

Regional School District 13 Board of Education Minutes of the Special Meeting of July 1, 2015

The Regional District 13 Board of Education met in special session on Wednesday, July 1, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room at the Regional School District 13 Central Office, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, Connecticut.

Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, Mr. Willett

Board members absent: None

Administrators present: Ron Melnik, Business Manager

Others present: None

Mr. Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. after it was determined that a quorum was present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Adams led the Board of Education in the pledge of allegiance.

Election of Officers

Mrs. Adams nominated Kerrie Flanagan as Chair of the Regional School District 13 Board of Education for a one-year term ending June 30, 2016 and spoke on her behalf. Dr. Onofreo seconded the nomination.

Having no further nominations, Mr. Hicks declared nominations closed.

In favor of the nomination: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, Mr. Willett

Opposed to the nomination: None

Mr. Hicks declared Mrs. Flanagan was elected Chair of the Regional

School District 13 Board of Education for a one-year term, said term to expire June 30, 2016.

Mrs. Flanagan assumed the chair of the meeting.

Mrs. Boyle nominated Norm Hicks as Secretary of the Regional School District 13 Board of Education for a one-year term ending June 30, 2016 and spoke on his behalf. Mr. Renninghoff seconded the nomination.

Having no further nominations, Mrs. Flanagan declared nominations closed.

In favor of the nomination: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, Mr. Willett

Opposed to the nomination: None

Mrs. Flanagan declared Mr. Hicks was elected Secretary of the Regional School District 13 Board of Education for a one-year term, said term to expire June 30, 2016.

Mr. Hicks nominated Mr. Fulton as treasurer of the Regional School District 13 Board of Education for a one-year term ending June 30, 2016 and spoke on his behalf. Dr. Onofreo seconded the nomination.

Having no further nominations, Mrs. Flanagan declared nominations closed.

In favor of the nomination: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, Mr. Willett

Opposed to the nomination: None

Mrs. Flanagan declared Mr. Fulton was elected Treasurer of the Regional School District 13 Board of Education for a one-year term, said term to expire June 30, 2016.

Mr. Hicks stated it is necessary to have an additional motion in the minutes of this meeting regarding the election of the Treasurer.

Mr. Hicks moved that the Board of Education approve that treasurer Robert Fulton be allowed to invest the funds of Regional School District 13 according to state statutes. Mrs. Flanagan seconded the motion.

In favor of the motion: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, Mr. Willett

Opposed to the motion: None

Motion passed.

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes of June 10, 2015

Mr. Hicks moved that the minutes of the June 10, 2015 Board of Education meeting be approved. Dr. Onofreo seconded the motion.

In favor of the motion: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, Mr. Willett

Opposed to the motion: None

Abstained from voting: Mr. Fulton

Motion passed.

Acceptance of Donation from Soccer Club

Mr. Willett, speaking as an individual and member of the Coginchaug Soccer Club, made a presentation to the Board of Education with appropriate supporting documents and detail. The Board of Education discussed each page of the document in detail discussing the history of the soccer club and the rationale for choosing Memorial School as a site for soccer fields. Mr. Willett focused on a timeline and the importance of finalizing an agreement with Regional School District 13. He further emphasized the importance of a partnership with the school district and the protection of both parties. He added that plans and permits are already in place.

Mr. Fulton inquired if this proposal was entirely on district property. Mr. Melnik stated that the Coginchaug Soccer Club shall pay electricity and water charges. Mr. Willett stated that there should be an agreement before construction is started. Mrs. Flanagan asked what an agreement might look like with Mr. Melnik responding that the agreement will be on-going, as this is a time-sensitive project.

Mr. Fulton was concerned that an agreement is not in place and that an agreement would be prudent business-wise. Mr. Hicks inquired as to who would schedule the use of the new facility. He also asked about the use of school facilities during non-school hours. It was stated that portable restrooms will be available and the access to the school would be unnecessary.

Dr. Onofreo moved to approve the proposal to construct soccer fields at Memorial School as outlined in the Coginchaug Soccer Club presentation and accept the donation of associated costs. Mrs. Fronc seconded the motion.

In favor of the motion: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, Mr. Willett

Opposed to the motion: Mr. Fulton

Abstained from voting: Mr. Willett

Motion passed

Business Manager's Report

Central Office Staffing

Mr. Melnik outlined several changes in the employment structure of personnel in the central office.

Central Office Design Change

Mr. Melnik distributed a map that outlines a possible relocation of personnel offices consistent with changes in staff. The cost estimate of the redesign of the central office is estimated to be \$69,250 with \$25,000 coming from capital expenditures from the prior year as well as \$10,000 from capital expenditures from this year.

Mr. Fulton has concerns regarding the cost of the construction. Mr.

Renninghoff has further concerns regarding the construction of the Superintendent's office. Mr. Fulton was further concerned regarding the timing of this project with half being financed now and the remainder coming from the next budget. There was also considerable discussion regarding office furniture expenses.

Mr. Melnik stated that the proposal is informational and action need not be taken. Mrs. Adams asked if other vendors had been considered to reduce the cost of the project. Mr. Fulton emphasized the need to provide our chief executive with appropriate space. Mrs. Boyle mentioned that the Board of Education needs to prioritize items.

No motions were made and no action was taken on this agenda item.

Committee Reports

Utilization Committee

Mr. Fulton reported on the Building Utilization Committee Interim Report that has stimulated interest among the communities. The committee will continue to work on plans while the Board of Education resolves the issue of declining enrollment. There was discussion that a public meeting might occur over the summer.

Dr. Veronesi is working in alternative methods if accommodating classes and grades. She also mentioned that contained in the budget from last year is funding for the demographic study to be updated. Mr. Fulton further stated that the Utilization Committee is committed to ensuring the demographic data is current. He also discussed the need to obtain costs for school closure and a more concrete plan.

ACES

Mr. Hicks announced that effective today (July 1, 2015) he is the new Chairman of the Board of Governors for Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES) having been unanimously elected on June 11, 2015. Board members congratulated Mr. Hicks on this accomplishment with a round of applause.

Public Comment

Alma Alda congratulated the Board of Education for the work that has

been done this year and that taxpayers appreciate the thoughtfulness of that work. She further stated that there are significant differences in a wide range of buildings that proves to be challenging to the Board of Education.

Adjourn

Mr. Renninghoff moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. Mrs. Adams seconded the motion.

In favor of the motion: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, Mr. Willett

Opposed to the motion: None

Motion passed.

Mrs. Flanagan declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Norm Hicks

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