

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, December 13, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in the music room at Korn Elementary School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currilin, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hicks (8:10 p.m.), Mr. Hennick, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Raczka, Dr. Shoemaker. Member Absent: Mrs. Flanagan. Also present: Mr. Gourley, Mrs. Viccaro.

Mr. Raczka called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Next Board Meeting: The next Board of Education meeting will be on January 10, 2007 at Strong Middle School.

On a motion by Mr. Hennick, second Dr. Shoemaker, the agenda was unanimously approved.

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion, second Mr. Hennick, to approve the minutes to the November 8, 2006 Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currilin, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Hennick, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Dr. Shoemaker voted yes. Mr. Raczka abstained.

Communications: Dr. Shoemaker was asked what the status is on a new sign for the front of Strong School. Mrs. Viccaro explained that students are working with the Tech Ed teacher, Mr. Moore, and a community member and will be presenting their plans to the Board and to the Durham Historic Commission soon.

Mrs. Viccaro received a call from Ellen Waff, a Middlefield Board of Finance member. She was upset over an article that stated finance members were not attending meetings and she was not even aware of the meetings. Mrs. Viccaro explained that a letter was sent to the Finance Chair in each town inviting finance members to the negotiations meetings.

Mr. Raczka shared information with Board members from a report he receives from the State Board of Education. Copies will be sent out to the members.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro thanked Beth Galligan, Guidance Director at Cuginchaug for bringing the idea of the Community Round-up to the District and for chairing the event. A DVD of the event, produced by Robin Fox was shown to the Board. Over 375 people participated in the day. The food collected was donated to the Amazing Grace Food Bank and the money and food cards will be given equally to the towns of Durham and Middlefield.

Mr. Raczka is thankful for all the kids who made this day happen. They did something very special and he hopes that people are made aware of it. He also wanted to thank all the people who contributed.

Mrs. Viccaro thanked Mrs. Fox for the wonderful video and for putting it together in such a short time.

Mrs. Viccaro reported that the fundraising total for the freshman basketball program is at \$7,300.00.

Mrs. Viccaro is going to get a proposal from NESDEC to do the comparison study of the two programs. If any Board members have specific questions they would like answered she would like them emailed to her. She expects to have the proposal for the study right after the holidays. She looked at the possibility of a graduate student doing the study but it didn't work out because there was going to be too much time involved.

Mrs. Viccaro has spent the last couple of weeks meeting in small groups with this year's new staff. It is always a pleasure to meet with them. They are doing well and feeling very supported in their buildings.

Teacher of the Year: On behalf of the Board of Education, Mrs. Viccaro presented Ruth Beames, 2007 Teacher of the Year, with a gift of appreciation from the District. Mrs. Viccaro said she is delighted to honor Ruth; she is a terrific teacher.

Mrs. Beames thanked Mrs. Heckler for the nomination and thanked the administrative council for selecting her. She is very appreciative of the support that the arts are given in this District.

Mrs. Heckler said that Mrs. Beames is an amazing teacher and person and has done so much for the students and staff at Brewster.

Superintendent's Award Students: Mrs. Viccaro introduced this year's Superintendent's Award winners: Caroline Malcolm and John Riggles and she presented each of them with a gift from the District.

2007-08 Calendar: Mr. Hennick made a motion, second Mrs. Adams to approve the 2007-08 School Year Calendar. Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currilin, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Hennick, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Raczka voted yes. Dr. Shoemaker voted no.

Oceanography Quiz Bowl: Mr. Wysowski was present to ask the Board to consider allowing this activity. Lorrie Martin, the Oceanography teacher at CRHS has received enough donations to support the program. The Oceanography class is very popular and approximately 6-10 students are interested in joining the Quiz Bowl. There would be no cost to the District because they will use existing facilities and equipment and Mrs. Martin will drive a District vehicle when needed. Board members were concerned that by approving the activity it may make this a collective bargaining issue during the next teacher negotiations. They do not want to do that because other stipend positions had to be cut from the budget last year. It was decided that approval would be for this school year only.

On a motion by Mr. Hennick, second Mrs. Adams, the Board of Education unanimously gave a one year approval to allow the Oceanography Quiz Bowl activity at Cuginchaug High School.

CRHS Music Trip to the Heritage Music Festival: This is a new trip to New York City, shorter in length than other music department trips so it does not interfere with the other spring trips planned.

On a motion by Mrs. Adams, second Mr. Hennick, the Board of Education unanimously approved the CRHS Music Department field trip to the Heritage Music Festival in New York City, NY from April 27-29, 2007.

Personnel Policies: Mr. Hennick reported that negotiations are continuing. The next meeting is on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Magnet School: Mr. Hicks said they met last week. The budget was the main topic of discussion. There are several different proposals being presented. The cost to send students to the magnet school may rise for the District next year and potential staff cuts are being discussed. Mastery testing scores are also being analyzed and school improvement plans were also discussed.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Golschneider, the Board of Education unanimously approved to go into Executive Session to conduct interviews for the School Business Manager. The members of the Search Committee were invited into the executive session.

The Board moved into regular session.

On a motion by Mrs. Adams, second Mr. Currilin, the Board of Education unanimously approved the appointment of Ronald Melnik as School Business Manager, salary and benefits to be negotiated by the Personnel Policies Committee.

Mrs. Viccaro thanked the search committee for all their hard work.

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