

The Regional District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, March 5, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the gym at Strong School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currlin, Ms. Gara, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Dr. Shoemaker. Member absent: Mrs. Flanagan. Also present: Mrs. Viccaro, Mr. Melnik.

Mr. Hennick called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Next Board Meeting: The next Board of Education meeting will be March 12, 2008 at Strong School.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Golschneider, the agenda was unanimously approved.

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion, second Mrs. Golschneider to approve the minutes to the February 27, 2008 Board of Education meeting. Dr. Shoemaker, Mrs. Golschneider, Ms. Gara, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Currlin voted yes. Mrs. Adams, Dr. Ochterski abstained.

Communications: Mrs. Golschneider and Mr. Hennick read to students at Korn School at the Read Across America Day. They said it was a wonderful experience.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro reported on March 27th, the Local Wellness Council along with Regional District 13 is presenting a workshop for elementary parents titled "The Stranger You Know". It is about sexual abuse and is for parents only not students.

The Board received a copy of a publication done by Nate Fisher's creative writing class at the high school titled "The Pond".

Strong School will be holding their book discussion night on March 25 on the book "Secrets in the Fire". Anyone interested in participating in the discussion can pick up a book at either of the libraries or at Strong School.

The question and answer document on the building projects is posted on the District website.

2008-09 Regional District 13 Budget: Mrs. Viccaro presented the Regional District 13 budget. She reported the budget format is different this year. It is a work in progress and will evolve as time goes on. The budget format is more transparent and easier to understand. The budget book is separated by schools and includes the costs associated with running each building from staffing to supplies to maintenance. Special Education salaries are now under each building as well as textbooks which make the Special Education and Curriculum budgets look different.

The large book the Board received contains the requisitions for items ordered for each building and the central office. The supplemental book given to the Board includes additional information.

The staffing requests in the budget are for a Technology Director, In-school Suspension Monitor, 2.0 Support Staff positions, .5 Speech Pathologist, 1.3 teaching positions, a Reading Consultant, an ABA therapist, and a .6 nurse for IDS. There are also textbook requests: Biology, World Language, Algebra and World Studies for the high school; Social Studies and Math for Strong, Math for Brewster; and Social Studies for Memorial.

Technology is also an important part of the budget. There is a request to hire a Technology Director, to improve the backup procedures and licensing compliance, to purchase LCD projectors for all computer labs and to continue the library automation at the high school and the three elementary schools.

The gross budget increase is 6.85% and the net increase is 5.59%. The Board will discuss the budget over the next three weeks.

Capital Fund: The Board has already approved to establish a capital fund. They need to decide how much they would like to put in and for what reason. The fund can be no more than 1% of the budget and will come from the fund balance. The funds can accrue but they need to be used for the items specified. A public hearing also needs to be scheduled to approve the fund. If the money is ever needed for something else instead of what was approved, there needs to be another public hearing to transfer the funds.

Mrs. Viccaro stated there will be another school security grant. The District needs to spend the money first and then get reimbursed: 46% for Durham and 50% for Middlefield. The money is not in the 2008-09 budget but can be part of the capital fund if the Board chooses to do so.

The Board will continue to discuss the capital fund at their next meeting.

Senior Class Trip to Washington, D.C. – November 19-22, 2008.

On a motion by Mr. Currlin, second Mrs. Adams, the Board of Education unanimously approved the Senior Class Trip to Washington, D. C. – November 19-22, 2008.

CRHS Music Trip to Heritage Music Festival, Anaheim, CA – April 16-20, 2009.

Mr. Currlin made a motion, second Ms. Parsons to approve the CRHS Music Trip to Heritage Music Festival, Anaheim, CA – April 16-20, 2009.

The Board has some concerns regarding this trip: the cost, the number of chaperones, the amount of free time the students have and the location of the trip. They would like more information regarding this trip.

On a motion by Mr. Currlin, second Mr. Hicks the motion to approve the trip was unanimously tabled.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Golschneider, the Board of Education unanimously approved to adjourn.