

Board of Education

Regional District 13

April 8, 2015

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 in the library at Coginchaug Regional High School, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, CT at 7:30 p.m. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle (8:10 p.m.), Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks (7:50 p.m.), Dr. Onofreo and Mr. Renninghoff.

Absent: Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Fronc

Also present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools, 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.

Public Comment

Mrs. Viola of Durham referred to the minutes from the Public Hearing on March 25, 2015 and requested clarification of the bid process for the Brewster School Roof Project.

Next Board Meeting

District Meeting – May 4, 2015 at 8:00 p.m. in the CRHS auditorium

Next Regular Meeting – May 13, 2015 at Memorial School

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Flanagan asked that item X. Teacher Non-renewals be moved to item VII. All other items would move down on the agenda.

Dr. Friedrich moved that that item X. Teacher Non-renewals be moved to item VII. Dr. Onofreo seconded.

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

Approval of Minutes of March 25, 2015

Mr. Renninghoff moved to approve the minutes of March 25, 2015. Dr. Onofreo seconded.

In favor of approving the minutes of March 25, 2015: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Mr. Renninghoff made the motion and voted inadvertently since he was not at the previous meeting.

Communications

Mr. Renninghoff stated that a parent from Middlefield had a concern regarding the number of unexcused absences allowed. The parent mentioned that it can become costly if you need a doctor's note to prove your child was ill. Dr. Veronesi asked Mr. Renninghoff to have the parent call her.

Teacher Non-renewals

Mr. Fulton moved that the contract of employment for Carrie Kosienski, Kristen Ciccone, Jamie Narducci, Nancy Kozlik, Melissa Lonsdale, and Lina Taweh not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the 2014-2015 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such persons in writing of this action. Mrs. Adams seconded.

Discussion took place among Board members regarding the reason the contract of employment was not renewed for the listed individuals and if this matter should be discussed in Executive session. Dr. Veronesi stated that it did not have to be done in Executive session. The teachers are non-tenure teachers and have been notified by Dr. Veronesi.

In favor of the teacher non-renewals: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Veronesi advised the Board that gifts under the \$5,000 threshold have been given to the district by the Soccer Club, Little League and the Benchwarmers. These gifts will be used to improve soccer and baseball fields in District 13. Dr. Veronesi is sending thank you notes to these organizations.

Dr. Veronesi also reported the parent/teacher conferences that took place in March went well. She also stated the band and chorus concerts that have taken place across the District have been tremendous.

New Business

Set Graduation Date

Mr. Renninghoff moved to set the graduation date for June 23, 2015. Mrs. Adams seconded.

In favor of setting the graduation date for June 23, 2015: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Dr. Onofreo and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

National Ocean Sciences Bowl Team field trip request

Dr. Friedrich moved to approve the National Ocean Sciences Bowl Team field trip request April 23-27, 2015 to attend the NOSB 2015 National Competition in Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

In favor of approving the National Ocean Sciences Bowl Team field trip request: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Dr. Onofreo and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

The Board adjourned to the Public Hearing in the auditorium at 7:45 p.m.

The Board moved back into regular session at 10:40 pm

2015-2016 Budget

Mrs. Flanagan asked Board members for feedback.

Mr. Renninghoff stated he agreed with Mr. Yamartino's comments at the public hearing regarding closing a building and how it would affect the MBR. Mr. Renninghoff also referenced slide 18 of the presentation and asked if a 4th grade teacher at Korn School could be cut.

Mrs. Flanagan responded. She felt that with the implementation of the Common Core at this time she would not like to see a teacher cut.

Mrs. Flanagan asked if the Board should reduce a portion in Capital Reserve that would offset potential increase in MBR.

Mr. Renninghoff referred to the slide 27 from the presentation. He recommended that \$15,000 be cut from the accumulated building maintenance reserve. Discussion took place.

Mrs. Flanagan asked for a motion to reduce the building maintenance reserve from 50,000 to \$35,000.

Mr. Renninghoff moved to reduce the building maintenance reserve from 50,000 to \$35,000. No one seconded.

Mrs. Adams moved to go to the District meeting on May 4, 2015 with a gross \$37,868,015 2015-16 Regional District 13 education budget followed by a referendum on May 5, 2015. Mrs. Boyle

seconded.

In favor of approving the budget to go to the District Meeting and Referendum: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton Mr. Hicks, and Dr. Onofreo. Mr. Renninghoff voted no. Motion passed.

Public Comment

Mrs. Viola from Durham stated that there are 125 homes for sale in Durham. She recommended that members of the Board write a letter the Rep. Sharkey regarding the MBR. She also stated that she was very disappointed that adjustments were not made to the school budget.

Follow Up

None

Adjournment

Mr. Hicks moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 p.m. Mrs. Adams seconded.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Johnson