

Board of Education

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library at Memorial Middle School, 124 Hubbard St., Middlefield, CT. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff and Mr. Willett (by telephone). Absent: Mrs. Fronc
Also present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools

Mrs. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 7:05 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. Doyle of Durham congratulated Mr. Brough on his retirement from Regional School District 13 stating that he was one of his favorite principals in the District. Mr. Doyle also congratulated the Board on the passage of the recent budget and thanked Board members for their service.

Next Board Meeting

Anticipated Executive Session – May 25, 2016 in the CRHS Library.

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Flanagan asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Hicks moved to approve the agenda with the following amendment. Under Item 11, New Business Mr. Hicks requested that B. be added – Approval of Washington, DC field trip, November 2016.
Mrs. Boyle seconded the amended agenda.

In favor of approving the amended 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 March 16, 2016

Dr. Onofreo moved to approve the minutes of March 16, 2016. Mrs. Adams seconded.

In favor of approving the minutes of March 16, 2016: 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 13, 2016

Dr. Onofreo moved to approve the minutes of April 13, 2016. Mr. Renninghoff seconded.

Mr. Hicks asked that the minutes be amended under Approval of Minutes of April 6, 2016, the fourth line to read at a future meeting rather than at the May 11, 2016 meeting.

In favor of approving the minutes of April 13, 2016 as amended: 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 13, 2016 Public Hearing

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2016 Public Hearing. Mrs. Boyle seconded.

In favor of approving the minutes of the April 13, 2016 Public Hearing: 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 15, 2016

Mrs. Adams moved to approve the minutes of April 15, 2016. Dr. Onofreo seconded.

In favor of approving the minutes of April 15, 2016: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

Communications

Dr. Onofreo stated that he received a letter in the mail regarding the baseball team. Dr. Veronesi stated she was addressing the concerns.

Mrs. Boyle stated there was a concern regarding a Park and Rec issue and the cancellation of the summer camp program. Dr. Veronesi stated that she has been in contact with the First Selectman of Middlefield and will work with him regarding other options.

Mr. Willett stated he received a letter from a parent that attended the Memorial School transition night. Mr. Willett was in contact with the parent. Board members thanked Mr. Willett for acting on this concern.

Mr. Brough stated that Memorial School recently hosted a luncheon for senior members of Durham and Middlefield. Approximately 60 people attended. They were entertained by members of the Memorial Jazz Band and saw a sneak preview of the Lion King, Memorial School's drama production. Seniors participated in the STEM program organized by Memorial's School Librarian, Mrs. Doyle. Mr. Brough praised his staff for providing an outstanding luncheon to senior members of our community.

Mr. Hicks added he attends many of the musicals throughout the District and praised students for their beautiful singing voices.

Mr. Moore advised the Board that Memorial Student, Tyler Fusco reached national finals in the National Invention Convention. His invention is a cell phone energized manually and with solar energy.

Mrs. Boyle stated that Ralph Lalama and the Coginchaug Jazz Band performed at Coginchaug Regional High School the night before. Kudos to the jazz band.

Mr. Hicks stated how prepared our students are by the District's music department and spoke about the District's instrumental night and how you can see the progression students make from Memorial School to Strong School and to the high school. He also said he attended a gala event at Gastler Farm sponsored by the Connecticut Valley Education Foundation. Matthew Sawicki, a senior at Coginchaug Regional High School played the piano during the event.

Mrs. Flanagan commended Ms. Larsen and Mr. Coutsouridis for the tradition in our system.

CRHS Reporters

Matthew Sawicki reported to the Board events at Coginchaug Regional High School. The sophomore class recently attended a career fair at Wesleyan. He stated that AP exams were

currently going on at the high school, and awards assemblies were being planned. Other events mentioned were the Jazz Band Concert last night with Ralph Lalama, the Senior Prom, Senior Picnic, and the last band and chorus concert for Ms. Larsen and Mr. Coutsouridis was taking place on May 17th.

Mrs. Flanagan thanked Matthew for his reports this school year and asked him to send thanks to classmates Taylor Marino and Larissa Cade for their participation this year.

Dr. Veronesi announced that Matthew was the Class of 2016 Salutatorian and that Kyle Adams was Valedictorian.

Presentation

Ms. Wagemaker, Business Education Teacher at Coginchaug introduced 3 members of her Entrepreneurship Class. Allie Alsup, Nora Khalil and Katherine D'Orvilliers presented to the Board how this class works. The students went through the steps of starting a business using marketing skills, designing a product, and financial requirements. The students designed a product called the Devil's pocket that clips to your cell phone and can hold for example a credit card or lunch card.

Ms. Wagemaker stated that the class was a learning experience for both her and her students.

Business Manager's Report

In his absence, Dr. Veronesi presented Mr. Melnik's report. She stated that there will be no increase in the cost of school lunches next year. She also reported that RFP for a school facilities study was published last Friday and packets were being picked up.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Veronesi stated that this was Mr. Brough's last Board meeting. She commended him for his commitment towards his students, his kindness, and being a true gentleman.

Mr. Brough thanked the Board for the support they have given him.

Dr. Veronesi recommended that a 9 member standing building committee be established before going out to referendum. She asked that Board members let her know by Friday if they would recommend someone. She is also looking for 18-20 people to join the Strategic Cohesive Planning Team.

Dr. Veronesi also reported positive feedback from live streaming the Public Hearing and recommended we continue this practice. All meetings for the time being would be held at the high school.

A discussion took place. Mrs. Boyle suggested that committee meetings take place at different schools. Mr. Hicks stated it was important to get out to all the building and would like to get on the fast track for live streaming so the Board could continue to visit each building.

New Business

Dr. Onofreo moved to approve the request for the CRHS Trip to Spain and France in April 2017. Mrs. Boyle seconded.

Mr. Hicks asked that the motion be amended to include that due to circumstances to Homeland Security the trip can be canceled at the discretion of the superintendent.

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

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the Senior Class trip to Washington, DC. Due to circumstances to Homeland Security the trip can be canceled at the discretion of the superintendent. Dr. Onofreo seconded.

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

Committee Reports

ERC

Mrs. Boyle reported that the committee met last night. A discussion took place regarding a parent request to have advertising on the football field. The committee is referring the matter to the policy committee.

Capital issues were discussed. Mr. Melnik and Mr. Francis will work together on a plan focused on Memorial and Brewster as well as other buildings.

Other topics included the budget calendar, year to date expenditures, and permits for portables at Memorial and Lyman.

Policy Committee

Mr. Hicks reviewed Policy 9325, Actions by the Board, Policy 5141.28 Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention, Policy 5141.7 Concussions, Policy 5132 Dress and Grooming, and Policy 9240 Meeting Conduct.

Mr. Hicks moved to approve Policy 5141.28, Policy 5141.7, and Policy 5132. Mrs. Adams seconded.

Discussion took place. Mr. Willett stated that the first priority is to get medical attention. Mrs. Flanagan asked Mr. Willett to make a notation on this policy. Mr. Hick stated it needs to be approved and will be amended.

In favor of approving Policy 5141.28, Policy 5141.7, and Policy 5132: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, and Mr. Willett. Motion passed

Mr. Hicks stated that policy will be meeting again very soon.

Other Committees

HR

Mrs. Boyle referred to the superintendent's evaluation form and advised members of the Board that they need to complete the form and return it to her prior to May 25, 2016. Mrs. Boyle commended Dr. Veronesi for the work she has done in our District.

Mrs. Boyle stated the evaluation is on a scale of 1 – 5. Members can use .5 if they wish. They do not have to use whole numbers.

Dr. Veronesi asked if the new Board members were invited to attend the May 25th meeting.

Mrs. Boyle stated that in fairness to the current Board members she does not want new members invited. She would like the new members to have their own experience.

Alternate Use

Mr. Willett stated that an Alternate Use Committee meeting is being scheduled soon.

Public Comment

Mrs. Boyle shared a personal experience her family had with Mr. Brough. She stated that the District is blessed to have had him as an administrator. He will be missed.

Adjournment

Mr. Hicks moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Mr. Renninghoff seconded.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Recording Secretary