

Board of Education

Regional District 13

**AMENDED 9/15/15**

August 26, 2015

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, August 26, 2015 in the library at Coginchaug Regional High School, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, CT at 7:00 p.m. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton (7:13 p.m.), Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, and Mr. Willett.

Absent: Dr. Friedrich

Also present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Melnik, Business Manager

Mrs. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. after it was determined that a quorum was present.

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

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Next Board Meeting**

Next Board meeting will be held on September 9, 2015 at Memorial School, 124 Hubbard St, Middlefield, CT.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the agenda. Mrs. Boyle seconded.

In favor of approving agenda: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

### **Approval of Minutes of July 1, 2015 and July 18, 2015**

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the minutes of July 1, 2015. Mrs. Boyle seconded.

In favor of approving the minutes of July 1, 2015: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the minutes of July 18, 2015. Mrs. Boyle seconded.

In favor of approving the minutes of July 18, 2015: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, and Mr. Renninghoff. Mr. Willett abstained. Motion passed.

### **Communications**

Mrs. Adams attended convocation on Monday, August 24, 2015 and referenced the Latin meaning of convocation, a coming together and celebrating. Mrs. Adams praised Dr. Veronesi on her program which included announcing the teacher of the year, welcoming new people and recognizing staff that received the Good Apple Award and years of service awards. Mrs. Adams also commended Dr. Veronesi for inviting Mr. Pierce to bring the history of the Durham community to staff.

Mrs. Flanagan also attended convocation along with Mr. Hicks. Mrs. Flanagan applauded Mr. Hicks for his 20 years of service on the Board of Education. She also commended the members of the Show Choir and Jazz Band for their performances.

Mrs. Flanagan announced the resignation of Mr. Fulton from the Board of Education. Mr. Fulton

will be relocating. Mrs. Flanagan thanked Mr. Fulton for his dedication and commitment to District 13 and added that he will be sorely missed.

Mrs. Flanagan stated that Dr. Veronesi and she attended the CAFE Leadership conference. The conference centered on declining population and changing demographics.

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

Mr. Melnik stated that tomorrow, August 27, 2015 is the first day of school. The buildings are ready and the buses are ready

Mr. Melnik advised the Board that the soccer field project at Memorial was done and the roof at Brewster School is near completion.

He also reported that the ED 001, ED 147 and the Universal Service Fund reports have been filed with the State. Mr. Willett asked what information these reports provide. Mr. Melnik stated the reports indicate the cost per student, SPED costs, and adult education costs which have bearing on our state funding.

Mrs. Fronc asked about the soccer fields and if they were playable. Mr. Finnerty, a member of the Cuginchaug Soccer Club spoke stating the lower field was playable and other fields would be payable in the spring. Mrs. Fronc asked about recess at Memorial School and Dr. Veronesi stated she would address the issue with Mr. Brough.

Mrs. Flanagan extended her sincere gratitude to the Soccer Club from the BOE for making the project happen. Mrs. Flanagan stated that the next Board meeting was at Memorial School and encouraged Board members to walk the grounds prior to the meeting.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Veronesi welcomed Mr. Willett as a new Board member.

CAFE conference information is included in each Board member's packet. Dr. Veronesi asked for completed registration forms be given to her this evening if a member would like to attend. Also included in each member's packet is an updated enrollment sheet. This will be part of every meeting.

Mrs. Flanagan asked Dr. Veronesi if she could also include TEMS students, Vinal students and outplaced SPED students on the enrollment sheet.. Dr. Veronesi to take care of that. Dr. Veronesi also will send a document to Mr. Willett specifying the breakdown of students per classroom.

Dr. Veronesi thanked the Board members who attended Convocation. She also stated that the professional development day on Tuesday was remarkable. Dr. Berry will be presenting an overview of student assessment at the September 9<sup>th</sup> BOE meeting.

Dr. Veronesi provided the Board with an update on the District's safety and security. She commended Mrs. Gaudreau on the tremendous amount of work she has done.

Trooper Larry Morello, Durham's new resident State Trooper was introduced by Dr. Veronesi. Trooper Morello provided the Board with a brief summary of his experience. He is DARE certified and along with Trooper Kelly will provide DARE instruction to grade 6 students at Memorial School.

Dr. Veronesi wanted to revisit a conversation that had taken place at the July Board of Education meeting and later at an ERC meeting regarding the Central Office redesign/upgrades. Mr. Melnik provided the Board with a handout describing the purpose of the redesign and the redesign

timeline.

Much discussion took place among members of the Board of Education. Mrs. Flanagan asked Board members if they had any serious objections to the plan. Mr. Hicks stated he did not object to the plan however thought it should be voted on by the Board.

Mr. Hicks moved to amend the agenda to include Central Office redesign/upgrade. Mr. Renninghoff seconded.

In favor of amending the agenda to include Central Office redesign/upgrade: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

Further discussion took place.

Mr. Hicks moved to approve Option B in the amount of \$49,719.00 as described in the Central Office Redesign/Update handout. Dr. Onofreo seconded.

In favor of approving the Central Office Redesign/Update: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

### **Vote on Superintendent's Contract**

Mrs. Boyle gave the Board an overview of the process of the superintendent's review. There are three changes to Dr. Veronesi's contract. Dr. Veronesi will receive a 3% raise retroactive back to July 1, 2015. The amount of term life insurance will be increased from \$150,000 to \$250,000, and the term of the contract shall read 07/01/2015-06/30/2018.

Mrs. Boyle moved to accept the superintendent's contract effective 07/01/2015. Mr. Hicks seconded.

Mr. Willett asked for clarification on the contract regarding any review during the three year period.

In favor of accepting the superintendent's contract effective 07/01/2015: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, and Mr. Willett. Abstained: Mrs. Fronc. Motion passed.

Mrs. Fronc requested that the IT department get in touch with board members regarding the new email system. Dr. Veronesi asked the Board members needing assistance for a timeframe they would be available on Thursday for Mr. Fielding to work with them.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **A. Utilization Committee**

Mr. Fulton reported that the committee was focusing on the 10/6/2015 community forum.

#### **B. ERC**

Mr. Fulton said the committee is gearing up for the budget season. He also stated that pension fund performance was reviewed at the last committee meeting.

#### **C. Brewster Roof Committee**

Mr. Melnik provided an update on the roof. It was reported that an approved payment was made to the contractor on the work completed. The project is within the budgeted amount.

#### **D. Other Committees**

Mrs. Adams provided a handout to the Board members providing an overview of the Student Achievement Committee.

Mr. Hicks updated the Board on events regarding ACES and TEMS

Mrs. Boyle updated the Board on work being done on the Human Resource Committee which includes the superintendent's review process, the committee's work on evaluation process, and finalizing the BOE member handbook.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Finnerty requested that information regarding the community forum be available to the public sooner rather than later. He also asked the Board to have a discussion regarding any savings available from the Brewster School project.

Mrs. Elder from Middlefield applauded the Board for the work they do. She is looking for a zero increase in the next budget. She also commented on the 3% increase for the superintendent and stated it was well deserved. The increase stays in line with other comparable towns however do the budgets in the other towns continue to increase each year.

Mr. Fulton addressed the Board regarding decision to resign from the Board of Education.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Renninghoff moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm. Mrs. Adams seconded.

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Maureen Johnson*