

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, May 27, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the music room at John Lyman School. Board members present: Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Currilin, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons. Members absent: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara, Mrs. Golschneider. Also present: Mr. Melnik, Mrs. Viccaro.

Mr. Hennick called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Education will be a Special Meeting in the library at Coginchaug Regional High School on June 1, 2009 at 7:00pm to discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation followed by the District Meeting at 8:00pm in the auditorium. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on June 10, 2009 at Coginchaug Regional High School.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Ms. Parsons, the Board of Education unanimously approved the agenda.

On a motion by Mrs. Boyle, second Mr. Currilin, the minutes to the meeting of May 13, 2009 were unanimously approved.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Boyle, the minutes to the meeting of May 18, 2009 were unanimously approved.

Communications: Ms. Parsons said she attended Seussical the Musical at Coginchaug and loved it.

Mrs. Boyle went on the 4th grade trip to Plymouth with Korn School. She said it was a wonderful day, there were no issues and the kids were well behaved.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro updated the Board on the stimulus money the District will be receiving. The District will be getting \$438,140.00; of that total \$16,684.00 is designated to preschool. The rest of the money must all be tied to special education and is being distributed through the IDEA grant. Mrs. Viccaro and Mr. Melnik are not recommending using this money to offset the budget because the money would have to be made up in the following year and then the budget would go up even more. They would like to purchase items that will have long term value such as vehicles for the transition programs, technology for special education students, and possibly some temporary personnel. The accounting for the money will be done separately from the District budget so it will not affect the annual budget.

Mrs. Boyle asked why money won't be taken out of our special education budget and be used for regular education if this money is earmarked for special education only. Mrs. Viccaro said the District can't reduce the spending on special education from year to year or there will be sanctions. She is concerned about the budget for future years when the stimulus money is no longer there.

Mrs. Boyle said the purpose of the stimulus money was to help towns through this tough time. If the budget fails at the vote next week she would like to use some of the stimulus money to offset next year's special education budget.

Mrs. Viccaro said she is not comfortable with that but it is a decision that the Board will have to make if the budget fails. According to the guidelines, a maximum of one half of the total grant can be allocated to offset the special education budget.

Ms. Parsons questioned whether the stimulus money could be used to fund a facility like High Hopes, a camp, a pool or the reading consultant. Mrs. Viccaro said these types of questions were all asked at the meeting they attended and the answer was no. The money must all be tied to special education. Our Reading Consultant is special education certified so it is possible that she could be used in a different way but not in her current position.

Mr. Hennick asked that more information and ideas be gathered before the next meeting. By that time the result of the vote will be known and the Board may have decisions to make as to how to spend the stimulus money.

Mrs. Viccaro shared the information requested on teachers who have been employed 37 or more years. There are seven and of the seven, three have already declared retirement.

Mrs. Viccaro passed out a handout from Ted Lombardo on the cost of uniforms and the cost of running the football program. Mrs. Viccaro will schedule Mr. Lombardo to come to the June Board meeting to discuss the handout.

7th Grade Camp Jewell Field Trip Request: On a motion by Mr. Currlin, second Ms. Parsons, the 7th Grade Field Trip to Camp Jewell on June 1 and June 2, 2009 was unanimously approved.

Technology Integration Standards and Benchmarks: Mrs. Luckenbach explained that the handout that was distributed to Board members last week needs approval. She invited Bill Kurtz and Michelle Burke, the Technology Integration Specialists to present on some of the technology initiatives that have taken place across the District this year. Each of them are responsible for technology integration in three of the District schools.

Mr. Kurtz and Ms. Burke showed examples of technology projects throughout the District including the use of PowerPoint, I-Movies, Podcasting, classroom web pages, ELMOs and MIMEOS. Many District teachers have received technology grants through ACES. There are very few teachers who are reluctant using technology any longer.

Mrs. Luckenbach said the Standards and Benchmarks are needed to be sure that all kids are getting the same opportunities. A child's success can't be dependent on the series of teachers the student gets. The plan is to assess technology proficiency at the end of eighth grade.

Mrs. Viccaro commended the work that Mr. Kurtz and Ms. Burke have done this year. They have spread themselves very broadly across the District and are doing a phenomenal job.

Technology Plan: Rich Fielding said the Technology Plan needs the approval of the Board of Education before it can be sent to the State Department for their final approval. The plan has already been approved by ACES. It is a three-year plan beginning July 1, 2009. The District needs the tech plan approved prior to applying for any State grants that are technology related. The goals will be worked on by the Tech Council to develop a plan for the next school year.

On a motion by Mr. Currlin, second Mrs. Boyle, the Board of Education unanimously approved the Technology Integration Standards and Benchmarks as presented.

On a motion by Mr. Currlin, second Mrs. Boyle, the Board of Education unanimously approved the District 13 Technology Plan for July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2012.

Finance Committee: Ms. Parsons said the Finance Committee met this evening with Hooker & Holcombe to further discuss the pension plan for non-certified staff. They have selected a more streamlined plan and will be sending it to legal council for review. Ms. Parsons hopes to be able to give more specifics at the next meeting. Meetings will be scheduled with individual bargaining groups and hopefully the plan can be finalized by June 30th.

Building Committee: Mr. Currilin said CHA Sports met with the Committee and they are moving along on their plans. The Committee will be selecting a design firm for the wells soon.

Policy Committee: Mr. Hicks said the Policy Committee will be meeting on Thursday, June 4th at 7:30pm in the conference room at Central Office.

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