very practical and straightforward and the attendees asked really good questions.

From a tier one perspective in the elementary schools, Mr. Rossignol implemented Second Step which is a social emotional learning curriculum primarily targeting students in younger grade levels. This curriculum is research-based and common themes are centered around problem-solving, engagement in the classroom, empathy and several more. There are 25 lesson plans in kindergarten and grades 1-4 have 22 lesson plans. Mr. Rossignol envisions that Second Step will be part of the students' experience in years to come, starting in PreK-4, and are led by school psychologists and social workers.

In terms of what is being done at Memorial, Communities is a mixed-grade level initiative where they are broken into groups of up to 24 students with four adults. They work to put together pieces to enhance the climate at their school. At Strong and Coginchaug, Advisory is the primary tier one program. Advisory is a sequence of topics to promote things, such as well-being, safety, problem-solving and incorporating the core ethical values of the district.

Mr. Rossignol explained that the social emotional learning needs to be as systemic as possible while still keeping the authenticity. The Student Assistance Team (SAT) exists in the schools to promote academic interventions and team members review how students are doing and talk about planning. He worked over the summer on doing some revisions to the current SAT paperwork and one section is purpose of meeting and he noted that social emotional behavioral needed to be added. If teachers have a child who is struggling in some sort of social emotional way without any academic issues, they can still be referred to the SAT for help.

He also mentioned the partnership with the Durham-Middlefield Youth and Family Services who have been outstanding to work with and are a great resource. They have provided training as well as materials and ideas. They are also part of the Wellness Coalition to make sure that everyone knows what is going on within the district and in the schools. The well-being of the staff is a high priority too because they will be in a better position to support the students.

Mr. Rossignol summarized that Dr. Greene's fundamentals are key and he is excited about the long-term implications of Second Step as well as Communities and Advisory. He looks forward to working with the principals and the mental health counselors as well as the entire faculty and staff.

Mr. Augur asked Mr. Rossignol to elaborate a bit on the safety and security side of things, including bullying. Mr. Rossignol stated that they have learned more about profiles of students that lead up to events that are disastrous and the warning signs are now known. It can include isolation, withdrawal, online activity that is concerning and/or threatening, potential substance abuse and other erratic behavior. Scott Driscoll, the founder of Internet Safety Concepts, will present at the high school next month. He will speak with the intent of raising awareness of internet safety and potential consequences exist. Mr. Driscoll is a former FBI agent and former police officer and will address both the high school students and the middle school students separately. Mr. Rossignol also stated that Youth and Family Services is particularly useful in this area. They provided risk assessment training to a few of the district's counselors who then provided that training to other staff members.

Dr. Veronesi will share Mr. Rossignol's slide presentation with the Board members.

Committee Reports

A. Student Achievement Committee Meeting - November 28, 2018

Mrs. Petrella reported that they had two guests from the State Department of Education and district coaches attend their last meeting. They spoke about the next generation of testing which includes an accountability system that was created to give a more holistic perspective on schools and districts. The testing looks at student growth, not just achievement. The Committee asked the state representatives how they came to the particular growth targets and they explained that they researched growth over three years and set it at about the 60th percentile which they felt would give them reasonable confidence and account for the margin of error.

The basic tenet is that all students are expected to grow. It rewards growth and looks at each individual student. They are also expecting growth from high-achieving students as well. They also talked about the importance of coaches and paraprofessionals in the process and that some districts also provide professional development for paraprofessionals as well. There were questions about DRGs and comparisons and the state is no longer going to publish data comparing DRGs because they feel that the district's progress should be charted against the district.

Mrs. Petrella also noted that District 13 has two Schools of Distinction which is a status that only about 10 percent of the state's schools have. The committee also had a presentation about the STEAM program throughout the district.

Mr. Augur asked if the Student Achievement Committee would feel comfortable making recommendations now to use the growth model to help inform some of the goal setting in the district. Dr. Friedrich felt that the state is now learning to set goals and that goals had previously been defined by

statistical limitations. Dr. Friedrich would recommend that they tread gently and the state does seem to understand that. Mrs. Petrella was quite impressed with the level of research that the state did to come up with the different criteria and that they are open to continuing to look at this. Both Dr. Friedrich and Mrs. Petrella are also happy that the high-achieving students will not be left behind. The state does hope to have 100 percent of the students meet target by 2030.

Mr. Yamartino asked about the lack of benchmarking between the DRGs and Dr. Friedrich did not recall any concern being expressed about that. Dr. Taylor commented that the state took the position that they were not in the business of promoting or condoning comparison amongst districts, but they did recognize that the individual districts would find it helpful to have some comparative metrics. Dr. Veronesi also stated that the state cautioned districts to be clear as to what they are comparing. They have also published a white paper where they identified characteristics and practices of higher-performing districts.

B. Utilization Committee Meeting - November 29, 2018
-Review community survey regarding building configurations

Dr. Taylor started by explaining that they would like to review the survey so that it could be published on the website tomorrow. He reviewed that there are basically two configuration options and the advantages and disadvantages of each. He asked the Board members to review it quickly and see if there is anything glaring at them. They would like to send the survey out tomorrow and get responses before the January meeting.

Mr. Augur hoped to not only post it on the district's website, but to make it available to both towns to post on their websites as well. They also hoped that Dr. Veronesi could mention the survey in her next Town Times article and she agreed to do that. Dr. Taylor also mentioned that this survey will be electronic only this time as about 80 percent of the responses to the last survey were electronic. Dr. Taylor did not feel a vote was necessary, but would like to hear Board members' thoughts.

Mr. Augur reviewed the wording of the survey which asks if the participants prefer Option A or B and why.

C. Finance Committee Meeting - November 29, 2018

Mr. Augur reported that the Finance Committee discussed the capital needs and bonding options. They asked for input from the towns as to ways to frame these issues to make it clearer to the public.

D. Educational Resources Committee Meeting - December 11, 2018

Mr. Moore reported that ERC met earlier tonight to go over the capital plan and issuance of debt. They will be looking at how to formulate the referendum for school construction and capital needs as part of the budget process. They also received the audit and it will be voted on at the January Board meeting. Copies have been distributed to all Board members and if they have any questions, they should call Mrs. Neubig or Blum Shapiro.

Dr. Taylor asked if a conclusion has been made about separating out the critical infrastructure needs from the school reconfiguration. Mr. Moore explained that it has been decided to separate that out, but it has not been decided on specifically how that will be done.

Mrs. Petrella also asked how the vote on Korn School will impact the district and Mr. Moore explained that that will be talked about under Communications. Dr. Veronesi also mentioned that if the district is going to referendum on a bonding option, the debt payment will be built into the budget. If the both votes fail, then it would be back to square one. But if the budget passes and the bonding question fails, a debt service amount will have already been built into the budget. She suggested that that debt service amount could be directed toward other needs, such as critical capital needs if the bonding question fails. Mr. Augur asked if it would make sense to hold a bonding referendum separate and distinct from the budget to provide that clarity and Dr. Veronesi stated that that would be an option to explore. Mr. Yamartino mentioned that it could also be done with one question for the operating budget and another for bonding and additional debt service in the budget.

Communications

Mr. Moore reported that he received information that the Korn School referendum failed. He would like to get a small group of people to meet with the town in the next month or so to see if they are still interested and if they are going to pursue anything else. Mr. Moore has been told that there is still interest, but it will have to be something different than what was proposed.

Mr. Moore also mentioned that Middlefield did not vote to replace Nancy Boyle on the Board yet and have extended that deadline by 30 days. Hopefully, that decision will be made by January 8, 2019.

Mr. Moore has not received any goals or objectives from anyone and would like to get that wrapped up by January as well.

Dr. Friedrich received a note from Rick Parmelee who felt that it would be a good idea to keep Korn School and sell off a school in Middlefield because Korn will have fire-rated water and gas lines which would be an advantage. Mr. Moore commented that Laura Francis told him that the water main contract has been awarded to Ludlow Construction from Massachusetts and will probably start in the next construction season.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Veronesi reported that they took a trip to China and were able to sign an MOU, but will tell the board all about it in January. She did provide a written update on progress towards the strategic coherence goals as well as an overview of the visit to China. Mr. Moore felt that it will be a life-changing experience for the district's children to participate in this program.

Business Manager's Report

Mrs. Neubig reported that the financials are in the packet and there is nothing out of the ordinary. The Utilization Committee had asked that she update the Board on what was included in the security grant and she explained that the total grant amount submitted was \$446,000 with potential reimbursement of \$180,000. She does not believe that the grant will be fully funded, but it includes everything but the kitchen sink. She had included \$161,000 in security upgrades that have already been completed. Universal cell coverage, visitor management kiosks in all five schools and window film for all five schools has been included. Mr. Roraback commented that the culinary students may be disappointed that the sink was left out of the grant.

Mrs. Petrella asked about the grant for the front entrances and Mrs. Neubig explained that that is part of the school construction grant, aside from the security grant. The school construction grant is reimbursed at 53.5 percent while the security grant was at a lower rate.

New Business

A. Vote to approve field trip request

Mr. Moore explained that Strong School has requested permission for their annual school trip to Camp Jewell.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve the request for the seventh grade class field trip to Camp Jewell on Thursday, May 30, 2019 to Friday, May 31, 2019, with the understanding that this trip may be withdrawn at any time by actions of Homeland Security or other law enforcement agencies and that the parents or guardians of the students attending be apprised of this action.

In favor of approving the request for the seventh grade class field trip to Camp Jewell on Thursday May 30, 2019 to Friday May 31, 2019, with the understanding that this trip may be withdrawn at any time by actions of Homeland Security or other law enforcement agencies and that the parents or guardians of students attending be apprised of this action: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Vote to approve vestibules at Coginchaug

Mrs. Neubig explained that there are three resolutions for each school and they must be separate.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to resolve that the Board of Education of Regional School District 13 authorizes the district to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services for, and to accept or reject a grant for the construction of a blast- and ballistic-proof front entrance vestibule at Coginchaug Regional High School.

In favor of the resolution that the Board of Education of Regional School District 13 authorizes the district to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services for, and to accept or reject a grant for the construction of a blast- and ballistic-proof front entrance vestibule at Coginchaug Regional High School: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Yamartino clarified that the district can apply for the grant and if it is awarded, the district can refuse to accept it and not go forward with the construction. Mr. Moore felt that they agreed that they will be doing the project under the condition that they receive the grant. Dr. Taylor felt that the language was clear that this was only to apply for the grant. Mrs. Petrella asked if this was going to be considered for this year's budget and Mrs. Neubig explained that this had been part of the discussion about the \$400,000 in security funds that were put aside in the 2018-2019 budget.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Taylor, to resolve that the Board of Education of Regional School District 13 hereby establishes the building committee with regard to the construction of a blast- and ballistic-proof front entrance vestibule at Coginchaug Regional High School.

In favor of the resolution that the Board of Education of Regional School District 13 establishes the building committee with regard to the construction of a blast- and ballistic-proof front entrance vestibule at Coginchaug Regional High School: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Geraci, to resolve that the Board of Education of Regional School District 13 hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the construction of a blast- and ballistic-proof front entrance vestibule at Coginchaug Regional High School.

Dr. Taylor asked to clarify that this is not to endorse the actual process and finalize the funds for it. Mrs. Neubig explained that these are standard state-recommended motions and the Board is committing to getting drawings done so there will be some expenditures there. If the grant is approved, the Board can still choose to not go any further. If the grant is denied, nothing further happens.

In favor of the resolution that the Board of Education of Regional School District 13 authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the construction of a blast- and ballistic-proof front entrance vestibule at Coginchaug Regional High School: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Vote to approve vestibules at Strong

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Taylor, to resolve that the Board of Education of Regional School District 13 authorizes the district to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services for, and to accept or reject a grant for the construction of a blast- and ballistic-proof front entrance vestibule at the Frank Ward Strong Middle School.

In favor of the resolution that the Board of Education of Regional School District 13 authorizes the district to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services for, and to accept or reject a grant for the construction of a blast- and ballistic-proof front entrance vestibule at the Frank Ward Strong Middle School: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Petrella, to resolve that the Board of Education of Regional School District 13 hereby establishes the building committee with regard to the construction of a blast- and ballistic-proof front entrance vestibule at the Frank Ward Strong Middle School.

In favor of the resolution that the Board of Education of Regional School District 13 establishes the building committee with regard to the construction of a blast- and ballistic-proof front entrance vestibule at the Frank Ward Strong Middle School: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roraback, to resolve that the Board of Education of Regional School District 13 hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the construction of a blast- and ballistic-proof front entrance vestibule at the Frank Ward Strong Middle School.

In favor of the resolution that the Board of Education of Regional School District 13 authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the construction of a blast- and ballistic-proof front entrance vestibule at the Frank Ward Strong Middle School: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Missy Booth, from Durham, was very excited to hear that Brewster is starting to assemble and liked that they are doing some stuff with the high school kids. She would like to see that stretched to the other schools as well. She is concerned that the reason that the students from Brewster had to come to Cuginchaug was because they cannot fit and if the K-2 is housed at Brewster, no gym or cafeteria would be added. She wondered if Memorial would fit if it was a 3-5 or a K-5. She urged the Board to consider making changes to the drawings of the buildings, no matter what the grade configuration is, so that the entire school can be there with parents.

Anticipated Executive Session

A. Discussion of personnel matter

Adjournment

Mr. Augur made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hicks, 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, Mr. Roraback, Mrs. Petrella, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

Debi Waz
Alwaz First