

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in the library at Strong Middle School, 191 Main St., Durham, CT. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Buckheit (7:35 p.m.), Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc (8:35 p.m.), Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff (7:35 p.m.).

Absent: Mrs. Flanagan

Also present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools

In Mrs. Flanagan's absence, Mr. Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. after it was determined that a quorum was present.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mrs. Boyle led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Next Board Meeting**

March 18, 2015 at Strong School.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Dr. Onofreo moved to approve the agenda. Dr. Friedrich seconded.

In favor of approving the agenda: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, and Dr. Onofreo,. Motion passed.

### **Approval of Minutes of March 4, 2015**

Mrs. Adams moved to approve the minutes of March 4, 2015. Dr. Onofreo seconded.

Mr. Fulton requested that the minutes be amended to included that he abstained from approving the minutes of January 8, 2015 (12:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.), and the February 19, 2015 minutes.

Mr. Hicks requested that the minutes reflect that he voted in favor of the educational specifications for the Brewster School roof solar panels and also voted in favor of accepting the cost estimate, specifications and plans for the Brewster School roof replacement project.

Mrs. Adams moved to approve the minutes of March 4, 2015 as amended. Dr. Onofreo seconded.

In favor of approving the minutes of March 4, 2015 as amended: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Buckheit, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff.

### **Communications**

Mrs. Buckheit shared an email that she received from a parent, Jen Zettergren of Durham who strongly objected to Mr. Renninghoff's recent comments reported in the Town Times. The email was also sent to Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Flanagan and Mrs. Fronc.

Dr. Veronesi provided each Board member with a handout from DMYFS supporting the hiring of a School Resource Officer.

Mr. Hicks attended a Chamber luncheon featuring John McCain. Coginchaug students were invited to attend. Mr. McHugh once again commented how impressed he was with the students from Coginchaug. Mr. Hicks also stated that our students were the only high school students

invited to this event.

### **Business Manager's Report**

No Business Manager's report.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Veronesi stated that she will report during the budget discussion.

### **Presentation**

Coginchaug students in Madame Cashore's French classes provided a PowerPoint presentation for Board members on their Quebec field trip. Students stated that the trip has motivated them to learn, make new friends, and expand their vocabulary. Students were very appreciative of the Board's approval of the field trip.

Both Dr. Veronesi and Mr. Hicks commended the students on their informative presentation.

### **2015-16 Budget Discussion**

Dr. Veronesi addressed follow up items.

- Dr. Veronesi advised the Board that a decision had been made on Friday of our intention to go out to bid for insurance this year. On Tuesday Anthem told us they would lower our increase to 7% if we pulled the bid, which we did on Wednesday.
- Dr. Veronesi spoke with Mr. Falcone on the cut in the English department. Mr. Falcone stated based on class size and course offerings the cut will not impact the English program.
- More UCONN classes have been approved
- The library media cut will not impact the time the students have in the library
- Dr. Veronesi updated the Board on the uniform schedule

Dr. Veronesi presented to the Board a modified School Resource Officer plan. It has been requested that there be a \$35,000 placeholder to build a partnership with youth services in both towns and with Troop F for consultation on safety and security matters.

The net increase of the 2015-2016 School Budget had changed from 2.96% to 2.21%. This new amount reflects the 7% insurance increase and the \$35,000 SRO placeholder.

Mr. Renninghoff requested clarification on the two positions at Central Office and requested the salary amount for these positions. Mr. Renninghoff also questioned the cost of transportation and stated District's transportation costs were higher than surrounding towns with more geographic area to cover.

Dr. Veronesi stated that our District will be involved in an educational services analysis conducted by Future's Education. One aspect of this analysis will address transportation.

Mr. Hicks asked if there was any further discussion on the budget. Being none the Board moved on to the next agenda item.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Brewster Roof Building Committee**

Mr. Hicks asked for a motion to waive the reading of the entire resolutions.

Mrs. Boyle moved to waive the reading of the entire resolution. Dr. Onofreo seconded.

In favor of waiving the reading of the entire resolution: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Buckheit, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Mr. Fulton moved to adopt the Brewster Elementary School Roof Replacement Project resolution as

detailed in the handout. Mr. Renninghoff seconded.

In favor of adopting the Brewster Elementary School Roof Replacement Project resolution as detailed in the handout: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Buckheit, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Mr. Fulton moved to adopt the Brewster Elementary School Solar Energy Panel System Installation Project resolution as detailed in the handout. Mrs. Adams seconded.

In favor of adopting the Brewster Elementary School Solar Energy Panel System Installation Project resolution: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Buckheit, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

A copy of the resolutions is included with the minutes.

### **Other Committee Reports**

Mrs. Adams stated that the Student Achievement Committee will meet tomorrow.

Mr. Hicks reported that he will be at ACES tomorrow and attending a meeting at TEMS next week.

### **Public Comment**

Dave Lowry, Middlefield Board of Finance asked if the Board had information on the realized savings from the installation of solar panels.

Craig Bradanini of Durham disagreed with Mr. Renninghoff's comments regarding teacher's health insurance coverage. Mr. Bradanini stated that the main concern of the teachers in our District is their students.

### **Follow Up**

- Mr. Fielding to send presentation to Board members prior to the next Board meeting
- Dr. Veronesi to provide information regarding staff reduction, transportation, and MBR updates

### **Adjournment**

Dr. Friedrich moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m. Dr. Onofreo seconded.

In favor of adjourning the meeting: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Buckheit, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

*Maureen Johnson*

RESOLUTIONS OF BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 13  
MARCH 11, 2015

**Brewster Elementary School Roof Replacement Project.**

RESOLVED, That the officers of the Board of Education and the Superintendent are authorized to cause a district meeting to be called for the purpose of conducting a public hearing in the Julian Thayer Auditorium of Coginchaug Regional High School on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. with respect to the following recommendations of the Board:

1. That \$1,300,000 be appropriated for costs related to the design, construction and implementation of roof replacement and related improvements at Brewster Elementary School in Durham, contemplated to include replacement of all sections of the roof, testing and identification of any asbestos-containing roofing and flashing materials and disposal of hazardous material, temporary relocation and reinstallation of rooftop equipment; replacement of all roof drains and installation of secondary drains as needed, and ceiling tile replacement and wall restoration in affected areas; (b) related work and improvements, and (c) costs of the financing thereof. The appropriation may be spent for design, demolition, installation and construction costs, equipment, materials, testing costs, disposal costs, architects' fees, engineering fees, construction management costs and fees, grant application and management costs, legal fees, net interest on borrowings, other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project. The Educational Resources Committee, established by the District Board of Education as the building committee for the project, shall be authorized to determine the scope and particulars of the project, and may reduce or modify the scope of the project as desirable, and the entire appropriation may be spent on the project as so reduced or modified.

2. That \$1,300,000 bonds and temporary notes of the District be authorized to finance the appropriation.

3. That the Chairman of the District Board of Education and the District Treasurer, or such officer or body delegated by the Board, be authorized to require the District and its member towns to comply with applicable federal income tax requirements for tax-exempt bonds.

4. That the Chairman of the District Board of Education and the District Treasurer, or such officer or body delegated by the Board, be authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes to provide secondary market disclosure information.

5. That the Educational Resources Committee shall be authorized to contract with architects, engineers, contractors and others in the name and on behalf of the District with respect to the project, following approval from the District Board of Education; to approve design and construction expenditures for the project; and to exercise such other powers as are necessary or appropriate to complete the project. Committee members shall not receive any compensation for their services. Necessary expenses of the Committee shall be included in the cost of the project. The records of the Committee shall be filed with the Secretary of the District Board of Education and

shall be open to public inspection during normal business hours. Upon completion of the project, the Committee shall make a complete report and accounting to the District Board of Education.

6. That the aforesaid bond, note and temporary note authorization shall be submitted to referendum vote by the electors and citizens qualified to vote in the towns of the District.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the applicable portions of the project be referred to the Planning and Zoning Commission of the Town of Durham, in which town said project are located, for reports pursuant to Section 8-24 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the members of the Board of Education hold a meeting in the library of Coginchaug Regional High School on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 following the aforesaid public hearing to act on the recommendations of the Board which are to be discussed at the said public hearing.

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**Brewster Elementary School Solar Energy Panel System Installation Project.**

RESOLVED, That the officers of the Board of Education and the Superintendent are authorized to cause a district meeting to be called for the purpose of conducting a public hearing in the Julian Thayer Auditorium of Coginchaug Regional High School on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. with respect to the following recommendations of the Board:

1. That \$785,000 be appropriated for costs related to the acquisition and installation of a roof-mounted solar energy panel system, and related equipment and improvements, at Brewster Elementary School in Durham, and costs of the financing thereof. The appropriation may be spent for design, demolition, installation and construction costs, equipment, materials, testing costs, disposal costs, architects' fees, engineering fees, construction management costs and fees, grant application and management costs, legal fees, net interest on borrowings, other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project. The Educational Resources Committee, established by the District Board of Education as the building committee for the project, shall be authorized to determine the scope and particulars of the project, and may reduce or modify the scope of the project as desirable, and the entire appropriation may be spent on the project as so reduced or modified.

2. That \$785,000 bonds and temporary notes of the District be authorized to finance the appropriation.

3. That the Chairman of the District Board of Education and the District Treasurer, or such officer or body delegated by the Board, be authorized to require the District and its member towns to comply with applicable federal income tax requirements for tax-exempt bonds.

4. That the Chairman of the District Board of Education and the District Treasurer, or such officer or body delegated by the Board, be authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes to provide secondary market disclosure information.

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