Received: September 17 2014
3:28pm
Office of the Town Clerk

Board of Education Regional District 13 September 10, 2014

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, September 10, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the library/media center at Memorial School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Also present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Melnik, Business Manager.

Mrs. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. after it was determined that a quorum was present.

Pledge of Allegiance
Mrs. Flanagan led the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment
Julienne Cassarino of Durham commented on the positive experiences she has had with Regional School District #13. Ms. Cassarino referred to the recent study by the American Academy of Pediatrics recommending that middle and high schools delay the start of class to 8:30 a.m. or later. Ms. Cassarino made 3 recommendations: 1.) Make this proposal part of the utilization study, 2.) Get the word out about the proposal and work collaboratively on it, 3.) Make contact with research universities for data.

Michael Doyle of Durham commended the BOE and the administrative team. He would like the Board to be aware that there are competitive salaries in surrounding areas and that we keep the administrative team we presently have.

Martin French of Durham also commented on compensation for the District's administration. He commended Dr. Veronesi in her effort to make connections with students in our District.

Denise Brennan of Durham thanked the Board for their dedication and effort in hiring excellent candidates for the District's administrative team. She agreed with Mr. Doyle and Mr. French that the Board needs to be mindful of competitive wages.

Next Board Meeting
October 8, 2014 at John Lyman School
The Educational Resources Committee of the Board will meet on September 17, 2014 at Korn School.

Approval of Agenda
Mr. Hicks moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mrs. Adams seconded the motion.

Mr. Fulton stated that with the cancellation of the executive session, discussion should take place.

Mr. Fulton moved that item VII E be removed from the agenda. Mrs. Adams seconded the motion.

The Board of Education unanimously approved the agenda as amended. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes of August 25, 2014
Dr. Friedrich moved to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2014 minutes. Mr. Renninghoff seconded the motion.

Discussion took place regarding a change to what Mrs. Fronc had stated regarding the superintendent's evaluation process. Mrs. Fronc stated the minutes were correct. Mr. Renninghoff stated that under 6. Communications he received an email and not a phone call from a parent.

In favor of the minutes as amended: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo.

Abstained from voting: Mrs. Boyle Motion passed.

Communications
Mr. Hicks attended the Chamber meeting on September 10, 2014 along with Coginchaug Principal Brian Falcone and Mrs. Shoudy, Transition Counselor at Coginchaug Regional High School.

Mrs. Buckheit has attended 2 open houses in the District this fall. She stated that they were fabulous, up beat and there was positive discussion about Common Core.

Mrs. Boyle thanked Dr. Veronesi for her updated messages that are most informative and helpful.

Mrs. Fronc advised the Board that approximately 80 students were participating in Cross Country at Strong this fall. She also mentioned that there are great opportunities available for athletes in our District.

Mrs. Flanagan encouraged everyone to go onto the District website under Board of Education for updated information.

New Business
A. Friends of Education Awards
Friends of Education Awards were presented to Bailey the Reading Dog and Nancy Winship-Poole, The Durham Pharmacy, Durham Fitness, Durham Market, Durham Co-op and Barbara Infeld. Dr. Veronesi expressed the District's appreciation and gratitude to each of these recipients for the time they take to make a positive impact on the students in District 13.

B. 10 Year Pin
10 Year Pin for her dedication to the Board of Education was presented to Mrs. Adams.

A brief recess was called for refreshments for the recipients of the awards.

C. Music Field Trip Request – April 9-13, 2015
Mrs. Adams moved to approve the request for the Festivals of Music, Norfolk/VA Beach, VA field trip from April 9 -13, 2015 for music students grades 9 – 12. Mr. Fulton seconded the motion. The Board of Education unanimously approved the music field trip request.

Mrs. Fronc asked if fundraising would be taking place so all students could attend. Mr. Falcone verified that fundraising was in place and that POPS would also be involved.

D. Discussion of 2014- 2015 Meeting Schedule
Mrs. Flanagan asked Board members to review the BOE Meeting Schedule and let her know of any additions or changes that need to be made. Mrs. Flanagan has been in contact with Mr. Hennick regarding changing full board meetings to committee meetings and the proper channel for posting these meetings.

Business Manager's Report
Mr. Melnik reported that the roof at Brewster School is over 20 years old and needs to be replaced. Sample materials are currently at the lab to test for the presence of any hazardous material. The lab report should be available sometime next week.

Mr. Melnik reported that the Flu Clinic for employees of District 13 as well as employees of the

towns of Durham and Middlefield will take place on Oct. 2, 2014.

Mr. Melnik has been approached regarding a donation of property on Tuttle Rd. near Brewster School. Mr. Melnik has been in touch with Geoff Colegrove from the Town of Durham. Mr. Melnik stated we are presently investigating a use for the parcel of land and will provide the Board with additional information at a later date.

Discussion took place regarding running a sidewalk to Strong School from the bridge at Allyn Brook. The cost would be approximately $22,100.00 and money would come from Capital Reserve not the General Fund. Mr. Melnik stated without a sidewalk it is a safety issue for students heading to Allyn Brook from Strong School.
Mrs. Flanagan urged Board members to consider the sidewalk project, as it is a safety issue for students and community members.

Dr. Onofreo moved that the sidewalk along Pickett Lane between Strong School and Allyn Brook be approved. Mr. Renninghoff seconded the motion. The Board of Education unanimously approved the sidewalk request.

Mrs. Adams asked the timeframe of the project. Mr. Melnik stated within the next 30 -45 days.

Superintendent's Report
Dr. Veronesi stated the opening of school this year was very smooth. She commended all district employees for their attention to detail and communication.

Office of Civil Rights Compliance Review – Dr. Veronesi reported that a committee is creating a corrective action plan to make the high school in compliance. A few of the items being reviewed are making the auditorium handicap accessible, specifically the control panel area in the back of the auditorium, the width of drinking fountains, and differentiating the sidewalk from the road for someone who is blind. This project should take approximately two years to complete.

Mrs. Adams questioned the availability of state funding. Dr. Veronesi and Mr. Melnik said they would look into it.

Dr. Veronesi presented an update on the security grant due next week. Mr. Melnik has compiled a list of previously completed projects totaling $91,000.00. Increasing signage, acquiring more security cameras, and hardware for doors are items that are being looked at. Also, safety drills are on the calendar for each school.

Dr. Veronesi is planning an event showcasing technology by students and staff to involve our senior citizens.

Presentation
Student Achievement
Dr. Berry presented an overview of major purposes of assessment at the building and District level. Dr. Berry reviewed the traditional categories of assessment, formative assessment that is ongoing and very critical to student learning and summative assessments.

Dr. Berry handed out the 2014-2015 assessment calendar outlining when assessment would take place during the school year.

Mrs. Flanagan commended Dr. Berry on her presentation and stated the importance of tools being in place as they move into the budget process. Communication is the key.

Committee Reports
Educational Resources Committee
Update on RSD13 Pension Plan
Mr. Fulton reported that Merrill Lynch who manages funds for Defined Benefits plans for municipalities is withdrawing from the business. Mr. Fulton stated that he is working on a plan and there should not be any concern in the distribution of checks.

Policy Committee
Mr. Hicks reported that the committee met on Monday and completed the 9000 series. The paperwork will be available at the next Board meeting and voting will take place at the meeting following that.

Utilization Committee
The committee focused on assessing physical attributes of buildings to help frame where the resources are necessary to bring buildings to efficiency. Mrs. Flanagan urged Board members to read the updates on the website.

Public Comment
No public comment

Follow Up
- Interface with calendar
- Student achievement folder developed
- Bus for Cross Country at middle school
- Fundraising at High School
- Selection for review
- Common Core questions
- Students taking multiple AP classes

Adjournment
Dr. Friedrich moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 p.m. Mr. Renninghoff seconded the motion. The Board of Education unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Maureen Johnson