

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, April 6, 2011 in the library media center at Coginchaug Regional High School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Currin, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons. Member absent: Mrs. Golschneider. Also present: Mr. Melnik, Mrs. Viccaro.

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

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Education will be on April 27, 2011 at Korn Elementary School.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Ms. Parsons, the Board of Education unanimously approved the agenda.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Ms. Gara, the Board of Education unanimously approved the minutes to the meeting of March 23, 2011 as amended.

Communications: Mr. Hennick asked the board members that will be up for re-election this May to be considering their decision to run and to let him and their town committee know as soon as possible.

Mr. Currin attended the Invention Convention at Memorial School. He is always impressed by the good job that the kids do with their inventions.

Mrs. Boyle said she received five emails regarding the cut of the nurse at Korn School and an email from Mr. Renninghoff regarding budget issues. Mr. Hennick said these items will be discussed during the budget discussion.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro said a second set of parent conferences were just held. They were also held at Memorial, Strong and the High School as required by the new law. They were a big success. They were not as well attended as the ones in the fall, but the parent participation was still high.

Mrs. Viccaro reminded members that the District will be hosting "Race to Nowhere", a documentary film about the over-scheduling of children. There will be a panel discussion following the film and follow-up activities planned. The event will take place on April 25th at 7:30pm at the Coginchaug High School auditorium. Tickets can be purchased in advance through the District website.

Mrs. Viccaro gave accolades to the entire cast and organizers of the Willy Wonka Production that took place at the high school last weekend. One hundred and twenty-two students from Lyman, Memorial and Strong Schools took part in three different casts for the shows. The support from the community and the parents was also very impressive.

Mrs. Viccaro reported that Mr. Hauser and Mr. Lombardo will be surveying the student athletes at Coginchaug about their experiences in participating on a team. The survey will take place this spring and all teams will be surveyed.

Set Graduation Date: On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mr. Currin, the Board of Education unanimously set the graduation date for Coginchaug Regional High school as June 24, 2011.

Communications Committee: Mrs. Boyle said the committee met to go over the budget survey results. Copies of the compiled results were distributed to the members and will be made

available to the public. Mrs. Viccaro suggested that the survey results be discussed in more detail at the April 27th Board meeting. It will be added as an agenda item.

Curriculum Committee: Mrs. Adams said the committee met and reviewed many curriculum revisions. They were satisfied with the changes presented.

Personnel Policies Committee: Mrs. Flanagan said the committee met to discuss early retirement options. They are carefully reviewing options to see if there will really be a savings to the District. They have to carefully look at who would participate. If people would likely have retired anyway it could end up becoming a cost increase for the District.

Policy Committee: Mr. Hicks said the Policy Committee is putting forward four policies that all had minor changes made to them for approval.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mr. Currlin, the Board of Education unanimously approved the revisions to the following policies: Drugs and Alcohol 4218.231, Fingerprinting 4112.1/4212.1, Attendance and Excuses 5113, and Curriculum 6140.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mr. Currlin, the Board of Education unanimously approved to adjourn to the public hearing.

The Board moved back into regular session.

Finalize Budget for District Meeting: Mr. Hennick asked if any members heard anything at the public hearing that would indicate a change in the budget.

Ms. Gara said based on what she heard she would like to put the nursing position back into the budget.

Ms. Gara made a motion, second Mr. Currlin, to reinstate the nursing position for a total cost of \$58,600.

Mr. Hennick supports adding the nurse back but he does not want to offset the budget with any additional cuts.

Mrs. Boyle said the survey results support cutting support staff positions over other cuts. Mrs. Viccaro said it would take cutting three support staff positions to make up the \$58,600.

Mrs. Adams felt that many of the arguments made at the hearing to not cut the nurse were very compelling.

Mrs. Flanagan said with the increase in the number of students with serious allergies and chronic illnesses she's concerned about not have a building covered and something serious happening. She cannot support the cut of a nurse.

Mr. Currlin said it is important to recognize the cost of having a nurse. He doesn't want to try to find something else to cut now; the Board needs to do the right thing and reinstate the nurse.

Dr. Ochterski supports bringing back the nurse, but he said if the budget fails and they have to look at reductions again, he will be considering the cut again.

On the motion by Ms. Gara, second Mr. Currlin, the Board of Education unanimously voted to reinstate the nursing position in the budget for a total cost of \$58,600.

This change brings the final budget to a .92% increase in expenses and a total net increase of 4.16%.

Mr. Hennick said one of the emails received by Board members questioned the travel stipend received by some of the administrators. Mrs. Adams said the Board can look into this, provide more detail and respond to the letter.

Dr. Ochterski said a resident asked him why we don't make the mil rate impact known. He explained that this responsibility falls to the towns, but he thinks the District should explain that to the residents.

Mr. Currlin said the survey showed that the public is not aware of what makes up the budget book. He thinks it would be good to print information about the items that come up for discussion year after year.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mr. Currlin, the Board of Education unanimously approved to go to the District Meeting on May 2, 2011 with a \$35,011,224 gross Regional District 13 education budget for school year 2011-12 followed by a referendum on May 3, 2011.

On a motion by Mrs. Adams, second Ms. Gara, the Board of Education unanimously approved to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the salary schedule and performance of Central Office personnel.

The Board moved back into regular session.

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