

The Regional District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, March 7, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the library at Strong School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currlin, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Raczka, Dr. Shoemaker. Also present: Mrs. Viccaro, Mr. Melnik.

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

Public Comment: Renee Primus Edwards, Selectwoman in Durham, stated the Selectmen in Durham and Jon Brayshaw in Middlefield cannot support the percentage increase in the education budget. She would like the Board to work with the selectmen to arrive at a budget all can support.

Next Board Meeting: The next Board of Education meeting will be March 14, 2007 at Strong School.

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

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion, second Mr. Hennick, to approve the minutes to the February 28, 2007 Board of Education meeting. Dr. Shoemaker, Mr. Hennick, Mrs. Golschneider, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Hicks, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Adams, Dr. Ochterski, Mr. Currlin voted yes. Mr. Raczka abstained.

Communications: Mr. Hicks and several other Board members read books at Korn School for Read Across America.

Mr. Hicks stated Ben Kupcho, a retired teacher at CRHS, passed away. He worked in District 13 his entire career. Mr. Raczka asked everyone to pause for a moment of silence.

Mrs. Golschneider read at Brewster Loves to Read night. She also stated her daughter, who is stationed in Afghanistan, was appreciative of the flags Mr. Currlin put on everyone's name tag. Her daughter said it is great to be remembered by so many people.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro reported Strong School is having a community reading program on April 2. The book they will be reading is "Flight 116 is Down". Board members are invited to attend.

Mrs. Viccaro read at Lyman's Read Across America. Students also celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2.

The CRHS Boys' Basketball team is the Shoreline Champions and is playing on Thursday night in a game against Derby in the state championship games.

Mrs. Viccaro received a call from the Governor's Prevention Partnership Council to be part of a \$200,000-\$400,000 three-year grant to combat underage drinking. District 13 and Durham/Middlefield Youth and Family Services are investigating the conditions of the grant. They would need to follow one of the models that are proposed. The grant is due at the end of the month.

The CAPT and CMT testing is going on.

The program to communicate with parents through email is developing in the schools. Brewster has 44% of parents involved, Korn 63%, Memorial 25%, Strong 64%, and CRHS 39%. Lyman will begin the program next year.

CT School Nurse of the Year: Judy Ellsworth, nurse at CRHS, has been named CT School Nurse of the Year. She was recommended by her colleagues for the value of her work. Mrs. Viccaro stated she connects with the kids and is very dedicated to them.

2007-08 Budget: Mrs. Viccaro presented her 2007-08 education budget. She stated the process begins in October at the Board of Education retreat. The Strategic Plan is the guiding force in the District. There are five strategies to the plan that include: differentiated instruction, technology, core ethical values, lifelong learning skills and communication.

The enrollment is projected to increase to 2226 students next year in the schools. This number does not include outplaced, vo-ag or magnet school students. Due to the enrollment, Mrs. Viccaro is proposing an increase in staff: 3.3 for the high school to reduce class sizes and to increase elective offerings, and another 6.5 positions districtwide. She is also requesting \$76,278 for textbooks to purchase textbooks for math (K-4, Strong, Memorial), World Languages (Strong, CRHS), Chemistry, Oceanography, Business Adobe E, and Health (CRHS).

Included in the budget for technology: the operating system at Central Office needs to be upgraded, this is a two-year plan; new computers and printers as well as a new computer lab at Memorial School; two computers, printers and stands for the physics lab at the high school as part of a three year purchasing plan; TV Production hardware and software; mimeos; LCD projectors for all computer labs; and a library automation system for Memorial and Strong.

Two duplex portables are requested for Brewster and Memorial Schools to help with spacing. At Brewster this would give space for the remedial reading and special education programs and also allow for a conference room at Brewster for meetings and parent conferences. At Memorial this space would allow more room for special education needs and for the creation of a computer lab.

The total gross district budget is a 6.74% increase.

In response to questions, Mrs. Viccaro stated the parking fee and student activity fee are still in place, there are no field trips in the budget, the materials purchase has not changed, the Devil's Advocate is in the budget and so is freshmen basketball. There is also no money in the budget for the track.

The Board requested to know the revenue side of the budget. Mrs. Viccaro stated that number is not set because of the unknown amount of the ECS money but she will get the figures she has now for the Board. The Board also requested information on the salary account and asked Mrs. Viccaro to prioritize her list of requests.

Long-Range Planning Committee: Mrs. Flanagan reported the committee met and set a goal to have all the long range planning in the District combined in one five year plan. The plan will be updated yearly. This plan will include information from school committees such as technology as well as the Board committees. The committee is hoping to have a rough draft ready for the Board retreat in October.

Magnet School: Mr. Hicks stated that ACES approved the magnet school budget. Madison is pulling out of the magnet school partnership but Wallingford is interested in joining but will not become a partner for 2-3 years to make sure of their commitment. Waterbury and Wolcott are also interested in joining.

Mr. Hicks reported the steering committee is reviewing the magnet school agreement and may make some changes. One of the changes would be to revise the number of slots District 13 has; the District has 30 slots but average around 21 students each year. This change will also

help because the legislature is discussing having districts pay for seats even if they don't have students to fill them.

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