

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Library at Coginchaug Regional High School, Durham, Connecticut.

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

Proclamation - Philip Augur

Mr. Hicks made a motion and read the following proclamation into the record. "Be it known by all those present that on this date, Philip Augur, distinguished Board of Education member since 2016, is duly recognized and acknowledged for his dedication to the children and citizens of Regional School District 13. And whereas Philip Augur, having served with honor hereby concludes this challenge for the responsibility of educating our youth. Be it known that by these words, his deeds, attention to detail and enduring common sense will long be remembered and cherished by his peers, the towns of Durham and Middlefield and, indeed, our children. And whereas Philip Augur served this district as a Board of Education member, his unwavering commitment to the support and success of educators and students alike will long be remembered as a guide for those who follow in future public service. And whereas Philip Augur demonstrated his tireless work ethic on many subcommittees for this Board, most notably Student Achievement, Strategic Coherence Planning, Education Resources, Policy, Facilities Utilization, Finance and Human Resources. His vast knowledge and voice of reason have provided insightful direction and have proudly moved the district and community forward. And whereas Philip Augur was instrumental in developing a structure for the board's goals as a mechanism to strengthen the work of the district at large. His commitment to working efficiently to achieve these goals, while examining how best to maximize fiscal resources, has positively impacted the work of the board. Therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of Regional School District 13 Board of Education, on this 12th day of June, 2019, celebrate Philip Augur and encourage others to do the same and join us in recognizing Philip Augur, a man who made an extraordinary difference in the success of this school district and the advancement of its mission. All this is with our sincere gratitude for your three years of unselfish service. By your actions, you have distinguished yourself and brought great pride upon your community, its schools and hundreds of children that will remember you for all the good work you have done. Signed, Robert E. Moore, Chairman, Kathryn Veronesi, Superintendent."

Dr. Friedrich seconded the motion.

In favor of entering the above proclamation into the record: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

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, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Theresa French distributed some documents to the board members. She asked the board to expand the district's bus route to include KinderCare of Wallingford on Ten Miles Drive in Wallingford for the 2019-2020 school year and forward. She realizes that district policy is not to transport outside of the district, however she feels that creative thinking is necessary. There is only one daycare facility in the district (Dolphin Days) for before- and after-school care, snow days, vacation days and stays open past 6:00 PM. They are currently at full capacity, with six families on the wait list. They do not see any spaces opening up in the near future. This leaves the community with no other options. Mrs. French contacted DATTCO about the transportation and was told that they would be able to support the need, however an approval would need to come from the district. Mrs. French works from 8:00 to 5:00 at Yale and her husband frequently travels. She has contacted home daycares, but they all close at 5:00. She has also contacted the Middlefield Children's Center that does stay open until 6:00 PM during the school year, but they are closed anytime school is closed. The same is true for BASREP. Middlefield Parks & Recreation does have a summer program, but they close at 4:30. It has been suggested that they obtain a nanny, however that is very expensive and they would be at the mercy of their schedules. She has not had any success in hiring anybody who is willing to come to her home. She is aware that they could hire a car service to transport her son, but is not comfortable doing that. Mrs. French asked the board to seriously consider adding KinderCare in Wallingford to be part of the regular bus route for the district which would allow families an accredited daycare alternative.

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

Lindsey Marino thanked the board for the opportunity to represent that students at the board meetings. She noted that she has created a bond with every teacher she's had for the past 12 years, but wanted to personally thank the following teachers who had a big impact on her life: Ms. Berndt (John Lyman), Dr. Mac (Strong School) and Mr. Falcone (Coginchaug). Lindsey chose Ava Kowal to be the next student representative.

Ava Kowal stated that she is in the National Honor Society and the Latin Honor Society and is one of the class presidents for her grade. She participates in girls' soccer as well as indoor and outdoor track.

Emily Dell'Orfano thanked all of the board members for their support over the years and Mr. Falcone for everything he's done for everyone in the school. She explained that she moved to the district during her freshman year, but noticed that Coginchaug was very warm and welcoming. She always felt that she could do anything or be anyone. She chose Coginchaug because of the number of opportunities that were available, including academics and music, but also in the community. She also appreciated all of the athletic opportunities, even though she never got involved in them. She is thankful that she found a place to be a musician, scientist, writer, teacher, actress and a friend. Emily introduce her friend, Josh Mahan, as her future replacement.

Josh Mahan stated that he is a member of the cross country team and indoor and outdoor track teams and will be the captain of the indoor track team next year. He is also involved in the concert band, wind ensemble, jazz ensemble and pit orchestra. He is also part of the National Honor Society.

Tim Arcari thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak to the board this year. He found it hard to pinpoint any one thing he is thankful for, but mentioned his teachers and coaches. He thanked Coach Ford for his passion and mentioned all of the connections he has made with his teachers. Tim asked his parents what made them decide to come to Middlefield and Durham and they said they knew it was the place to go once they visited. He believes they made the right decision. Tim has chosen Nick Vestergaard, as his replacement.

Nick Vestergaard stated that he is on the boys' soccer team, he runs indoor and outdoor track and will be the captain of the outdoor track team next year. He also runs the school's sports Twitter and is in Spanish Honor Society as well as DECA. He is thankful for the opportunity.

Mr. Moore and Dr. Veronesi presented the CRHS reporters with a token of their appreciation.

Recognition of student reporters, BOE scholarship recipient and Odyssey of the Mind participants

Mr. Moore then introduced Caroline Fourier, the recipient of the Board of Education scholarship, and read the recommendation from her teachers. She has earned a 3.53 grade point average and is in the top 20 percent of her class. She is great role model for her peers and a diligent, responsible student. She is also a three-season athlete.

Mr. Moore also recognized the Odyssey of the Mind participants. Maya Liss explained that four teams were sponsored by the Coginchaug Valley Education Foundation and competed at the state tournament in March. Two teams qualified to go to the national tournament at Michigan State in May and did really well, finishing 17th out of 50 teams and 23rd out of 63 teams. CVEF is going to continue to sponsor teams and have awarded them a grant to cover materials costs. Mrs. Liss also reviewed what Odyssey of the Mind is and presented a problem to the board. They had one minute to think and three minutes to respond. The kids and coaches all introduced themselves.

Dr. Veronesi also noted that Maya Liss and Jenny Lussier have volunteered to help expand the program in the district.

Recognition of retirements and resignations

Dr. Veronesi reported that Anne Doyle, library media specialist at Strong School, Nancy Alberico, Spanish teacher at Coginchaug, and Larry Gaechter, technology education teacher at Coginchaug, are all retiring this year. She thanked them all for their years of service.

Dr. Veronesi also reported that Jaclyn Vitelli, teacher assistant at Coginchaug, Jenna Cornwall, ABA therapist at Brewster, Kate Pazera, ABA therapist at Coginchaug, Lindsay Galpin, English Language Arts teacher at Strong, Chris Bertz, Family and Consumer Science teacher at CRHS, and Donna Cashore, French teacher at Coginchaug, will leave their positions at the end of the year. She wished them all well in their future endeavors.

Approval of Minutes

A. Board of Education special session meeting - May 29, 2019

Dr. Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Geraci, to approve the minutes of the Board of Education special session meeting of May 29, 2019, as presented.

In favor of approving the minutes of the Board of Education special session meeting of May 29, 2019, as presented: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Board Meeting - June 26, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Library at Coginchaug Regional High School

Mr. Moore offered to have the meeting as a retreat at his house at 578 Haddam Quarter Road for the meeting. The public is invited.

Progress Toward Strategic Coherence Goals

Dr. Veronesi explained that the SBAC scores will be received next week, but the i-Ready tests should be a good indicator of those results. The i-Ready results will be presented at the Student Achievement Committee meeting tomorrow. The SAT goals were achieved, with 537 for math and a combined score of 1102 overall. They were just 10 points shy of the reading goal. Curriculum work has been completed and the Curriculum Writing Institute will begin next week. They continue to get great feedback from the teachers about professional learning. The Data Dashboard has been finalized and data has been used to improve teaching and learning. Changes have been made in the schedules to help achieve student learning goals and a primary focus next year is to focus on the areas of enrichment and how best to support project-based learning. Work continues on the one academic program design as well as on Portrait of the Graduate. They anticipate completion by October, 2019.

As far as well-being strategies, the Second Step program will expand next year to include PreK and grade 4. Restorative practices will be expanded at Strong School as well. The district has expanded their partnership with CCSU and also partnered with Independent Day School for the parenting series. Two specific steps identified were the Power of Pause and Don't Flip Your Lid and the Well-Being Committee suggested that each school have a small well-being team. The safety and security strategic plan has been followed throughout the year and incident planning protocols have been finalized. Identified issues in equity work have been achieved and the partnership with Middletown High School has been finalized. Dr. Michael Goode met with Mr. Sadinsky and Mrs. DiMaggio last week to talk about doing a series of workshops about the Holocaust at the high school and middle school. The district will also host a community event to have the documentary film shown. The partnership will continue with IDS, focusing on topics related to equity. A SERC representative has conducted a focus group with some high school students around the topics of equity, diversity and racism and a report will be created by SERC and shared with administration.

Engagement improvement strategies this year involved enhancing communication, by first doing a survey and getting feedback from parents and then making decisions on how best to share information with parents. Work continues on the educational approach and the capital plan was also addressed this year.

Dr. Veronesi also reported that the China partnership is on track. The entire administrative team will spend two days this month at Connecticut College in a leadership workshop with the Connecticut Center for School Change.

Committee Reports**A. Utilization Committee Meeting - May 30, 2019 (next meeting June 27, 2019)**

Mr. Augur reported that the committee and have recommended five security items to have funds encumbered (in addition to the vestibules which were voted on in December): additional interior and exterior cameras at all school (\$59,000); install automated sign-in kiosks (\$35,000 at each school, followed by \$7,000 per year for maintenance); exterior signage at all schools except Coginchaug (\$20,000); add universal cellular coverage boost systems (\$10,000 per building); and Knox boxes at each school (\$20,000 total).

Mr. Augur made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hicks, to direct the Business Manager to encumber funds as listed above.

In favor of directing the Business Manager to encumber funds as listed above: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Augur also reported that the Utilization Committee made a motion which passed by a 3-1 vote to recommend to the Board of Education to take action to vote to raze the Korn School building.

Mr. Hicks noted that Korn School was not an item on the agenda, but Dr. Taylor also noted that the board had, in fact, just voted on an item that was not on the agenda. He was surprised that Mr. Hicks raised an objection to this vote, but not the prior one. Dr. Taylor felt that they should either withdraw the previous vote or move ahead with this vote. Mr. Hicks agreed and felt that the Chair could rule the first motion out of order or a motion could be made to reconsider.

Mr. Yamartino made a motion, seconded by Dr. Taylor, to reconsider the prior motion encumbering funds.

Dr. Veronesi believed that the Utilization Committee had the responsibility to make this decision about the security items. Mr. Moore agreed that the board had asked them to review the items. Dr. Taylor felt that the problem is that policy states that no decisions can be made by a committee. Mr. Roraback suggested that an item be added to the agenda for June 26, 2019.

In favor of reconsidering the prior motion encumbering funds: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Moore reviewed that the Utilization Committee did have a discussion about Korn School and recommended that the full board consider razing Korn School. It was suggested that that item will be added to the next agenda as well. Dr. Friedrich felt that it may be better to hold off until next year.

Mr. Moore asked if the Utilization Committee had considered working with the new Town Planner on options and Mr. Augur stated that that was discussed. Mr. Yamartino thought that the Building Committee had also been charged to look at other uses.

Mr. Moore stated that he will schedule a Building Committee meeting for the week of June 25, 2019.

Communications

Mr. Moore reported that he, Dr. Veronesi and Mr. Hicks had attended the Middlesex Transition Academy's graduation this morning where two students from the district graduated. The director of MTA is retiring this year after 16 years. Dr. Veronesi announced that Mrs. Manning has been appointed the part-time program coordinator at MTA. Mr. Moore commented on the value of the program. Mr. Hicks reported that several of the students already have jobs lined up.

Mr. Moore has received a letter from Theresa French, who spoke earlier, and from Sue VanDerzee concerning options for Korn School.

Mrs. Caramanella reported that the Well-Being Committee took part in an activity painting flower pots. The pots were delivered today to all of the schools.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Veronesi reported that the School Resource Officer had a safety walk-through with John Woodmanzee from the State Police. The Senior Service Day was a great success, with over 95 percent of the senior class participating. She noted that all of the students on the committee had gone to John Lyman School. A team of students worked on the nature trail at Brewster, at Peckham Park, at the dog park and at Lake Beseck.

Students have finished SBAC testing, i-Ready testing and NGSS testing and in one grade in particular, the students were very fatigued. Feedback from the teachers has resulted in some assessments being taken away completely. The teachers feel that the timing is not great and there is just too much testing. She did note that some tests are mandated.

The Portrait of the Graduate committee is focusing on looking at the future and what it will look like. Financial literacy has been brought up as well as perseverance, awareness of mental health, critical thinking and taking care of the environment. The committee will begin to look at some of those areas tomorrow. Mrs. Booth and Mr. Moore will be thought partners and will represent the board on the committee. They will also post a short video with an update of the meeting on the district's website.

Dr. Veronesi also reported that they had very respectful and successful negotiations with both the food service and custodial unions. A copy of the contracts will be sent to the board for approval on June 26th. Both unions asked for a five-year contract and it was agreed to go with a five-year contract with a reopener after three years for wages and benefits.

Dr. Veronesi also recognized Bryden Whiting for his help with recording the board meetings all year. Mr. Moore also thanked Deb Waz for her work on the minutes.

Mrs. Petrella acknowledged that it is very difficult with testing because of the requirements and it is not an easy task to obtain a good balance. She applauds the administration and staff for even trying to tweak that.

Business Manager's Report

Mrs. Neubig reported that the final payroll was run for teachers and nurses on June 7th. The general fund has received 90 percent of revenue and is 82.44 percent expended. Again, she is not estimating a large fund balance carryover and felt that it would be about \$250,000.

The district received 116 percent revenue from MTA as more students were enrolled than were anticipated and they are 97 percent expended. They are on track to potentially have a small surplus.

The State budget passed on June 4th and maintained the ECS formula, so the towns actually received less of a cut than what had been proposed by the Governor. The teachers' pension will not be shifted to the towns. There was an increase from 1 to 2 percent in the amount that can be deposited to non-lapsing, unspent Board of Education funds. MBR was extended through June 30, 2021 and a change was made to the declining enrollment provision. The formula was originally based on declining enrollment from one year to the next and capped based on free and reduced lunch percentage. They removed that free and reduced lunch percentage and made it a five-year look back. The district's budget was actually going to be under MBR by \$89,000, but that was absorbed with this new provision.

Mr. Moore asked if Mrs. Neubig has let the towns know that no additional money will be needed, but she has not done that yet. The 2019-2020 net cost for education over the 2018-2019 cost resulted in Durham having a savings of \$196,000 and Middlefield of \$485,000.

Mrs. Neubig also noted that, with the new budget, the Board of Education must post revenues and expenditures on the website quarterly and send them to the towns. She also noted that some bills were not passed, including a ban on artificial turf, seatbelts on school buses and Boards of Education being taxing authorities. There will be a special session on tolls and also school grant commitments for school building projects. She is doing the final review on the district's project and will have them submitted by June 30th. Originally, they had projected ECS cuts to be \$593,000 total and the reality was cut \$195,000.

Mr. Augur asked why Purchased Services was \$663,000 under budget and Mrs. Neubig explained that the \$400,000 in security funds are listed in that line item. Mr. Yamartino commented that the budget is \$36.8 million, with \$33.55 million currently expended and the run rate is approximately \$2.6 million. He stated that he was seeing a \$2 million surplus and Mrs. Neubig explained that debt service and other items have not been encumbered as of yet.

Mr. Moore thanked Mrs. Neubig for all of her hard work this year. Mrs. Neubig added that Tippi Popp has been an amazing resource.

New Business**A. Discuss dates/times for 2019-2020 Student Achievement and Utilization Committee meetings**

Mr. Moore explained that these committee meetings have been scheduled at 4:00, but people have not been able to attend. Mrs. Petrella stated that she cannot meet on Wednesdays until after 6:15 and that Tuesdays and Thursdays would be better, with a start time of 5:00 to 5:15. Dr. Veronesi explained that the schedules were already voted on, but the meeting time could be changed. Mrs. Geraci added that 5:15 would be a better time for her. Dr. Veronesi agreed to look at the scheduling and get back to everyone.

Utilization will remain on the scheduled days, but at a later start time.

Mrs. Petrella also stated that she has been approached by someone who is concerned that all of the meetings are held in Durham and thought perhaps the board might consider having the committee meetings in Middlefield. She felt that the concern is having the recognition that Middlefield is being considered by having some of the meetings there. Dr. Veronesi explained that committee meetings have always been at the high school and the board meetings used to rotate between schools. Mr. Moore felt that it would be a good idea to move the meetings to each of the schools to give board members a chance to see each of the schools.

B. Vote to approve field trip request

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve the field trip request to the Model UN Conference at the University of Connecticut with the stipulation that, due to circumstances beyond the district's control because of homeland security or other agencies, the trip can be canceled at any time and that students and parents be apprised of this action.

In favor of approving the field trip request to the Model UN Conference at the University of Connecticut: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Sarah Sallin, from Gina Drive in Durham, also requested the addition of the Wallingford KinderCare to the bus route for next year. She has two kids at KinderCare who will both be going to Brewster School. Her family has gone through two different daycare providers before KinderCare. She also mentioned that they are just over the border in Wallingford. Mrs. Sallin explained that her younger daughter has Down's Syndrome and she is very particular about her care. She is very pleased with the care she receives at KinderCare. She also explained that a nanny would be almost twice the cost for her family and she has yet to find any company who will transport her children.

Melissa Booth, from Durham, appreciates the board talking about the stress of the kids with all the testing. She has done the Reading Counts program at John Lyman for four years and this year, they had a huge decrease in the participation in the program purely because the kids didn't have time. She also feels that Plan your Work time is not being offered as much as it was. Mrs. Booth also asked if the board meeting scheduled for July 3rd can be changed.

Mr. Hicks explained that they typically try to meet as soon after July 1st as possible because there is then a gap with no officers. All terms expire on June 30th. Mr. Moore explained that it is a very short meeting with its only purpose to elect officers.

Anticipated Executive Session

- A. Discussion regarding strategy and negotiations with respect to pending litigation related to charge filed by the Regional District 13 Education Association-Middlesex Co. with the State Board of Labor Relations**
- B. Discussion regarding confidential attorney-client privileged communication regarding charge filed by the Regional District 13 Education Association-Middlesex Co. with the State Board of Labor Relations**

- C. Discuss superintendent's evaluation
- D. Discuss superintendent's contract

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Augur, to add the words "and possible vote" to item D.

In favor of adding the words "and possible vote" to item D: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, that the Board of Education enter into executive session to: (1) Discuss strategy and negotiations with respect to pending litigation related to charge filed by the Regional District 13 Education Association-Middlesex Co. with the State Board of Labor Relations; (2) Discuss the confidential attorney-client privileged communication regarding charge filed by the Regional District 13 Education Association-Middlesex Co. with the State Board of Labor Relations; (3) Discuss the superintendent's evaluation; and (4) to Discuss and possibly vote on the superintendent's contract.

In favor of entering into executive session for the above-mentioned reasons: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried unanimously.

(Mr. Yamartino left the meeting at 9:05 p.m.)

Out of Executive Session

Victor Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Norm Hicks, to increase the superintendent's compensation by \$6,000 and to extend her contract by one year until 2020.

In favor: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, and Dr. Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

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

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

Meeting was adjourned at 10:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

Debi Waz
Alwaz First