

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in special session on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 at 6:00 PM in the library at Coginchaug Regional High School.

Board members present: Ms. Betty (by phone), Mrs. Caramanello, Mrs. Dahlheimer, Dr. Darcy, Mr. Moore (by phone), Mr. Roraback, Mrs. Roy and Mr. Stone (by phone)

Board members absent: Mr. Mennone and Mrs. Petrella

Administration present: Dr. Schuch, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Pietrasko, Director of Infrastructure and Security Technology, Mrs. Quarato, Associate Director of Learning, Innovation and Development, Mr. Ford, Principal of Lyman School, Mrs. Durkin, Principal of Memorial School and Mrs. Winkler, Program Coordinator of Middlesex Transition Academy

Mrs. Dahlheimer called the special meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Roraback made a motion, seconded by Dr. Darcy, to approve the agenda, as presented.

In favor of approving the agenda, as presented: Ms. Betty, Mrs. Caramanello, Mrs. Dahlheimer, Dr. Darcy, Mr. Moore, Mr. Roraback, Mrs. Roy and Mr. Stone. Motion carried.

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

A. In-person public comment

Donia Viola, from Durham, asked the board to allow members to share their thoughts to questions, concerns and regular issues raised during the course of Board of Ed meetings. Communication has been too restrained over the past few years and she asked them to remember that all sitting members were elected to help establish and ensure fair and proper representation for any and all participants.

B. Remote public comment

None.

Discussion and possible action directing the Superintendent to prepare a draft communications protocol for the August Regular meeting

Mrs. Dahlheimer felt it was important that they make expectations clear in matters in the interest of the board. These issues affect how the board makes policy and how the Superintendent implements the policies. She felt it was important that everyone is on the same page and protocols are in place and asked for a motion for such.

Dr. Darcy made a motion, seconded by Ms. Betty, to direct the Superintendent to prepare a draft communications protocol for the August regular meeting.

Dr. Darcy felt that it was important to explain why this is needed and offer objectives. She felt that they need to be explicit about what type of communications they are referring to. Mrs. Dahlheimer felt that it would be written and verbal communication between the Board and the Superintendent or anyone concerned with those matters. She felt it would be oversight over knowing what happens when someone asks a question. Mrs. Dahlheimer gave an example of when a board member asks a question, how that communication gets back to that board member as well as the rest of the board.

Mr. Moore had the same question as Dr. Darcy and Mrs. Dahlheimer clarified that this communication is between the board and the Superintendent, not with the public, administrators or teachers. Dr. Darcy asked if that includes the content as well, as in what the board has a right to know from Central Office. Mrs. Dahlheimer felt that was a gray area and is more of an oversight discussion.

Dr. Schuch appreciated the clarification and felt that this would have to be consistent with existing policy and laws, but may lead to a conversation in the Policy committee. He added that a lot of boards have communications protocols that are embedded in other protocols. He will limit his draft for communications between Board and the Superintendent for now.

Mrs. Dahlheimer felt that if further clarification is needed, it would be under the scope of the Policy committee.

In favor of directing the Superintendent to prepare a draft communications protocol for the August regular meeting: Ms. Betty, Mrs. Caramanello, Mrs. Dahlheimer, Dr. Darcy, Mr. Moore, Mr. Roraback, Mrs. Roy and Mr. Stone. Motion carried.

Discussion and possible action directing the Policy Committee to draft and recommend a new policy on Board Oversight Responsibilities

Mrs. Dahlheimer felt that this would be the first step for the Policy committee. She reviewed that the board members are elected by the community and it's a role they need to take seriously. She felt they can't really be successful unless they know the boundaries of their role in oversight as well as the Superintendent's.

Dr. Darcy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stone, to direct the Policy Committee to draft and recommend a new policy on Board Oversight Responsibilities.

Dr. Darcy felt that the committee will do some research, have discussion and then bring it to the board for review.

Dr. Schuch asked if the board would want this added to the Policy Committee meeting for next week and noted that it is already a pretty full agenda. Mrs. Dahlheimer felt that it should be addressed at the next meeting.

Mr. Moore asked if Mrs. Dahlheimer had any information that might be helpful and she explained that she had policies from Region 17 and Westbrook as well as some information from CAFE and the state which she will forward to the Policy Committee.

Mr. Stone felt it would be a good thing to be able to tell the public what the board is responsible for.

In favor of directing the Policy Committee to draft and recommend a new policy on Board Oversight Responsibilities: Ms. Betty, Mrs. Caramanello, Mrs. Dahlheimer, Dr. Darcy, Mr. Moore, Mr. Roraback, Mrs. Roy and Mr. Stone. Motion carried.

Public Comment

- A. In-person public comment**
- B. Remote public comment**

None.

Adjournment

Dr. Darcy made a motion to adjourn the special meeting of the Board of Education.

In favor of adjourning the special meeting of the Board of Education: Ms. Betty, Mrs. Caramanello, Mrs. Dahlheimer, Dr. Darcy, Mr. Moore, Mr. Roraback, Mrs. Roy and Mr. Stone. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

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