

**Revised Minutes**

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Library at Coginchaug Regional High School, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, Connecticut. Board members present: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff, Mr. Willett and Mr. Yamartino. Mrs. Boyle arrived at a later time.

Administration present: Mr. Melnik, Business Manager, and Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Administrator Welcome**

Brian Falcone, principal at Coginchaug Regional High School, welcomed everyone to the high school. Mr. Falcone reported that graduation last year was breathtaking and orientation went great as well. National Honor Society students ran orientation this year and walked the new freshmen through their schedule. The sophomore, junior and senior orientation was held on Monday, but it was almost not necessary and it has been a really good start to the school year. Mr. Falcone also mentioned that there are nine new staff members this year.

Mr. Falcone reviewed the four focus areas at the high school which are looking at teachers and their instruction, student engagement and incorporating model of the 4Cs (communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking) into their lessons. The second focus area is SAT scores and how to improve those standardized test scores which will be incorporated to every teacher's goals. The third area of focus is what is offered to the students, including unified classes (37 students), AP, UCONN and college-level classes. AP psychology and AP Spanish are being looked at. The fourth area of focus is to look at college and career readiness and how the students are prepared for the real world. The thought is to have part of the students' senior year being an internship or job shadowing.

Mr. Falcone also reintroduced the high school senior members of this year's board, Lauren Donnelly, Emily Leibiger and Sam Marteka.

It was then agreed to move the CRHS Reporters to this point in the agenda.

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### **CRHS Reporters**

Lauren Donnelly, a senior at Coginchaug, commented that this is the best start of a year that she's had in her four years here. Everyone seems to be picking up on the new schedule and are adjusting well. Ms. Donnelly explained that there are four classes per day and meetings within home room to discuss different topics. She feels that the best part of the new schedule is that classes are at a different time every day. Ms. Donnelly also reported that they recently had a college senior night with the guidance department to help prepare them for the college process. Ms. Donnelly feels that the people in the Guidance Department have been great and genuinely want to help the student body and their parents.

Emily Leibiger, also a senior, is involved in the Music Department with Show Choir (recently elected president), Chamber Choir and Girls' A Capella. She stated that the transition to the new teachers in the music department has been tremendous and the new teachers are quite responsive to feedback from the students. They are looking ahead to the music department trip and the play. Ms. Leibiger also reported that there is a new system for class leveling this year, with honors, AP and college preparatory levels. She feels that will make our students more competitive with college applications. Ms. Leibiger is also the Student Council Vice President and they are hoping to move in a new direction this year, coordinating with the Captains' Council and the different honor societies to cater to their needs.

Sam Marteka, also a senior, runs cross country, plays basketball and baseball. He explained that all announcements are being done during the daily bulletin which will help students with information about practices and fund-raising. The Coginchaug sports page on the District's website is now user-friendly, with forms, information and guidelines. Mr. Marteka also explained that the Captains' Council is trying to make Coginchaug a CIAC Class Act school, focusing on leadership and sportsmanship. Football has a new coaching staff, with a focus on discipline and academics including a one-hour mandatory study hall. A home game is scheduled for this Saturday against Nonnewaug. Cross Country's home meet, Run to the Sun, will be Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. The boys' and girls' teams combined to win the overall championship at their first meet in Middletown. Girls' volleyball also has a new coaching staff and has one loss. Boys' soccer has both a full varsity and junior varsity team for the first time in a while. They are currently 1-1. Girls' soccer opened with two tough losses and will be scheduling a practice with unified sports. Mr. Barbieri is now in charge of unified sports for all of the Shoreline teams and Coginchaug will be hosting three tournaments here.

### **Public Comment**

Michael Doyle wanted to publicly express his gratitude to Mr. Hicks and Mrs. Flanagan for their years of service and dedication.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Hicks made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Dr. Friedrich.

In favor of approving the agenda as presented: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff, Mr. Willett and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed.

### **Approval of Minutes - August 24, 2016**

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve the minutes of August 24, 2016. Mr. Moore had called in to the last meeting, but hung up when he couldn't hear anything so he would like his presence deleted from the minutes. Dr. Friedrich asked to have the sentence under Public Comment on page 1 be revised to read none and that he had, in fact, voted in the affirmative to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2016. Mr. Hicks accepted these revisions to his motion. Dr. Friedrich also asked to have the word "the" to "each" on the bottom of page 4. Mr. Hicks and Dr. Friedrich accepted the revisions as friendly amendments to the motion.

In favor of approving the amended minutes of August 24, 2016: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff, Mr. Yamartino and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

Mrs. Petrella then complimented Debi Waz on the quality of the minutes. Mr. Willett asked if anyone was reviewing the minutes before they are presented to the Board and Dr. Veronesi said that she had. Mr. Willett would like the minute to show that the minutes were reviewed before being presented to the Board. Mr. Hicks and Mrs. Petrella didn't feel that was necessary as the Board itself reviews and approves the minutes after they are presented. Dr. Friedrich was concerned that someone wasn't actually at the meeting and sees extra levels for error when the minutes are done from videotape, though he does believe the approval of the minutes is the responsibility of the Board. Mr. Willett asked how the cost of the minutes was being handled and Dr. Veronesi said it is within the budget. Mrs. Petrella asked if the recordings were archived if anyone wanted to go back and review them and Dr. Veronesi confirmed that they were.

### **Communications**

A. Naming of School Facility

Mr. Moore explained that a letter has been received from the Benchwarmers asking for their name to be attached to a facility at the school system. Mr. Moore also explained that a two-thirds vote of the Board would need to be taken to initiate the process of naming a facility. Two members of the Board (one from each town), along with community members, need to review the proposal and forward that to the Board.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to initiate the process of naming an athletic facility in honor of the Benchwarmers.

In favor of initiating the process of naming an athletic facility in honor of the Benchwarmers: Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff, Mr. Yamartino and Mr. Willett. Mr. Augur abstained. Motion passed.

Mr. Moore asked Mr. Renninghoff to serve on the committee, however he is a member of the Benchwarmers. No one felt that to be a conflict. Dr. Friedrich then agreed to serve on the committee as well. Mr. Moore then asked for recommendations of community members to serve on the committee and distributed a history of the Benchwarmers to Dr. Friedrich and Mr. Renninghoff.

B. Korn School Property

Mr. Moore reviewed a letter from the Utilization Committee and attorneys regarding the options for the use and conversion of Korn School to a town facility that would be sent to Laura Francis. Mrs. Flanagan thought it would be helpful to the Utilization Committee to gain understanding of the level of interest from the Town of Durham and that this would be a way to gain this information.

Mr. Renninghoff asked if it would be prudent to have the board make a motion authorizing the chairman to send the letter.

Dr. Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Mr. Renninghoff, to authorize the Chairman to send the letter to the Town of Durham.

In favor of authorizing the Chairman to send the letter regarding options and use of Korn School to the Town of Durham: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff, Mr. Yamartino and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

Mr. Moore also stated that several emails have been received from John Lyman parents regarding kindergarten and full-time aides at both Lyman and Brewster. These will be addressed later tonight in the Superintendent's report. Mr. Moore had also received a letter from the former choir director regarding concerns about the hiring process and changes in the school system after her retirement. Mr. Moore responded and thanked her for her continued interest in the school.

Mr. Moore also received and responded to a letter about a student that was brought to the wrong daycare after school, but was then corrected and brought to the correct daycare. He also reported that a letter was received from the Falcons regarding cheerleading and they have been provided room at Strong School.

Mrs. Petrella asked about communication dated September 2 regarding cuts from Jazz Band. Mr. Moore reviewed that the concern was that Jazz Band was meeting a half hour before school and Dr. Veronesi stated that the issue had been addressed between the parent and Mr. Falcone. Mr. Moore also stated that the Jazz Band meets for two hours on Wednesday night and a half hour before school on Friday which ends up being a little more practice time than in the past.

### **Business Manager's Report**

#### **A. Review of Investment Policy Statement**

Mr. Melnik reviewed that this is the policy statement for the district's defined benefit plan. He stated that all individuals who are not part of the teachers' retirement board have an opportunity to join a defined benefit plan which was established in 1990 and updated in 2010. It is similar to MERF, the Municipal Employees' Retirement Fund, where the employees contribute part and the district contributes. The benefits are accrued at about 2 percent per year of service. The actuaries are Hooker and Holcombe and Charles Schwab sends out the check, with Morgan Stanley actually administering the investments.

Part of the pension plan requires that the district has an Investment Policy Statement (IPS) which sets parameters and responsibilities for the investment firm. The IPS was drawn up by Shipman and Goodwin and other plans were reviewed in the process. This IPS would then become part of the pension plan. As of now, on October 5<sup>th</sup>, Morgan Stanley would come in to give a presentation on fund performance. The plan would then be reviewed by the Pension Board.

Mr. Willett asked if the plan would be updated year after year and Mr. Melnik explained that it would become a permanent document, but the Board would have the right to reopen it. Mr. Melnik also explained that this is a new policy that has not existed in the past.

Mrs. Petrella was surprised that the Board would have to come up with a financial investment policy that is so specific when things change rapidly over time. Mrs. Flanagan explained that the policy sets ranges and agreed that the Board would not want to be 100 percent in any one particular vehicle, like a real estate investment trust. There is a biannual review of fund performance. Mr. Melnik commented that the investments are usually 65 to 70 percent and 35 to 30 percent of bonds vs. equities. This policy became a requirement of the plan when it was rewritten in 2010, but has never been implemented.

Dr. Friedrich asked if the ERC has reviewed the policy and Mr. Melnik explained that they have and approved it in December of last year. Mr. Yamartino asked if there was time for other members of the Board to review this or did a vote have to happen tonight and Mr. Melnik said there was no pressure to approve it tonight. Mr. Yamartino did not feel comfortable voting on the policy tonight and, by consensus, it was decided to take a vote on this policy at the October 5, 2016 meeting. Mr. Melnik commented that the fund was approaching 90 percent funded.

**B. Review of Draft Budget Calendar SY2017-2018**

Mr. Melnik had copies of a draft calendar for the budget process which follows the process from last year. Earlier this year, it was asked if the Board could meet with both the Boards of Selectmen and Boards of Finance from the two towns to discuss the budget process. This meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, November 1. Mr. Melnik explained that budget materials will begin to be distributed to the schools in the first part of October. Dr. Veronesi will reach out to both chairs of the Boards of Finance to confirm the meeting date.

**C. July and August Financials**

Mr. Melnik had emailed the July and August financials to the Board members. Not much has been happening financially in these two months. Mr. Melnik reviewed how the information is presented to the Board. Mr. Melnik did report that the Middlesex Transition Academy, held at Wesleyan, looks to be on budget at this point. He did review the claims that are associated with the lightning strike at Memorial School and replacement of a van.

Mr. Willett commented that the Town of Durham sprays a film on their vehicles every year which has cut corrosion almost in half and suggested that Mr. Melnik talk to them about spraying the District's vehicles as well. Mr. Willett also asked about a handwritten note on the MTA receipts and Mr. Melnik explained that that was a posting error that was corrected in the office. Mr. Moore also mentioned that the other towns that send students to the MTA are also listed on the same page.

## **Superintendent's Report**

### **A. Update on Opening of School**

Dr. Veronesi officially welcomed the Board to the school year. Dr. Veronesi commented that the school year has started strongly and without incident. Dr. Veronesi reiterated the district's focus on coherence, including student achievement, well-being and engagement, which is being talked about in every school. Student achievement includes specific learning targets and various assessments. Dr. Berry will do a presentation for the Board in October, outlining those specific targets. Looking at well-being, we are looking at students' sense of safety, physically, socially and emotionally. The District is making an effort to be sure to call all students (and adults) by their name. The area of engagement is defined by the 4Cs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Skills: critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication. Dr. Veronesi also commented that remarkable things are happening in the District.

Student enrollment stands at 1,721 which is 56 students higher than what was predicted. Dr. Veronesi reached out to Milone and MacBroom to see if they are seeing similar activity in other areas and they commented that the up-tick is in the real estate market, with almost a pre-recession pattern of real estate sales. There are 10 more kindergarten students this year than was predicted. Milone and MacBroom sees this happening, but don't yet believe it to be a trend. The decreases in enrollment will continue to move up through middle school and into the high school.

### **B. Update on Kindergarten Para Discussion**

Dr. Veronesi reviewed that the terms para, teaching assistant and aide are all the same. In kindergarten, there will be a teaching assistant in each kindergarten class during all academic times. The policy regarding this had been in place since 1993, was revisited in 1997 and then again in 2011. This policy states that there would be an aide in each kindergarten classroom during all times of the day when the class size is at or above 15; however this policy was not really being adhered to. The teachers would like highly-skilled individuals to support them.

The Board has asked what it would cost to fulfill this policy and Dr. Veronesi will report the costs at the October 5<sup>th</sup> board meeting. There is a line item for interns in the budget for \$72,000; however the district no longer gets interns. The general salary for teaching assistants is just over \$20,000, with a placeholder of \$16.67 for just over 1,200 hours. The insurance for these employees is close

to \$18,000, with the placeholder of a two-person insurance plan. Benefits are just over \$2,000, for a total of \$40,389 which would be the cost of one full-time teaching assistant.

Dr. Veronesi does believe that the policy needs to be reviewed, and the District will honor the policy as written.

Mr. Willett asked how many classrooms are involved and Dr. Veronesi explained that there are currently seven classrooms, all with teacher assistant coverage. The goal would be to gain as much consistency as possible. Mr. Yamartino explained that some preliminary numbers had been shared at the Policy Committee meeting.

Mrs. Petrella asked if the kindergarten classes with over 15 students had paras in each of the classrooms during academic times and Dr. Veronesi replied that there is presently coverage for most, but not all, academic times and that that is what they are working on. The policy reads all classrooms with 15 students and above and all kindergarten classrooms are will have teaching assistant coverage. Since this issue was first raised in July, Mrs. Petrella is surprised that coverage for the academic portion of the kindergarten classrooms has not been covered by now. Mr. Yamartino commented that the higher enrollment numbers also compounded the problem.

Mr. Willett commented that since housing prices are down as well as better test scores, etc., he strongly believes that the Board has the power to slow the decline in enrollment. Dr. Veronesi agreed and said she has had many conversations with people moving into the district. She, too, does not feel the drop-off will be as significant as in the past.

Mr. Moore reviewed that all gaps will be filled with existing staff and budget numbers will be provided to hire additional staff by the next meeting. Dr. Veronesi agreed that she would like to have the issue resolved by October 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Moore commented that some decisions will have to be made regarding where the money will come from in the budget.

Mrs. Boyle had arrived late to the meeting and asked if all the kindergarten classes were impacted. Dr. Veronesi reiterated that the policy reads 15 students and above and every kindergarten class in the district is 15 and above.

**C. Update on Strategic Coherence Planning**

Dr. Veronesi reported that the next Strategic Coherence Planning meeting will be held on October 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM. Part of this planning takes into account what is happening legislatively.

Strategic planning should work to align the district with both communities and the state. A three-to five-year plan is being built to keep it on track.

**D. Update on Silver Petrucelli Status**

Dr. Veronesi explained that the timeline was included in the Board's packet. Silver Petrucelli has done assessment of facility conditions at all of the schools and has also met with the entire administrative team. Dr. Veronesi talked about how space and furniture can inhibit or promote greater collaboration. She gave an example of children sitting in desks with attached chairs. In order to work collaboratively, the whole unit needs to be moved. Silver Petrucelli will be going to the individual schools to hold focus groups with parents and teachers.

Mr. Moore commented that his grandson had come home from second grade after having a discussion of the upcoming hurricane and he was very impressed at his knowledge of the issue.

Mrs. Petrella also complimented Dr. Veronesi on the report (Board of Education update written by the school principals) that is sent out to the Board members each month.

**Committee Reports**

**A. Policy Committee**

Mr. Hicks reported that the Policy Committee met last week, with a rather full agenda. Three policies were available for the Board to review, Purchasing Procedure, Sales and Disposal of Books and Class Size. The Policy Committee has not yet set a date for their next meeting.

Dr. Friedrich offered gratitude for the shared Google calendar for the meetings. Mr. Moore reminded the Board that the policies will be voted on at the next meeting.

**B. Student Achievement Committee**

Mrs. Flanagan reported that the Student Achievement Committee met on September 7<sup>th</sup> and started off with a review of PLC (Professional Learning Communities) which provides a protocol for learning meetings to be very focused. This involves broad trends, learning outcomes, goals and action steps and what instructional strategies would need to be employed. Student learning and target assessment is also included at every meeting. Meetings are happening more efficiently and people are more prepared, with a focus on understanding what is happening with every student in

every classroom. Assessments are consistent across class levels. Mrs. Flanagan also commented that time is provided for teachers to have these meetings on a weekly basis.

Mrs. Flanagan went on to report that the SAC also talked about the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Skills and the 4 Cs. A video was shown on highly-engaged students and how teachers used the 4Cs to keep the students actively involved in the learning process. The SAC also talked about the Outdoor Education Science Specialist and were updated by Dr. Berry on what's been happening since the retirement of Lorrie Martin. The Outdoor Science position has been converted to a Science Specialist which has been filled by Sue Michael. She will be working with science students and teachers at all levels to implement the new standards and incorporating as much outdoor education as possible.

Dr. Berry also updated the SAC on district learning targets and the fact that they are currently under review by administrators. Mrs. Flanagan is hopeful that there will be a presentation on district-level targets at the October board meeting.

The SAC also talked about the Instructional Coaching Model. Mrs. Flanagan reminded the Board that additional subject matter specialists were increased in the budget this year. Dr. Berry is working on how to coach these specialists.

Lastly, Mrs. Flanagan explained that a summary of the SBAC results will be attached to the minutes of the SAC meeting.

Mrs. Boyle asked if Sue Michael will be teaching at the elementary level as well and Dr. Veronesi commented that Mrs. Michael is no longer at the high school. Dr. Veronesi explained that the field trips were looked at with respect to the new science standards and they are working to maximize the kids' experiences as well as address the requirements. Dr. Veronesi also explained that a new science teacher has been hired at the high school to replace Mrs. Michael. Dr. Veronesi also commented that the math specialists exist at all levels, K through Strong School and Mrs. Michael will work with students K through 5.

**C. Educational Resources Committee**

Mr. Moore reported that the ERC met this evening, just prior to the Board meeting, and went over the end-of-the-year budget from last year. They also talked about the budget schedule and the audit that is underway by Blum Shapiro as well as the budget of the Middlesex Transition Academy.

**D. Utilization Committee**

Mrs. Flanagan mentioned that they are still working to confirm the interest of the Town of Durham with Korn School and have also reached out to legal advisors on what the Board's authority would be. Middlefield has advised the Utilization Committee that they have no interest in the physical asset, but do have a financial interest. Mrs. Flanagan also explained that Mr. Renninghoff has been added to the Utilization Committee so there is now representation from Middlefield.

Mrs. Flanagan also commented that the Alternate Use Committee has stopped meeting because Middlefield isn't really interested in Korn School. Mr. Moore brought Mrs. Boyle up to speed about the letter that will be sent to the Town of Durham.

Mrs. Flanagan hopes to schedule the next Utilization Committee meeting tonight.

**E. Negotiations Committee**

Mr. Moore reported that teachers' contracts are up this year and they have met with attorneys to set the schedule. Mr. Moore explained that an invitation was sent for tonight's meeting to the chairs of the Boards of Finance from both towns to talk about negotiations. Dr. Veronesi explained that this will be held so that members of the Boards of Finance can share any issues that they would like the Negotiations Committee to consider.

Mr. Yamartino commented that the Board of Finance has been invited in the past and felt that that was sufficient to keep them informed. However, Mr. Yamartino was not sure how feedback would be communicated to the Boards of Finance. Mrs. Flanagan stated that that has been done in the past and they have caucused and had open discussions, however the negotiations are closed and agreements must be signed to not disclose any information. Dr. Veronesi explained that the attorney and the representative for the teachers are exchanging dates at this point. Mrs. Flanagan also mentioned that there is not a lot of flexibility in the meeting schedule and there is a very tight time line.

Due to the time, Mr. Moore asked if the Board would allow Public Comment at this time.

**Public Comment**

Missy Booth was a little disappointed that the Board was not voting on the policy tonight. Mrs. Booth explained that her first email about class size was sent to Mr. Ford on June 8, 2016 and another email to Dr. Veronesi on June 11, 2016 and she never heard back until the Board meeting

on July 6, 2016, which was 10 weeks ago. Mrs. Booth reminded the Board that the policy says always and the Board keeps talking about academic time. She believes that if the Board only covers academic time, then the policy must be changed. Mrs. Booth is also concerned that the target class sizes have been exceeded and that may, in turn, make student achievement go down. Mrs. Booth feels that social, mental and emotional support is just as important as education for kindergartners and would like to know what the Board considers academic time. Mrs. Booth feels that continuity is important, but that just having a body in the class is not going to help. She also reminded the Board that they had stated that there were only five students who enrolled after the February enrollment, so the Board knew that the numbers were bigger before the budget was completed.

Cindy Saraceno echoed everything that Mrs. Booth said. As a parent, she is very frustrated. Mrs. Saraceno thought that Dr. Veronesi had reassured them at the last meeting that every kindergarten class had a teacher's aide during academic times and today, she learned that that is not the case. Mrs. Saraceno asked how long this process will take and expressed great frustration at the whole thing.

### **New Business**

#### **A. Years of Service Recognition - Kerrie Flanagan and Norm Hicks**

Dr. Veronesi explained that she wanted to take a moment, at the Board level, to recognize the years of service for both Norm Hicks and Kerrie Flanagan. Mr. Hicks has been on the Board for 20 years and Mrs. Flanagan has been on for 10. Dr. Veronesi thanked them both for their support and leadership.

Mr. Hicks also commented that the convocation that he just attended was actually his 63<sup>rd</sup>.

Mrs. Boyle also commented that she has been on the Board for nine years and it has been an honor to serve with both Mr. Hicks and Mrs. Flanagan and to watch their tireless work.

Mrs. Petrella remarked that she has known Mr. Hicks for years, but her first introduction to Mrs. Flanagan was when she represented the Board of Finance in negotiations and she was extremely impressed.

Mr. Moore also thanked Mr. Hicks and Mrs. Flanagan for telling him how easy the job of chair is and how little time it would take out of his life. He also stated that it will take some time for him to get know to know what they already know.

Mr. Hicks and Mrs. Flanagan thanked the Board for the recognition.

**B. Field Trip Request - Model UN Club, University of Connecticut**

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Petrella, to approve the field trip request for the Model UN Club to the University of Connecticut with the stipulation that the administration has the right to postpone or cancel the trip as necessary, due to circumstances beyond their control.

In favor of approving the motion: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff, Mr. Willett and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed.

**C. Field Trip Request - Model UN Club, Boston College**

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Boyle, to approve the field trip request for the Model UN Club to Boston College with the stipulation that the administration has the right to postpone or cancel the trip as necessary, due to circumstances beyond their control.

In favor of approving the motion: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff, Mr. Willett and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed.

The Board took a short break while the projector was set up.

**Executive Session**

Mr. Yamartino made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Petrella, to go into Executive Session for discussion of a personnel matter.

In favor of approving the motion: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff, Mr. Willett and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed.

The video and recording were shut off during this time.

Upon returning from Executive Session, Mrs. Flanagan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hicks, to accept the proposal from Dr. Veronesi to grant an extended leave to an employee.

In favor of approving the motion: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff, Mr. Willett and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed.

**ACES Presentation**

Mr. Hicks, chair of ACES (Area Cooperative Educational Services), explained their mission statement. In summary, they provide collaborative, customized, cost-effective solutions to meeting identified needs of their educational community.

ACES is a RESC (Regional Educational Service Center) similar to CREC (Capitol Region Education Council). CREC gets the majority of funding from the State and is larger than ACES. Mr. Hicks reviewed the RESC system for the Board and explained that we fall within the Greater New Haven area. Mr. Hicks also reviewed their organizational chart.

Mr. Hicks reviewed the variety of services that ACES offers to the RESC, including behavioral, construction and extension therapy services. ACES does almost all of the fingerprinting in the area and also offers professional development opportunities. They provide information technology and transportation services as well.

Mr. Hicks went on to explain that ACES is also a school district, with three magnet schools. District 13 is a partner with Thomas Edison Middle School. He also reviewed the Education Center for the Arts in New Haven and the Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School in Hamden which is K through 8. There is also the Center for Autism Spectrum and Development Disorder,

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Mill Road School, Whitney High School East, West and North as well as Village School which houses Early Intensive Behavior Intervention program. Mr. Hicks explained that ACES' executive director is similar to a superintendent and operates as fee-for-service, billing the towns.

ACES offers a variety of other programs, including Open Choice and Magnet School Parent Choice. Mr. Hicks explained that Thomas Edison Middle School has never had full enrollment. ACES also has a new program called ACES International Magnet School program where students from China will come to the arts magnet school. They also offer a Summer Academy and have recently bought a school in Hamden and will consolidate Whitney High School North, East and West. ACES also recently purchased 51 Trumbull Street in New Haven and will renovate it for classroom, exhibit and art space. They have also secured space at 300 Washington Street in Middletown where the Early Head Start program will be located.

Mr. Hicks also explained that ACES has a design plan that they are working on and have three more sessions scheduled to work on that. He also reviewed more details of the International Magnet School program and personalized learning programs, including having a STEM Academy last summer.

Mr. Hicks also mentioned that ACES has 950 employees with budgets close to \$87 million (closer to \$125 million when all numbers are included), 19 buildings and services 25 communities, including 67 districts. ACES does go outside of the district for students who cannot get a program within their own district. They also service 19,300 educators with professional development.

In summary, Mr. Hicks explained that Regional District 13 does very little business with ACES, but does have students enrolled at Thomas Edison Middle School. The District does utilize the professional development services as well as technology and people-related services.

### **Adjournment**

Mrs. Flanagan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Friedrich.

In favor of the motion to adjourn: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff, Mr. Willett and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Debi Waz

Debi Waz  
Alwaz First