

The Regional District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, September 3, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the music room at Korn School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Currlin, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons. Member absent: Mrs. Golschneider. Also present: Mrs. Viccaro, Mr. Melnik.

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

Public Comment: Mrs. Viola stated she was happy the students started after Labor Day. She also said she would like the Board to review the bus stops. In her neighborhood there are stops that are only three houses away from each other.

Next Board Meeting: The next Board meeting is September 17, 2008 at John Lyman School.

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

Mr. Currlin made a motion, second Ms. Gara to approve the minutes to the July 2, 2008 Board of Education meeting. Mr. Currlin, Ms. Gara, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Hennick, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Boyle, Dr. Ochterski voted yes. Mr. Hicks, Mrs. Adams abstained.

Mr. Currlin made a motion, second Dr. Ochterski to approve the minutes to the August 20, 2008 Board of Education meeting. Mr. Currlin, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hennick, Mrs. Boyle, Dr. Ochterski voted yes. Mrs. Adams, Ms. Parsons, Mrs. Flanagan abstained.

Communications: Several Board members attended the new staff luncheon and the general staff meeting. There are a lot of new teachers this year and there is a very high level of enthusiasm.

Mr. Hicks said he shared our award program with Guilford. They liked our service awards and implemented that program in their District. He thanked Mr. Currlin and the Recognition Committee for starting the program in our District.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro stated we had many transfers in the District as well as hiring many new staff which make the buildings look very different.

Mrs. Viccaro shared the list of staff receiving service awards and also the people who received the Good Apple and Friends of Education Awards.

Mrs. Viccaro stated the following people received Good Apple Awards:

Colleen Dunn and Nancy Siedlecki received a Good Apple Award for the work they did with their students on a research project on mosquitoes with the Peabody Museum. Laurie King received a Good Apple Award for her commitment to the students and for going above and beyond in her work. Carol Luckenbach received a Good Apple Award for her chairing the Literary Board.

Jennifer Schulten received a Friends of Education Award for starting the Go Far program at John Lyman School and Russ Hassmann received a Friends of Education award for donating school signs to the District.

This year's Teacher of the Year is Jennifer Penny, math teacher at Strong School.

Antoinette Astle shared the program a "Complaint Free World" with staff at the general staff meeting. Mrs. Viccaro gave purple bracelets to all staff and also to the Board members.

Jennifer Holland won the CT State Women's Amateur Golf Championship.

One hundred and fifty students from the Consortium, Hartford and East Hartford put on a performance of "Wicked". They also attended the performance in New York.

Mrs. Viccaro attended the Durham Public School Reunion. She said it was very well attended and the oldest person there was 104.

Mrs. Viccaro and Mr. Melnik will be attending a meeting on the security grant from the State. The District should receive a reimbursement of 52% for Middlefield and 48% for Durham.

Mrs. Viccaro attended the Capturing Kids Hearts program with 11 teachers from the high school. She said it is a wonderful program and has a very positive impact on students.

Three teachers have received grants from ACES: Lindsay Lohmeyer, Kris Nystrom, and Marjorie Bruch.

Eighty-five students from the high school will be randomly chosen to participate in the National Assessment of the Educational Process. Students will be tested in the core subjects.

Susan Michael, science teacher at the high school nominated two students to attend the National Youth Leadership forum on medicine. The students did very well.

On October 30th, Andre Hauser will be honored as the Assistant Principal of the Year.

Mrs. Viccaro received an email from the Director of Amazing Grace that stated their provisions are very low. A request was made of all staff to bring in one item of food the first day of school and a van loaded with food was taken to Amazing Grace this week.

The Board received a copy of the booklet the "Condition of Education in Connecticut". Mrs. Viccaro reported the State is moving ahead on their high school reform, working on new assessments from curricular issues to in-school suspension and revising the BEST program.

The Board received a brochure that was developed by the Guidance Department at the high school that shows the type of services offered there.

Mrs. Viccaro stated the enrollment is slightly down this year. The first day total is 2164 students.

Finance Committee: Ms. Parsons reported the committee discussed the lunch prices and milk prices and recommends they stay the same for this year.

On a motion by Ms. Parsons, second Mr. Hicks, the Board of Education unanimously approved to keep the lunch price for students at \$2.75 and the milk price at \$.50.

Ms. Parsons reported the committee also reviewed the 2007-08 budget transfers and shared the transfers with the Board.

On a motion by Ms. Parsons, second Mr. Currlin, the Board of Education unanimously approved the 2007-08 budget transfers as presented.

A copy of the transfers is attached with these minutes.

Personnel Policies Committee: Mrs. Flanagan reported the nurses' contract has been settled. The GWI increases for three years are 3%, 3.25%, and 3.5%. Their insurance co-pays would also increase over the three years: 8½%, 9½%, and 10½%.

On a motion by Mrs. Flanagan, second Mrs. Adams, the Board of Education unanimously ratified the nurses' contract.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Adams, the agenda was unanimously amended to include discussion on a legal matter.

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