

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in special session on Friday, April 15, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. in the Music Room at Korn Elementary School, 144 Pickett Lane, Durham, CT. Board members present: Mrs. Adams (by telephone), Mrs. Boyle (by telephone), Mrs. Flanagan (3:10), Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Willett. Also present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Melnik, Business Manager.

Mr. Hicks called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. after it was determined that a quorum was present.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

#### **Next Board Meeting**

Next Board Meeting

District Meeting May 2, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. in the Auditorium at Coginchaug Regional High School.

Next regular Board Meeting

May 11, 2016 at Memorial School

#### **Approval of Agenda**

Dr. Onofreo moved to approve the agenda. Dr. Friedrich seconded.

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

#### **Discussion of MBR**

Dr. Veronesi stated that it took a while to receive an answer from the State. Just before noon on Friday Dr. Veronesi heard from the CFO at the State. \$183,632.00 savings was allowed due to the closing of Korn School. Dr. Veronesi stated we were the first District "through the gate". A letter from the State is forthcoming.

Mr. Willett asked, "what does the number mean" and how do we translate it into action items?

Dr. Veronesi stated that she and Mr. Melnik looked at reductions that do not impact students. She also stated that the District cannot exceed the MBR as it is illegal.

#### **2016-2017 Budget**

##### **Finalize Budget for District Meeting**

Mr. Melnik handed out budget change summary sheets. Dr. Veronesi emailed the sheets to Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Boyle.

Cuts were made to the salary line two times and in capital. Total cuts of \$100,000. Dr. Veronesi and Mr. Melnik also were charged with offsetting \$21,000, the result of eliminating the activity fee at Coginchaug Regional High School. The total amount of the decrease was \$812,014 from the 2015-2016 school year budget.

Mr. Hicks moved to go to the District Meeting on May 2, 2016 with a gross \$36,705,601.00 Regional School District 13 2016-2017 Education Budget followed by a referendum on May 3, 2016. Dr. Onofreo seconded.

Discussion took place. Mr. Willett asked how it was known to target the salary line.

Mr. Melnik stated that the salary line is 100% of salary budgeted. The District generally spends 98-99% of this amount. The impact of making cuts in the line will be seen in future years. Mrs. Flanagan stated further reduction in this line over the years will create challenges in the future. She referred to it as "kicking the can down the road".

Mr. Moore questioned the impact of reducing the capital line. Mr. Melnik addressed this issue stating that the life of the track and the turf field is about 15 years. By reducing this line item we are hoping to get 20 years.

Mr. Willett thanked Dr. Veronesi and Mr. Melnik for the time that have devoted to reducing the budget.

Mrs. Boyle asked if everyone in the room was happy with the proposed budget. Board members expressed that they were comfortable.

Mrs. Flanagan also thanked Dr. Veronesi and Mr. Melnik for not impacting educational programming.

Dr. Friedrich asked if there was a reason we are not targeting 99% on the salary line. Mr. Melnik stated this is the first year we've done this and not sure of the outcome. Dr. Veronesi stated it is risky. Dr. Onofreo asked what if we are short on the salary line. Mr. Melnik stated he would have to freeze the budget and take money from other line items.

Mrs. Boyle mentioned that the towns are willing to help us out if needed. Dr. Onofreo stated that this approach is not good budgeting.

Mrs. Adams asked what would happen if the budget was voted down. Dr. Veronesi stated that programs would be cut. Again Dr. Veronesi stated that the District cannot exceed the MBR as it is illegal.

Mr. Willett stated that the Board needs to convey a clear message stating that it is a responsible budget, the activity fee at the high school has been eliminated, the salary line has been reduced, and no programs have been cut.

Mrs. Flanagan asked if there was further discussion. Being none the Board voted to approve moving to referendum.

In favor of moving to referendum: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich. Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

#### **Public Comment**

Mr. Stengel, speaking as a resident of Durham, thanked the Board for going to the State regarding MBR. He also commented on the cuts that were made.

Mr. Stoup also thanked the Board for their hard work.

#### **Adjournment**

Mrs. Boyle thanked everyone on the Board of Education for working together on the budget.

Mr. Hicks commented that the technology needs to be upgraded for electronic meetings.

Mr. Hicks moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:52 p.m. Dr. Friedrich seconded.

In favor of adjourning the meeting: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

*Maureen Johnson*

*Recording Secretary*