

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the library at Strong 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 7:33 p.m. with the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: Donia Viola of Durham would like to see the budget cut more due to the poor condition of our economy. She also stated that she couldn't see how adding 4 literacy tutors will help our reading program.

Chris Davis of Durham is a remedial reading specialist. Mrs. Davis referred to her husband's kindergarten report card from 1963 and compared it to what we expect kindergarteners to achieve in 2012. She also stated she was in favor of including 4 literacy tutors in the budget. She feels this addition will allow students that are on the edge to be successful.

Walt Szymanski of Durham was opposed to making cuts to Special Education. His son started in the Panda program and has moved through the District successfully with the support of teachers. Mr. Szymanski provided the Board with a newspaper article in which his son was named employee of the month at the Apple Barrel. His son's success was largely due to the Special Education provided by our District. Mr. Szymanski invited members of the Board to observe his son in class at Coginchaug.

Peg Szymanski of Durham echoed her husband's comments stating that District 13 is a fabulous place to educate children.

Maura Caramanello of Durham has a 1st and 3rd grader and is a 1st grader teacher. She doesn't feel the District should wait until kindergarten is mandated. It should be included in our budget now.

Christina Dreyfus of Durham has preschoolers and wants her children to be excited about school. She feels there should be a balance between play and academics. She is in support of all day kindergarten.

Katherine Farnsworth of Durham has two young children. They moved to Durham for the school system. She has a preschooler and is favor of all day kindergarten.

Beth Walker of Durham praised the school system for the support they have given her son who is a junior at Coginchaug. She spoke in favor of the Special Education Department stating that District 13 is a wonderful place and standards need to be maintained. She cautioned the Board not to make decisions that would erode our accomplishments.

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

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mr. Renninghoff, the Board of Education unanimously approved the minutes of March 21, 2012.

Communications: Mrs. Boyle handed out a letter from her neighbor and invited the Board to read it. She also received many emails in support of all day kindergarten.

Strategic School Profile: Mrs. Mangini stated that there was a mistake made in the way we reported student services. Accounts are correct however there was an error in how the accounts were reported to the state.

Superintendent's Report: No report

Business Manager's Report: No report

2012-2013 Budget Discussion: Mr. Hennick stated that the budget needed to be done tonight. Mrs. Viccaro and Mrs. Mangini provided handouts to Board members outlining the revised proposed budget. Listed below are additional revisions that were reviewed in the finance meeting.

- \$ 4,000 Legal: Special Ed additional
- \$ 6,000 Legal: District
- \$12, 685 Reduction – Special Ed Speech Pathologist
- \$10,000 Special Ed Out-of-District Tuition
- \$15,000 Special Ed Out-of –District Transportation
- \$30,000 Special Ed OT Purchased Services
- \$ 7,996 Technology
- \$ 9,052 Electricity – CRHS
- \$ 8,000 Building and Ground
- \$18,343 Stipends
- \$ 4,300 Remove CAFE
- \$ 5,000 Remove from B & G
- \$ 5,283 Reduction - Athletics (Gator in Athletic Budget)
- \$ 9,800 Add back Math Tutors
- \$ 5,796 Add back Labs to Technology Leases

These adjustments total a reduction of \$120,063. This amount added to cuts proposed at the March 21, 2012 Board meeting of \$129,582 equal an overall reduction of \$249,645.

The Finance Committee suggested that we cut in non-technology areas so we can maintain computer labs at Lyman and Brewster. They also recommended no to include CAFE membership.

The Finance Committee along with the Building and Grounds Committee suggested that the money left from the building project be applied as follows. \$70,803 to reduce our debt and \$53,808 transferred back to the capital reserve.

Mr. Hennick wanted to hear from each Board member on their thoughts regarding the proposed budget. Ms. Gara began stating that she supported the elimination of CAFE. She was concerned about the cuts made from Special Education and asked Mrs. Emory what she thought. Mrs. Emory spoke of cuts being a calculated risk especially if we have a student move into the District with special needs. Ms. Gara also stated she was in favor of keeping all day kindergarten.

Ms. Parsons along with Mr. Hicks wanted to hear the follow up from Mr. Sadinsky regarding the decrease of staff for seventh grade. Mr. Sadinsky told the Board that eliminating a seventh grade position would impact both programs. It would make it necessary for students to cross teams therefore challenging communication. Teachers may have to be on two teams. There would be a dramatic increase in class size and students would only receive parts of programs. Mr. Sadinsky stated that the ultimate objective is to not impact students and eliminating a position would impact students tremendously.

Mr. Hicks is still in favor of reducing a 7th grade position and is disappointed in the elimination of CABE.

Mrs. Adams requested an explanation of the stipends that were cut. Mr. Hauser explained that there would be no drama production next year and that he reduced the number of Wise mentors. Mrs. Adams was also in favor of all day kindergarten.

Mr. Renninghoff questioned the addition of a half time support staff in the guidance department at CRHS. Mr. Hauser stated that the guidance secretary needed help due to time sensitive mailings.

Mr. Hicks stated he thought that Naviance would solve this problem. Mr. Hauser stated that it is the guidance secretary that troubleshoots Naviance. Mr. Hauser said that they have many students applying to many schools and each school has different requirements. Ms. Gara said it was a wonderful tool.

Mr. Hennick asked if there was any further discussion.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Dr. Ochterski the Board of Education unanimously approved to go to Pubic Hearing on the 2012-2013 education budget on April 11, 2012 with a total gross Regional District 13 budget of \$35,981,819.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Adams the Board of Education unanimously approved to hold a referendum on May 8, 2012 on the proposed 2012-2013 Regional District 13 education budget to be preceded by a District Meeting to be held on May 7, 2012.

Curriculum and Achievement Committee: Meeting will take place on Monday, April 2, 2012.

Mr. Hennick praised the Board members and the administrators for the hard work they have done to prepare the budget.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mr. Renninghoff, the Board of Education unanimously approved to adjourn at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Johnson