

The Regional District 13 Board of Education held a District Meeting on Monday, May 6, 2013 at 8:00 p.m. in the auditorium at Coginchaug Regional High School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Renninghoff. Also present: Mrs. Viccaro, Mr. Melnik.

Mrs. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Hicks read the call of the meeting and the return of the call.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mr. Parmelee, Jim Finley was elected as the moderator.

Mrs. Flanagan reviewed the Budget Analysis stating that under the operating budget salaries, dues and fees, and debt service had decreased. Mrs. Flanagan explained that although there was an increase in the cost of benefits a new contract had been negotiated reducing the amount of increase. The increases in operational services and supplies were primarily due to the implementation of the Common Core State Standards. Mrs. Flanagan also addressed the potential loss of state funding and encouraged community members to contact their legislators urging them to restore the funding.

Mr. Finley opened the floor to questions.

Richard Parmelee of Durham stated that the state is not a reliable source for funding and asked if the towns were required to pay that amount if the state doesn't come through. Mrs. Flanagan said that the Board was looking for a way to come up with the \$282,000. Mr. Parmelee also stated that he would like the elimination of fees at the high school saying that they have no place in public education.

Mr. Finley reminded the members of the community that this meeting was for questions.

Mr. Palmero of Middlefield asked what the cost increase per student was. Mr. Melnik stated that there was approximately a 3% increase per student.

Mr. Friedrich of Durham asked if the decrease in salaries was due to a decrease of positions. Mr. Melnik stated no that there is a number of retirements and contingencies were being made regarding substitutes.

Mr. Stoup of Durham asked if the Board had any idea of the amount of ECS grant money that would be available. Mrs. Flanagan stated that the Board wouldn't know until late June.

There being no further questions, Mr. Finley adjourned the meeting to Referendum at 8:25 p.m.