

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, February 9, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the music room of Brewster Elementary School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Currin, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, and Ms. Parsons. Also present: Mrs. Viccaro and Mr. Melnik.

Mr. Hennick called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

Public Comment: Mr. Hennick stated that he was sure the school calendar was a very important topic of discussion tonight. He said that the Board was going to be amending tonight's agenda to add discussion about this current year (2010-2011) calendar. The changes they are looking to make are to reduce the amount of student days from 182 to 180 - teacher work days will remain at 187 - and changing the professional development day on April 1, 2011 to a normal school day. Mr. Hennick explained that by making these 2 changes as of this meeting the last day of school would be June 24, 2011 and only 1 day would be used from April vacation. He explained that any further snow days would be made up from April vacation.

Several parents spoke concerning next year's (2011-2012) school calendar. The general consensus was to either remove or scale down February break for the next school year.

The 2 hour delayed openings were also a topic of concern with several parents at the meeting who felt that the professional development 2 hour delayed openings were disruptive to the student and working parents. Mrs. Viccaro explained that the District is required to provide a specific amount of professional development hours each year. She stated that last year the State Department of Education implemented additional regulations and the 2 hour delayed openings were needed in order to provide teachers time to accumulate the data required by the State. Mrs. Heckler explained how the professional development delayed openings are being used by the teachers at the elementary level and how the students actually gain instructional time with delayed openings. Mrs. Boyle thought it might be helpful for the parents if the District put together some information to explain exactly what goes on during the delayed openings and how this benefits each child.

Craig Bradanini, a teacher at Coginchaug, wanted to thank the custodial staff for the amazing job they did with the snow removal.

Francis Willett, emergency manager for the Town of Durham discussed the recent snowstorms and felt Mrs. Viccaro made the right call for each storm. He spoke about the newly implemented school emergency notification system and how quickly everyone was notified. Several parents expressed how they liked having the new system in place.

Next Board Meeting: The next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting will be March 2, 2011 at Strong School.

On a motion by Mrs. Flanagan, second by Mrs. Boyle, the Board of Education unanimously approved to amend the agenda to include a discussion on the 2010-2011 school calendar and Policy 5122.

Mr. Currin, made a motion, second by Mrs. Boyle, to accept the minutes of the meeting of January 20, 2011. Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Currin, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, and Ms. Parsons voted yes. Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Golschneider abstained.

Mr. Currin, made a motion, second by Mr. Hicks, to accept the minutes of the meeting of January 31, 2011. Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currin, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, and Ms. Parsons, voted yes. Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara and Dr. Ochterski abstained.

Communications: Mr. Hicks and Mrs. Viccaro attended a budget workshop last week at the Connecticut Association of Schools.

Mr. Currilin wanted to thank everyone on the work done on the snow removal. He also attended the Show Choir Concert on Sunday.

Mrs. Boyle thanked the 42 parents who attended tonight's Board meeting. She also stated that she received 20 emails from parents regarding the 2 hour delayed openings.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro updated the Board on the snow removal from the roofs. She stated the only roof in District that still needed to be cleared is Central Office and that roof will be completed on Thursday. Mrs. Viccaro stated that the snow removal process has been very expensive and that they have moved an estimated 5000 tons of snow since January 27, 2011 which was when the process began. She said she was very proud of her staff and wanted to thank the custodial staff on the heroic job they did with all the snow removal.

Mrs. Viccaro updated the Board on Naviance and the college application process. She said that as of today 494 transcripts and letters of recommendation have been sent electronically saving the District \$518.00 in postage.

Mrs. Viccaro said that due to school closings and delays, she and Mr. Melnik need to meet with one more department regarding the budget and that meeting will take place on Friday.

Mrs. Viccaro said that the District has had 8 snow days, 3 delayed openings and 2 early dismissals.

Old Business:

2010-2011 School Calendar:

On a motion by Mr. Currilin, second by Mrs. Golschneider, the Board of Education unanimously approved to reduce the amount of student days to 180 for the school calendar year of 2010-2011 and to change the professional development day on April 1, 2011 to an instructional day.

Mr. Hennick again stated that the teachers are still contractually obligated to work the full 187 days in this school year. He also stated that any additional snow days will continue to come off of April vacation.

2011-2012 School Calendar: Mrs. Viccaro explained the 2011-2012 school calendar changes to the Board. She discussed how this calendar has 11 potential snow days built into it. This calendar has 182 student days with a start date of September 1, 2011 and an end day of June 14, 2012. This calendar scales down February Vacation to a long weekend and uses the days after June 14th through June 30th as potential snow days. She also discussed the 5 Professional Day delayed openings. This calendar leaves April Vacation intact.

Ms Gara made a motion, second by Dr. Ochterski, to approve the 2011-2012 School Calendar. Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currilin, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, and Ms. Parsons voted yes. Mrs. Boyle abstained.

Mr. Hennick said the calendar is approved as presented and asked that the administrators meet at the end of the this school year to make a decision on whether or not to change 2 hr delayed Professional Development days to either early dismissals or a mix of both.

Presentation:

CRHS Curriculum Report:

On a motion by Mrs. Adams, second by Mrs. Golschneider, the Board of Education unanimously approved the revisions made to the High School Science Curriculum.

On a motion by Mrs. Adams, second by Ms. Gara, the Board of Education unanimously approved the revisions made to the High School Technology Curriculum.

On a motion by Mrs. Adams, second by Mrs. Boyle, the Board of Education unanimously approved the revisions made to the High School World Language Curriculum.

On a motion by Mrs. Adams, second by Mrs. Golschneider, the Board of Education unanimously approved the revisions made to the High School Accounting I and II, Interior Design, Textiles and Music Theory I Curriculum.

Mrs. Boyle suggested that the District send out a flyer directing parents to where the curriculum information is located on the District web site. Mrs. Luckenbach said that K through 8 is done and she is currently working on getting all of the high school completed so that too will be up on the web site.

Committee Reports

Policy Committee:

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second by Mrs. Golschneider, the Board of Education unanimously approved the revisions made to Program Choice Policy 6156; Fundraising Activities Policy 1325; Building Use Policy 1330; Law Enforcement Agencies Policy 1411; Concept and Roles in Administration Policy 2000; Administrative Lines of Responsibility Policy 2121; Administrative Job Descriptions Policy 2130 ; Policy Book Policy 2231 and Academic Standards for Participation in Extracurricular Activities Policy 5122.

Building Committee:

On a motion by Mr. Currin, second by Mrs. Adams, the Board of Education unanimously agreed to close the State of Connecticut Project number 213-0038.

On a motion by Mr. Currin, second by Dr. Ochterski, the Board of Education unanimously agreed to close the State of Connecticut Project number 213-0040.

Mr. Currin said that the bids for the water system at Brewster were in and they are in the process of picking a vendor.

Finance Committee: Ms. Parsons said the Finance Committee met with Tom Forma of Merrill Lynch earlier to discuss the pension fund. She said that the funds were up 11% and that they plan to reevaluate the funds again in 6 months.

Ms. Parsons also said that due to all the snow and the cost of removal, the fund balance was understandably down.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Golschneider, the Board of Education unanimously approved to adjourn at 9:55 pm.

Virginia P. Antonelli