

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education held a special meeting on Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the library at Coginchaug High School. Board members present: Mr. Currin, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Ms. Parsons, Dr. Shoemaker. Members absent: Mrs. Adams, Dr. Ochterski. Also present: Mr. Melnik, Mrs. Viccaro.

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

Public Comment: Donia Viola said that under Freedom of Information, any documents that are shared at a Board of Education meeting become public documents and should be readily available for review to the public during the meeting. Mr. Hennick explained that she is correct, they are public documents but copies do not have to be made available during the meeting. The public is welcome to come to the Superintendent's Office to review any documents the next day.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held at Strong School on March 5, 2008.

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

On a motion by Dr. Shoemaker, second Mrs. Golschneider the minutes to the meeting of February 13, 2008 were unanimously approved.

Communications: Mrs. Golschneider announced that her daughter is home from Afghanistan. She thanked the Board for all their support while she has been away.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro said that a meeting was held today with CRHS staff members and the administration from Coginchaug to talk about the field trip scheduling issue that was brought up by parents at the last Board of Education meeting. She said the discussion was very positive. A schedule has been developed by Steve Wysowski that will allow for one dedicated music trip every four years that has no other trips conflicting with it. Next year a smaller music trip is planned and it will be in conflict with the one that has been approved to go to Ireland. At this point none of the students signed up for the Ireland trip are in the music program but there is still space on the trip and some students may be forced to make a choice.

Mrs. Viccaro shared a flier for the Strong School Reads program that is being held on March 25th at 6:30pm. The book selected for reading this year is Secrets in the Fire. Board members were encouraged to participate in this fun event.

Mrs. Viccaro said that at next week's meeting she will be presenting the 2008-2009 school budget. The administrative team and central office team have been working diligently to complete the document. It will be in a new format and much easier to understand than past budget documents.

Mrs. Viccaro said that advertisements have been placed for the teaching positions open for next year due to retirements. Three of the areas advertised are shortage areas so she wanted to begin the process early.

Personnel Policy Committee: Mrs. Flanagan said the District received the teachers' arbitration decision yesterday. She said as expected, some of the aspects of the agreement favored the District and some favored the teachers. In Year 1 the General Wage Increase (GWI) is 2.37% with a total cost increase of 3.82% because of changes in step movement. In Year 2 the GWI is

2.4 % with a total cost of 4.89%. (The teachers received some advancement in step placement in year 2). And in Year 3 the GWI is 2.88% with a total cost of 3.86%. Mrs. Flanagan said the Board is very satisfied with the results. The teachers will be meeting next week to discuss the outcome. It was not clear if the contract had to be ratified by either party because it is a result of arbitration. Mrs. Flanagan said the committee met this evening. They will be meeting again on March 12th to begin discussing the nurses' contract and some of the central office agreements.

Transportation Committee: In the absence of Dr. Ochterski, Mrs. Viccaro discussed the Transportation Committee meeting that was held earlier this week. Phil Johnson of DATTCO was present at the meeting. The DMIABB site was further discussed. They are moving forward with scheduling a meeting with the Planning and Zoning Commission. DATTCO will be providing a scope for the building and parking area. Also discussed was an offer by DATTCO to provide video cameras on all of the District buses. There are many different options and recommendations to consider. The Transportation Committee asked for additional information and then a presentation may be made to the Board of Education at a later date. There would be no cost to the District for these cameras; DATTCO has offered to cover all expenses.

The Board of Education adjourned to attend the Public Hearing on the building project in the auditorium.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mr. Currin the Board of Education unanimously approved to move into Executive Session to discuss a student matter and a staff matter.

The Board moved back into open session.

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