

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the library at Coginchaug Regional High School.

Board members present: Ms. Adams (arrived late), Ms. Betty, Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello (arrived late), Mrs. Dahlheimer, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore (by phone), Mrs. Petrella and Mr. Roraback

Board members absent: Mr. Stone

Administration present: Dr. Schuch, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Neubig, Director of Finance, Mr. Brough, Human Resource Specialist, Mrs. Keane, Director of Student Services and Special Education, and Mrs. DiMaggio, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Mr. Pietrasko, Director of Infrastructure and Security Technology, Mrs. Murray, Principal of Brewster School, and Mr. Ford, Principal of John Lyman School

Guest: Ms. Kavanaugh, CRHS Math Teacher

Mrs. Petrella called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Dr. Schuch asked if item 11A could be moved before the first Public Comment.

*Mrs. Dahlheimer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mennone, to approve the agenda, as amended.*

*In favor of approving the agenda, as amended: Ms. Betty, Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Dahlheimer, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella and Mr. Roraback. Motion carried.*

### **Elementary School Senate Report**

#### **Brewster - Olivia Foell, Cosette (Coco) Morello, Jamie Carr and Kaiya Ayotte**

Mrs. Murray introduced the second-grade students who take part in the Student Senate that was implemented this year. They work with Ms. Chernovetz, a reading interventionist, who worked to develop the program with the grade 2 teachers and students.

Coco Morello thanked the board for inviting them. This year, the Student Senate was started at Brewster and its goals are to build leadership skills, develop core ethical values, strengthen the school community and become active participants in the community. New learners are elected every month by their classroom peers, based on core ethical values of the month. Coco showed kindness as her core ethical value. They meet during lunch and recess time with Ms. Chernovetz and discuss ways to support the community.

Olivia Foell shared that some of the Student Senate's activities included having learners write over 200 letters to veterans in the community, hosting a food drive in November and holding a toy drive during the holiday season which was donated to Yale-New Haven Hospital.

Jamie Carr explained that they were role models in January and showed the school appropriate behavior in the lunchroom. They also wrote thank-you cards to the medical workers from Middlesex Hospital. They also delivered Valentine's cards to veterans at the VA Hospital in West Haven.

Kaiya Ayotte reported that they raised funds for Downs Syndrome, Autism and Apraxia Awareness from March through May by selling bracelets and sent the profits to the three organizations. For Earth Day, they delivered seeds donated by Country Flower Farms to the classrooms for students to plant at home. They learned that giving to the school and community is important and helps them to develop self-confidence, leadership skills and responsibilities toward the community.

**Lyman - Michaela (Kiki) Eddinger, Talia Girgenti, Louisa Grant and Samuel (Sam) Janis**

Mr. Ford welcomed the fourth-grade senators from John Lyman School and introduced Mrs. Howes and Mrs. Abbott, their facilitators.

Kiki Eddinger introduced her fellow senators and explained that they had to write a speech about why they wanted to run for the Senate and why they would make a good senator which needed to be presented to their class. They also made posters and then each classmate voted.

Louisa Grant reported that the Senate surveyed classrooms for Spirit Days and brought the ideas back to Senate meeting and they were voted on. Kids loved the Spirit Days, which included crazy hair day, dressing up for the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school, and also raised funds during those days. On Nature Day, they collected a \$1.00 donation and raised \$100 which was donated to Connecticut Forest and Park Association. The director was so touched by this that he visited a Senate meeting and spoke to them about trails that are in Rockfall. On Nature Day, the students got to go on hikes, draw or create a nature-themed picture and some classes even played games. On Friday, they will celebrate Blanket and Book day and hope to read outside. Louisa felt that Spirit Days make school much more fun and enjoyable.

Sam Janis shared how they do morning announcements. They talk about upcoming events, birthdays and sometimes have mindful moments. They end the announcements with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Talia Girgenti explained that their classmates can come to the senators with problems which they bring back to Senate meetings to figure out the solutions. For example, the recess cart is filled with playground equipment, but some kids have been asking for another football. Another time, a lot of the balls were deflated and the Senate solved the problem by writing a note to Mrs. Holland, the PE teacher, who inflated the balls. Talia explained that it takes a lot of responsibility to solve these problems and help their classmates and community.

**Recognition of CABE Leadership Award recipients - Ariana Eddinger, Hope Giammatteo, Nora O'Connell and Gage Rovelli**

Mrs. Stone explained that she had asked eighth grade teachers to nominate two students who exemplify leadership in the schools and in the community. Ariana Eddinger and Hope Giammatteo were the nominees. They wrote that Ari is a strong academic student and extremely helpful to her teachers and peers. She actively participates in class discussions and works really well in a group setting. At Strong, she is involved in EDGE, Best Buds, Strong Newsletter, Debate Club, Witness Stones and the Generation of Disciples. Outside of school, Ari is involved with the American Heritage Girls, Shoreline Youth Concert Orchestra, Invention Convention and PaperHouse Theater Productions.

Hope Giammatteo is a strong academic student and very kind to her peers. She is organized, participates in classroom discussions and isn't afraid to respond, even if she isn't sure of her answers. At Strong, she is involved in the Witness Stones program and outside of school, she is involved in cross country, softball, basketball, skiing, snowboarding and mountain biking. She is also involved in Girl Scouts and Junior Ski Patrol. Hope has earned several awards for athletics and the Core Ethical Value Kindness Award in grade 7.

Mrs. Stone then went on to note that Gage Rovelli was not able to attend tonight as he is at track and they will celebrate on June 8<sup>th</sup>, but the Coginchaug High School Student Leadership Award was given to Nora O'Connell. Nora was an easy choice for this award because she truly exemplifies what it stands for. She has committed herself to leading the school over the last four years and has used that role to bring about change in the school and community. She has served as president of her class for the last three years as well as president of the Ecology Club. She is a member of the Board of Education Well-Being Committee, Equity Committee and is on the Principal's Advisory Board. She started an initiative to create a local composting program in town and also served as an intern for the Durham-Middlefield Youth and Family Services. Nora also helped develop a local Diversity, Equity and Inclusion campaign in 2021 and volunteers as a stage manager for a student-run local theater group. Her future interests include the medical field and she worked as a lab associate at Wesleyan last summer and was a volunteer at the Cancer Center at Hartford Healthcare in the summer of 2019. She has also earned an overall GPA of 4.52, while taking honors and college-level courses. Nora is an amazing young woman and someone who serves as a role model for those who want to make a difference in the lives of others.

Dr. Schuch noted that Nora O'Connell was one of the first to go through the Reimagining meetings and then came back as a community builder to help others go through it. At the end of the sessions, they do a survey and Nora observed that part of the way the afternoon was structured wasn't working as it did earlier. He implemented her suggestions and it's made a great difference.

Mr. Moore thanked both Nora and Gage for their work on the Well-Being Committee over the past two years. They were the first students to work on the committee and helped lead the district through the pandemic.

### **CRHS Reporters - Nora O'Connell, Logan Palardy and Rebecca Tobin**

Logan was unable to be at tonight's meeting as he is at track.

Nora O'Connell reported that about 40 kids are helping out at the field days at Memorial and Brewster School. Prom was held at Cascade in Hamden for the first time in three years. The Class of 2022's Valedictorian is Gage Rovelli and the Salutatorian is Ava Dell'Orfano. There was a student vs. teacher obstacle course on Monday held by the Global Health class and the money raised went towards people in Honduras. Students of the AP Government class held a voter registration drive yesterday.

Nora also reported that baseball had a very successful season, going 14-6 in the regular season and seeded 8<sup>th</sup> in Class S for states and were seeded 3<sup>rd</sup> in Shorelines but lost to Cromwell. Softball also has a successful season, going 12-6, and seeded 12<sup>th</sup> in Class S for the states. They were seeded 4<sup>th</sup> in Shorelines, but lost in the first-round to fifth seed North Branford. Boys' tennis had six freshmen on the team and senior Zach Brier was supposed to play in the Shorelines, but was chosen to present the torch to start the Special Olympics along with senior Mekhi Watson. Girls' tennis saw sophomore Piper

Remillard successfully defend her Shorelines individual champion title yesterday. The team will start States this Friday. The golf team had a good season, with lots of new players. Senior Paul Murphy tied for first at the Shoreline Championship, shooting a 69 for the co-championship title.

Rebecca Tobin reported that the boys outdoor track team had a very successful season so far and won the Running Rams Invitational on May 13<sup>th</sup>, beating out 24 teams. They are competing in the Shorelines Championship in Old Saybrook today where they hope to win again, after winning the indoor title. The boys' relay team qualified for Nike Nationals this past Friday. Senior Will Dallas is seeded first in Class S for the 800 and nine boys have qualified for States. Girls' outdoor track has also had a very strong season. Sophomore Ali Vigue is seeded one foot above everyone else in Class S States. Junior Katie Farr is projected to win the 400 meters and sophomore Grace Harkins is projected to win the 100 dash at Shorelines. The girls are also competing at the Shorelines Championship in Old Saybrook today.

Rebecca Tobin also reported that the band went to Virginia Beach last week and the choir went to Disney. Both performed and did a workshop as well. The Memorial Day parade is coming up on Monday and the marching band will perform. The final choir concert has been postponed to June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Moore suggested everyone view the YouTube of Rebecca singing at the Jazz concert.

## **New Business**

### **A. Vote to approve geometry textbook request**

Ms. Kavanaugh stated that they are looking to update the Geometry textbooks. They have already updated Algebra I through AP Calculus for honors courses and this is the last piece of that series. This series also has an online component and provides videos as well, along with performance tasks for the teachers. The Math Department had budgeted \$12,000 for this and the textbooks are now quoted at just over \$7,200. They hope to transition the current Geometry Honors textbooks into the Geometry CPA course.

Mr. Roraback asked if there were separate chapters offered online and Ms. Kavanaugh noted that all of the other textbooks do, so they were assuming that Geometry would as well.

*Mrs. Dahlheimer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Booth, to approve the Geometry textbook request.*

*In favor of approving the Geometry textbook request: Ms. Adams, Ms. Betty, Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Mrs. Dahlheimer, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella and Mr. Roraback. Motion carried.*

## **Public Comment - at the beginning of the meeting public comment should refer to items on the agenda**

Henry Bugai, the president of Benchwarmers, reviewed that about a year ago, they started to invest in new scoreboards which are now up and operational. He was here at tonight's meeting to present a check for \$15,000 to the district. Dr. Schuch explained that they were not aware that the check was going to be presented tonight until after the agenda was complete, so they will ask the board to formally accept the donation at the next meeting. The board thanked the Benchwarmers for everything they do.

**Approval of Minutes**

- A. Board of Education District Meeting - May 2, 2022**
- B. Board of Education Special Meeting/Work Session - May 10, 2022**

*Mr. Mennone made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Booth, to approve the minutes of the District Meeting on May 2, 2022 and the Special Meeting/Work Session on May 10, 2022, as presented.*

*In favor of approving the minutes of the District Meeting on May 2, 2022 and the Special Meeting/Work Session on May 10, 2022, as presented: Ms. Adams, Ms. Betty, Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Mrs. Dahlheimer, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella and Mr. Roraback. Motion carried.*

**Committee Reports**

- A. Student Achievement Committee Meeting - May 25, 2022**

Mrs. Dahlheimer reported that the committee met just before this meeting and discussed some new high school courses as well as performance tasks at the high school and middle school. Courses include a new bridge program and an African American, Black and Puerto Rican Latino Studies course which will require extensive training for the Social Studies teacher. SERC wrote the curriculum for it and that class is state-mandated. They also discussed minimums for class sizes. They also reviewed English electives.

Mr. Roraback reported that Meg Kavanaugh gave a presentation of the performance tasks that have been integrated into the math program at all levels. They involve a lot of thinking on your feet and the relevancy of math in everyday life. Mrs. Dahlheimer asked that Mrs. DiMaggio send Mrs. Kavanaugh's presentation to the full board. Mrs. Petrella asked that the new courses also be sent to board members. Mrs. DiMaggio added that they will send the program of studies as well.

Mrs. Dahlheimer also reported that people have been asking for test scores and Mrs. DiMaggio explained that test results will be presented in the fall, when SBAC scores, NGSS and SAT scores are all available. They hope to focus on those standardized tests vs. the internal scores. Dr. Schuch also felt they will work to capture other measures that are also important to people besides test scores.

Mrs. DiMaggio felt there are many ways to show accountability, not just through standardized tests scores, and looking at the big picture of the entire district. She gave examples of how many students are in performing arts and how many students participate in sports programs which are important in addition to academic performance. Ms. Adams added that the growth piece is very important as well. Mr. Mennone asked if there were standards that have to be met in growth and what is being done to get the learners there.

Mrs. Petrella added that listening to the students who spoke tonight also shows what is being done and what the children are being exposed to.

### Superintendent's Report

Dr. Schuch stated that they deliberately did not mention the Texas school shooting at the beginning of the meeting tonight when all of the children were here, but noted that their hearts go out to the families and community there. He applauded the district's team because today was not an easy day for anyone. Dr. Schuch felt that it makes them more vigilant in reviewing the safety and security protocols that are in place and he applauded the district for what currently exists. The second piece of this is for everyone to step up and say something when they suspect something is happening. Dr. Schuch is disturbed to hear that the perpetrators are 18 years old and it's hard to imagine any of the children here doing something like that. He felt that the transformation needs to be much more relational to help prevent these things.

Dr. Schuch also thanked Trooper Hesseltine, the SRO, who asked for additional troopers to be present at our schools today which was reassuring to both staff and families. They will continue to make safety and security a top priority, but also felt that unless they are prepared to turn the schools into essentially prisons or secure government facilities, schools will always be vulnerable to these types of attacks. Dr. Schuch is on the side of let's be safe and vigilant, but continue to support school activities, like recess and outdoor activities. He felt it was everyone's collective responsibility to say something if they see something. He hoped parents will be having conversations with their children.

Dr. Schuch thanked the board and staff for the recent work on the budget. He felt that it was an acknowledgement that they heard the community and hoped that more people will vote in the future. Mrs. Dahlheimer added that she was at the polls all day and, while the budget passed, it was very close and people are not happy. Ms. Adams added that people were unhappy with the process, not so much the budget numbers. Mr. Roraback heard the complaint about the information sheet that was put out for the second referendum and hoped they do a better job next time. Mrs. Dahlheimer added that she had asked for a reminder to be sent out through Parent Square, but Dr. Schuch was told they could not do that. He also mentioned that the enrollment shift to Middlefield may have impacted some of the thinking and that the field house issue divided people in the community. Dr. Schuch would be open to any suggestions about how to improve the process.

Mrs. Petrella mentioned that there hasn't been a second budget referendum in at least six years and she did think that the revised budget was on the District's website as well as the individual towns' website. She also mentioned that all of the budget discussions were videotaped and available for people to listen to. Dr. Schuch was very pleased to be where they are today and they are now able to move forward.

Dr. Schuch reminded everyone that they will recognize the district's retirees at the next board meeting and, as of today, Mrs. DiMaggio has been added to that list. Dr. Schuch thanked Mrs. DiMaggio for all of her time and efforts.

Dr. Schuch stated that there had been several policies to vote on tonight, but they will be sending them out for the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Dr. Schuch then distributed folders to the board members and explained that, at the next meeting, they will ask to have a fall calendar approved for the Board of Education and Board of Education committees. Looking at state statutes, there is a rule that says that a board needs to adopt a calendar by January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year even though the district's fiscal year starts in July. Dr. Schuch doesn't feel that that allows for much flexibility. Currently, committee meetings are scheduled for the full year and many don't actually

happen. They met with Mrs. Petrella and Mrs. Dahlheimer and everyone agreed to adopt a calendar to get through December and then adopt a calendar in December for all of 2023.

Looking at the folders he distributed, Dr. Schuch reviewed that there is a fall 2022 Board of Education meeting schedule with six meetings listed and a Committee meeting schedule as well. Finance and Building Committees are not included in that schedule and happen as needed. Dr. Schuch proposed a new fall schedule, with all start times at 6:00 PM, with a work session, if needed. On the proposed committee meeting schedule, he has listed only the Policy Committee because he felt that all of the other committees could be done away with and dealt with in work sessions or a district advisory set-up. Dr. Schuch felt that there is a lot of policy work that can be done during the year and those meetings have been scheduled in between regular board meetings.

Dr. Schuch explained that they now have six action teams and hoped to bring an update from one or more of those teams to the full board during the work sessions. These action teams have many more stakeholders involved. Dr. Schuch felt that this would help reduce the number of meetings, audio recordings and minutes involved.

Dr. Schuch explained that the board does not have to choose between what they have always done and what he has suggested. He felt that this is the future to aim for, but reminded everyone that the first calendar is only for six months.

Mrs. Dahlheimer wanted to be sure that the public that are currently on committees would still be included. Dr. Schuch agreed that that is important, but also asked everyone to consider the different dynamic between people who go through the Reimagining orientation and then choose to join one or more teams vs. people who are appointed and/or invited to be part of a committee. He prefers an opt-in for community members as he felt that they care and want to be there. He reminded everyone that the action teams actively meet.

Ms. Adams asked Mr. Moore for his input on why the committees were originally designed and stated that she felt that the purpose of the committees was not to bring other stakeholders in, but to have board members do work around certain things. Mr. Moore felt that the committees were initiated five years ago to develop plans and programs for the rest of the board to deal with. A few years ago, Mr. Yamartino had suggested more people get involved in the work of the board and passed a policy change to have up to two people on every committee, except for Personnel and Policy. He reiterated that people have made a commitment to work on these committees without being board members. Mr. Moore does have concerns about doing away with some of the committees because he believes they give an opportunity for people to have discussion. He felt that it's very hard for the public to have length discussions with the board and felt that the Utilization issues, in particular, will be very complicated and require a lot of input. Mr. Moore reminded everyone there will be some structural things coming up in the near future.

Mr. Moore added that the Policy Committee did evaluate about 40 percent of the policies in 2019-2020 and amended them. Ms. Adams noted that District 13 is the only board in the state that has people outside the board on committees. She agreed that Policy is completely a board function. Mrs. Dahlheimer noted that Dr. Schuch presented these options so that the board could take them back and digest them. Dr. Schuch felt that an active working committee would have an agenda for the year and some of the committee meetings have felt forced. He added that these committee meetings also demand a lot of staff time.

Dr. Schuch also felt that there should be serious consideration, given new legislation, to make all committee meetings virtual which would also allow the ability to broadcast the meetings. Mr. Roraback thought that the state had said they need to meet in person. Ms. Adams explained that the legislature has allowed virtual meetings to continue, but FOI is not happy about that.

Mrs. Petrella felt that they were at the point now to decide what the board wants to do with the committees. She asked everyone to think about it and discuss it further at the next meeting. Dr. Schuch felt that if they did committee work in work sessions, it would not require special meeting notices. He asked everyone to think about what should remain as a committee, what can be done in a work session and what can go away or be done through Reimagining.

Ms. Adams asked why the calendar wasn't adopted in January, per state statute, and Dr. Schuch explained that there was so much uncertainty at that time. The attorneys explained that the statute was not designed for a district with a fiscal year like this one. Mrs. Petrella also mentioned that they vote on board officers in July and that may need to be changed as well. Ms. Adams suggested they reach out to CABA for ideas.

Mrs. Petrella asked if committee meetings being scheduled throughout buildings in the district was intentional and Dr. Schuch stated that that is how they are currently listed, even though they have not followed that since COVID. Mr. Pietrasko also thought that the full board meetings used to be at different schools, but that stopped due to live streaming and having to move the equipment.

Mrs. Petrella also suggested having an additional retreat sometime between August and October to talk about goals and directions. Mr. Roraback felt that would be good time for beginning budget discussions as well. Mrs. Dahlheimer reported that she spoke with Powder Ridge and they would be open to having a retreat there.

Mrs. Caramanello stated that she has never been a huge fan of committees and felt that they were very time-consuming. She agrees that it takes a massive amount of staff time and does agree that the board needs to find a way to make discussions much more concise and productive. She likes the idea of work sessions. As a board member, she doesn't feel they are very cohesive when they are not all at the committee meetings. Mrs. Caramanello felt that committees don't work for most board members unless they have a ton of available time and wished that it happened more as a cohesive unit.

Mr. Roraback felt that the spirit of volunteerism will wane if it is too much of a burden. Mrs. Caramanello added that people who are so involved in the committees will not give more time to Reimagining Education. Mr. Mennone agreed, but did feel that there are some that need to stay. He would rather stay an extra hour when they are all together. Mrs. Caramanello did not have the time to have meetings just to sit and talk, without following an agenda.

Mrs. Petrella felt that Student Achievement is a board goal and should be reported directly to the board and as much of the community as possible. She felt that that should become part of the board meeting agendas. With regard to Building and Finance Committees, she felt they should be kept separate. Utilization might be a committee that stays intact, especially with the upcoming reconfiguration. She also felt that Policy should remain as a committee.



Mrs. Petrella felt that the board is a well-oiled machine and everyone has their own thoughts and opinions. As far as community members and students being part of committees, Mrs. Petrella wondered if they could join work sessions.

Mrs. Dahlheimer asked if the Well-Being Committee could become more of a community conversation. She explained that a couple of districts have community conversations as issues come up and a few board members attend them. She thought that there may be times when the need for a standalone committee is not necessary. Mr. Mennone asked why those issues couldn't be discussed as part of a full board meeting, though it would make for very long meetings.

Mrs. Petrella felt that they needed to look at Well-Being and what its purpose is and how it will go forward. Dr. Schuch noted that he had an Advisory team in his last district that had stakeholders from all groups and that was the place to have hard conversations. Those meetings were not open to the community. He did note, however, that he couldn't ethically launch that type of group with all the other competing committees and groups.

Mrs. Caramanella noted that she was the first chair of the Well-Being Committee and it was Dr. Veronesi who developed the agendas, but it somehow became her responsibility to do. Mrs. Dahlheimer felt that sometimes staff was put in a position where they didn't know what topics would be discussed and she didn't like to see them put on the spot. Mr. Mennone added that people have stated that a problem has been going on for years with no specific examples. He emphasized that they need to do something productive and not just keep having discussions.

Mr. Moore reviewed that the board established four goals several years ago, including Student Achievement, Finance, Engagement and Well-Being. The Well-Being Committee was established as the outreach program in order to create an avenue for the board to evaluate what was going on in the community, in the classrooms and with the teachers. They spent the first couple of years talking about how to deal with COVID issues. With the racial issues, these committee meetings give an opportunity for discussions. He does believe that the agenda should be how things are going and what can be done about them. He apologized to Mrs. Caramanella if she felt she didn't have more direction.

Mrs. Caramanella felt that it put some board members and staff in a touchy situation where they felt they needed to respond on behalf of the entire board. Ms. Adams agreed that history is important, but drawing the distinction between having a conversation and having things come out of a board committee is important. Ms. Adams also stressed that there are certainly things that board members cannot know.

Dr. Schuch cautioned everyone about having continuing conversations with the whole board via email that could be viewed as a meeting.

Mrs. Keane added that with regard to the Well-Being Committee, they also have a district climate committee that meets twice a year and school climate committees that meet quarterly, but what they talk about has not been aligned with the Well-Being Committee and has never been reported out at the Board of Education. Mrs. Keane did admit that some of the information is confidential, but she felt that there was a way that it could be reported.

Ms. Adams reiterated that the public feels like nothing is being done, but things are certainly happening on the ground and should be highlighted. Mr. Mennone felt that they should be informed when individual incidents occur and then discuss them.

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

Mrs. Neubig reported that the USDA has offered waivers for free lunch for the past few years that also included an escalated reimbursement rate. There was a bill in Congress to extend the waivers for another year, but that did not pass and the state budget did not address it directly, however, \$30 million from the state ARPA funds was set aside to help districts. The intent and the use of the funds has not yet been communicated to districts. The food service account is going to struggle to pay for supplies with the expiration of the waivers as well as inflation and supply chain issues. Mrs. Neubig is hoping to have more information from the state by the next meeting, but if the state is not going to provide help, the board will need to consider raising lunch prices or to allocate funds to supplement the food service revenue. Lunch prices were last raised 50 cents in 2016. With the escalated reimbursement rates, they have been able to build up the lunch program account, but they also have aged equipment that needs to be replaced and would like to use those funds to reinvest in the program by replacing outdated or non-functioning capital items.

Mrs. Booth asked to confirm that the free lunch program will be stopping and Mrs. Neubig explained that that program stops on June 30<sup>th</sup>. They also applied for a food service equipment grant, but did not receive anything.

Mr. Roraback explained that they need to produce appealing food, especially at the high school, and that is very challenging to do. He also felt that food can be a way to retain students at the high school. Mrs. Neubig added that they do not have to participate in the National School Lunch program and would then not be held to the nutrition standards, but it would very expensive to do and there would be no reimbursements.

### **New Business**

#### **B. Vote to approve CRHS field trip request to Costa Rica**

Mrs. Petrella explained that the trip will be on February 15, 2023.

*Mrs. Dahlheimer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mennone, to approve the CRHS field trip request to Costa Rica.*

Mrs. Dahlheimer asked if this trip has happened before, but no one recalls it happening. Mr. Moore stated that it happened probably five years ago. Mrs. Booth noted that the request is for three days, but the brochure states that it's eight days. This will be a Spanish field trip. Mrs. Petrella explained that the students will only miss three days from school. Mrs. Caramanello asked if the other language classes did trips anywhere and Ms. Adams reviewed that Mrs. Horn started these trips and they've been to Mexico and Puerto Rico. Mr. Mennone felt it would be a great educational experience.

*In favor of approving the CRHS field trip request to Costa Rica: Ms. Adams, Ms. Betty, Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Mrs. Dahlheimer, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella and Mr. Roraback. Motion carried.*

Mrs. Dahlheimer would like to know how many kids in the class will not be able to afford to go on the trip. Mrs. Caramanello asked if there was money available for the kids who cannot afford it and Mrs. Petrella stated that the request states that no funding is available for kids who cannot pay. Dr. Schuch will try to provide that information. Mr. Mennone suggested they do some fund-raising for these types of trips. Several people asked who would pay for the chaperones to go on the trip.

**C. Pension Committee membership discussion**

Mrs. Neubig explained that three members are needed for the Pension Committee that meets twice a year. Mrs. Neubig has one two-year term and two one-year terms open. The membership is open to community members as well. Mr. Mennone volunteered to serve the two-year term and Mrs. Petrella promised to get some names to Mrs. Neubig by the end of the week.

**Communications**

Mrs. Petrella has received emails from Nick Faiella and Christine Geraci about the budget. Donia Viola asked about missing minutes for the May 11, 2022 meeting. Katie Checko asked about bus routes for next year which she referred to Mrs. Neubig. There were two other communications, but Mrs. Petrella will address them at the next meeting.

**Next Board Meeting - June 8, 2022 at 7:00 PM**

**Public Comment**

None.

**Anticipated Executive Session**

**A. Discuss superintendent's evaluation**

*Mrs. Dahlheimer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mennone, to go into Executive Session to discuss the superintendent's evaluation.*

*In favor of going into Executive Session to discuss the superintendent's evaluation: Ms. Adams, Ms. Betty, Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Mrs. Dahlheimer, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella and Mr. Roraback. Motion carried.*

**Adjournment**

*Mrs. Dahlheimer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mennone, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education.*

*In favor of adjourning the regular meeting of the Board of Education: Ms. Adams, Ms. Betty, Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Mrs. Dahlheimer, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella and Mr. Roraback.  
Motion carried.*

Meeting was adjourned at 11:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

Debi Waz  
Alwaz First