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Board of Education Regional District 13 March 18, 2015

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in the library at Strong Middle School, 191 Main St., Durham, CT. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton (7:50 p.m.), Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff.
Absent: Mrs. Buckheit
Also present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools

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

Pledge of Allegiance
Students from Coginchaug Regional High School led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment
There was no public comment.

Next Board Meeting
March 25, 2015 at Coginchaug Regional High School following the Brewster Roof Public Hearing scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda
Mr. Hicks moved to approve the agenda. Dr. Onofreo seconded.

In favor of approving the agenda: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes of March 11, 2015
Mr. Renninghoff moved to approve the minutes of March 11, 2015. Dr. Onofreo seconded.

In favor of approving the minutes of March11, 2015: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Mrs. Flanagan abstained.

Communications
Mrs. Flanagan asked Board members to summarize any written correspondence they receive or if they feel it necessary they should a forward copy to other Board members.

Mr. Renninghoff stated that two Middlefield residents contacted him regarding the hiring of a SRO. Both residents were against hiring a SRO.

Mrs. Flanagan announced that the Coginchaug Regional High School Scholarship Fund Social and Silent Auction will take place on Friday, March 27, 2015. A flyer was handed out to Board members.

CRHS Student Report
Naomi Rinaldo and Jeremy Cannon provided the Board with an update of events at CRHS. Naomi stated it was amazing attending the Chamber event with John McCain. Naomi also reported that some students from the Coginchaug girls basketball team were invited on March 17 to a Chamber Breakfast featuring Geno Auriemma as the keynote speaker. Jeremy reported that Mr. Coginchaug was a successful event again. Other events reported were the winter sports banquet, the semi-formal, the cycling club and the trip to Virginia Beach. At the end of their presentation they passed the torch to 3 members of the junior class who will provide the CRHS Student Report next school

year. Larissa Cade, Taylor Marino, and Matthew Sawicki introduced themselves to the Board.

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

- The cost to date for snow removal is $88,889.00
- There was no solar credit for the month of February
- The 90,000 gallons of prepaid heating oil has been used

Superintendent's Report
Dr. Veronesi commended the Board by stating they were the smartest most hard working Board she has worked with. In celebration of Board of Education Appreciation Month Dr. Veronesi presented the Board with formal notecards and cupcakes.

The Educational Services Analysis began today. A draft of the report will be available in May.

Dr. Veronesi attended a meeting and is part of the committee to look at the report on Sandy Hook.

New Business
Class of 2016 Washington D.C. Field Trip Request
Mr. Bradanini provided the Board with an itinerary of the Washington, D. C. trip

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the Class of 2016 Washington, D. C. field trip request as presented by Mr. Bradanini. Mrs. Fronc seconded.

In favor of approving the Class of 2016 Washington, D.C. field trip request: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

2015-2016 School Budget
Review of Technology Budget
During his presentation entitled "Tech Stuff" Mr. Fielding outlined what the technology department has done this year, what still needs to be done, and what is coming up for next year in District 13.

Mrs. Boyle asked if there were any parent pushbacks going to Chromebooks. Mr. Fielding stated there were none. Both the student and parent needed to sign an agreement form to take responsibility for the Chromebook before the Chromebook was issued to them. The student also had the opportunity to purchase insurance. All but two students purchased insurance for their Chromebook.

Mrs. Boyle also inquired about the proposed Tech Support position. Mr. Fielding reviewed the chart of jobs at Central Office and explained that his job entails a lot of paperwork that an administrative assistant could handle for him. Such paperwork includes inventory control, reporting to the State and purchase orders to name a few.

Mrs. Fronc asked what qualifications would be needed for this position. Mr. Fielding stated the person would need to be detail oriented, have a high degree of understanding of technology, and be a well-rounded person. The tech support person would be a facilitator of a process that is already in place.

Mrs. Boyle was asked by a community member if the position could be outplaced. Mrs. Boyle stated that after seeing Mr. Fielding's presentation she believes the position could not be outplaced.

Mr. Fielding thanked the Board for their continued support to his work in District 13.

Budget Discussion

Dr. Veronesi wanted to revisit the proposal for a Human Resource position at Central Office. The responsibilities of the staff at Central Office have increased due to state reporting, changes in insurance, pensions, and legislation. Audit risk assessments must be met and efficiency is important. In reviewing the chart of jobs at Central Office job responsibilities would be reorganized. Dr. Veronesi wanted to be clear that the receptionist position will be .8 and will be hired at an entry level.

Dr. Veronesi also stated that the proposal for a School Resource Officer has been modified. Dr. Veronesi stated that we need to pay attention to the mental health area, and safety and security.

Mrs. Fronc asked if some of the $10,000 could be directed to professional development. Dr. Veronesi is still exploring how money could be put towards professional development, training, and outreach.

Mrs. Boyle asked for details on the $25,000 for the State Police officer. Dr. Veronesi stated that we are not writing out a check to Troop F but looking for someone to assist her on making decisions regarding safety and security issues.

Mrs. Fronc stated she would like to see a drug prevention program in grades 7 – 12.

Mrs. Flanagan asked if there were any other questions. There being none the Board proceeded to the next agenda item.

Finalize Budget for Public Hearing
Mr. Hicks moved to approve to go to the Public Hearing on the 2015-2016 Regional District 13 education budget on April 8, 2015 with a total gross budget of $37,868,015.

In favor of approving to go to Public Hearing: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Mr. Hicks moved to approve to hold a referendum on the 2015-2016 Regional District 13 education budget on May 5, 2015 preceded by a District Meeting to be held on May 4, 2015.

In favor of approving to go to referendum: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Committee Reports.
Student Achievement Committee
Mrs. Adams was grateful to the staff at Coginchaug who were willing to step up and take courses to provide additional AP classes at the high school.

Mrs. Adams also had a concern that the committee work is not where it should be however they are still addressing it Mrs. Boyle added that Dr. Berry should be commended for the work she has done.

Utilization Committee
Mr. Fulton reported that the committee is working on alternative uses for Korn School and leasing options.

Educational Resources Committee
Mr. Fulton stated the Brewster School Roof Resolution has been approved by Planning and Zoning.

Other Committee Reports
Mr. Hicks stated that TEMS did not meet this week. He will keep the Board updated on the partnership agreement proposal.

Public Comment
There was no public comment.

Follow Up
- Mr. Fielding to prepare a chart of the Tech Dept.
- Mr. Fielding to update District website

Adjournment
Mr. Hicks moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. Mrs. Boyle seconded.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Johnson