

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education Policy Committee met in Special Session on Wednesday, August 8, 2018 at 6:00 PM in the Library at Coginchaug Regional High School, Durham, Connecticut.

Committee members present: Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino.

Committee members absent: None

Other Board members present: Mr. Augur and Mr. Moore

Administration present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Hicks called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Petrella, to approve the agenda, as presented.

In favor of approving the agenda, as presented: Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes - January 9, 2018

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Petrella, to approve the minutes of January 9, 2018, as presented.

In favor of approving the minutes of January 9, 2018, as presented: Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

Continued Discussion of Non-Board Members on Board Subcommittees

Mr. Hicks explained that the documents have been reviewed by the Board's attorney. Mrs. Petrella asked if the Finance Committee was considered a standing committee and wondered about the fact that it had more than two non-board members. Mr. Hicks explained that that committee is not in the by-laws and therefore is not considered a standing committee.

Mr. Yamartino felt that if members of the public are asked to be on committees and devote their efforts that it might be appropriate for them to be able to vote on those committees, however he would rather have participation without a vote than no participation at all. Mr. Yamartino reminded everyone that all issues go to the full Board for a vote anyway.

Mr. Hicks also asked that the word "will" be changed to "may" participate in that same line. Mr. Augur agreed and also felt that the non-board members should not have a vote. Mr. Augur was not happy with the word "function" and suggested that it read "the Board of Education seeks broader engagement by

allowing participation of community members.” Dr. Veronesi stated that this policy decision is directly supportive of some of the District’s strategic coherence goals and Mr. Augur suggested adding that to the introduction. Dr. Veronesi read, “in support of Regional School District 13's strategic coherence goals, the Board of Education seeks to include broader engagement by allowing participation of community members on some of the Board of Education committees.”

There was then discussion about the words “some” and “standing” and it was felt that maybe those words should in fact be “designated.”

Mrs. Petrella asked if any votes are taken by the Finance Committee and Mr. Augur explained that it is purely advisory with no votes taken other than minutes and agendas. Mr. Augur prefers that issues are sent to the full Board from the Finance Committee on a consensus basis, rather than a vote.

Mr. Hicks asked if the Committee wanted to reinstate dates so that it is revisited every year and Mr. Yamartino would rather not and have it move forward as it is. Mr. Moore reminded everyone that it basically starts over every year because of committee assignments. There was then discussion about the word “engagement” rather than “participation” and it was agreed to have it read “community member committee participation.”

Mrs. Petrella asked if the members wanted to designate which committees would be involved, but it was generally agreed to leave it open. Mr. Yamartino reminded everyone that the original thought had been to try it on two committees, with the intention of not including the Human Resources Committee because of confidentiality issues.

Mr. Yamartino made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Geraci, to adopt the Community Member Committee Participation Policy as edited.

In favor of adopting the Community Member Committee Participation Policy, as edited: Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Mrs. Geraci made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, to adjourn the meeting.

In favor of adjourning the meeting: Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz
Alwaz First