

The Regional District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, January 9, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the music room at Korn School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currlin, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Dr. Shoemaker. Also present: Mrs. Viccaro, Mr. Melnik.

Mr. Hennick called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

There was a moment of silence for two District teachers who had recently passed away, Zilla Gordon and Jaime Leclerc.

There was no public comment.

Next Board Meeting: The next Board of Education meeting is January 23, 2008 at John Lyman School.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Flanagan the agenda was unanimously approved.

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion, second Mrs. Golschneider to approve the minutes to the December 12, 2007 Board of Education meeting. Dr. Shoemaker, Mrs. Golschneider, Ms. Gara, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Hennick, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Adams, Dr. Ochterski, Mr. Currlin voted yes. Mr. Hicks abstained.

Communications: Mrs. Golschneider attended Brewster's first grade winter concert and said it was wonderful. She also heard from a former teacher who asked if it was possible to provide lunch in the summer for students who receive free and reduced lunch during the school year. Mrs. Viccaro will look into it.

Mr. Hennick stated many Board members attended the CRHS concert.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro and the Board members received a letter from Rich Hanley on behalf of the Strong PTO. They encourage the Board to upgrade the CRHS media center to be web based.

Mrs. Viccaro stated there are twelve staff members retiring at the end of this school year and she would like to advertise for their positions at the end of January as anticipated openings. The Board said that will be fine.

Beth Galligan received a thank you letter from Amazing Grace for all the students who participated in the Community Roundup. 17,000 food items were donated.

Mrs. Viccaro gave the Board members the following article: Surviving in the Information Age.

The Commissioner of Education is hosting listening tours to hear from superintendents and Board of Education members about the Secondary School Reform. She encouraged the Board members to attend one of the sessions.

Governor Rell has introduced on-line courses for high school students. Mrs. Luckenbach is looking into this program to find out the quality of the courses. The Curriculum Committee will be discussing this program at their next meeting.

Mrs. Luckenbach has received a differentiated instruction grant. This grant will be used to train the administrators from Memorial and Strong schools and two teachers from each school on differentiated instruction.

Mrs. Viccaro gave a letter to the Board members from CAGE and CAPSS regarding the Yankee Institute.

Mrs. Viccaro stated BASREP sent a letter to her on December 21, 2007 stating they will not be accepting any more students dropped off at BASREP if there is no one home waiting for them. Mrs. Viccaro stated students who have no one waiting for them at home will now be brought back to their home school. Someone will be at the school to wait with the student until he/she is picked up.

Pupil Personnel – Amy Emory: Mrs. Emory stated there are 20 indicators for compliance points that have to be met for each student in special education. The student has to show progress toward these data points and meet each one 100% to move on. It is an incredible amount of reporting and record keeping needed on each student. If the District is not in compliance there are several steps that may need to be taken.

Ann Malin, Coordinator for the Transition Program at Wesleyan, gave a presentation. This program helps students with disabilities aged 18-21 transition to an age appropriate environment after high school. Students go to classrooms at Wesleyan where they are with their peers and they learn living skills, health and safety skills, social skills, vocational skills and how to use public transportation. After they are 21 they transition to work. This program has been very successful and has grown over the 4 years it has been in existence. It is open to other districts that pay tuition to District 13 to participate in the program.

Board Retreat: Mrs. Viccaro said it would be helpful to have another retreat to discuss the budget. The items would include the budget format that is presented to the public, the presentation at the hearing and the Building Committee. Mrs. Viccaro will email the Board with dates to get everyone's availability for a meeting.

Building Committee: Mr. Currlin reported the Board needs to adopt a resolution stating the charge of the committee and approving the members of the Building Committee and Mr. Currlin as Chair and Ms. Gara as Vice Chair. A copy of the resolution is included with these minutes.

On a motion by Mr. Currlin, second Mr. Hicks, the Board of Education unanimously adopted the resolution for the Building Committee as received.

Mr. Melnik stated there were two pending items that will be completed in the future.

Mr. Currlin stated the committee is preparing a program statement that shows what the committee is planning. It will include the track and fields, tennis courts, and roofs and wells that need to be replaced at three buildings.

Finance Committee: Ms. Parsons reported the committee received the final audit and there were no changes from the draft audit they received.

On a motion by Mr. Parsons, second Dr. Shoemaker, the Board of Education unanimously approved the Regional District 13 Audit for the year ending June 30, 2007.

Ms. Parsons stated the payroll and warrants are slightly better and the receipts are coming in as estimated. The Superintendent has frozen the budget for the year.

Policy Committee: Mr. Hicks reported the committee discussed the Student Discipline Policy, a new Restraint and Seclusion Law, Community Relations Policy and the Grading Policy. The Grading Policy issue will be referred to the high school administration; the other items will be discussed again at future policy committee meetings.

Transportation Committee: Dr. Ochterski reported the committee met with representatives from Dattco who discussed their hiring practice. Their procedure is more stringent than the State guidelines. The committee felt that Dattco's hiring practice was very thorough.

The committee heard a report from the Building and Grounds Committee that visited the DMIABB site for the bus depot. Things are still progressing. The site will be at the top of the DMIABB property. There will be another meeting to continue the discussion of having the bus depot at this site.

Personnel Policies: Mrs. Flanagan reported negotiations continue with the teachers' union. They are going to arbitration. The first meeting will be held on Friday, January 11th.

Mrs. Flanagan stated the committee also met with custodial union representatives to discuss a grievance. Under the terms of the custodial contract there was no basis to issue the payment requested. The vacation payment wasn't accrued because the person was not employed by District 13 at the beginning of the school year. The committee recommends denying the request.

Mrs. Flanagan made a motion, second Mrs. Adams, to deny the grievance submitted to the Personnel Policies Committee. Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Adams, Dr. Ochterski, Mr. Currin, Ms. Gara, Mrs. Golschneider, Dr. Shoemaker, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Hennick voted yes. Mr. Hicks abstained.

Magnet School: Mr. Hicks reported the state reimbursement for students attending the magnet school has increased to \$6016 per student for participating districts other than Meriden. Currently the magnet school is running with a budget deficit. They are looking for the Commissioner of Education to help them out. There are still not running at full enrollment capacity. District 13 started with 40 seats and then reduced that to 30. The number of District 13 students attending the magnet school has never gone beyond 22 students. It is recommended that when the agreement is revised the District only requests 20 seats. Mr. Hicks reported Wallingford is very interested in joining the magnet school. The Districts involved are Meriden, Middletown and District 13. This is Madison's last year to be a part of the magnet school.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Adams, the Board of Education moved into executive session to discuss Legal Issues Involving a Student.

The Board moved into open session.

On a motion by Dr. Shoemaker, second Mrs. Golschneider, the Board of Education unanimously approved to adjourn.