

Received: April 19, 2016
1:54 pm
Office of the Town Clerk

Board of Education

Regional District 13

April 13, 2016

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in the Library at Coginchaug Regional High School, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, CT. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc (8:00), Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff (7:35) and Mr. Willett.

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

Mr. Stengal of Durham referred to Item 10 on the agenda. He requested that due to declining enrollment along with the closing of Korn School the Board request a waiver from the state with regard to the MBR (Minimum Budget Requirement).

Next Board Meeting

Next Board Meeting

District Meeting May 2, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. in the Auditorium at Coginchaug Regional High School.

Next regular Board Meeting

May 11, 2016 at Memorial School

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the agenda. Mrs. Adams seconded.

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

Approval of Minutes of April 6, 2016

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the minutes of April 6, 2016. Dr. Friedrich seconded.

In favor of approving the minutes of April 6, 2016: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

Discussion took place regarding approving the minutes of March 16 that had been postponed from the previous meeting. Amendments to the minutes were not given to the recording secretary and approving the minutes were not an agenda item.

Mrs. Boyle moved to approve the minutes of March 16, 2016 at the May 11, 2016 meeting. Dr. Friedrich seconded.

In favor of approving the March 16, 2016 minutes at the next Board of Education meeting: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

Communications

Mr. Hicks stated that he attended the play, Good News, presented by the students of Coginchaug Regional High School. He stated the students did a great job. He also said the performance was bittersweet as if was the last play that Coginchaug teachers Lisa Larsen and Dean Coutsouridis would direct. Ms. Larsen and Mr. Coutsouridis are retiring in June, 2016.

Mr. Hicks also attended the second grade play at Brewster School and was impressed by both the students and the staff.

Dr. Friedrich referred to an email received from a Middlefield resident stating that a lot of money should be saved from the closing of Korn School and questioned where it was in the proposed budget.

Mrs. Boyle received a communication from parent with a third grade student at Korn who attended the transition evening at Memorial School stating concerns.

Mr. Willett noted a posting on facebook regarding concerns for the little 3 graders going to Memorial School next year. The resident questioned the bus time, portables and principals. Mr. Willett responded to the post stating that someone from the Board of Education will address these concerns.

Mrs. Boyle referred to a letter received last week that was not signed. She stated that she will not read any correspondence that is not signed.

Teacher Non-Renewals

Dr. Veronesi referred to an email she had sent to BOE members stating the protocol for non-tenured teachers.

Mr. Hicks moved that the contract of employment for Maria Altieri, Donald Amodio, Emily Archer, Laura Bernstein, Jamie Bowman, Kristen Ciccone, Susan Cohen, Lindsay Costanza, Noreen Grenier, Carrie Kosienski, Nancy Kozlik, Kelley Lehman, Melissa Lonsdale, David Maher, Deborah Mariani, Jennifer Nickle, Samantha Pacelli, Nicole Scandarito, Benjamin Shoudy, Linda Suravich, Kristi Ullman, Katherine Vandal, and Christina Zanner not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the 2015-2016 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such person in writing of this action.

Mrs. Boyle wanted clarification from Dr. Veronesi regarding the letter of non-renewal. Dr. Veronesi explained that it is part of protocol prior to May 1st that non-tenured teachers receive the letter of non-renewal.

In favor of approving teacher non-renewals: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Human Resource Committee

Mrs. Boyle reported that a discussion took place regarding the proposed Director of Organizational Development. It has been recommended that the position be a non-union position who reports directly to the Superintendent. Dr. Veronesi will talk with counsel regarding this matter.

The Committee is moving forward with the evaluation process and Mrs. Boyle stated that packets will be available the first week in May.

The Committee also talked about communication with Dr. Veronesi regarding something that may be heard either in the community or on social media. Also Mrs. Boyle stated that the committee discussed the new employee luncheon, mid-year hires and any mid-year changes in employment.

New Business

Mr. Willett stated that he has been in communication with the chaperones on the Italy trip providing them with updates on safety issues.

The Board moved to recess to Public Hearing in the auditorium at 7:50 p.m.

The Board moved back into regular session at 10:17 p.m.

2016-2017 Budget

Discussion on Public Hearing

Mrs. Flanagan asked for feedback from the Public Hearing.

Mr. Willett thanked the administration for live streaming the meeting. He stated the Board now has to make adjustments to the budget taking into consideration what was heard this evening at the Public Hearing and the unknowns for the State. He does not want to discount the needs of the Superintendent and would like to see cuts that do not impact educational programming.

Mrs. Flanagan asked if the Board delayed the vote until they got the information from the State regarding MBR is there any room regarding notice requirement. Discussion took place. Mrs. Fronc stated she would feel better voting if the Board had an answer from the state. Mr. Melnik and Mr. Renninghoff researched the requirements for notice. Mrs. Flanagan asked Board members if they were available to meet on Thursday. Mr. Hicks reminded the Board that there needs to be a 24 hour notice to the Towns prior to a meeting. The Board members agreed to meet on Friday. A suggestion of 9:00 a.m. was made. Mrs. Flanagan thanked Board members.

Mrs. Fronc moved to eliminate the activity fee at the high school. Mr. Hicks seconded.

Discussion took place as the elimination of the fee will increase the budget by \$21,000. Mrs. Adams stated that there would have to be an offset reduction. Mr. Willett reminded the Board that student athletes are important. Mr. Hicks also commented that the fee can become costly for a family with more than one child. Mr. Hicks recommended that the motion be amended.

Mr. Hicks moved to eliminate the activity fees and directed Dr. Veronesi to reduce the expenditure in a way that is does not effect athletic programming or student programming in the District. Mr. Willet seconded.

In favor of eliminating the activity fee as amended: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

Mrs. Flanagan suggested that the meeting adjourn this evening. Board members made suggestions to Dr. Veronesi regarding cuts. Dr. Friedrich suggested that the Capital Reserve be reduced and Mrs. Adams wanted to make sure we had funds to make improvements to Brewster and Memorial this year to accommodate the extra students.

Mrs. Flanagan asked Board members if they could make the meeting on Friday. Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Moore, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Willett and Dr. Onofreo would be able to attend. Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Fronc could be available by phone. Mr. Renninghoff could attend if the meeting was in the morning.

Dr. Veronesi will email Board members with information she receives. She asked that Board members only reply to her and not reply all.

Mrs. Flanagan will get back to Board members with the time the Friday meeting will take place.

Mr. Willett thanked the administrators for their hard work.

Public Comment

None

Executive Session

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, seconded by Dr. Friedrich the Board of Education unanimously approved to move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. The Board invited Dr. Veronesi to participate in Executive Session.

The Board of Education returned to regular session.

Mr. Hicks moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 p.m. Dr. Friedrich seconded.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Johnson
Recording Secretary