

Board of Education

Regional District 13

October 12, 2011

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, October 12, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the library at Memorial Middle School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Fulton, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons and Mr. Renninghoff. Also present: Mrs. Viccaro.

Mr. Hennick called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Next Board Meeting: The next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting will be Wednesday, October 26, 2011 at Korn School.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second by Ms. Parsons, the agenda was unanimously approved.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, second by Mrs. Boyle, to accept the minutes of the meeting of September 27, 2011. Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Futon, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons and Mr. Renninghoff voted yes. Mrs. Adams abstained.

Communications: Mrs. Flanagan said she heard from members of the community regarding the use of the track. She was told that there was no access to the track on Sundays because of the Falcon football games going on there all day. Mrs. Viccaro responded by saying the track is closed for safety reasons. Mr. Hicks said the Policy Committee will be spending time on field use and will address this issue.

Mrs. Flanagan said that several Board members met with Anne Littlefield of Shipman and Goodwin to discuss the role of a Board of Education. She said that they also discussed the unfunded mandates and Attorney Littlefield said that the Board is statutorily obligated and has a legal obligation to support any and all mandates that come down from the State.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro discussed the letter and an invoice from CABE and asked the Board to consider joining CABE for the 2012-2013 school year.

Mrs. Viccaro spoke to the Board about a regulatory change that is being discussed in the State Board of Education involving shifting the burden of proof to the party bringing the complaint in special education disputes between school districts and parents. She asked the Board to make a resolution at the next Board meeting that will support changes to the federal standard.

Mrs. Viccaro spoke about Internet Essentials, a program from Comcast, which provides Internet service for \$9.95 per month to students who are currently on free or reduced lunch. This program also has the option for these families to purchase a low cost computer at \$149.95. She said that the District will be getting this information out to those families in the coming weeks.

Mrs. Viccaro handed out enrollment data for the current school and past school year and reviewed the changes with the Board. She stated that while there was a 40 student drop in enrollment this year, they were across the board and jumped between grades and schools and that makes it very difficult when it comes to moving or reducing staff. She said that this information will be discussed at the next administrative council.

Presentation

Common Core State Standards: Mrs. Viccaro presented the Board with an overview of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), the newly adopted national academic standards for grades K – 12. She explained how the District has until the 2014-2015 school year to shift its current curriculum to the new Common Core State Standards. Mrs. Viccaro stressed the need for more professional development for teachers to make the change to this new program. She also stated to the Board that the subject of all day kindergarten needs to be addressed.

New Business

Mrs. Adams made a motion, second by Dr. Ochterski, to approve the Model UN Club Conference field trip, November 10 – 12, 2011.

The board discussed the motion and field trip request and decided to modify the motion.

Mrs. Flanagan made a motion, second by Mrs. Boyle, to approve the Model UN Club Conference field trip, November 10 – 12, 2011 with the understanding that funds would be available to any student who wanted to attend this field trip. Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Fulton, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski and Ms. Parsons voted yes. Mr. Renninghoff voted no.

Committee Reports

Policy Committee:

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second by Mrs. Boyle, the Board of Education unanimously approved the Participation Policy 5122.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second by Mrs. Boyle, the Board of Education unanimously approved the Computer User Policy and Internet Safety 5131.3.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, second by Mrs. Boyle, to approve Section 504 5142. Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Fulton, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski and Ms. Parsons voted yes. Mr. Renninghoff voted no.

Mr. Hicks said that the Policy Committee met last week and finished everything but the by-laws. They will be going through all the minutes to past meetings to make sure they have addressed all items that need to be removed and/or updated.

Personnel Policies Committee: Ms. Parson said that they will be having a preliminary meeting with Kevin Roy of Shipman and Goodwin to prepare for the upcoming negotiations with the administrators. Negotiations with the administrators will begin next month.

Other Committee Reports: Mrs. Boyle said that the Communications Committee will be meeting next month.

Magnet School: Mr. Hicks said he attended an organizational meeting at the Thomas Edison Magnet School where they reviewed the enrollment data. He stated that the District is currently sending 5 students. Mr. Hicks said that TEMS is holding a recruiting assembly at Memorial Middle School on Thursday, October 13, 2011.

Action Items:

1. Mrs. Viccaro to provide more information on the State of Connecticut potential move to changing the burden of proof.
2. Mrs. Viccaro to provide information on how many states have already voted to change the burden of proof.
3. Mrs. Viccaro to speak with other Superintendents at her next CAPSS meeting to find out how they are addressing professional development with impending changes being brought on by the new Common Core State Standards.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Adams, the Board of Education unanimously approved to adjourn at 9:15 pm.

Virginia P. Antonelli