

**Revised**

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 7:00 PM remotely.

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

Board members absent: None

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, seconded by Mrs. Geraci, to approve the agenda, as presented.*

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

**Approval of Minutes**

**A. Board of Education regular session meeting - March 11, 2020**

*Dr. Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Geraci, to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2020 regular session meeting, as presented.*

*In favor of approving the minutes of the March 11, 2020 regular session meeting, as presented: Mrs. Booth, 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 - April 1, 2020 at 7:00 PM**

**COVID-19 Planning and Response Update**

The Planning and Response Team met remotely yesterday to review all focus areas, discuss community collaboration and updated information from our Director of Health, the Commissioner of Education and Governor Lamont.

Dr. Serino explained that they are working on educational continuity, with the move from supplemental learning to distance learning. She will share all of the information that went out to parents regarding distance learning. She noted that it is an idea at this point, being well-planned and the resources are all in place. Everyone has put an incredible effort into this.

Dr. Serino noted that they are still looking at June 16<sup>th</sup> as the end-of-school date as well as maintaining April vacation. She reported that, by and large, the majority of schools are still taking their April vacation. Dr. Serino felt that it would be a good time to get feedback from everyone to see what types of adjustments need to be made.

Dr. Serino also reported that the district is keeping people at home and trying to focus on the well-being of staff and students. Support personnel have been reaching out to students and families. Mrs. Neubig added that the district has applied for a waiver with the state to be able to continue lunch service. That is going to be done two days a week, starting Monday with pick-up only at Coginchaug. Participation has been between four and 23 so far. They are also discussing transportation and whether the district will be required to honor the contract as written with Dattco.

Dr. Serino explained that they have been working on memorandums of understanding with each of the bargaining units because the work that people are/will be doing represents a change in working conditions. The most important was with the teachers and Dr. Serino worked closely with Mr. Bradanini, the attorney and the union representative from the state and that was finalized on Friday. They delineated the hours that they expect teachers to be available and online (9:00 to 2:00), the expectations in terms of various forms of technology and feedback and outreach to students. Teacher supervision and evaluation will be waived until further notice.

Mrs. Neubig added that the entire business office is being run remotely. Dr. Serino explained that most districts are electing to pay all bargaining unit members in full until the end of the year. She also stated that they have received a lot of positive feedback.

Mrs. Caramanello stated that the communication has been awesome. Mrs. Petrella added that she has spoken to a teacher from another district and she is amazed at how much our district has accomplished.

Dr. Serino commented that Mr. Fisher's accident has added another dimension of concern for everyone in district. Mrs. Caramanello asked if there was any further information on Mr. Fisher's condition and Dr. Serino stated she would send an update. Dr. Serino explained that Mr. Coutsouridis, former CRHS Director of Bands has offered his services to sub for Mr. Fisher for the remainder of the year. Mr. Moore added that CAFE has a site for the board chairs to communicate and he felt that District 13 is ahead of many other districts.

Mr. Yamartino asked what is happening with employees who are not in a bargaining unit like paras and Dr. Serino explained that the paraprofessionals are in the support staff bargaining unit as are the secretaries. The district does intend to keep those employees "whole" as well as other non-union employees. Mr. Yamartino also asked about students with special education needs and Dr. Serino explained that that is happening simultaneously. New guidelines came out today about meeting the needs of IEPs and Dr. Serino will send out an overview of that. She explained that some of those services are very difficult to do remotely, but they are doing the best they can and are being directed by the state to meet the goals and objectives of students to the greatest extent possible.

Mrs. Booth asked if the district will go until June 30<sup>th</sup> or stick with the regularly-scheduled day and Dr. Serino reiterated that school will end on June 16<sup>th</sup>. They will have to look at high school graduation credits, although standardized testing has been waived. Graduation will not occur as usual if school remains closed. To this point, they have been working on getting distance learning up and running, but will now focus on those other areas. Dr. Serino explained that they have no ideas yet about graduation but will reach out to students and parents.

Dr. Taylor asked if there has been any discussion about repurposing budgetary funds and Mr. Moore explained that they will talk about that. There is the ability to take surplus funds from this year and put them into next year's budget. Dr. Taylor was more concerned about if there was a present need for funds that could be repurposed. Dr. Serino stated that they had just talked about that yesterday and Mrs. DiMaggio had been planning summer school, but they now have to look at that differently.

Mr. Moore thanked Dr. Serino, Mrs. Neubig, Mrs. Keane and Mr. Pietrasko, along with everyone else, who have been working on this effort. Dr. Serino thanked Mr. Pietrasko, Mrs. Neubig, Mrs. Gaudreau and Mr. Croteau in particular.

### **2020-2021 Budget Discussion**

Mr. Moore reviewed that a number of things have occurred due to the Governor's executive order, one of which is that boards of education may adopt their budget without complying with any in-person budget adoption requirements, including district meetings and referendums. There are a number of requirements about information that must go out to the public. Therefore, the board will vote on the budget without going to any public vote and the towns will as well. The April 6<sup>th</sup> public hearing will be canceled. The two towns plan to adopt their budgets by June 8<sup>th</sup> and the district should have theirs adopted by June 1<sup>st</sup>. In the meantime, they will have to figure out ways to get information to the public.

Both towns' selectmen have asked the district to propose a zero budget as they do not want to raise the mill rate on residents who may be without a job. Mr. Moore added that the board will have to look at whether or not they want to move forward with the transitions at Memorial and Strong as well.

Mrs. Neubig added that she has been running various scenarios if the board were to move forward with a zero increase and the best option would be to allocate this year's anticipated surplus and unexpended accounts to balance any shortfall in revenues. She does believe that that can be done, but will need to see how transportation works out. Dattco did put their drivers on unemployment, but has reached out to the district to pay the contract. Mrs. Neubig asked for a breakdown of the invoicing, but has not received that yet. The contract does not call for payment other than for transportation provided and she has confirmed that with the attorney. There has been some conversation in government about having districts pay their transportation contracts. Mrs. Neubig noted that, right now, there is about \$400,000 in unexpended transportation which would bring the proposed budget close to zero for the 2020-2021 year. She did encourage the board to think about what they would be willing to do for the bus company and its drivers, though they would have to bring their employees back if the district were to pay. Mrs. Neubig also noted that some grants may come in lower than expected.

Dr. Taylor asked what scenarios Mrs. Neubig was looking at and she explained that one scenario was what was proposed, the second was to take out the field storage building and the third was without the field storage building and using the surplus. About \$735,000 in surplus would be needed to balance the budget to zero and she felt that was realistic if they didn't have to pay the transportation contract. Dr. Taylor went back to his prior question about resource allocation and was wary about shifting resources to next year to hit zero percent. He wants to be sure that all of the students' needs are being properly addressed before they start shifting money to next year.

Dr. Serino explained that it wasn't until yesterday that they knew that school could be closed until the end of the year. After getting distance learning up and running, they will then look at reallocating funds to more fully address some student needs this year and possibly even reassigning staff for specific support areas. They can then look at any unallocated funds for next year or the year after. They would also then look at proposals that are included in the current budget.

Mr. Moore did not feel that the board was in a position to move ahead on the budget yet and they should evaluate costs to run to the end of this year and what, if any, unexpended funds are needed. He felt that if the target is for a zero budget increase, they would need to look at using surplus and not using surplus.

Dr. Serino added that she knows of families that have gone on free and reduced lunch within a two-week period and that the economic stability of families in the district may be significantly impacted. She added that she believes the district wants to act responsibly while supporting the goals in the proposed budget in this time of no public vote on the budget.

Mr. Moore explained that the \$2 trillion federal relief package that was passed does have money in it for the states, but no one was sure how much that would be and how it will be used. He asked that Mrs. Neubig give them a number of options to get to a zero increase. Dr. Serino explained that they would still need two weeks to notice the public hearing, but felt that the board could take most of April to work through this.

Mr. Yamartino didn't see how they could start discussing budget numbers, with the current situation and all of the unknowns, when they don't fully understand the impact. He felt that they need to be patient and felt that a very conservative approach would be best. Mrs. Geraci agreed with both Mr. Yamartino and Dr. Taylor and felt that the fiscally responsible thing to do would be to wait a week or two to get more information. She also felt that Mr. Pietrasko really didn't need to do his presentation as he's done such a fantastic job. Dr. Serino added that she and Mrs. Neubig really need to take a good look at everything and she needs to hear from administrators and teachers as well. Mr. Moore explained that they will hold a remote public hearing to receive comments.

Dr. Serino explained that she, Mrs. Francis and Mr. Bailey agreed to work together with their tech people to follow a consistent format for disseminating information. Dr. Serino also noted that public comment for this meeting can be submitted by email to Mr. Moore. Mr. Moore stated that he will read all comments into the minutes, but may not respond to everything.

Mr. Moore stated that he has received some letters about the field house and noted that the building committee did not meet. The building committee did find out that it could be between zero and \$400,000+ though they did not have anything to act on and there was no proposal for a smaller unit. He suggested to the building committee that the board act on the \$120,000 in the budget and let the booster clubs raise money for anything inside and everyone agreed to that. Mr. Moore felt that the board would act on that issue separately from the budget.

### **Technology Presentation - Ken Pietrasko**

Mr. Pietrasko reviewed the accomplishments of the IT department over the past year, including Parent Square, TIPWeb and remote management software on all laptops. They have also installed over 400 Chromebooks in the freshman one-to-one program and updated a quarter of each card in Brewster, Lyman and Memorial. They started rostering iReady through ClassLink. Virtual servers have been upgraded and they have implemented the first stages of laptop encryption, at the request of the auditors. Security has been upgraded, including 40 exterior cameras and the exterior of all district buildings are now completely covered. They added a universal cell booster system to all schools. A district-wide password rotation protocol has been started which will lead up to a district-wide protocol which is planned to be implemented during convocation next school year. In the past week, the department readied 300 Chromebooks for at-home learning and have distributed over 200 so far.

The IT department is working to complete the programming of the open-door notification system. The hardware is in place, but the door access control system needs to be updated. This system will notify the front office and SRO if a door is opened that shouldn't have been. They will be installing the visitor

management kiosks. The department will continue with the laptop encryption and to migrate to a unified ticketing system. They continue to do quarterly updates on software. A Google account backup will be implemented. In response to COVID-10, they are adapting support from the IT department to remote.

In support of teaching and learning, there are 1,500 Chromebooks in service with an average repair of 26 Chromebooks per week, 300 employee laptops, 5,700 active user accounts and 200 desktop computers. There are also 150 wireless access points with 32 network switches and 38 servers.

In terms of safety and security, they have implemented laptop encryption and there are redundant server back-ups. There are currently 157 cameras in use, 19 buzz-in stations, a key fob door access control system and the ability to set the building alarm codes for various areas of the buildings.

Mr. Pietrasko reviewed that they are proposing to expand the one-to-one program to include sixth grade as it moves into Strong (an addition of over 100 Chromebooks). They will continue to update the K-5 Chromebooks and they will also update the two network core switches. Some of the wireless access points have reached their end-of-life and will be updated as well. Certain printers also need to be updated and an additional buzz-in station will be added at Strong with handicap access. They are also going to provide a video training for all staff on cyber security.

In the five-year plan, Mr. Pietrasko would like to implement two-factor authentication for email access and bring the VOIP system to all schools which would allow for transferring calls between buildings and forwarding to cell phones. They would like to upgrade the district's data structure to 10G capacity, including running new lines. ID badges would be rotated every two years, changing the color and design. They are also looking at the possibility of an emergency management system.

Mr. Pietrasko would like to propose an IT department reorganization and rebranding for next year. There are currently five members of the IT team and they have increased the Chromebook carts at Memorial to one cart per traditional classroom. There are seven active Chromebook carts at both Brewster and Lyman. All staff laptop hardware has been standardized and the one-to-one program was introduced at Strong a few years ago. The Apple labs were replaced at Brewster and Lyman with wireless Chrome bases and three new security camera recording servers were added. The door security stations have been upgraded and ClassLink has been added. Secure printing has been expanded in all schools and teachers can now lock down a student's Chromebook during class.

With the addition of all the extra security, Mr. Pietrasko would like to rename the department to the Infrastructure and Security Technology Department. He explained that they are in charge of all of the technology in the district and the security that protects it. Mr. Pietrasko reviewed the increased responsibilities that he has had over the past few years. They are adding various other roles to the technology support specialist and would like to rename that position to infrastructure and security office manager. She will take over sharing some of the responsibility of state reporting.

The network systems manager now needs to manage the encryption software, continue to develop and implement group policies, implement better testing methods and continue education on Windows server, network and cyber security.

Mr. Pietrasko would like to add another person to the department to handle some of the network systems manager's responsibilities, including managing and maintaining the servers, the group policy and the wireless network as well as installing projectors and security cameras. The current computer tech is responsible for maintaining every device that is in front of a user and is a liaison with the managed print services as well as assisting everyone in the department and coaching the summer interns. Mr. Pietrasko would like to remove the print management responsibilities from the computer tech and move them to the

new person. No changes are being proposed to the student information specialist position at this time other than cross-training the TSS to take over some of the responsibilities.

The new proposed position is called a systems technician, which will be between the computer tech and the network security manager. Print management, servers and network equipment, group policies, wireless network, projectors and cameras will all be part of their responsibilities. Mr. Pietrasko would like to add the responsibilities of recording the Board of Education and ClassLink administration. He is trying to implement a dedicated Help Desk team of two people.

Mr. Moore commended the department on all of the progress they have made this year and noted that they are always ready to help. Mrs. Petrella was also surprised at the amount of work done by only five people. Dr. Serino also commented on the transformation of the department over the years.

Mr. Yamartino felt that the IT department is a center of excellence and that the two towns could benefit from it as well. He mentioned live-streaming town meetings and wondered if it could all be combined at some point down the road. Dr. Serino noted that she and Mr. Pietrasko have discussed that with Mrs. Francis and Mr. Bailey over the past few years.

### **Communications**

Mr. Moore reported that they have received hundreds of emails from different board chairs and repeated communication with Mrs. Francis and Mr. Bailey, basically about COVID-19. Michelle DiMauro and Nick Faiella have raised issues on the field house.

Mr. Moore also acknowledged the incredible support for Mr. Fisher, with about 500 people donating to Go Fund Me.

Dr. Serino received a phone call today from Henry Coe, who recently lost his wife Loraine, asking about developing a scholarship in her name for a student going into the medical or mechanical field.

Dr. Taylor has received a few comments and questions around video conferencing with teachers. Dr. Serino explained that at this time the Commissioner of Education has recommended that schools not do that, but she will update the board about that.

### **Director of Finance's Report**

Mrs. Neubig noted that she discussed her issues under the budget discussion and she is not ready to give an estimate as of right now.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Moore has not received any emails with public comment as of yet, but they will continue to receive emails for the next 24 hours and enter them into the minutes.

Mr. Moore asked everyone to think carefully about how to disseminate information about the budget and encouraged Mrs. Neubig to send information to the board members as to how to get to a zero budget increase. Mr. Moore will forward the information from the governor regarding public meetings and the budget vote.

Dr. Serino asked about the terms of board members, but there is no definitive answer yet. Mr. Moore felt that they would probably just extend everyone's term until the next time a vote can be held.

**Adjournment**

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

*In favor of adjourning the meeting: Mrs. Booth, 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 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

Debi Waz  
Alwaz First

**Public Comment Received Via Email**

From: **Michelle DiMauro** <>

Date: Tue, Mar 24, 2020 at 10:23 PM

Subject: 2020-2021 budget

To: Robert Moore <[rmoore@rsd13.org](mailto:rmoore@rsd13.org)>, Norm Hicks <[nhicks@rsd13.org](mailto:nhicks@rsd13.org)>, christine geraci <[cgeraci@rsd13.org](mailto:cgeraci@rsd13.org)>, <[mbooth@rsd13.org](mailto:mbooth@rsd13.org)>, Maura Caramanello <[mcaramanello@rsd13.org](mailto:mcaramanello@rsd13.org)>, Victor Friedrich <[vfriedrich@rsd13.org](mailto:vfriedrich@rsd13.org)>, Lucy Petrella <[lpetrella@rsd13.org](mailto:lpetrella@rsd13.org)>, James Roraback <[jroraback@rsd13.org](mailto:jroraback@rsd13.org)>, R Andrew Taylor <[ataylor@rsd13.org](mailto:ataylor@rsd13.org)>, Robert Yamartino <[ryamartino@rsd13.org](mailto:ryamartino@rsd13.org)>, Kathryn Veronesi <[kVeronesi@rsd13.org](mailto:kVeronesi@rsd13.org)>

Good evening,

First and foremost, thank you all for the time and commitment you make as volunteers on the Board of Education particularly during this challenging time. Your efforts are recognized and appreciated. As I write this message, I struggle with BOE members truly understanding my requests to complete the Field Storage Unit. It is not about athletics as many misconstrue, it is be about bringing our community together and completing something that was started over a decade ago. It is about taking pride in our students, staff and *facilities*. It is about putting closure on a very hot topic and being able to move forward. I ask that you please read this correspondence knowing that I have tried to be respectful and thoughtful throughout.

I would like to again request the Board of Education keep the \$120,000 originally proposed in the 2020 - 2021 budget for the cost of a storage facility at CRHS. It is disappointing that at the last BOE meeting, some members were quick to suggest the removal of this nominal amount in a \$30 plus million dollar budget, for completing a project that voters approved to have completed a decade ago. The Board references transparency on numerous occasions. In an effort to be transparent I will reference a number of facts pertaining to the Field House, budget and request continued transparency and clarity pertaining to budget items.

In September 2009, \$25,200 was allocated to develop architectural designs for the Field House. In April 2010, the district settled an appeal at the cost of \$110,000. At that time, Planning and Zoning stipulated

that the bathrooms must be built within 18 months (18 months, December 2011). In August 2010, the district paid \$167,235 for a 4,000 square foot concrete building slab at the site. In 2011-2012, the district paid \$13,750 for architectural designs. January 2012, community members volunteer to raise funds to help the district complete the Field House project. April 2012, the district requested Planning and Zoning for a 24 month extension to complete the Field House project (24 months, April 2014). December 2012, the Field House Building Committee votes to recommend construction of a shell. January 2013, BOE Finance Committee support the recommendation of the Field House committee. There continues to be no definitive timeline regarding completion of the Field House project. To date, the total investment by the district and taxpayers has been **\$316,185**. The exposed fixtures will eventually fail if action is not taken immediately. As a point of reference, the district recently paid \$4,300 to replace an approximate 100 square foot concrete area in front of CRHS. The concrete slab and fixtures at the athletic facility are 10 years old.

The March 2013 NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) report, page 72, states that "Approximately 3,700 participants use the athletic facilities each year. This includes students from Coginchaug, nearby schools, and members of the community." The BOE should be prepared for the upcoming NEASC evaluation, typically every ten years, and determine how it will justify ignoring suggestions and requests to complete of the project for the past 12 years. I encourage the district take advantage of the generosity of community organizations, businesses and athletic boosters who have pledged financial contributions to ensure completion of the project and preserve our initial investment of **\$316,185**. In the event the BOE declines the generosity of its community members, and chooses not to move towards completion of the project, then it is the Board's responsibility to be transparent and inform the public that our initial investment of **\$316,185** will be a total loss.

In reviewing the 2020 - 2021 budget, I would like to suggest the following be reconsidered and/or reviewed.

1. Non-Certified Salaries: Salaries of Non-Certified- Admin Asst: An increase of \$221,339 (Brewster, Lyman, Strong) page 4 or 19
2. Operating Services: Tuition Vo-Ag - Sound School, New Haven, tuition \$6,823 per student, transportation and diesel costs have increased. The district participates and tuitions students to two (2) other ASTE schools that are significantly closer (Lyman Hall High School and Middletown High School) therefore reducing the overall cost of transportation and fuel.
3. In House Tuition: Represents MTA, preschool and China partnership tuition, page 9, increase of 80.22%, \$100,600
4. Dues, Memberships and Fees increased 30.80% or \$23,025
5. Activity Fee and Other: page 9, 60.87%, \$70,000 *decrease* in revenue. Pay to Participate: A decrease in revenue of \$63,912 by elimination of this fee. As suggested in my email dated January 10, 2020, "I am requesting the district earmark 4 or 5 years of the revenue generated by the "Pay to Participate" athletic fees to cover the cost of completing the athletic complex."
6. Supplies - Classroom Supplies: an increase of 15.52% or \$22,603; 2019-2020 \$145,679 to proposed 2020-2021 \$168,282 (page 34 "Increase due to district purchase of student supplies")
7. Supplies - Office Supplies: an increase of 33.82 % \$26,700; 2019-2020 \$78,938 to proposed 2020-2021 \$105,638

Lastly, in regards to transparency and clarity. The following items are included in the budget without much attention and/or discussion other than a brief overview in the February 26, 2020 minutes pertaining to the Alternative Program.

1. Intramural Programs: Cut at both Memorial, \$3,360, page 9 of 19, and Strong, \$4,000, page 14 of 19. Do the minimal savings of dismantling both programs that can assist with supporting our students' social, emotional and overall health justify the minimal savings?



2. Purchased Services: Page 4 of 19 in the proposed budget reflects an increase of \$6,000, 18.02% for Pupil Personnel Admin.; \$37,750, 70.17% for a Psychologist; and \$30,000, 23.09% for Speech Services. These are significant increases for out of district consultants.
3. Proposed Staffing Change, Reductions: page 11, One (1) staff member: 6th Grade Teacher (Memorial); PE/Heath (Memorial); ELA Teacher (Strong) and Business Teacher (CRHS); .4 Science Teacher (CRHS); .1 Math Teacher (CRHS); .5 Social Studies Teacher (CRHS).
4. Coginchaug: Salaries- Certified Staff - Tech Ed 100.50% \$88,061 increase; Guidance -31.82% or decrease of \$107,049, page 16 of 19
5. Special Education: "Representing tuition for students whose needs require highly specialized programming outside the district; decreased by proposed in-house program." Do members of the BOE truly comprehend the impact an Alternative Education program will have at the high school level without the appropriate transition, planning and supports to ensure the students are successful? The program will have an additional "Alternative Education" teacher and *District* BCBA however will be utilizing existing CRHS support staff and administration to address the needs of students with a history of significant behavioral issues. The minutes suggest the BCBA will also be available to assist with addressing/creating behavior plans at other schools in the district. As referenced in the February 26, 2020 minutes, the students in the Alternative program will be getting the "base services needed." The support staff at CRHS is taxed with addressing a number of student needs on a daily basis. How can it be suggested, in good conscience, that there is "room within caseloads to support this program"? The goal of a newly created Alternative Program should be to transition students back to district with an abundance of support to ensure they and the program are successful. In addition, consideration should be given to the current CRHS student population to ensure their needs continue to be addressed.

In closing, I appreciate your continued commitment to RSD13. I wish you all continued good health during this challenging time. Thank you, in advance, for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,  
Michelle DiMauro Murphy

**From:** Michelle DiMauro  
**Date:** March 25, 2020 at 6:51:07 PM EDT  
**To:** Robert Moore <[rmoore@rsd13.org](mailto:rmoore@rsd13.org)>  
**Subject:** public comment  
Good evening,

This is a follow up to the email correspondence forwarded to the BOE and superintendent last night. I again respectfully request the Board of Education maintain the \$120,000 originally proposed in the 2020 - 2021 budget for the cost of a storage facility at CRHS. It is *not* about athletics as many misconstrue, it is be about bringing our community together and completing something that was started over a decade ago. It is about taking pride in our students, staff and *facilities*. It is about putting closure on a very hot topic and being able to move forward. It is about being able to generate additional revenue from Band Competitions, Track Meets, community events such as Walk for Life, etc. Please refer to the email for additional support.

Thank you.  
Michelle DiMauro Murphy

**From:** Michelle DiMauro

**Date:** March 26, 2020 at 8:42:12 AM EDT

**To:** Kathryn Veronesi <[kveronesi@rsd13.org](mailto:kveronesi@rsd13.org)>, Kim Neubig <[kneubig@rsd13.org](mailto:kneubig@rsd13.org)>, Robert Moore <[rmoore@rsd13.org](mailto:rmoore@rsd13.org)>

**Subject:** thank you

Good morning,

I wanted to express my sincere appreciation to you and the BOE for your continued efforts during this unprecedented and challenging time. I listened to last night's meeting, and although the acoustics made it difficult at times, it was evident that everyone is being thoughtful to ensure student needs are being addressed.

As a community we have faced a number of issues this past year; parents passing, health crises, suicides, etc. We have a truly remarkable and resilient community. I am hopeful that we will get through Covid19 healthier and stronger.

I am disappointed that as we move forward and regain momentum after this is over, we will be searching for a new leader to run the district. Kathy, I truly hope you will strongly consider remaining on as Superintendent until a successor is hired. The district will need continued stability and familiarity as we recover.

Please congratulate the IT department on providing our students and staff the tools they need and ensuring we are prepared for Distance Learning next week.

Lastly, I would be happy to volunteer to help the district during this crisis in any manner possible including the assembly and/or distribution of lunches. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to support our families.

Sincerely,  
Michelle

**From:** Heide Pizzo

**Date:** March 26, 2020 at 9:02:28 AM EDT

**To:** [rmoore@rsd13.org](mailto:rmoore@rsd13.org)

**Subject:** Hi

Hi Mr. Moore,

I wanted to thank you for your service. I realize this is a very uncertain time but we are all doing the best we can. I tried to email last night during the meeting but your email link is not working. I called in to the meeting a little later but I did over hear that teachers will not be seeing their students through all of this online learning. I personally think that we should allow that. The students especially the younger ones need that face to face experience. It is also a great support for the parents who may need the support of the teachers with guidance. Thank you.

Best,  
Heide Pizzo