

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in special session on Monday, May 23, 2011 in the library at Memorial Middle School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Curren, 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 7:31 p.m.

Mr. Hicks said he is saddened by the death of Jeffrey Francis, a former District 13 student and son of District employees, Rob and Susan Francis. On behalf of the Board he wanted to extend the deepest sympathies of the Board and to offer a moment of silence.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Education will be at Brewster School on June 8, 2011.

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

On a motion by Mrs. Adams, second Mrs. Flanagan, the minutes to the meeting of May 11, 2011 were unanimously approved.

Communications: None shared.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro said the student viewing of The Race to Nowhere has been scheduled for June 8th, starting at 9:30am at Coginchaug High School. The students in 9th, 10th and 11th grades will attend. Mrs. Viccaro needed to know who from the Board would be able to attend to act as panel members after the viewing. Mr. Hicks and Mrs. Flanagan were definite, Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Boyle will confirm with Mrs. Viccaro.

Mrs. Viccaro said the opening ceremony for the track took place last Monday and the kids did a couple of laps around the track. The first track meet was held on Thursday.

At Coginchaug last week a forum was held with the 1st Selectmen of both towns. The 1st Selectmen answered many questions from the students.

The CRHS Envirothon Team placed 4th out of 43 teams in the State envirothon competition last week.

Mrs. Viccaro said Coginchaug held a very successful and safe prom this past weekend.

This Thursday, May 26th, the Coginchaug Show Choir will be performing Alice in Wonderland at 8pm.

Mrs. Viccaro was happy to report that all of the District's Year 2 and Year 3 teachers have successfully completed their TEAM requirements.

Mrs. Viccaro asked for input from the Board regarding the presentation at the District Meeting on Wednesday night. It was decided that a full presentation will not be given. A review of all of the budget cuts made to date will be presented.

Business Manager's Report: Mr. Melnik introduced Mark Basil, the District Food Service Director. Mr. Basil reviewed the progress that he has been making in food service and also discussed the usage of the new Rev-trac system. He said Rev-trac charges the District 3.5% of

each transaction as their fee. The District has been charging \$1.50 per transaction. Based on this year's activity we expect to lose about \$2000.00 in fees to Rev-trak. Mr. Basil is suggesting raising the transaction fee charged by the District to \$1.95 or \$2.00 to help make up for this loss.

Mrs. Flanagan asked if it is possible for parents to put money on more than one child's account and not have to pay the fee more than once. Mr. Basil said he has moved money within accounts for parents, but he does not know if this can be set up for parents to do themselves. He will check with the IT department.

Mr. Basil also proposed raising the cost of student lunches at Strong School and Coginchaug High School from \$2.75 to \$3.00. The cost of meals has not risen for several years. The students at the upper levels consume more food and he would rather raise the cost there than raise it across the District. The cost would still be lower than some of the area towns.

On a motion by Mr. Currilin, second Dr. Ochterski, the Board of Education unanimously approved a motion to increase the base lunch price at Strong Middle School and Coginchaug High School to \$3.00 starting in the 2011-2012 school year.

Mr. Melnik discussed the Healthy Food Certification program. The District has chosen to not participate in this program in the past due to the limitations of the program but he explained that there have been many changes. Seventy percent of school districts across the state now participate. We will receive \$.10 per lunch sold from the State if we choose to participate. Based on the participation rate for last year, it can be about \$13,000. The District has made many changes to our lunch menus over the last few years and we are not far away from meeting the healthy food requirements. Schools can still continue to sell snack items as long as the sale is connected to an event outside the school day. Items sold through fundraising cannot be sent home with students, unless it is an approved "healthy" food item. Mr. Melnik discussed the issue with the principals at administrative council and they do not feel it will be a major concern.

Mr. Hicks said the ACES Council recently voted to participate in the Healthy Food Certification program.

Mrs. Boyle questioned whether the school councils would be able to sell items such as chocolate covered lollipops during lunch waves. Mr. Melnik said those items would not be allowed.

Mr. Hicks is not concerned about the loss; we need to help the food service department. The school groups will find alternative fundraising ideas.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, second Mrs. Flanagan, to approve the District's participation in the State of Connecticut's Healthy Food Certification Program for the 2011-2012 School Year. Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Currilin, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons voted yes. Mrs. Adams and Mr. Hennick were opposed.

Curriculum Update and Approval: Mrs. Luckenbach discussed the Common Core State Standards that were adopted by the State Board of Connecticut. The State has developed a set of guiding documents for use by districts in designing and revising their curriculums.

Mrs. Luckenbach sent a CD to Board members with revisions to 44 course curriculums. She said the Curriculum Committee met on May 13th and approved the changes presented. The Curriculum Committee has read these documents very thoroughly and much work has gone into their preparation.

On a motion by Mrs. Adam, second Mr. Currlin, the Board of Education unanimously approved the curriculum changes as presented to the 44 courses listed. A copy of the curricula is attached.

Strategic Plan Update: Mrs. Viccaro said the document given to the Board is a summary of the specific items that are being done in each building to meet the Strategic Plan. Mrs. Viccaro said we are behind in some areas because of budget constraints but we have five years to complete the plan.

Mr. Currlin suggested that a spreadsheet of the Strategic Planning initiatives be created, by year, similar to the Capital Plan spreadsheet, so that the Board will easily be able to see what is being accomplished and to plan for future costs.

2011-2012 District Goals: Mrs. Viccaro said a revised set of goals was sent to Board members.

On a motion by Mrs. Adams, second Mrs. Boyle, the Board of Education unanimously approved the Revised 2011-2012 District Goals. A copy is attached to these minutes.

Policy Committee: Mr. Hicks said the Policy Committee was unable to meet due to a lack of a quorum. The next meeting is on June 1, 2011.

Building Committee: Mr. Currlin said the projects are close to being complete. The wells at Brewster are almost done. The track opening was a very joyful occasion.

Mr. Melnik said the new system at Brewster passed a water test this afternoon.

Mrs. Boyle asked what is happening with the lights. Mr. Melnik said until all the projects are at completion, we won't know if there is any money left. The Committee will have to prioritize what is left to be done.

On a motion by Mrs. Flanagan, second Mrs. Adams, the Board of Education unanimously approved to move into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing the Superintendent's contract.

The Board moved back into open session.

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