

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in the library at Strong Middle School, 191 Main St., Durham, CT. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc (7:40 p.m.), Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Also present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Melnik, Business Manager.

Chairperson Mrs. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. after it was determined that a quorum was present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Renninghoff led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

None

Next Board Meeting

February 25, 2015 at Strong School.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the agenda. Mrs. Boyle seconded.

In favor of approving the agenda: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes of November 12, 2014

Mr. Renninghoff moved to approve the minutes of January 14, 2015. Mrs. Adams seconded.

Mrs. Buckheit stated that it was Mrs. Fronc who requested that the Board of Education meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Friedrich moved to approve the minutes as amended. Mrs. Boyle seconded.

In favor of the amended agenda: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Communications

Mr. Hicks attended a Chamber breakfast and reported that Larry McHugh applauded Coginchaug students for consistently attending the meetings. Coginchaug students have been invited to attend a special event with John McCain.

Mrs. Flanagan attended a meeting with Sen. Ted Kennedy and Sen. Gayle Slossberg, co chairman of the Education Committee. Very interesting discussion took place with Superintendents and Board of Education Chairs on topics such as bullying and declining enrollment.

Business Manager's Report**A. Trend Report**

Mr. Melnik provided the Board with a copy of the Trend Report and explained the 5 categories on the report. This report is a great tool to assist Board members especially during the budget season.

B. Snow Removal

Mr. Melnik stated that we have had five snowstorms this year. The 2014-2015 budgeted amount is \$50,000. As of Saturday, February 7, 2015 there is \$380.00 left in the account.

Mr. Melnik also advised the Board that 2 roofs had to be cleared.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Veronesi reported that the 2015-2016 School Budget will be presented this evening.

Dr. Veronesi gave each Board member a copy of the book *Finnish Lessons* by Pasi Sahlberg. Dr. Veronesi requested that each Board member read the book and looked forward to having a discussion in the future.

Dr. Veronesi advised the Board that Nancy Sleath, former secretary at Coginchaug Regional High School made a donation in the amount of \$1000 to the music department in honor of her mother who recently passed away.

Dr. Veronesi congratulated the CRHS girls' indoor track team on their accomplishments and stated that the team was featured on the front page of the Middletown Press.

Dr. Veronesi informed the Board that a policy for concussions is needed by April 2015.

Mrs. Fronc asked about UConn courses at the high school. Mr. Falcone stated that they were waiting for approval from UConn.

Mrs. Fronc also requested that money be put in the budget for plaques for teams that are undefeated at the middle school.

New Business:

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the Camp Jewell field trip request. Mrs. Boyle seconded.

In favor of approving the Camp Jewell field trip request: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Fronc, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Mr. Fielding, IT Director gave a brief presentation on a Chromebook grant proposal. If awarded the grant Chromebooks would be purchased for Memorial and Strong Schools to be used for SBAC testing.

Mr. Hicks moved to apply for a grant for the purchase of Chromebooks as presented by Mr. Fielding. Dr. Onofreo seconded.

In favor of approving the Chromebook Grant Application: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Fronc, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Presentation:

Dr. Veronesi commended the Board for what they do for kids. She also thanked the administrators for providing great pictures for the budget presentation tonight.

Sustain good work, strengthen what we are doing and prepare for the future. Dr. Veronesi reviewed goals and the District's mission statement, and provided the Board with enrollment numbers for the 2015-2016 school year. She also provided the Board with a list of reductions and discussed proposed additions. Dr. Veronesi also advised the Board of requirements to move forward with the utilization study.

Mr. Melnik provided the Board with information regarding insurance costs, energy consortium,

and bus leases. The District has gone to bid on 6 contracts and have locked in fuel and oil prices. Mr. Melnik also presented and reviewed the budget summary. The District is proposing a 2.96% net increase.

Dr. Veronesi and Mr. Melnik handed budget booklets out to the Board members and also to the District administrators that were present at the meeting.

Dr. Veronesi thanked Rich Fielding and Sue Gaudreau on the outstanding work they did on the budget presentation and budget booklets. Dr. Veronesi asked the Board to please review the booklets and send her any questions they may have prior to the February 25th Board meeting.

Mrs. Fronc requested a comparison on enrollment from this year to next year and also an accountability report.

Mrs. Buckheit would like more information regarding the proposed Student Resource Officer.

A brief discussion took place regarding cutting a science teacher at Memorial.

Mrs. Boyle requested a breakdown of MTA.

Mrs. Flanagan thanked Dr. Veronesi, Mr. Melnik and the administrators for their efforts on the budget.

Committee Reports

Utilization Committee

Mr. Fulton stated that the committee plans to present a detailed report at the February 25, 2015 meeting. Discussion took place regarding what the District will do if we close a building. Mr. Fulton stated it was on the agenda for the next meeting.

Student Achievement

Mrs. Adams asked committee members to see her before they left the meeting to give her a list of dates they are available to meet. Mrs. Adams, Dr. Friedrich, Dr. Veronesi and Dr. Berry met on Tuesday and discussed the STAR program and how it works.

Educational Resource Committee

Mr. Fulton reported that the committee has been working with Dr. Veronesi and Mr. Melnik on the 2015-2016 budget. They are also waiting for the bid specs to come back on the Brewster roof. There was also discussion on solar panels.

Human Resource Committee

Mrs. Boyle reported that the next meeting of the Human Resource Committee will be March 2, 2015.

Other Committee Reports

Mr. Hicks reported the ACES governing board meets tomorrow to unveil the proposal on increases.

Public Comment

No public comment

Adjournment

Mr. Hicks moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m. Dr. Friedrich seconded.

In favor of adjourning the meeting: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Fronc, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed

Respectfully submitted

Maureen Johnson