

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, September 5, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the music room at Brewster Elementary School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Fulton, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Renninghoff. Also present: Mrs. Mangini, Mrs. Viccaro.

Mrs. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the recital the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Flanagan introduced and welcomed Mrs. Buckheit as a new member of the Board of Education.

Public Comment: Mrs. Infeld of Durham, a parent of 2 John Lyman students questioned why the March conferences were scheduled on the first day of Passover. Mrs. Infeld stated she felt slighted and said it was impossible to attend the conferences due to religious obligations. She also stated that there was a lack of communication between Central Office and parents. Mrs. Viccaro addressed the issue and commented that the administrative team had discussion on this issue and teachers would surely accommodate any parent who could not attend conferences during the two days in March. Mrs. Infeld stated that the issue of lack of communication should be addressed. Mrs. Viccaro is going to have discussion with the administrators addressing this issue.

Mr. Doyle of Durham congratulated Mrs. Flanagan on her new position of Chairman of the Board of Education and welcomed Mrs. Buckheit as the newest member of the Board. Mr. Doyle inquired about the status of the athletic program. Mr. Hauser stated that an athletic update was on the agenda for this meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Renninghoff, second Mr. Fulton, the Board of Education unanimously approved the agenda.

On a motion by Mr. Renninghoff, second Mr. Fulton, the Board of Education unanimously approved the minutes of the July 2, 2012 meeting.

Communications: Ms. Gara commented that we should not schedule parent conferences on religious holidays.

Mr. Renninghoff received an email asking if the schools were going to address Constitution Day. Mrs. Heckler commented on what Brewster does stating all activities are age appropriate. An example would be writing a classroom constitution. Mr. Hauser stated that it was addressed by the Social Studies department and would be folded into the course curriculum.

Mrs. Boyle addressed the problem with parents' emails being rejected. Follow up with Mr. Fielding will take place on this issue.

Mr. Hicks had the opportunity to attend the convocation and new staff luncheon. He commended the administration on the new hires. Mrs. Flanagan also was

impressed with the new staff. She commended Dr. Berry, Mrs. Emory, Mr. Kurtz, and Mrs. Gohagon on their presentations to new staff. Mrs. Flanagan also commended the Building and Grounds department for the outstanding job that was done in District buildings over the summer.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro reported the enrollment:

241 Brewster
174 Korn
283 Lyman
341 Memorial
332 Strong
575 Cuginchaug
1,946

7 Students at Thomas Edison Magnet School
4 Students outplaced
4 Students at VoAg

Mrs. Viccaro stated that opening day was positive across the district. Lots of excitement about All Day K. The kindergarten students are amazing and the kindergarten teachers are very excited to have them all day.

Old Business: Mrs. Vicarro handed out to Board members a revised 2013-2014 school calendar. The old calendar did not include September 30th.

New Business: A presentation was given by Brennan Bates. Brennan is looking for the Board's approval of his Eagle Scout Project; message boards at Brewster and Korn. Brennan needs to raise between \$2,000 - \$4,000 and will be responsible for fundraising, installation, and permits.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second by Mrs. Boyle, the Board of Education unanimously approved Brennan Bates' Eagle Scout Project of installing signs at Korn and Brewster Schools.

New Board Goals and Objectives: A PowerPoint presentation was made outlining the 2012-2013 Board of Education goals and objectives. The goal of the Board of Education is to engage in the education of students. The Board wants to improve communication with administrators by possibly teaming up a Board member with an administrator. The Board would also like to accelerate the budget process and present the budget in February rather than March. Focusing on academic achievement by reviewing school and district performance, reviewing course selection and keeping the District competitive is another goal the Board would like to improve on. The Board would like to manage the cost per student by examining every aspect of the budget. The Board wants to get the public on board by strengthening its ties with the community. It is a work in progress.

Athletic Update: During his presentation Mr. Hauser outlined the CIAC athletic review model and timeline for the Fall of 2012 for Cogenchaug. Mr. Hauser explained to the Board the CIAC Exemplary Interscholastic High School Athletic Program Evaluation Model is an evaluation program to measure progress toward the CIAC's goals for exemplary programs. This is a voluntary program and includes 4 components. Mr. Lombardo has already begun the process. A specific timeline is dependent on CIAC staff availability.

Finance Committee: Mr. Fulton recommended that the Board adopt the 3-year contract with HP as the cost is neutral and it is a better product.

On a motion by Dr. Ochterski, second by Mrs. Adams the Board of Education unanimously agreed to adopt the HP Managed Print Service Agreement.

Policy Committee: Changes to four policies, 1102, 5131.6, 6153, and 4118 4218 were presented by Mr. Hicks but will not be voted on this evening.

Field House: Mr. Renninghoff presented 3 scenarios for the completion of the field house. The first option is to build a 1,100 square foot public restroom with an area for janitorial room. The cost of this would be \$256,000. The second option is to erect the entire structure with restrooms and an open space. The cost for this is \$537,000. The third option is to go with everything on the architect design costing just under \$800,000.

Building Committee: Mr. Renninghoff reported that he had been to Memorial and the old oil tank had been removed. As of 8/24/12 the transfer tank was still there. Retaining wall had been completed. At Brewster Mrs. Heckler reported the new oil tank was connected and ready. There was no contamination from either tank. Mr. Francis was commended for overseeing the job and making sure it was completed before the start of school.

Other Committee Reports: Mr. Fulton reported for the Communications Committee advising the Board that he received an update from Mr. Fielding on the new website and the target date is October 1.

Buildings and Grounds Committee will meet on September 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Central Office.

Follow-Up:

- Calendar Revision/Religious Holiday
- Add mention of motions on future agendas
- Meeting to approve goals and objectives
- Field Trip Policy – reference insurance on form and concern being appropriate for that trip
- Contact Mr. Fielding regarding SPAM issue

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Adams the Board of Education
unanimously approved to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Johnson