

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, November 12, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the library media center at the Coginchaug Regional High School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams (arrived 7:40), Mr. Currin, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks (arrived 8:05), Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons. Absent: Mrs. Boyle. Also present: Mr. Melnik, Mrs. Viccaro.

Mr. Hennick called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

Public Comment: Mr. Currin introduced Stephanie Wilcox to the Board. Ms. Wilcox is the new correspondent from the Town Times and a former graduate of Coginchaug Regional High School.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held at Memorial School on December 10, 2008.

On a motion by Mr. Currin, second by Mrs. Golschneider the Board of Education unanimously approved the agenda.

Mrs. Flanagan made a motion, second by Mr. Currin to accept the minutes of the meeting of October 22, 2008. Mr. Currin, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hennick, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons voted yes. Mrs. Golschneider abstained.

Communications: Mrs. Golschneider attended the Korn Elementary Schools annual Halloween Parade. Mr. Hennick wanted to make the Board aware of Brewster School PTA's auction Saturday, November 15, 2008 and that the PTA is still looking for donations for the auction. Mr. Hennick attended the State Art Show that took place in Hartford at the State Capitol where several Regional School District 13 students had art displayed. Mr. Hennick also attended a dinner where Andre Hauser was awarded the Connecticut Assistant Principal of the Year Award.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro introduced Rich Fielding to the Board. Mr. Fielding is the IT Director for Regional School District 13.

Mrs. Viccaro attended the State Art Show that took place in Hartford at the State Capitol and was impressed by the art work of the RSD 13 students.

Mrs. Viccaro attended the local Chamber of commerce meeting regarding affordable housing. She was shocked to learn that 40% of teachers currently teaching are over 50.

Mrs. Viccaro attended the Italian Cabaret night, the SHED conference and workshop held at Coginchaug highlighting poetry and writing, a web seminar on bullying and the craft fair held at Coginchaug Regional High School.

Mrs. Viccaro was happy to learn that 400 of the 600 students recently attended the Homecoming Dance.

Mrs. Viccaro is looking to put together a logo committee to work on obtaining a new logo for Regional School District 13.

Mrs. Viccaro wanted to publicly thank Eileen Bengston, Payroll and Employee Benefits Coordinator for organizing the District's first ever Wellness Fair. Several local health and wellness vendors were on hand to offer information to those who attended. Over 100 flu shots were given to employees of the District and the fair was a huge success.

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Office of the Town Clerk

Presentations: Mr. Currilin presented the Friends of Education award to the Garden Club for all the hard work they have done at the schools over the years especially the work they did in the court yard at the High School. Several members of the Garden Club were in attendance to accept the award. Dr. Wysowski commented on how the students at Coginchaug truly appreciate and are very protective of their court yard and how it gives the students a sense of pride.

Strategic School Profiles: Mrs. Viccaro highlighted several points she found interesting in the District Profile which is available on the State of Connecticut website. Mrs. Adams had questions regarding hours of instruction. Mrs. Viccaro explained that several parts of a student's day are not incorporated in totaling hours of instructions such as X Block and lunch periods. Mrs. Golschneider wondered what the trend was looking like for students who are working because of the current economic times. Mrs. Golscheider also wanted to know if there was any new data on all day kindergarten. Mrs. Viccaro said she will see if see can obtain this information. Mrs. Flannigan wanted to publicly commend the faculty and administration for the quality of instruction students of Regional School District 13 receive.

Coginchaug Regional High School: Dr. Steve Wysowski presented the Coginchaug Regional High School's Site Plan to the Board. Detailed information on this five year plan is located on the Coginchaug Regional High School's web site. Dr. Wysowski pointed out that the school's web site is continually updated and that the daily announcements are also posted. Ms. Gara suggested that the high school find a way to reintroduce the website to parents and make them aware of all the information they can find on it. Dr. Wysowski agreed and will find a way to make that happen. Ms. Gara also asked if there was a way to find out what students are not involved in any activities. Dr. Wysowski said that there was and that they are looking into coordinating new activities for those students to get them involved.

Committee Reports:

Policy Committee:

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second by Mrs. Adams the Board of Education unanimously approved the Employee Use of District's Computer System Policy.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second by Mr. Currilin the Board of Education unanimously approved the Honor Society Policy 6145.6.

Other Committee Reports: Mr. Currilin informed the Board that the softball dugout and baseball storage building was approved by Durham Planning and Zoning.

Magnet School:

Mr. Hicks reported the Magnet School committee met last Wednesday, November 5, 2008 and reviewed the CMT test results. He also discussed the number of committed placements at the Thomas Edison Magnet School.

On a motion by Mr. Hennick, second Mr. Currilin the Board moved into executive session. They moved back into regular session.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mr. Currilin the Board of Education meeting unanimously adjourned.