

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, March 7, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the library at Strong School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Renninghoff. Members absent: Mrs. Boyle. Also present: Mr. Melnik, Mrs. Viccaro.

Mrs. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. with the recital Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Renninghoff.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Consent Agenda: Mrs. Flanagan asked the Board if they wanted any items removed from the consent agenda. Mr. Hicks asked that the approval of the agenda and minutes be removed from the Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Adams the Board of Education unanimously approved to remove the agenda and the minutes from the Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mr. Renninghoff the Board of Education unanimously approved to add the discussion of recording meetings electronically under New Business, item B.

On a motion by Mr. Renninghoff, second Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Dr. Ochterski, and Ms. Parsons voted to approve the minutes of February 20, 2013. Mr. Hicks abstained.

On a motion by Mrs. Adams, second Mr. Fulton the Board of Education unanimously approved the Class of 2014 Field Trip request to Washington, DC.

Communications: Mrs. Flanagan presented the proclamation of honor to former Board member Tom Hennick. Ms. Gara, also a former Board member was unable to make the Board meeting this evening due to work commitments. Mrs. Flanagan will deliver the plaque to her.

Mrs. Buckheit stated that the Exchange Club Spaghetti Dinner will take place on Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> featuring the jazz bands from CRHS, Strong School and Memorial School.

Mrs. Flanagan welcomed Mrs. Stone, the Principal of Korn School to the District.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro introduced Mr. Craig Bradanini and Ms. Erika Anderson from CRHS. They presented to the Board an update on the NEASC process. Ms. Anderson handed out to Board members the Visiting

Committee Work Schedule. The process will begin On Sunday, March 17, 2013 and Mr. Bradanini invited members of the Board of Education to attend. Mrs. Flanagan commended the team for their hard work and a job well done.

Mrs. Viccaro announced to the Board that CAPT's and CMT's have begun.

Mrs. Viccaro stated that Sen. Dante Bartolomeo spoke at Lyman School this week during the Read Across America program. Lyman School Student Senators had their picture taken with Sen. Bartolomeo.

Mrs. Viccaro and Mr. Melnik will be attending a meeting with Ben Barnes, Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management on Thursday, March 7, 2013. Mrs. Viccaro advised the Board that she was going to inquire about the state's decision to cut over \$300,000 of funds to the District.

Business Manager's Report: Mr. Melnik reported that he will be meeting with Blum Shapiro to discuss standardizing a chart of accounts for school districts across the state. Mr. Melnik also stated that he attended a pension meeting on Monday. Approximately 39 of the 89 employees in the plan attended the meeting and were able to have their questions answered.

As a follow up item from the previous Board meeting Mr. Melnik reported that the total amount paid to subcontractors for snow removal at all 6 District schools after the February 8<sup>th</sup> snowstorm was \$51,238. This figure includes \$8,600 spent for shoveling the roofs.

Mr. Melnik updated the Board on health insurance. He will be sitting down with two companies over the next two weeks and will report back to the Board at that time.

2013-2014 Budget: Mrs. Flanagan stated that the goal of the Board is student achievement and that the budget is not an easy process. She thanked Mr. Sadinsky for his help explaining the team approach.

Mr. Fulton explained that the Finance Committee will be meeting prior to the Board meeting during the budget process and will focus on a specific topic each meeting. Tonight the Committee met with Mrs. Viccaro focusing on enrollment and class size. Mr. Fulton said it was a very productive meeting.

Mrs. Flanagan opened the meeting up to Board members for discussion. She mentioned that the Board was comprised of a complimentary mix of members, some with educational experience and others with financial backgrounds.

Mrs. Adams asked about base cost and felt she did not have enough information. Mr. Melnik spoke of a trend analysis for a 5 year period. Three of the years would be actual. This tool can be used to get us to base cost. Mr. Fulton asked for

explanation of the ELL account and other Board members wanted to know what part of professional development costs are for Common Core State Standards. It was suggested that Board members direct questions to Mrs. Viccaro and she in turn will forward them to administrators.

The question was raised regarding hiring of a full time IT person over the cost of the vendor the District presently uses.

Mr. Hicks reviewed the Magnet School budget stating that the cost per student for the 2013-2014 school year is \$5,041. Mr. Melnik is going to adjust the proposed budget based on this cost.

New Business: A discussion took place regarding a \$1,000 donation by a parent from Strong School who wishes to remain anonymous. The parent indicated that the money should be split equally between the Green Team, Band and Choral program.

On a motion by Mr. Fulton, second Mr. Hicks, Mrs. Buckheit, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Fronc, Dr. Ochterski, and Mrs. Parsons voted yes to accept the donation. Mrs. Adams and Mr. Renninghoff voted no.

Discussion took place regarding the use of audio recordings at future Board meetings.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Adams the Board of Education unanimously approves the use of audio recordings at future meetings of the RSD 13 Board of Education meetings.

Mrs. Viccaro will be looking into a device that can be used for recording purposes.

Building/Grounds/Transportation: Mrs. Flanagan reported that the committee is focusing on security concerns relating to portable classrooms. The Committee has received recommendations from the building principals. The goal is to get as many students into the building as possible.

Finance Committee: Mr. Fulton stated he had nothing else to add.

Other Committees: No reports.

Follow-Up:

1. Mrs. Viccaro to provide cost of full time IT person vs. cost of vendor.
2. Mrs. Viccaro to forward to BOE members what other district's budget increases are.
3. Mr. Melnik to provide revised Magnet School cost per student.
4. Mrs. Viccaro to forward enrollment, class size and FTE info to Mr. Hicks.

On a motion by Mr. Renninghoff, second Mr. Fulton, the Board of Education unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Maureen Johnson*