

Draft

Board of Education

Regional District 13

February 13, 2008

The Regional District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, February 13, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the library at Coginchaug Regional High School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currin, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Dr. Shoemaker. Absent: Ms. Gara. Also present: Mrs. Viccaro, Mr. Melnik.

Mr. Hennick called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

There was no public comment.

Next Board Meeting: The next Board of Education meeting will be February 27, 2008 at Coginchaug Regional High School.

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

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion, second Mrs. Flanagan, to approve the minutes to the January 23, 2008 Board of Education meeting. Dr. Shoemaker, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Ochterski, Mr. Currin, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Hennick voted yes, Mrs. Golschneider, Mrs. Adams abstained.

Communications: Mrs. Golschneider attended the winter concerts at Memorial and Strong schools. She said the level of performance at both schools was amazing.

Mr. Hicks attended two of the secondary school reform meetings by the State Department of Education. Many questions were asked and there was a reporting secretary there who recorded what was said. It was mentioned that the cost for this program has not been estimated yet.

Mrs. Viccaro has received a letter from the music department at the high school that would like the trip to England/Ireland for April 2009 that the Board approved be postponed until the following year. The letter states 2009 is the year for a big band trip. The trips at the high school are supposed to be on a rotating schedule to give everyone a chance to participate in the trips and not have students needing to decide which one to go on. Mrs. Viccaro stated she would discuss this with the Board later on the agenda.

Mr. Hennick stated several Board members attended the National Honor Society Induction that was very well done.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro reported she attended the Shoreline Superintendents' luncheon honoring the Superintendents' award recipients. Regional District 13's recipients are Vanessa Ball and Deven Comen. They will be presented to the Board at the March 12 Board meeting with the District's Teacher of the Year Betsy Bascom.

Mrs. Viccaro attended Brewster's Math Night. Twenty to thirty students from Strong School and the high school run the activities that the Brewster students participate in. The students all have a lot of fun.

Mrs. Viccaro served spaghetti at the Exchange Club dinner. The majority of the proceeds will be going to help fund the track at the high school and the playground at Brewster School.

The Local Wellness Council will be presenting a program on March 27 for parents called "The Stranger You Know". It is about child abuse.

Mrs. Viccaro stated the music department is requesting the England/Ireland trip be postponed for another year so the music department trip can be scheduled. The music department trips are to attend competitions and be adjudicated. Mr. Pulino has already received eight registrations for the trip. There are a couple of students who would like to go on both trips.

The Board decided this is not a Board issue because it does not involve a Board policy, it is a school policy and should be handled by the school administration and Mrs. Viccaro. If the issue is not resolved and a policy needs to be developed it can come back to the Board.

Business Manager's Report: Mr. Melnik reported DMIABB has approved having the bus depot on their property if they have final approval of the design. The proposal needs to go to the other boards in the towns. It was also mentioned the Board legal counsel will review the proposal as well because the District will not own the land. The land is owned by DMIABB and the Board would like to have all issues regarding this proposal be addressed.

The Transportation Committee will be meeting on February 25 to discuss the depot. Representatives from Dattco and Brian Curtis will be attending the meeting.

The State Department will be auditing the Strong School project on March 18th.

The Board asked Mr. Melnik to get information about fund balance options. Mr. Melnik stated any excess from the budget at the end of the year is returned to the towns. This is done by the fund balance which puts money back into the next year's budget or a capital reserve fund is created. The Board will discuss this later on the agenda.

Mark Basil, Food Director, has revised the lunch menu at the high school to include a sandwich section, fresh grill section and salad bar. Both students and staff have enjoyed the changes. He will continue to improve the menus at the other schools.

Interdisciplinary Writing: Teaching Goes New School: Kris Nystrom and Melissa Frey, English teachers at the high school, gave a presentation on how teaching writing has changed. It is not only taught in English but across all the disciplines. Things have changed significantly over the years and both colleges and businesses communicate more through the internet and email than with paper copies. Students are already doing this in their lives outside of the school and the school needs to keep up with the new information age. The English classes at the high school have paperless classrooms where student writing is done on the computer. Compositions are submitted and corrected through computer programs and the teacher also has the ability to make comments and suggestions on the student's work. Students are also learning about blogging and the how to be safe using the internet. They are also learning about creating a web page.

Math Curriculum: Mrs. Luckenbach stated the math curriculum revision started in 2005-06. The District needed to be responsive to the questions asked on the CMT. Substantial revisions were made to the K-8 math curriculum and it was piloted in 2006-07. It was finalized during the summer of 2007. The high school is continuing to revise their courses. The high school is also monitoring the secondary school reform proposal being done by the Commissioner of Education to see what impact that will have on their curriculum.

On a motion by Mrs. Golschneider, second Mrs. Adams, the Board of Education unanimously approved the K-8 math curriculum revision.

Resolution on Reserve Capital Fund: This fund would be at the rate of 1% of the budget for each year. The Board would need to identify what the money will be used for and it can only be used specifically for those items. This fund will need to be part of the budget discussion each year.

On a motion by Mrs. Golschneider, second Mrs. Adams, the Board of Education unanimously approved the following resolution to establish a reserve fund for capital and non recurring expenditures: Be it resolved, that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-51(d), a reserve fund entitled "Reserve Fund for Capital and Nonrecurring Expenditures" is hereby established.

Public Hearing Notice for the Building Project: The Board discussed the public hearing date for the building projects that include wells at Brewster, John Lyman and Memorial schools; metal roofs at John Lyman and Memorial schools; track and field facilities at CRHS; tennis courts at CRHS; a field at Strong School; and a new parking area and access road for the track and field facilities at CRHS. The Board would like to have the public hearing before they begin their budget discussions. The referendum this year would have two questions: one regarding the budget and the other regarding the building project. It was mentioned that after the public hearing if the public would like additional information or more discussion on the building project an informational night can be scheduled.

Mr. Hicks read the notice of the public hearing. A copy is included with these minutes.

On a motion by Mr. Currin, second Mrs. Golschneider, the Board of Education unanimously approved holding the Public Hearing on the wells at Brewster, John Lyman and Memorial schools; metal roofs at John Lyman and Memorial schools; track and field facilities at CRHS; tennis courts at CRHS; a field at Strong School; and a new parking area and access road for the track and field facilities at CRHS on February 27, 2008 in the Julian Thayer Auditorium at Coginchaug Regional High School at 8:00pm.

Policy Committee: Mr. Hicks reported the committee has discussed the Student Discipline Policy and revisions will be brought to the Board at a later date as well as a new policy on Restraint and Seclusion.

The committee is also working on a policy on commercial advertising. They will discuss this policy at their next meeting in April.

Magnet School: The magnet school steering committee unanimously approved a 3.81% budget that will be sent to ACES for approval. This budget would save the District \$14,000.

Personnel Policies: Mrs. Flanagan reported the teachers' contract is in arbitration. The arbitration hearing was February 4 and the panel has twenty days to render a decision.

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