

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education held a special meeting on Wednesday, December 19, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at John Lyman School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Renninghoff. Also present: Mrs. Viccaro. Absent: Mrs. Buckheit, Mr. Hicks.

Mrs. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. with a moment of silence for the Newtown community.

Mrs. Flanagan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: No Public Comment.

Review and Discuss School Security: Mrs. Viccaro reported to the Board the District's response to the December 14, 2012 incident in Newtown, CT. Mrs. Viccaro stated that the administrators along with Mr. Fielding and Mr. Francis met on Friday afternoon from 4:30 – 7:00 p.m. to discuss the security the District presently had in place and what was needed to be done on Monday. Each building principal called a staff meeting prior to the start of school on Monday to review new procedures. The biggest concern was the portable classrooms where steps have immediately been taken. These classrooms do not have the same security system as the school building. Teachers in the portable classrooms have been instructed to lock the doors from the inside. Mrs. Viccaro and Mr. Francis are looking at ways to make the portables more secure.

Mrs. Viccaro also reviewed the procedures followed at each school. Each building is equipped with cameras and require visitors to be buzzed in. Doors will remain locked during the school day. Mrs. Viccaro stated that each school is unique. For example CRHS and Strong have early morning programs which require doors to be unlocked for a period of time to allow students to enter. Korn School houses the BASREP program. Doors need to be unlocked before school and after school to allow parents dropping and picking up their children to enter the building.

Mrs. Viccaro also stated that with the present security system there are at times when shadows on the camera prevent the staff member to see who is entering the building. These staff members are required to ask the visitor to identify themselves and their reason for visiting the school.

Mrs. Boyle generated discussion about parents dropping off their child and leaving the building from another door. Egress points are important. Mrs. Boyle suggested that a sign be posted stating that when leaving the building exit should be through the main door.

Mrs. Viccaro addressed lockdown drills stating that 2 lockdown drills are practiced during the school year. Changes to this would include asking substitutes to attend one drill, give advance notice to parents of the lockdown drill, and to have a planned lockdown drill at the high school.

Mrs. Viccaro reported that a meeting will take place on January 9, 2013 regarding policies and procedures. Area superintendents and police chiefs will attend the meeting. Mrs. Flanagan requested Mrs. Viccaro to update the Board on this meeting.

Mr. Willett, Director of Emergency Management for the Town of Durham stated guidelines would be forthcoming regarding lockdown and evacuation procedures. Mr.

Willett said that the towns and schools were partners all working together for the safety of our community.

Public Comment: A Brewster parent asked for a panic button to alert staff and Mrs. Viccaro said that is something that is being looked at. Mr. Fulton added that the intercom system is critical. Mrs. Viccaro stated that the protocol for high alert was outlined in the District's Crisis Manual. Mrs. Viccaro stated that radios are presently being upgraded and the District was purchasing 22 additional radios. Mrs. Viccaro is also to going to check if there was any place in buildings where cell phones do not work.

A Lyman parent expressed her concern about outside recess questioning the number of adults on recess duty, do staff members wear badges, and do visitors wear badges. While another parent, Rick Terrill from Durham stated he didn't feel comfortable about the security presently in place. Mr. Terrill feels the District should take a look at having a resource officer at every building. A parent, Mr. Ameleto felt encouraged by Mrs. Viccaro's statements this evening but felt that locked doors is a false sense of protection. Mr. Amleto suggested that the District obtain a Vulnerability Assessment. A parent of a Brewster School student was not comfortable with children leaving the portable classroom alone and walking the main building. Mrs. Viccaro stated that the teacher in the portable alerts the front office when a child leaves the portable. Mrs. Viccaro to follow up on this procedure.

A member of the audience commented on planned lockdown drills stating that they would be advantageous and suggested that the EMS be invited to give feedback and guidance to both staff and parents. A parent of a second grader at Lyman School was encouraged by the letter sent by Mrs. Viccaro. She also is thankful that regular drills are done and working hand and hand with EMS is excellent and encouraging.

Mrs. Viccaro said it is important to think about kids and families that are anxious about last Friday's event. She announced that DMYFS has received grant money to provide counseling to students, staff and families having difficulty. Mrs. Boyle added that our responsibility is to the safety and security of our students.

Mrs. Flanagan requested that the public contact the BOE and keep the lines of communication open.

Follow Up:

1. Areas where cell phones do not work
2. Update from Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> meeting
3. Update on portables
4. Escorting students from portable to building

On a motion by Mrs. Adams, second Dr. Ochterski the Board of Education unanimously approved to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Maureen Johnson*