

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 7:00 PM in the Library at Coginchaug Regional High School, Durham, Connecticut.

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

Board members absent: Mr. Yamartino

Administration present: Dr. Serino, Superintendent of Schools and Mrs. Neubig, Director of Finance.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

Dr. Friedrich made a motion to approve the agenda, as presented. Mrs. Geraci made a motion to move item 9, New Business, before item 6 and Dr. Friedrich accepted the change. Mrs. Geraci seconded.

In favor of approving the agenda, as amended: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Dominic Paniccia, from Durham, stated that he is not present as an advocate for John Lyman remaining open or for its closure. He felt that the fundamental question before the board should be whether the closure of John Lyman constitutes an amendment to the Regional School Plan requiring a referendum under Connecticut General Statutes 10-47c. He felt that a referendum would be required, based on a court decision. The court ruled that the closure of an elementary school is not a minor change to the Regional School Plan and that it constituted an amendment to the plan which requires a referendum. The court felt that the legislature enacted that statute to provide individual towns with the opportunity to vote on any substantive change to an existing plan. The court felt that consolidating a school is not within the powers granted to a board. District 13's Regional Plan provided that elementary and middle schools would remain in their present locations. The plan does not say that the location was to be a temporary arrangement. He concluded that the Regional Plan provided for elementary schools in each town because it was important to the residents in the late 60s and they would have been less likely to approve the plan if it had called for the closure of their local elementary schools. Mr. Paniccia referenced a comment made by the Board of Education at the last meeting to specific language that supposedly granted the authority for the board to close John Lyman and noted that that language is literally verbatim the same language that the plaintiff argued in the case in Regional School District 12. The court disagreed and stated that the board is not free to change locations unilaterally and that decision would require a referendum. Mr. Paniccia felt that, based on case law, the closure of John Lyman is not a unilateral authority of the board and would require a referendum. He felt that this decision is contrary to the decision of the Supreme Court case and doesn't align with Connecticut General Statutes. He fears that it could open up both town and the Board of Ed to potential litigation. He requested that the board decide to put a referendum to the voters on whether to close John Lyman.

Approval of Minutes**A. Board of Education Public Hearing on Amendments to the Plan of Regionalization - January 8, 2020**

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2020 public hearing on amendments to the Plan of Regionalization, as presented.

In favor of approving the minutes of the January 8, 2020 public hearing on amendments to the Plan of Regionalization, as presented: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Board of Education regular session meeting - January 8, 2020

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2020 regular session meeting, as presented.

In favor of approving the minutes of the January 8, 2020 regular session meeting, as presented: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Board of Education regular session meeting/retreat - January 25, 2020

Dr. Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Dr. Taylor, to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2020 regular session meeting/retreat, as presented.

In favor of approving the minutes of the January 25, 2020 regular session meeting/retreat, as presented: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Mr. Hicks abstained. Motion carried.

Next Board Meeting - February 26, 2020 at 7:00 PM in the library at Coginchaug Regional High School**New Business****A. Vote to set graduation date**

Dr. Serino stated that graduation will be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2020.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to set graduation for Tuesday, June 16, 2020.

In favor of setting graduation for Tuesday, June 16, 2020: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Mrs. Geraci, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Vote to accept audit report

Mrs. Geraci made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Petrella, to accept the audit report.

Mr. Moore explained that the audit received a clean report with some recommendations for cyber security.

In favor of accepting the audit report, as presented: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Mrs. Geraci, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Referendum results and next steps

Mr. Moore explained that question 1 regarding the change in language to the Plan of Regionalization was rejected in Durham 376-430 and in Middlefield 115-324. The second question regarding election of Durham's board members was passed in Durham 564-240 and in Middlefield 234-199. Future board members from Durham will be elected in odd years at town elections.

The board now will determine what to do as a result of this vote. Mr. Moore would like to be sure that the board remains committed to the single-track academic design and grade configurations that were passed last year and to investing the district's resources in education first. Mr. Moore felt that there were two issues that came up, with one being the closure of John Lyman School and the other being a fear or expression of increased authority for the Board of Education.

Mr. Moore felt that there were a number of options at this point. One would be to revise the Plan of Regionalization amendment to include the process of a referendum in the towns before closing a school. That referendum could be held in May with the budget, but the board would have to prepare a written amendment for the February 26, 2020 meeting which would have to go through the same process. The second option would be to hold a referendum in November on the actual closing of John Lyman School which would go along with the small expansion at Brewster and Memorial. A third option would be to hold a referendum vote on bonding to address the capital improvements at John Lyman. There would be a \$4.5 million expenditure needed to keep John Lyman open. There is also the option of status quo, to keep the buildings open and pay as you go.

Mr. Moore felt that the first option of an additional amendment to the plan is the one that keeps the district moving in the right direction. Dr. Friedrich asked if Mr. Moore thought that the amendment to the plan should include exclusive authority to expand schools and require a referendum to do that. Mr. Moore explained that any time schools are expanded, a referendum is necessary for the funding and an additional amendment would not be needed.

Mrs. Booth added that she has heard comments about John Lyman, but also that Middlefield would not have a lower elementary school. Mrs. Caramanello asked if John Lyman was to be kept open, would Durham children go to Brewster and Middlefield children go to Lyman. Dr. Serino stated that that has not been discussed. Mr. Moore felt that that would not necessarily have to happen and it could be done by bus routes.

Mrs. Geraci asked if, after going with option one with a referendum in May and another in November to close John Lyman School, there would be a plan B. Mr. Moore explained that the process was started because of the grant process and bonding and that option would push it off until next year unless all of the information could be in to the state by November 15th. Mrs. Geraci felt that the May referendum would help alleviate some of the power concerns.

Mrs. Petrella had originally suggested including a referendum for closing schools and that that referendum would need to be approved by both towns. She felt that closing a school affects the community and property values. She also felt that it was more personal than programming changes. Mrs. Petrella also felt that a K-5 school in Middlefield is very personal to the people of Middlefield and closing John Lyman School may not pass a referendum. It would also be important that there always be at least one school in Middlefield.

Mr. Moore felt that the underlying cost issues will also have to be considered. The board had looked at a K-5 school in each town and it was over \$20 million. Mrs. Petrella wondered if that information should be resurrected at a public hearing to give people a clearer understanding of all of the costs.

Mrs. Booth added that it was stated that Memorial School really isn't meant to be an elementary school for younger kids. The classrooms are not sized appropriately. She agrees that two K-5 schools would be awesome, but isn't sure that it would be fair to the children to put them in a space that is not meant for them. Mrs. Geraci felt that it was important to bring the kids together as a community and would like to have all kindergarten kids together and go through school together.

Dr. Serino reminded everyone that the decisions that were made were based on collaborative work over a length of time and the board's consideration of cost, educational benefit, projected enrollment and current research. She felt that an information session could provide a refresher on what went into the decision. She also mentioned that the decision to go to referendum was based on the advice from the board's attorney. Dr. Serino would be in favor of a referendum for an amendment to the regional plan with another referendum in November to close John Lyman, however she understands that that would need to be a district majority vote, not a majority vote in both towns.

Dr. Friedrich felt that the majority vote would be whatever they decide to include in the amendment. Dr. Taylor added that they could bring the closure of John Lyman up to a referendum independent of amending the Plan of Regionalization. Dr. Friedrich felt that the plan doesn't allow for that. Dr. Taylor felt that the towns could vote on that and that the vote should be by town. Dr. Serino explained that the attorney stated that they had to first amend the plan to include language on the process of closing the school before voting to close it.

Dr. Taylor stated that he strongly supports Mrs. Petrella's argument that it should be a town-based decision about whether to close schools within the referendum language. He felt that it should not be a majority vote of the district as that allows for the possibility of one town closing a school over the wishes of the other town. Dr. Friedrich agreed and felt that the message from the public is clear.

Mrs. Petrella would not be in favor of holding a referendum to close John Lyman at this point and felt that was a lot of misinformation about the vote. She felt that that needed to be straightened out before any further vote. Mr. Moore added that both towns would be paying to keep the school open and that needs to be considered as well.

Dr. Serino felt that they would need to clarify the vote as to whether it is a requirement or the Board of Education's preference. Mr. Moore stated that they will get answers to that before next week. He will work on draft language and have the attorney attend the meeting on February 26th. A district meeting/public hearing would need to be held in March, with a referendum in May.

Dr. Taylor felt that it would be far easier to explain the language behind closing the school rather than amending the plan. Mrs. Petrella did feel that the language in the regionalization agreement is very

critical. Mrs. Booth mentioned that a lot of people that she talked to didn't even look at the explanatory text and there will always be misinformation. Mrs. Petrella agreed and felt that they should think about some very clear avenues of communication. Mrs. Booth felt that the board has done wonders with improving communication, but there will still be people who complain that they are not aware even though the information is readily available.

Dr. Serino asked if other board members heard the concern about a lack of trust. Dr. Taylor stated that there is definitely a lack of trust which began with a rapid vote two years on a very contentious issue. Mrs. Petrella felt that it is an historical lack of trust, not just from that vote. Dr. Friedrich recalled that they had three informational sessions about programming that were held back in 2014-2015 which were very well-attended. At that time, a lot of parents were aware of what was happening and attended meetings.

Dr. Serino stated that if the critical issue is trust and not communication, the board may be missing what's really at the heart of the problem. She does feel that it has made a difference for her and Mr. Moore to attend PTO meetings. Dr. Serino does believe that communication is vital to building trust. Dr. Friedrich felt that they should identify places to get together with people aside from board meetings. PTO meetings reach parents, but there also needs to be a way to reach people who aren't parents. Mr. Roraback thought that one possibility would be to hold board meetings in Middlefield. Mr. Moore felt that board meetings are not ideal because they cannot have a dialogue. Dr. Serino explained that some committee meetings are held in Middlefield, however the board meetings are held at Coginchaug so that they can be livestreamed.

Mr. Moore also reported that, with the Durham elections being moved to November, the terms of Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks and Mr. Moore are now moved to 2021 instead of July, 2020. Dr. Taylor's term would also move to November, 2021. Mrs. Booth and Dr. Friedrich would be up for election in 2023. Three of the members elected in 2021 would be for four-year terms and one would have a two-year term. Dr. Taylor asked that the Town of Durham look into amending their charter to ensure minority representation on the Board of Education. This language does not currently exist, but would be in alignment with the rest of the town charter.

2020-2021 Budget Presentation

Dr. Serino began by reviewing that the budget focuses on the mission statement and strategic coherence plan as well as physical plant and capital infrastructure. Over the past year, the district began the Portrait work to identify the skills, attributes and characteristics that the district believes are most important for its students. They will now go on to identify what support the teachers need in order to support students in acquiring these skills and what the system of accountability will be. Dr. Serino stressed that the process here in the district actually landed on the term "citizen," rather than "graduate." The Portrait of the Citizen work links back into the mission statement, with the students being thriving and contributing global citizens. She feels that this budget helps to underscore the district's commitment to that.

Dr. Serino explained that there are two defining features to this year's budget: a focus on capital and the awareness that it's become very complex to teach children and teach them well. They know that teachers can't do it all.

Dr. Serino explained that tonight will be a broad overview of the budget and its 2.29 percent gross increase, with a net increase of 2.62. The budget book is available online.

The most recent enrollment projections were received in November and there will be a slight decrease next year, with a decrease of approximately 150 students in 10 years. There are smaller classes at the middle school and cuts are being suggested based on the decrease in enrollment at Strong and the high school. The 9-12 population is currently at almost 500 students and will decrease to just over 300 students in 10 years. The entire district is projected to have just over 1,300 students. Dr. Serino noted that parents are concerned that class size will go up as enrollment declines and she assured everyone that class sizes will remain within the Board of Education recommended class size.

Reviewing past budget numbers, Dr. Serino explained that there has been a six-year negative budget change of .192. Looking at a graphic of the budget, she explained that salaries, benefits and operating services are the big budget drivers. There are about 300 employees in the district and salaries have increased by about \$87,000 due to budgeting at 95 percent. Six bargaining units have contractual increases and changes in benefits. Dr. Serino also mentioned that they are not funding the salary line at 100 percent based on past history and this year is funded at 95 percent.

Dr. Serino noted that they will talk in greater detail about programming, including a recommendation for before and after-school programming, at the meeting in two weeks, but wanted to highlight the recommended reductions in staffing which are all based on declining enrollment. They include a sixth-grade teacher and PE and health at Memorial, an English language arts teacher at Strong and a business teacher, a reduction in a science teacher, a small reduction in a math teacher and a half-time FTE social studies teacher at Cuginchaug. The Director of Organizational Development was within the administrative bargaining unit and focused on professional development and HR. They are recommending that this position comes out of the union and becomes a non-union HR specialist.

Additions to staffing include a grade 2 teacher at Brewster, a Coordinator of Student Affairs at Strong, an enrichment teacher focused on the gifted and talented population as well as all students and an alternative education teacher at Cuginchaug coupled with a BCBA (board-certified behavior analyst). They hope to have the ability to work with students within the district who have very significant social, emotional and behavioral needs. Again, Dr. Serino explained that they will talk about these positions in greater depth at the next meeting. They are also proposing a literacy specialist to focus on students with significant reading disabilities and to provide professional development and support to teachers. An IT technician has also been proposed to help higher level staff focus more on general security and cyber security.

In the area of benefits, there is an increase of \$405,000. Dr. Serino reminded everyone that there had been a significant decrease last year as a result of negotiations and changing from Blue Cross/Blue Shield to Connecticare. They are budgeting for a 7.5 percent increase which is based on historical trends. Unemployment benefits have decreased by \$15,000.

In the area of purchased services, there are a few increases. There is a new CIAC rule that requires a site director at all home games and professional development in areas of cyber security, general security and in-service training in well-being and equity. Some of the increases are offset by decreases. Savings for evaluations will be realized by having an in-house BCBA.

Mrs. Neubig explained that there is an overall increase of \$279,000 in buildings and grounds. This area includes disposal services, snow removal and lawn care as well as repairs and district leases. An increase of \$220,000 is attributed to indoor and outdoor repairs and maintenance and \$77,000 for capital leases for the energy savings project. A proposed lease for a used truck for buildings and grounds is also included. Reductions include expiring leases.

In the area of operating services, there is an overall decrease of \$17,000. This area includes transportation, which has an overall increase of \$210,000 due to contractual increases as well as an additional bus for preschool and kindergarten and Vo-Ag and magnet school transportation. Magnet school transportation is offset by a grant. Operating services also includes communication, insurance and travel which shows an overall increase of \$8,000, largely due to property insurance renewal. Tuition has decreased by \$236,000 due to the potential decrease in outplacements as a result of the proposed in-house alternative education program.

Looking at supplies, Mrs. Neubig explained that this area includes classroom, instructional and office supplies as well as building and grounds supplies. Textbooks are also included in this area. There is an overall decrease of \$154,000, with an increase of \$44,000 in student supplies as a result of the district purchase of supplies that have been previously provided by parents. There is also a decrease in overall curriculum supplies. Buildings and grounds supplies are also decreased, primarily in the areas of fuel and electricity which can be attributed to the energy savings project. The district's overall need for textbooks has decreased by \$25,000.

Mrs. Neubig reviewed equipment and capital which represents an overall increase of \$294,000. Playground equipment at needs at both Lyman and Memorial have been addressed and the amount also includes equipment needed for athletics at Coginchaug. There is also a \$120,000 placeholder for a field storage building at Coginchaug. This area also includes an increase for cyber security software, employee training and iPads for kindergarten and first grade. There is also a \$370,000 transfer to capital reserve to fund ongoing, identified priority areas. This includes the continuation of funding for the turf at Coginchaug, continued funding of a classroom furniture replacement cycle, continued funding of unanticipated building repairs, phase 2 of a fire suppression sprinkler system at Coginchaug, Strong, Central Office and Korn (phase 1 is included in the \$6.9 million bonding package) and replacement of the gym floor at Brewster.

Dr. Serino pointed out that there is a slight increase in dues and fees and a \$10,000 increase due to an entrance fee for the robotics competition which had been previously funded by a grant from the Merwin Foundation.

Mrs. Neubig reviewed that debt service is level funded to accommodate the payment on the \$6.9 million bonding package that was approved last year. This represents a 0 percent change.

Dr. Serino reported that projected revenue shows a decrease of \$63,000 overall. Adult Ed is an area that the district is required to pay Middletown \$43,000 a year which is offset by a \$9,000 grant. In-house tuition includes MTA and tuition for STEAM camp, Pre-K and the partnership with China. They are anticipating \$100,000 more from MTA tuition. The activity fee and other line items are budgeted at a decrease of \$70,000, primarily due to the elimination of pay-to-participate fees. The board had asked the administration to remove those fees. The fund balance carryover has decreased by \$41,000, but still represents a significant factor in balancing the budget. Fund balance is comprised of unexpended funds remaining at the end of the year. Special education excess cost is budgeted at a decrease due to the anticipated alternative education program.

Dr. Serino asked the board members to review the budget book and send any questions to her and Mrs. Neubig. She noted that they are happy, proud and excited to present this budget and look forward to conversations about it. Mrs. Neubig noted that it will be on the website tomorrow morning, under Central Services Business Office and Board of Education Financial Information.

Mr. Moore reviewed that there will be four meetings on the budget over the next month and a half, with each night focused on a particular section of the budget.

At this point, the board took a short recess.

Committee Reports

A. Policy Committee Meeting - December 9, 2019

1. Second read or possible vote on the following policies:
 - a. Food Allergies and/or Glycogen Storage
 - b. Section 504/ADA (Students)
 - c. Sex Discrimination and Harassment in the Workplace
 - d. Smoking
 - e. Student Discipline
 - f. Student Expulsion Hearing Notice
 - g. Transportation
 - h. Administration of Medications
 - I. Drug and Alcohol Use by Students
 - j. Guidelines for IEEs
 - k. Health Assessments/Screening
 - l. IDEA Notification for Accessing Public Benefits
 - m. Immunizations
 - n. Individual Learning Plans

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve items a through n as listed on the agenda, as recommended by the Policy Committee.

In favor of approving items a through n as listed on the agenda: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Well-Being Committee Meeting - January 9, 2020

Mrs. Caramanello explained that the committee reviewed the school climate survey and found a couple of areas for discussion at future meetings, specifically homework and certain behaviors. They also received an Equity Committee update and will meet again next Thursday when they will start action planning. They will also discuss lockdown procedures and receive a Playground Committee update as well as surveys of eighth grade plans for high school and identification of extracurricular activities and participation.

C. Student Achievement Committee Meeting - January 22, 2020

Mrs. Petrella reported that the presentation of the grade 6-8 math curriculum was postponed to the February meeting. They did receive an enrichment update and Mrs. Petrella explained that the enrichment program will address the identification of gifted and talented students in grades 4 through 8. It will also identify the needs of that population, have an infusion for all students, include parent involvement and produce a public product. Tier 1 enrichment is for all students, providing opportunities

like creative problem solving, assemblies, field trips, etc. Tier 2 enrichment includes opportunities that develop from the Tier 1 activities. Tier 3 is personalized instruction for identified students.

An area that was explored is what the students actually want and they said they wanted authentic learning experiences, hands-on projects, to explore and figure things out, problem solve, multiple options, a choice to show their learning, independence and brain breaks.

The committee also looked at the DRG comparisons with regard to science standards. District 13's scores went up and we are now in the upper half.

D. Utilization Committee Meeting - January 28, 2020

Dr. Taylor reported that the committee received an update about Korn School, but hasn't received any feedback since. Mr. Moore stated that the town's committee met for several hours with the Town Engineer. Dr. Taylor also noted that they established a Playground Committee. They also had a brief discussion about capital needs at Lyman and discussed a general transition timeline.

E. Policy Committee Meeting - January 29, 2020

1. First read or possible vote on the following policies:
 - a. Confidentiality and Access to Education Records
 - b. Section 504/ADA (Personnel)
 - c. Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students)

Mr. Hicks recommended that they further discuss these three policies at next month's meeting.

F. Human Resources Committee Meeting - January 30, 2020

Mrs. Petrella explained that one piece they looked at was proposed district wide staffing for next year. The committee asked about the different roles and job descriptions and Dr. Serino included that information in the budget comments. Dr. Serino explained that they updated the organizational chart as well.

Mr. Moore added that the board's goals were included in the board members' packets and he asked that everyone add any comments so that they can be discussed at future meetings.

G. Playground Committee Meeting - February 4, 2020

Mrs. Booth explained that the playground committee is a sub-committee of the utilization committee and is comprised of parents from each elementary school, a teacher and board members. Three members are concentrating on Lyman with the remainder looking at Memorial. They will meet again on February 17th at 6:30 in the Middlefield Community Center and hope to have some quotes at that time.

Dr. Serino noted that some of the things that the students would like are portable, such as corn hole and life-sized chess. Mrs. Booth suggested that the tech class at the high school could possibly make the corn hole sets. Mr. Moore stated that he had heard that the biggest problem at Lyman is that the various balls are all flat and they have lousy jump ropes.

H. Building Committee Meeting - February 6, 2020

Mrs. Booth reported that there is not much to report about the field storage house other than they got an estimate to get an estimate. The quote of \$120,000 to \$125,000 to cover the concrete with a shell is accurate. The water main project is on schedule to be complete in the summer of 2021. The culvert will also be done in 2021, with paving done in 2022. There may be grant opportunities for the culvert project. There are wood turtles in the area and a herpetologist will need to be available every day during the culvert project.

Mrs. Booth also noted that the vestibules will be resubmitted. Mrs. Neubig explained that the vestibules have been moved off the priority list and the district needed to reapply.

The committee also discussed that the price of construction is increasing and is about 15 percent higher than five years ago. This means that the prices that were used for the Brewster and Memorial projects will likely be at least that much higher.

I. Educational Resources Committee Meeting - February 12, 2020

Mr. Moore reviewed that they had the audit presentation and the board voted to approve that tonight.

Communications

Mr. Moore received invitations to PTO meetings, Kelly Lynch wrote supporting closing Lyman, Ashley McDowell wrote about pick-up and drop-off at Brewster, Oanh Stephan wrote a long letter in support of the grade configuration, Maya Liss had some questions about fifth grade at Memorial, Karen Stackpole had a question about third grade at Memorial, Sherry Adams wrote about the portables at Lyman and Kelly Aingworth wrote about the program and facilities at John Lyman. Mrs. Booth recommended that Mrs. Aingworth serve on the Building Committee and Mr. Moore spoke with her and she is willing to do that. Katie Checko wrote in support of the changes at Brewster School and Laura Francis wrote about the possibility of using space at the high school for a daycare for employees of both Durham and Middlefield as well as the district. Jeff Brewer is a realtor interested in working on Lyman, Danielle Traves is interested in serving on Student Achievement but could not because of her schedule, Allison Sumecki was concerned about the support for the before- and after-school program, Nick Faiella asked about expenses on the athletic programs, Phil Augur commented about football, Jenny Szewczyk commented on before- and after-school care, Ashley Dynderski, Alicia Buontempo and Janet Flewelling were all interested in a before- and after-school care program as was Kate Willett. Henry Bugai wrote about help in applying for some grant funding, Sara Fulmine is interested in the school configuration, Abigail Sedillos from the Conservation Law Foundation filed a Freedom of Information request on DATTCO about a lawsuit they have in Massachusetts and Dominic Paniccia commented about the referendum. Connecticut Valley Education Fund has written to Mr. Moore four times asking the district to have a Trivia Bee group on March 27, 2020. Melissa DiPietro was concerned about Facebook posting and Joel Bugbee wrote about Brewster School enrollment for kindergarten.

Mr. Moore felt that the most important communication they received was from Jamie Varao who is the owner of Dolphin Days. He is interested in partnering with the district in a before- and after-care program. They met with him on Monday and they would like to do a joint program. Meetings will continue over the next few weeks. Dr. Serino explained that Mr. Varao had heard through the grapevine that the district was exploring this issue and stated that they have a waiting list and would like to work

with the district to support the community. They had also heard that BASREP may no longer be available as an option.

Mrs. Booth asked if Dolphin Days doesn't have the available space or the staffing and Dr. Serino stated that they have not gotten that far. Mr. Moore stated that they are very willing to figure out a way to do this. Dr. Serino will share the feedback that was received from parents as well and will update the board at the next meeting.

Mr. Hicks reported that he went to the unified sports last week and felt it was very exciting. Dr. Serino noted that the president of Connecticut Special Olympics was also in attendance and recognized the district for their unified sports program. He asked if the district would be willing to be on a panel to help other districts get their unified sports program going.

Mrs. Petrella ran into someone named Megan who was concerned about the board's authority and also discussed some communication issues.

Mrs. Booth attended some workshops with Christopher Eaves and she liked seeing the kids interact. Dr. Serino added that Mr. Eaves also facilitated a session at the Brewster-Lyman joint faculty meeting.

Mrs. Petrella added that she liked seeing the report from MTA.

Public Comment

Hannah Malcolm thanked the board for bringing up alternative education.

Jesse Schwartz, from Durham, explained that he has two kids at Brewster and his daughter will be going there next year. He appreciated the survey that went out about before- and after-school care. He would like to see some options there, especially with the changes in schools. They will have nobody to get their third grader off the bus because of the time change and would like to see before- and after-care addressed.

Teresa French explained that her son goes to KinderCare in Wallingford and is transported to and from school. She felt that a partnership with Dolphin Days would be a huge feather in the boards' caps. She has been on the waitlist at Dolphin Days for a year and noted that she believes they just don't have the room or staff.

Roger Passavant, from Durham, stated that he and his wife own Rivendell Farm and that he was present on behalf of a young man who was expelled last week. He had sent a package of information to the board members this week. Mr. Passavant felt that the young man was treated unfairly by the administration and would welcome any questions the board has.

Carl Stoup stated that the field house is just the tip of the iceberg and there is plenty of storage available at Korn School. He also wondered about fire suppression at Korn School and Mrs. Neubig explained that Cuginchaug, Strong and Korn schools are all tied together. Mr. Stoup also asked to see different scenarios with associated costs for the next referendum and felt it would give people a lot more information.

Adjournment

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

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

Debi Waz
Alwaz First