

**Board of Education
Regional School District 13**

**Regular Meeting
Strong School, Library**

**March 19, 2014
Minutes & Motions**

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Flanagan at 7:30 p.m. with the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call	Mrs. Flanagan Mr. Hicks Dr. Friedrich Mrs. Adams	Dr. Onofreo Mr. Fulton Mrs. Boyle	Mr. Renninghoff Mrs. Buckheit Mrs. Fronc
Absent			
Administrators	Dr. Veronesi Mr. Gates Mrs. Emory Mrs. Heckler	Dr. Berry Mr. Sadinsky Mr. Ford Mrs. Hinson Yokubinas	Mr. Barbieri Mr. Brough Mrs. Stone
Other Staff	Mr. Fielding		

Public Present There were 19 members of the public present.

Public Comment

Mrs. Flanagan reminded the public that there is a 3-minute limit for each person who wishes to speak. A card with 1-minute and 30-second warnings will be held up as a reminder and to help the speaker try to wrap up what they are speaking about. Also, the board will not respond to questions during public comment, but will answer the questions if possible during the agenda item that the question relates to. If the question cannot be answered during the meeting, either the superintendent's office or Mrs. Flanagan will get back to the speaker as appropriate.

Donia Viola said that she has trouble understanding a reduction of 13.2 positions and an increase in benefits. The quarterly report on the website is from September.

Presentation

8th Grade ID Students: Progressive Era Exhibit

Four students (Ali, Taylor, Spencer and Otto) presented information about "The Age of Progressive Reform (1900-1917). With a grant from the Gilder Lehrman Institute, there will be a display at Strong Middle School in April. During that time, labor unions were formed, sweatshops ended in America. Immigrants had to take a literacy test to come into the states. There was a problem with urbanization. Leisure activities such as amusement parks and movies began. Women were meant to be seen and not heard until 1920 when they got voting rights and equal paying jobs. The goal was to clean up labor and social problems.

Mrs. Flanagan thanked the students for this presentation saying it was truly incredible.

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Mrs. Boyle asked when the display was coming.
Mr. Sadinsky confirmed that it would be April 24.

Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be March 26, 2014 at Strong School at 7:30pm.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the amended agenda made by Mr. Hicks, second by Mr. Fulton. Vote: Unanimous.

Add: New Business: Motion: Field Trip to Seattle, WA May 1-5, 2014 for Science Team to compete at Nationals.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the Minutes dated March 12, 2014 Regular Meeting made by Mr. Renninghoff, second by Mr. Fulton. Vote in favor: Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Renninghoff, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Fulton. Abstention: Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Buckheit,

Communications

Mrs. Buckheit reminded everyone that April 3rd will be the Meet and Greet with Dr. Veronesi.
Mrs. Boyle confirmed that there have been emails from parents to all board members.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Veronesi said that five candidates will be interviewed next Thursday for the CRHS Principal position. The Pickett Lane project is going out to bid again. All of the bids came in over budget. The concern is when the project will begin. It is slated to begin right at the end of the school year.

Old Business

2014-2015 District Calendar

Dr. Veronesi said that this calendar has already been approved, but she wants to bring some things to the board's attention. The biggest consideration is the elimination of the 3rd work day before the beginning of the school year. As the calendar stands right now, the students will start on August 27th. Dr. Veronesi would like to have the 27th as a teacher work day and the start of school on the 28th. The PD day on February 18th will be changed to February 13th and the May 8th PD day will be eliminated. Dr. Veronesi requested feedback from the board and the calendar will be on the next meeting agenda to vote on. The state calendar will be common in 2016.

Mrs. Flanagan asked that the changes be emailed so the members can look at them ahead of time.

Dr. Veronesi said that she would like to let parents and staff know as early as possible.

Motion to approve the Science Team Trip to Seattle, WA for the National Ocean Science Bowl competition from May 1-5, 2014 as presented made by Mr. Renninghoff, second by Mr. Fulton. Vote: Unanimous.

Mrs. Boyle asked about expenses for the students.

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Mr. Gates confirmed that there are no expenses for the students except spending money. Travel, hotel and meals are included.

2014-2015 Budget

Finalize Budget for Public Hearing

Dr. Veronesi said that this is a very responsible and respectful budget. There are 15 more students than expected for kindergarten registration. The class size would be 21-22 if another kindergarten class is not added and that is above the board class size policy target size. There is an approximate savings of \$295,000 in the insurance cost that will help the budget.

Proposed changes

- Want to reinstate a kindergarten teacher at Brewster and Lyman
- 1.2 FTE increase at CRHS
- Tech Ed position at Strong to look at STEM programming
- \$45,000 for contract settlement with non-certified
- \$5,000 for tuition reimbursement
- \$30,000 for building needs as off chute of utilization study
- \$30,000 to PD budget

Dr. Veronesi said that they are working on a PD worksheet as PD needs to change systematically and needs to be centralized to look at what is needed. As common core is implemented, using a consultant for \$800 - \$1000 per day for four days could be \$20,000. Special Education needs support for common core, as well as evaluators. The entire district needs to focus on what we need to be as a district. Three areas to focus on are quality of the teacher, quality of the curriculum, and class size. We need to make a commitment to the adults, both certified and non-certified.

Mrs. Boyle said that this is very thought out. The additions are exactly what we need. Professional development is a high priority. If you cut it, you cannot put this back in. We might not need so much next year after we get over this hump of starting common core implementation.

Mrs. Flanagan said that they are working on a cohesive and progressive program for the whole district. There will be a professional development goal-oriented plan for the whole district. It will take some time. This is a well thought out and cautious recommendation.

Dr. Friedrich thanked Dr. Veronesi for this recommendation for professional development. The investment in professional development tells staff that we value them.

Mr. Renninghoff feels that enrollment has been the problem. We cannot manage head count because of program choice. How do we make sure all is equitable? The district needs to make a decision about where the kindergarten students are going. The utilization study is supposed to tell us what to do. It is safe to say that one school will be closed in the future due to the declining enrollment. We cannot continue to put money into the buildings if we don't know what the future will be.

Dr. Veronesi said that program choice has to be supported as it exists right now. The next phase is that we look at the physical plants and what is best for kids.

Mr. Fulton said that we are all mindful of the possible changes. We have no intention of spending money in the short term.

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Mrs. Flanagan said that it is clear that capital improvements will have to be done, but the DRA report will give us the priority. No money will be spent until the reports by building are looked at and prioritized. There should be something set aside, just in case. If there is funding in capital reserve, then the district would not have to bond.

Mr. Renninghoff confirmed that this is to move forward and start the process for any changes that need to be made. How do we know that the money will be used for what it is intended?

Mrs. Flanagan confirmed that we need to put money in the capital plan so that we can continue to move forward. Nothing will be done before DRA reports are looked at. The Board will vote and decide on what the money is used for.

Dr. Friedrich reiterated that there is no commitment to spend the money and nothing will be started without coming to the Board.

Mr. Fulton said that there are a lot of unknowns. We need to have further discussion about where we will end up. We don't want to have to wait a year if there are no funds in the budget.

Mrs. Flanagan said that there are several items that were at risk right from the beginning. The budget was pushed to the limit and now there is the opportunity to put things back in. The insurance is inclusive in the headcount of the reduction of ten staff.

Mr. Hicks reported that the 3.28% change for magnet school will be 1.5%. The net expense will be an increase of \$218.00 per student.

Mrs. Boyle asked if the needs of CRHS are being met with the staffing in this budget.

Dr. Veronesi said that the needs of the high school are pretty varied. The staffing in this budget allows for one additional course in science per semester.

Mrs. Flanagan said that there is a lot of opportunity at the high school. We will have four additional AP classes.

Motion to approve to go to the Public Hearing on the 2014-2015 Regional District 13 education budget on April 10, 2014 with a total gross budget of \$37,186,891.00 made by Mr. Hicks, second by Mr. Renninghoff. Vote: Unanimous.

Vote to go to Referendum

Motion that the BOE approves to hold a referendum on the 2014-2015 Regional District 13 education budget on May 6, 2014 preceded by the District Meeting on May 5, 2014 made by Mr. Hicks, second by Mr. Renninghoff. Vote: Unanimous.

Committee Reports

None

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Public Comment

Donia Viola thanked the board for the work on the budget so far.

Donia Viola asked what is the difference in the kindergarten programs at the two schools?
Dr. Veronesi confirmed that there are definite differences in the programs.

Mrs. Flanagan asked Dr. Veronesi to contact Donia to discuss her concerns.

Craig Bradanini commented that this is a bottom line budget. It needs to pass on the first round. We owe it to the students to pass this.

Follow Up

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:08 p.m. made by Mr. Renninghoff, second by Mr. Onofreo. Vote: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,



Tammy A. McPherson
Regional District 13
BOE Recording Secretary