

The Regional District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, October 17, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the music room at John Lyman School. Board members present: Mr. Currlin, Ms. Gara, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Dr. Shoemaker. Members absent: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Hicks. Also present: Mrs. Viccaro, Mr. Melnik.

Mr. Hennick called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Public Comment: Bob Bandzes asked if the District had any plans to change its calendar per the recommendation made by Senator Gaffey. Mrs. Viccaro said at this time there will be no change to begin school after Labor Day. Mr. Hennick stated it will be very hard to get all the school districts on the same calendar, each district has different needs.

Next Board Meeting: The next Board meeting will be October 24, 2007 at Brewster School.

On a motion by Dr. Shoemaker, second Mrs. Golschneider, the agenda was unanimously approved.

On a motion by Dr. Shoemaker, second Mr. Currlin, the minutes to the September 26, 2007 Board of Education meeting were unanimously approved.

Communications: Mr. Currlin stated the executive director of CAFE gave a presentation at the ACES meeting explaining the services CAFE provides. They are very technology based with policies and information on their website. A few years ago the District decided not to join CAFE due to the cost. Mrs. Viccaro stated of the 169 districts in the State only about 10-15 towns are not a part of CAFE; District 13 is one of them. The cost to join is about \$8-9,000. It is based on student enrollment. Mrs. Viccaro will ask the executive director to attend one of the upcoming Board meetings to give a presentation about CAFE so the Board can make a decision as to whether or not to join before next year's budget is finalized.

Ms. Gara said all the Board members received a letter about a field trip situation at John Lyman School. Mrs. Viccaro stated Mrs. Brimecombe has contacted the parent and is waiting to hear back from her.

Mr. Hennick stated the public meetings before the Board meetings will begin next week. He will be there with Mrs. Adams to listen to any comments or concerns from the public. The session will begin at 6:30pm.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro reported she has been in touch with NESDEC and a representative will attend the public forum on November 5th.

Mrs. Viccaro met with a group of parents forming a booster club for track and field to help to make a new track possible. They are concerned about safety issues with the present track. Mrs. Viccaro also reported the CIAC has implemented new rules regarding uniforms. Presently the track and field students are not wearing all the same uniforms and this can be an issue when they compete in meets. The Board will need to discuss this for the upcoming budget.

"Capturing Kids Hearts" is a program that helps students feel connected to their schools. Mrs. Viccaro is very interested in having this program in the District. Several teachers attended a three day workshop and Mrs. Viccaro would eventually like all the teachers at the high school and Strong School to be trained.

CMT/CAPT: Mrs. Viccaro and Mrs. Luckenbach reported the District has done very well on the CMTs with the exception of grade 5 reading and math. They are reviewing this and trying to find out why. Mrs. Luckenbach stated due to the small size of the District each student makes a significant impact on the grade level's scores. All subgroups did make adequate yearly progress for NCLB.

There is a new generation of the CAPT so comparisons cannot be made but students have done well. Reading for information will be a key focus of the high school improvement plan. The students in the classes of 2006 and 2007 were able to meet the CAPT-based graduation competencies either through CAPT or through an alternative assessment designed by the teachers.

NESDEC: A public forum on the NESDEC report will be held on November 5 in the auditorium at the high school at 7:30pm. A representative from NESDEC will attend the meeting.

Strategic Planning: Mrs. Viccaro stated it is important to remember what drives the District in all that it does including the development of the budget each year. The Strategic Plan is the guiding force in the District. Mrs. Luckenbach showed the beliefs, parameters, objectives and strategies of the Strategic Plan that was first developed in 1992. She said the beliefs are the same beliefs from the first meeting with only minor revisions.

Mr. Currlin stated the core ethical values have been an important part of the plan. All students know the core ethical values and are to use them not only in school but all the time. He feels the public should also be held accountable to the same standards we expect of the students especially at public meetings and Board meetings.

Site Planning: Mrs. Viccaro reported the high school will be working on their site plan. There are twenty three people on the committee that includes administrators, teachers, parents and students that will be attending the planning sessions all day on Friday and Saturday. They will review the current site plan and make revisions.

Long Range Planning Committee: Mr. Currlin reported the committee reviewed the 5 year capital plan submitted by the Building and Grounds Committee. They also reviewed the proposed capital expenditure funding and possible bonding options. The committee will be gathering more information before presenting their recommendation to the Board.

Personnel Policies: Mr. Hennick reported the committee has begun the process for teacher contract negotiations. Dr. Shoemaker reported a representative from the Middlefield Board of Finance attended the meeting.

Building and Grounds: Mr. Currlin reported Mr. Francis was attending a Planning and Zoning meeting tonight regarding the lights at the sports field.

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