

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, May 28, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the music room at John Lyman School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currllin, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Dr. Shoemaker. Also present: Mr. Melnik, Mrs. Viccaro.

Mr. Hennick called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Public Comment: Karen Kean, tennis coach, is sad that there were problems with the referendum. She hopes that checks and balances are put in place so that everything is not one person's responsibility.

Karen Brimecombe presented Dr. Shoemaker with flowers from John Lyman School, thanking him for his years of service on the Board of Education.

Josh Stockdale asked if the error in the referendum affected only the building projects or if the annual school budget referendum is invalid as well. Mr. Hennick said the school budget referendum is valid, it was noticed correctly.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Education will be on June 11, 2008 at Memorial School.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Adams, the agenda was unanimously approved.

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion, second Mrs. Golschneider to approve the minutes to the Board of Education meeting of May 14, 2008 as corrected. Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currllin, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Dr. Shoemaker voted yes. Mr. Hicks abstained.

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion, second Mr. Currllin to approve the minutes to the Special Meeting of the Board of Education on May 20, 2008. Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currllin, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Dr. Shoemaker voted yes. Ms. Gara, Mr. Hicks abstained.

Mrs. Golschneider made a motion, second Mr. Currllin to approve the minutes to the Emergency Meeting of the Board of Education on May 20, 2008. Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currllin, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Dr. Shoemaker voted yes. Ms. Gara, Mr. Hicks abstained.

Communications: Dr. Ochterski attended the DARE graduation at Memorial School. He said this was the 20th year of DARE and it was an excellent class.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro reported that there have been several recent donations from the community that she wanted to report. Soccer uniforms are being donated by a family to Strong School at a cost of about \$1,500. A sound system is being donated by a family to John Lyman School at a cost of approximately \$5,000. Memorial School is looking into doing a memorial for Jamie LeClerc, possibly a bench. The Middlefield Garden Club would like to start a small award or scholarship for a Strong School 8th grader honoring Zilla Gordon.

Dr. Shoemaker said by policy the Board must vote to accept any donations over \$5,000. Dr. Shoemaker also asked that thank you letters be sent to all of the donors.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Adams the Board of Education unanimously accepted, with thanks, the donation of the sound system for John Lyman School.

Mrs. Viccaro introduced Susan Wagemaker, business teacher and Dr. Wysowski to discuss a grant that the high school would like to apply for.

Ms. Wagemaker said they are applying for a grant from the State to create a personal finance course at Coginchaug. The deadline to submit the application is Monday, June 2nd and it needs the Board's approval. Grants of \$15,000-\$25,000 will be allocated for new programs. The State Department of Education and the State Treasurer's Office are working together on this grant. The plan is to have a new course in place for the 2009-10 school year. She feels there will be enough money from the grant to buy workbooks and supplies for four or five years. This course would replace a course with low enrollment and would probably be a senior elective.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Adams the Board of Education unanimously supported the grant application by Coginchaug High School to the State Department of Education for state funds to provide for investing and personal finance education programs in the public secondary schools.

Mrs. Viccaro said she and Mr. Melnik attended a meeting last week with Emergency Services to work on the update to the Crisis Manual. She expects to have one more meeting and to have the document completed and ready for staff by the fall.

Mrs. Viccaro said that hiring is continuing for the fall and is going well. The contract with the Independent Day School for nursing services has been signed.

Mrs. Viccaro also attended the DARE graduation. One hundred seventy students graduated from the program. Seven students read essays and did a wonderful job.

Earth Day Recycling: Students from Miss Lohmeyer's 3rd grade class from Korn School and Mrs. Dixon's 5th grade class from Memorial School presented to the Board on the "One Can, CAN Make A Difference" program that they collaborated on this past Earth Day. A video that they created was shown and a PowerPoint presentation on the program was shared. The students collected over 2000 cans and donated \$77.00 to the Connecticut Forest and Park Association. This amount is being matched by Korn School for a total donation of \$154.00. The students plan to continue this program next year and will extend the collection time to one week.

Mrs. Berndt's Overnight Camping Field Trip Request: On a motion by Dr. Shoemaker, second Mrs. Golschneider the Board of Education unanimously approved the overnight camping field trip request to the John Lyman School top field for Mrs. Berndt's second graders on June 6, 2008.

New England Music Festival: Mrs. Viccaro explained that this is the festival that was held here a few years ago where students stay in host homes. Approval of the festival will also necessitate a change to the school calendar for next year. A professional development day will have to be changed to accommodate the request.

On a motion by Dr. Shoemaker, second Mrs. Flanagan the Board of Education unanimously approved the request by the Coginchaug Music Department to host the 82nd New England Music Festival at Coginchaug on March 19 – 21, 2009.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Golschneider, the Board of Education unanimously approved the revised 2008-2009 District Calendar, moving the April 9, 2009 Professional Development Day to March 20, 2009.

Resolution on Special Act Validating Referendum: Mr. Hennick explained that because of the error in Durham the District is asking the State legislature to validate the building project referendum at the special session of the legislature on June 11th. He said the Board needed to approve a resolution supporting this request.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mr. Currlin the Board of Education unanimously supported the resolution asking the State legislature to validate the referendum on May 6, 2008 regarding the building projects. A copy of the resolution is attached to these minutes.

Mr. Hennick asked Board members to try to contact any legislator they know to gain support for putting this on the agenda of the special session.

Finance Committee: Ms. Parsons said the Finance Committee met this evening and reviewed the expenditures and receipts through April 30th. The District is in better shape than where they were at this time last year. Bids were received from three auditing firms. Interviews will be conducted. The Town of Durham and the District has sent out RFP's for pension plans. It was sent to three firms and posted in the newspaper. The Finance Committee also discussed energy costs. They have decided to hold off on "locking-in" a price on oil and will continue to watch the costs on a monthly basis throughout the summer.

Personnel Policies: Mrs. Flanagan said the Committee is continuing to negotiate with the nurses. They have not reached an agreement; one more meeting is scheduled.

Building Committee: Mr. Currlin said the Committee will be meeting next week. They will still begin prioritizing the project and plan for meetings with the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Inland Wetlands Commission.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Dr. Shoemaker the Board of Education unanimously approved to adjourn.