

Board of Education

Regional District 13

January 13, 2016

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the music room at Korn School, 144 Pickett Lane, Durham, CT. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc (8:05 p.m.) Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, and Mr. Willett.

Also present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Melnik, Business Manager.
Absent: Mr. Hicks

Mrs. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. after it was determined that a quorum was present.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Analiese Driscoll, 5th grade student at Memorial Middle School sang "Tomorrow" from Annie. Mr. Fisher, Band Director at Memorial School accompanied her on the piano. Board members commended Analiese for her outstanding performance.

Administrator Welcome

Mrs. Stone, principal at Korn School welcomed Board members. Mrs. Stone stated that it is a time of uncertainty for the staff of Brewster, Korn, and Memorial as the District moves forward with the closing of Korn School. She reported that administration and staff are working together to best meet the needs of their students.

Dr. Veronesi briefly spoke about the work Mrs. Stone has done as facilitator of the District data teams. Mrs. Stone reported the District's administrators have become the data team effectively changing what needs to be changed and recognizing what needs to be done.

Mrs. Flanagan was intrigued by the work of the administrators and how they are approaching changes.

Public Comment

Mr. Doyle of Durham addressed Item 15 on the agenda. He stated that he understands the difficulty of peoples' jobs and respects them. He would like the Board to look at the mission statement. He commented on encouraging meaningful opportunities for students.

Frank DeFelice representing the Town of Durham Planning and Zoning Commission asked the Board for their input and what they would like to be preserved in the town. He welcomes Board members questions and concerns and requested that they contact him by email. Mr. DeFelice encouraged Board members to attend a visionary charrette at the Durham Firehouse on February 13, 2016 from noon to 4:00 p.m.

Next Board Meeting

February 17, 2016 at Strong School. The proposed 2016-2017 School Budget will be presented.

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Adams moved to amend the agenda to include Executive Session. Dr. Friedrich seconded the motion.

Dr. Veronesi asked to move items A, B, and E under Item 12. New Business to Item 11, Superintendent's Report.

Mrs. Boyle moved to approve the amended agenda. Dr. Friedrich seconded.

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

Approval of Minutes of December 9, 2015

Mr. Renninghoff moved to approve the minutes of December 9, 2015. Mrs. Boyle seconded.

In favor of approving the minutes of December 9, 2015: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

Communications

Mr. Renninghoff stated he received a communication from a member of the community. Other Board members also received this communication. Mrs. Flanagan stated that this matter will be discussed later.

CRHS Student Report

Seniors Larissa Cade and Taylor Marino reported to the Board events at Coginchaug Regional High School. The National Honor Society recently had a bookmark ceremony where teachers honored students. The holiday concert was held on 12/20/15 and Show Choir will perform tomorrow night. The girls also stated that mid-terms begin on 1/19/16 and reported on events taking place in sports.

Business Manager's Report

Mr. Melnik updated the Board on Positive Pay which enhances the security on checks being issued by the District. Mrs. Boyle wanted clarification that we have only changed banks and not our process of issuing checks. Mr. Melnik stated that we have only changed banks.

Mr. Melnik reviewed with the Board the proposal from Blum Shapiro that was discussed at ERC. Blum Shapiro is proposing a 5.4% increase over the next three years. Mr. Melnik recommended that the Board accept their proposal.

Mr. Moore moved to accept the proposal from Blum Shapiro. Mrs. Boyle seconded.

Discussion took place. Mr. Willett asked for the reason of the increase. Mrs. Flanagan stated that she did not feel the increase was out of line.

In favor of accepting the proposal from Blum Shapiro: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Moore, and Dr. Onofreo. Opposed: Mr. Renninghoff, and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

Mr. Melnik stated that Board members would be receiving four documents every month as part of their Board packet. These financial reports will include revenue, expense, capital, and MTA. Mr. Melnik briefly reviewed these forms with the Board.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Veronesi stated she had attended a Chamber meeting this morning that was held at Coginchaug Regional High School.

Dr. Veronesi asked that the Board to accept a donation of \$10,922.00 from the Merwin Foundation. The monies will be used to enhance the technology program. Dr. Veronesi gave a brief summary of the 1906 trust and how the funds were to be distributed.

Mrs. Boyle moved to approve the Merwin Foundation donation in the amount of \$10,922.00. Mr. Willett seconded.

In favor of approving the Merwin Foundation donation: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan,

Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

Dr. Veronesi also addressed the rate of pay for substitute teachers and recommended that the Board consider a rate increase. She also addressed why teachers are absent and the amount of time teachers are out of the classroom for professional development. Mrs. Adams recommended that the Student Achievement Committee add this item to their agenda.

Lastly, Dr. Veronesi stated she is working closely with a statewide task force to address how districts are handling mental health issues of their students.

New Business:

Mrs. Fronc moved to approve the Quahog Bowl Competition field trip request. Mr. Renninghoff seconded.

In favor of approving the Quahog Bowl Competition field trip request: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

Mrs. Fronc moved to approve the Camp Jewell field trip request. Mrs. Adams seconded.

In favor of approving the Camp Jewell field trip request. Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

Mr. Willett moved to approve the 2016-2017 District Calendar. Mr. Moore seconded.

In favor of approving the 2016-2017 District Calendar: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

Mrs. Boyle moved to approve the 2016-2017 Board of Education Meeting Schedule and the 2016-2017 Educational Resources Committee and Student Achievement Committee Regular Meeting Schedule. Mr. Willett seconded.

In favor of approving the 2016-2017 Board of Education Meeting Schedule and the 2016-2017 Educational Resources Committee and Student Achievement Committee Regular Meeting Schedule: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

Presentation

CIAC Update and Unified Sports – Nick Barbieri

Mr. Barbieri informed the Board of the purpose of the CIAC program study, the mission statement of the RSD 13 Athletic Department and presented a comprehensive examination of each of the 5 CIAC standards, and implementation of best practices in coaching and athletic administration. Mr. Barbieri praised his coaches for their efforts and achievement. Mr. Barbieri ended his presentation with a video celebrating the successes of student athletics, administration, and coaching staff.

During Mr. Barbieri's presentation Mr. Bajoros informed the Board of the successes of the Unified Sports program.

Dr. Veronesi praised Mr. Barbieri for creating a culture aligned with the district - integrating hard work, passion, and skill.

Mrs. Boyle thanked Mr. Barbieri for this time, effort, and energy.

Committee Reports

Educational Resources Committee

Mrs. Flanagan reported that the committee met last evening and reviewed expenses, capital plan work and long-range capital plans. She stated that a lot of work needs to be done.

Utilization Committee

Mrs. Flanagan stated that the next committee meeting will take place on January 20. The committee will define the role of Mr. Arum at this meeting.

Mrs. Flanagan also stated that the minutes from both ERC and Utilization Committee will be sent to Board members.

Other Committee Reports

None

Public Comment

Mr. Doyle of Durham commended Mr. Barbieri for his impressive presentation. He stated that under standard #2 he would like to hear more on curriculum for student athletes. He also would like some guidelines regarding summer and fall basketball leagues.

Executive Session

On a motion by Mrs. Adams, seconded by Mr. Moore the Board of Education unanimously approved to move into Executive Session. The Board invited Dr. Veronesi to participate in Executive Session.

The Board of Education returned to regular session.

Adjournment

Mrs. Adams moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Mrs. Boyle seconded.

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

Respectfully submitted

Maureen Johnson