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AMENDED 01/14/15

Board of Education Regional District 13 December 10, 2014

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, December 10, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the library at Coginchaug Regional High School, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, CT. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Buckheit (7:45), Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Also present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools. Absent: Mrs. Boyle and Mr. Hicks.

Chairperson Mrs. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. after it was determined that a quorum was present.

Pledge of Allegiance
Dr. Friedrich led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment
None

Next Board Meeting
January 14, 2015, at Memorial Middle School.

Approval of Agenda
Mr. Renninghoff moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Fulton seconded the motion. Mrs. Flanagan asked that the vote on the Administrators' contract be added to the agenda. Discussion took place. Mrs. Adams moved to amend the agenda to include the vote on the Administrators' Contract. In favor of the amended agenda: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, and Dr. Onofreo. Opposed: Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed. The vote on the Administrators' Contract was added to the agenda under Student Achievement, item B.

Approval of Minutes of November 12, 2014
Mrs. Adams moved to approve the minutes of November 12, 2014. Mr. Fulton seconded the motion.

In favor of the minutes: Mrs. Adams, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, and Mr. Renninghoff. Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Fronc, and Dr. Onofreo abstained. Motion passed.

Communications

None

CRHS Student Report
Kelly Halligan and Jeremy Cannon, seniors at Coginchaug Regional High School updated the Board on events taking place at CRHS. Their presentation informed the Board of homecoming events and the Thanksgiving Day football game. Also reported was the recent Fall sports banquet and various awards given to Coginchaug athletes. A video was shown highlighting the Seniors' Washington trip.

Superintendent Award Students
Dr. Veronesi congratulated Erin Smith and Christian Alberico as the 2014 -2015 recipients of the Superintendent Award. Dr. Veronesi commended each student on their achievements during their time at the high school. Erin Smith was able to attend the meeting and be recognized by the BOE. Christian Alberico was unable to attend due to a track meet.

Business Manager's Report
In his absence, Dr. Veronesi reported to the Board for Mr. Melnik.

- Security Update – Mr. Francis worked with Francis Willett to create a numbering system for the doors. Work should begin within the next few weeks.
- We are anticipating a check from the state for our safety and security grant. Once the confirming letter is received from the state we will apply for reimbursement funds for the work already done and new work will begin.
- Pension committee met on November 17, 2014. Mr. Fulton addressed the group and welcomed them. Mr. Melnik reviewed roles and responsibilities, elected officers, and scheduled the next meeting.

Superintendent's Report
Mrs. Adams, Dr. Friedrich, and Dr. Veronesi attended the CAPSS/CABE conference in the middle of November. The theme was Courageous Leadership Teams. Dr. Veronesi provided the Board with a summary of the events including the keynote address provided by Pahi Sahlberg describing reasons for the success of Finnish schools.

Dr. Veronesi has requested information for a few educational consulting firms to examine programming, in particular the educational services looking at increased special education effectiveness and accountability. Dr. Veronesi will have specifics at the January Board meeting.

Dr. Veronesi also taking a look at energy audits to reduce our electricity use.

Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, and Dr. Veronesi met this week to begin using the Lighthouse frame work to create board action steps associated with the district goals.

Dr. Veronesi stated that her administrative team is into the budget process. She has asked each administrator to prioritize items.

New Business:
Donation to CRHS Music Department
Mrs. Fronc moved to approve to accept a generous donation in the amount of $10,000 from an anonymous donor to the Coginchaug Regional High School Music Department. Mr. Renninghoff seconded the motion.

In favor of accepting the donation: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, and Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff.

Draft Calendar
A draft of the 2015-2016 school calendar was distributed to Board members for their review. Discussion took place regarding the state common calendar. Vote on the calendar will take place at the January 14, 2015 meeting,

Student Achievement
Mr. Falcone, Principal of Coginchaug Regional High School provided the Board with an update on the NEASC process at the high school. Mr. Falcone stated that he has reestablished a follow up committee, reintroduced the faculty to the process, and created a timeline to complete the recommendations NEASC has made. The Board commended Mr. Falcone on the work he has already accomplishment and his commitment to complete the remaining recommendations from NEASC.

Vote on Administrative Contract
Mrs. Flanagan provided the Board with the details of the Administrators' contract and stated it

was a fair agreement. The contract was ratified on December 8, 2014 and copies will be available for Board members.

Mr. Fulton moved to approve the Administrators' contract as presented. Mrs. Adams seconded it. In favor of accepting the Administrators' contract: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, and Dr. Onofreo. Opposed: Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Committee Reports
Utilization Committee
Mr. Fulton stated that the DRA report will be posted on the District's website and that copies will be available in the town halls and at the town libraries. Mr. Fulton reviewed the report briefly.

Educational Resources Committee
Mr. Fulton updated the Board on the Brewster roof project, the defined benefit pension plan, and the presentation by Blum Shapiro on the Financial Statement 06/30/2014.

Mr. Fulton recommended that the Board accept the financial reports as presented by Blum Shapiro.

Mr. Renninghoff moved to accept the Financial Statement 06/30/2014. Dr. Friedrich seconded the motion.

In favor of accepting the Financial Statement 06/30/2014: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Mrs. Fronc, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Public Comment
Mrs. Buckheit spoke as a parent of a first grader at John Lyman School. She stated how excited she was with the program at Lyman School. She is a supporter of Common Core and wanted to provide the Board with positive feedback regarding Common Core.

Follow Up
- Dr. Veronesi to look into why football players cannot participate in their senior trip.

Adjournment
Mr. Renninghoff moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. Mr. Fulton seconded. In favor of adjourning the meeting: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Dr. Onofreo and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted

Maureen Johnson