

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the library at Strong School, 191 Main St., Durham, CT. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, and Mr. Willett. Also present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools, and 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.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mrs. Flanagan led the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

**Administrator Welcome**

Mr. Sadinsky, Principal of Strong Middle School welcomed Board members to Strong Middle School. Mr. Sadinsky recommended that the Board go to Strong's Facebook page. His presentation visited the website and Mr. Sadinsky highlighted exciting events taking place at Strong School such as the World Flavors Cooking Club, Coding Club, the integration of Health and Art classes along with the collaborative effort of the Music and Art departments at a recent Band concert.

**Public Comment**

Mrs. Stephan of Durham thanked the Board for the time they put into working on the budget. She asked that the Board be mindful of cuts and take into consideration the integrity of academics, music and art programs.

**Next Board Meeting**

The next Board meeting will be February 24, 2016 at Strong Middle School.

**Approval of Agenda**

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

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

**Approval of Minutes of January 13 and January 16, 2016**

Mrs. Adams moved to approve the minutes of January 13, 2016. Dr. Onofreo seconded.

Mr. Hicks asked the minutes be amended to include the purpose of the Executive Session.

Mrs. Boyle moved to accept the minutes as amended. Mrs. Adams seconded.

In favor of approving the amended minutes of January 13, 2016: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, and Mr. Willett. Mr. Hicks abstained. Motion passed.

Discussion took place regarding the minutes of January 16, 2016. The list of Board members needed to be amended.

Dr. Onofreo moved to approve the minutes of January 16, 2016 as amended. Mrs. Fronc seconded.

In favor of approving the amended minutes of January 16, 2016: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

### **Communications**

Mrs. Fronc stated that she had received communication from Mr. Doyle requesting information regarding sports summer leagues, how cuts are made, and requested that Mr. Barbieri address the Board on these concerns at a future Board meeting.

Mrs. Boyle asked if all Board members received an email from Mrs. Fournier.

Mr. Willett stated concerns from a parent regarding a recent survey from Youth and Family Services. Parents have legitimate concerns relating to the use of the data and the information requested.

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

Mr. Melnik requested that the Board approve the final invoices on the Brewster Roof Project.

Mr. Hicks moved to approve five payments for the Brewster Roof Project, #213-0046. These payments are the final payment on Project #213-0046. The payments are:

1. Commercial Roofing, Inc.      \$177,365.00
2. MECO Co., Inc.                      6,900.00
3. Hibbard and Rosa, LLC              4,012.00
4. Garland Company                      3,458.06
5. DavCon, LLC                              1,550.00

Mrs. Adams seconded.

In favor of approving the final invoices on the Brewster Roof Project: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Veronesi thanked Mrs. Boyle for her recommendation to use Facebook as a communication vehicle.

Dr. Veronesi stated that on the recommendation of Jonathan Costa at the January 16, 2016 meeting, work on Strategic Coherence will take place this summer.

### **New Business:**

Mrs. Boyle moved to approve a Senior Class trip to Boston on June 2-3, 2016. Mrs. Fronc seconded.

Mr. Falcone stated that there was a change in plans and the students will not be going to Boston in June as planned due to a problem with transportation.

The motion was withdrawn.

Dr. Friedrich moved to approve the CRHS DECA Trip to Nashville April 22-27, 2016. Mrs. Boyle seconded.

Mr. Hicks would like the minutes to reflect that due to recent world events the Board has the right to cancel this request at a later date if necessary.

In favor of approving the DECA field trip as stipulated: : Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Fronc, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Dr. Onofreo, Mr. Renninghoff, and Mr. Willett. Motion passed.

### **Presentation of the 2016-2017 Regional District 13 Proposed Budget**

Dr. Veronesi stated “Investing in Excellence, Focus on Today, Pay Attention to the Future”. This is the theme of the 2016-2017 Regional School District 13’s budget. Dr. Veronesi stated that as a District we need to recognize change, continue successful programming, invest in growth and focus on what’s going on right now and in the future. She would like to continue data team review, and teacher leadership support. She would like to move forward with STEM programming at Strong Middle School and school/career connection at Cuginchaug.

Dr. Veronesi announced that Mr. Brough, the principal of Memorial Middle School will be retiring. Mrs. Stone, the principal of Korn Elementary School will become the principal of Memorial Middle School. She also stated that the Special Education Coordinator position has been eliminated for the 2016-2017 school year and that she would like reorganize the administrative leadership structure.

The 2016-2017 School Budget is a 1.48% decrease form the 2015-2016 operating budget. The decrease is a result of the insurance costs; five of the six unions will only have the option of a high deductible health plan for their insurance coverage. Also the renewal rate for insurance costs will increase by 2.99%. Other decreases include staffing cuts and the closing of Korn Elementary School.

Budget books were handed out to Board members and Mr. Melnik reviewed the details of the budget. The budget book will be posted on the District’s website.

Mr. Melnik stated that the budget drivers are salaries and insurance. He stated that one bus was going to be cut with a savings of \$57,000. Mr. Melnik reviewed the detail receipts stating that there is approximately a \$30,000 loss in revenue due to capped State grants and decrease in Special Education reimbursement from the State.

Mr. Melnik told Board members that Dr. Veronesi and her administrative team are constantly looking at class sizes and staffing. It is recommended that a .5 custodial staff be added to Brewster, 1.5 Math Specialist be added to Elementary/Middle schools, and .5 Math tutor at CRHS. Mr. Melnik also reviewed Capital Needs, safety issues that need to be addressed and cost per student.

Mrs. Flanagan thanked Dr. Veronesi and Mr. Melnik for their presentation. She recommended for Board members to email her prior to next Board meeting with any questions they may have. Mrs. Flanagan commended Dr. Veronesi, Mr. Melnik and the administrative team for their hard work on the budget proposal.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Utilization Committee**

Mrs. Flanagan stated that committee is developing FAQ’s and an RFP. They are discussing the work that needs to be done at Brewster and Memorial schools. The committee is examining if it is educationally and financially safe to close another school.

Mrs. Flanagan and Dr. Veronesi met with the parent organizations at Lyman and Brewster Schools. Mrs. Boyle requested that the other Board members be made aware of these meetings with parent groups.

### **Other Committee Reports**

Mrs. Adams, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Flanagan, and Mr. Moore attended a Biomedical project at

John Wallace Middle School in Newington, CT. The concept of the program is to provide students an opportunity to have hands-on experience of a career paths. Board members were impressed by the presentation.

Alternative Building Use Committee met. Mrs. Adams and Mr. Willett reported that the meeting was eye-opening. Mr. Willett stated there is a tremendous amount of work to do.

Mr. Moore praised Mr. Brough and the recent music program held at Memorial School. He also commended Mrs. Stone for a program he attended at Korn.

**Public Comment**

Mrs. Elder of Middlefield congratulated Dr. Veronesi and Mr. Melnik for their presentation of the 2016-2017 School Budget. She was impressed with the 1.48% decrease from this year's operating budget. Mrs. Elder stated that the District is heading in the right direction with STEM education, the recommendation to include a position for a Director of Organizational Development and the use of Data Teams. She also was impressed by the video of the students.

**Adjournment**

Mr.Hicks moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Dr. Friedrich seconded.

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

Respectfully submitted

*Maureen Johnson*