

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the library at Strong Middle School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Fulton, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Renninghoff. Also present: Mrs. Mangini, Mrs. Viccaro.

Mr. Hennick called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. with the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: Donia Viola of Durham referenced an article from 1998 written in the Hartford Courant regarding all day kindergarten. She asked that copies of the article be given to each Board of Education member to refer to while making their decision on all day kindergarten.

Michael Doyle of Durham handed out copies of a letter to each Board of Education member. He asked that the Board take a look at the model outlined in the letter and consider instituting this model in our District.

Oanh Stephan of Durham and President of the BKPTA asked the Board of Education how parents can communicate their support of all day kindergarten. Mrs. Stephan also invited the public to visit a kindergarten class and see how stressful it is.

Joel Nick of Middlefield shared how pleased he is with John Lyman School. He presently has a first grader at Lyman and has a daughter entering kindergarten this coming school year. He supports all day kindergarten stating that this will give the kids an edge to meet standards that are forthcoming. He also stated that it makes economic sense, as people considering moving into a town will generally look at test score results.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Dr. Ochterski, the Board of Education unanimously approved the agenda as amended to include a discussion of website hosting.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Adams, the Board of Education unanimously approved the minutes of March 7, 2012.

Communications: Mrs. Flanagan stated she received emails strongly in favor of all day kindergarten. She also received a communication saying that the survey should have gone to all community members regarding all day kindergarten.

Mrs. Boyle was approached by a parent, Mrs. DiPentima after the last Board meeting and asked that the Board consider looking at an extended day kindergarten.

Mrs. Flanagan received a letter from the teachers at CRHS requesting that the Board revisit the calendar for the next two school years.

Mr. Hennick reported that he also received emails in favor of all day kindergarten.

Old Business: The Board was given a handout by Mrs. Viccaro regarding the Strategic School Profile. Discussion took place as to the how the information is used. Mrs. Vicarro's focus is on moving more students to goal. Mrs. Flanagan had concerns for high achievers as well as the low and average student. Mrs. Flanagan suggested that the Board consider the addition of a reading and math consultant. Mr. Hennick suggested that this discussion take place during budget discussion.

Superintendent's Report: As a follow up item, Mrs. Viccaro provided Board members with a projection of enrollment. Mrs. Boyle asked for class-sized limits, which were provided to the Board.

Mrs. Viccaro provided Board members with a list of teacher shortage areas. It was requested that Mrs. Viccaro email this list to Board members.

Mr. Fulton asked Mrs. Viccaro if she could bullet on the agenda what she was including in her Superintendent's report. Mrs. Viccaro agreed to provide this information but explained that sometimes things come up at the last minute so at times items may not be listed.

Mrs. Viccaro provided copies of previous minutes that included discussion of all day Kindergarten.

Business Manager's Report: Mrs. Mangini advised the board that she is working with Central Office Staff towards an internal process of streamlining operations.

Mrs. Mangini also reported the District has gone out for bid on fuel. The Town of Durham will participate with us. The Town of Middlefield was also given the offer however are not in a position to join with us at this time. Bid opening will take place on March 21, 2012.

Mrs. Mangini thanked the Board for their patience as she continues her transition into the District.

2012-2013 Budget Discussion: Handouts to the Board members were provided by Mrs. Mangini. The first handout showed the changes from the 2011 budget to the 2012 budget. Another handout showed the year to date fuel usage for 2010, 2011, and 2012. A pamphlet similar to the one offered to community members at the public meeting was also given to Board members.

Mr. Hennick asked Board members for their thoughts and ideas on the proposed budget.

Ms. Gara asked the Board to look in areas that promote academic achievement for all students.

Mrs. Adams asked the Board to be fair when cutting amounts from Library/Media budget. Mr. Hauser, Principal at Coginchaug High School said that they are finding it hard to keep current with their fiction and non-fiction selections due to cuts in previous years.

Mr. Hennick wanted to know the cost of putting a reading consultant back into the budget.

Ms. Gara commented that there was significant cost in the high school activity fees. Mrs. Viccaro asked the Board to give her an amount to be cut and she will work with the principals to meet that amount. Mrs. Boyle questioned additional stipends, Key User, Saturday detention, longevity and FBLA. Mrs. Viccaro stated that these stipends were in previous budgets. Discussion took place and Ms. Gara noted that we need to take a look at stipends that are important for college applications.

Mr. Hicks asked about the \$9,000 allotted for the Consortium. Mrs. Viccaro explained that this money is pooled. It allows the District to provide diversity programs, career fairs, arts programs, and shared professional development.

Mr. Renninghoff provided a handout showing that there were 46 areas in the budget where there existed a history of not spending entire appropriations. This amount totals approximately \$144,000. Mrs. Mangini commended Mr. Renninghoff on his hard work but explained in a school budget sometimes if there is overspending in one area money is taken from another area. Mrs. Mangini and Mrs. Viccaro worked together with building principals not to recycle amounts in

accounts. Mr. Renninghoff called the budget dishonest and he could not support these recycled items.

Mrs. Flanagan stated that we are continuing to raise the cost per student and Dr. Ochterski felt that the Special Education costs were very high. Mr. Renninghoff thinks that the budget is too high.

Ms. Gara agreed that it was too high but would like to keep all day kindergarten in the budget. Additional members agreed.

Ms. Parsons would like to see a reconfiguration of teams at Strong School since enrollment is down. Mr. Hicks agreed.

Discussion took place regarding gate fees and what they are used for. Mrs. Mangini met with Mr. Lombardo. Most districts cannot support athletics without additional funding. Mr. Lombardo has a plan in place with respect to gate fees. Mrs. Mangini also stated the gate fees are in an activity account and these accounts are audited.

Mrs. Boyle stated that when making cuts we need to consider wants vs. our needs.

Long Range Planning Committee: The capital reserve account has been reconciled from last year.

Policy Committee: Mr. Hicks stated that there will be a Policy Committee meeting on Thursday, March 15 at 9:00 a.m.

Personnel Committee: Ms. Parsons stated that the committee is beginning negotiations with the Support Staff.

Communications Committee: Mrs. Adams stated that the committee met to determine a web hosting provider and were in favor of CatapultK12. The cost is reasonable, stays current and they will migrate data free of cost.

On a motion made by Mrs. Adams, second Dr. Ochterski the Board of Education unanimously approved to accept CatapultK12 as District 13's web hosting provider.

Follow-up: Mrs. Viccaro will provide teacher shortage list.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mr. Renninghoff, the Board of Education unanimously approved to adjourn at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Johnson