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Board of Education

Regional District 13

January 14, 2009

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the music room at the Korn School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams (arrived 8:05), Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons. Absent: Mr. Curlin, Mrs. Golschneider
Also present: Mr. Melnik, Mrs. Viccaro.

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

Public Comment: There was no Public Comment.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held at Lyman School on January 28, 2009.

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

Ms. Gara made a motion, second by Mrs. Boyle to accept the minutes of the meeting of December 10, 2008. Mrs. Boyle, Ms. Gara, Ms. Parsons and Dr. Ochterski voted yes. Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Hennick and Mr. Hicks abstained.

Communications: Mr. Hicks and Mrs. Boyle attended WFSB Channel 3 “Cool Schools” at Cuginchaug Regional High School on January 9, 2009. Mr. Hicks commented on the amazing job Principal Wysowski & Assistant Principal Hauser did in organizing the event. Mrs. Boyle wanted to also acknowledge the wonderful job the Cuginchaug Cafeteria staff did in preparing the food for the event. Both Mr. Hicks and Mrs. Boyle were thrilled to witness the level of enthusiasm and school spirit the student body and faculty had and felt that the event showcased Cuginchaug.

Superintendent’s Report: Mrs. Viccaro showed the Board members a 15 minute DVD highlighting the “Cool Schools” Event that took place on January 9, 2009. She pointed out that the Cuginchaug student body nominated their school to be a “Cool School”. She also noted what a fantastic job Principal Wysowski & Assistant Principal Hauser did in organizing the event. Mrs. Viccaro said that all but 5 faculty members were in attendance.

Mrs. Viccaro received a letter from Shipman and Goodwin stating that they enjoyed working with District 13 and will not be increasing rates for the coming year.

Mrs. Viccaro received good news that the Transportation Grant was \$14,338.00 above anticipated.

Mrs. Viccaro shared an email from Kevin Brough, Principal of Memorial School regarding Grade 6’s Word Master Team making it to the Nationals. Principal Brough personally acknowledged Sam Peters for receiving a perfect score in the meet.

Mrs. Viccaro met with 1st Selectman Laura Francis and CCM Staff member Andy Merola to discuss potential energy savings.

Mrs. Viccaro met with 1st Selectman Laura Francis and Jon Brayshaw to discuss moving forward to inform the community on ways to save tax dollars.

Mrs. Viccaro updated the Board on questions from a prior meeting regarding the Thomas Edison Magnet School Partnership Agreement. She stated that the seat allocation for District 13 was 30. She went on to inform the Board that District 13 is currently using 17 of those seats but paying for 22. Mrs. Viccaro said it would be possible to offer the excess seats to another partner school. Mrs. Viccaro said that District 13

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could renegotiate the number of seats the District wanted to be tied to but informed the Board that the Magnet School would need 1 year notice prior to June 30th of the current year for this change to take affect. Mr. Hicks stated that the City of Meriden is discussing enrollment again for the Thomas Edison Magnet School and would very much like for District 13 to keep all its 30 seats. Mrs. Flanagan wanted to know if the District was doing all it could to promote the Magnet School and wondered if an article in the Town Times might boost interest or possibly doing an orientation with the District's 5 grade students at the Magnet School.

Mrs. Viccaro informed the Board that she and Rob Francis met with 1st Selectman Laura Francis and Frances Willett regarding the Town of Durham's interest in moving its Emergency Shelter from Strong Middle School to Coginchaug Regional High School. The Town would pay \$45,000.00 towards the move and the Town of Durham engineers would look into implementing improvements to Pickett Lane.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second by Mrs. Flanagan the Board of Education unanimously approved to move the Emergency Shelter from Strong Middle School to Coginchaug Regional High School.

Presentations:

Korn School: Principal Laurie Sinder opened by explaining to the Board how technology is changing the way teachers teach students. In attendance were faculty members Jenny Lussier- Library Media; Mr. Bill Kurtz - Technology Integration Specialist; Noelle Durkin - Grade 4 Teacher; Marjorie Bruch – Grade 3 Teacher; and Nancy Cavanaugh - Grade 4 Special Education Teacher. The staff members demonstrated to the Board how they use the "MIMEO" an interactive whiteboard portable unit; the "SMARTBOARD" interactive whiteboard stand alone unit; the "ELMO" a real time video presenter and the "Comic Life" software. Each teacher raved about how these new teaching tools help them motivate students by taking normal everyday teaching and recreating it in a fun interactive way for students to be more hands on and creative.

New Business:

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second by Mrs. Flanagan the Board of Education unanimously approved the 2009-2010 School Calendar.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second by Mrs. Flanagan the Board of Education unanimously approved to amend the agenda to include Ed Specs for Wells at Memorial, Lyman and Brewster.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second by Mrs. Flanagan the Board of Education unanimously approved the Ed Specs for Roofs at Memorial and Lyman.

On a motion by Mrs. Adams, second by Ms. Parsons the Board of Education unanimously approved the Ed Specs for Wells at Memorial, Lyman and Brewster.

Committee Reports:

Building/Transportation Committee:

Mr. Hennick said that the Transportation Committee met on January 13, 2009. The committee received the Transportation Report which was put together by Mark Walsh from Transportation Advisory Services. Mr. Hennick found the report to be thorough and asked that the Board members review the report for discussion at the next Board meeting. Mr. Melnik pointed out that the Transportation Report has recommendations that will have to go before the Policy Committee.

Policy Committee:

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Mr. Hicks reported that the Policy Committee met on January 14, 2009 and felt that a review of the Policy Manual is due. The last time the Policy Manual was reviewed was 6 years ago and it took 3 years to put together. Gwen Zittoun of Shipman and Goodwin was in attendance. Mr. Hicks told the Board that Ms. Zittoun could be hired on as a consultant to review all of our policies. The flat rate fee for this service would be \$2,500.00 for 1 year with the annual fee of \$500.00 being waived for the first 2 years of service. This would give the District full access to all of Shipman and Goodwin's Model Policy Files which would include all State guidelines. The Policy Committee was in favor of hiring Ms. Zittoun. Mrs. Adams questioned the costs and suggested looking at CAFE to see where they were on price and if the policy information they had was comparable to that of Shipman and Goodwin. Mr. Hennick suggested this be put on the agenda for the next Board of Education Meeting and then put to a vote.

Mr. Hicks said that the Committee also discussed the Policy on Bullying; Technology Acceptable Use Policy for Students; Graduation Competency Wording Change; and a proposed change in copies of records policy to include a charge for copies of transcripts.

On a motion by Mr. Hennick, second Mr. Hicks the Board of Education moved into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. They moved back into regular session.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Adams the Board of Education unanimously approved to adjourn.