

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 7:30 PM in the Library at Coginchaug Regional High School, Durham, Connecticut.

Board members present: Mrs. Booth, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor

Board members absent: Mrs. Caramanello, Mrs. Geraci and Mr. Yamartino

Administration present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools and Mrs. Neubig, Director of Finance.

Mr. Moore called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Hicks asked to make an addition, item 15, to accept a \$7,000 grant from the Merwin Fund.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve the agenda, as amended.

In favor of approving the agenda, as amended: Mrs. Booth, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Welcome - Debra Murray

Mrs. Murray thanked the Board and the community for the opportunity for her to serve at Brewster School. She felt that all of the families at Brewster want to see that their children are accomplished and reach their goals. They work hard to include the families in their children's education and have created a family involvement committee to focus on that. Families were recently welcomed as Mystery Readers and have participated in nature walks. They have PJ day coming up on Friday and a holiday sweater day on the 20th. Future events include a shine board where students will show their work and a school-wide community meeting. The staff at Brewster is committed to bringing joy to all of the students.

Regional School District 13 Teacher of the Year - Amy Schaefer

Dr. Veronesi recognized Amy Schaefer as the Teacher of the Year and explained that she is an art teacher at Strong School and has been in the district for 14 years. Dr. Veronesi emphasized that Mrs. Schaefer's classroom is a safe place and a place where students learn, develop their craft, communicate with each other, are creative and think critically. Students believe that they contribute to what's happening in that classroom. Mrs. Schaefer has also been a leader in the partnership with CCSU and their self-leadership and being a reflective practitioner.

Mrs. Schaefer explained that the community has changed her life, including giving her friends, a purpose and pride. She has seen the students become leaders and she now works with and is friends with people that she taught. She thanked the district for the opportunity to be part of the community and to be a role model.

Middlesex Superintendent/Student Award Recipients - Carolyn Cumello and Nathan Strang

Dr. Veronesi had the great privilege to have lunch today at the Saybrook Point Inn with Carolyn Cumello and Nathan Strang as two students of excellence who were nominated by their teachers. Carolyn holds the school record for pole vault and is an intelligent, ambitious, conscientious and talented young woman. She is a leader in the school and a wonderful role model, taking a rigorous course load and has been recognized for her excellence in academics with her induction into the National Honor Society and Latin Honor Society. Carolyn is a three-season athlete and is captain of both the cross country and indoor track teams. She is also co-president of the ECO Club and is a member of DECA. She helped create the book club, participates in the Community Round-Up and volunteers at the Durham Fair. Dr. Veronesi noted that the Community Round-Up surpassed all records this year, by collecting over \$5,000 in donations and over 15,000 items.

Nathan Strang is an exceptional young man, intelligent, self-driven, confident and a leader. He has taken the most challenging course load at the school and will have taken two UCONN and eight AP courses by graduation. He chose to take AP chemistry online this year and has been recognized for his excellence in academics with his induction into the National Honor Society and French Honor Society. He is a semi-finalist for the National Merit Scholarship and also completed an internship at the McQueen Lab at Wesleyan this past summer. He is captain of the swim team, vice president of marketing for DECA. Nathan is also in concert band and jazz band and has recently attained the prestigious honor of Eagle Scout.

Carolyn explained that she has applied to college, but is not yet sure where she will be going. She hopes to participate in athletics in college as well. Nathan is also not sure where he will be going to school, but is looking to become a physician.

Public Comment

Janina Eddinger, from Middlefield, asked how the Board plans to move sixth grade to Strong School when there are currently teachers that have both fifth- and sixth-grade students in the same classroom. She also asked if two different waves of buses would be necessary due to the amount of students coming over to Strong. As for the grade 3 move to Memorial, she feels that the students at Memorial are treated as middle school students and she urged the board to consider what the new rules of the school would be, including students riding the bus to a friend's house.

Carl Stoup, from Durham, supports the idea of donating Korn School to the Town of Durham and hopes that the board follows through on that.

Approval of Minutes**A. Board of Education special session community meeting - November 6, 2019**

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Taylor, to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2019 meeting, as presented.

In favor of approving the minutes of the November 6, 2019 meeting, as presented: Mrs. Booth, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Board of Education regular session meeting - November 13, 2019

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2019 meeting, as presented.

In favor of approving the minutes of the November 13, 2019 meeting, as presented: Mrs. Booth, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Board Meeting - January 8, 2020 at 7:00 PM in the library at Coginchaug Regional High School**Resolution to Call a Special District Meeting to Present the Proposed Amendments to the Plan of Regionalization for the District**

Mr. Moore explained that Bruce Chudwick, the district's attorney, was present at the meeting tonight.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to adopt a resolution to call a special district meeting to present the proposed amendments to the Plan of Regionalization for the district.

Mr. Hicks then read the resolution into the record, with the special district meeting to be held on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 6:00 PM for the purpose of a public hearing to present and receive public comment on the proposed amendments to the Plan of Regionalization.

Mr. Chudwick, from Shipman and Goodwin, reviewed that the board had approved the wording for the amendments at their November 13, 2019 meeting and the next step in the statutory process is to call a special district meeting to receive public comment. The referendum question cannot be set until after the public hearing, so that can be done at the board's regular meeting on January 8th after the district meeting. That referendum has to be at least 30 days after the approval of the date, with a little extra time for noticing and coordination. He felt that the referendum would be sometime in mid-February.

In favor of adopting a resolution to call a special district meeting to present the proposed amendments to the Plan of Regionalization for the district: Mrs. Booth, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution to Approve the Questions for a Referendum Vote to Amend the Plan of Regionalization for the District and to Authorize the Preparation of Explanatory Text

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve the questions for a referendum vote to amend the Plan of Regionalization for the district and authorize the preparation of explanatory text.

Mr. Moore explained that there will be two questions, one to approve the change in authority of the board and the other to adopt the elections and terms as stated in the report.

Mrs. Petrella asked what happens if there is inclement weather on the date of the public hearing and Attorney Chudwick explained that they would have to reschedule it for another date, with at least five days' notice in the newspaper. Mrs. Petrella asked what other forms of notification would be used and Mr. Moore explained that they would notify the Town Clerks and it would be put on the towns' website. Attorney Chudwick explained that the only legal requirement is to have it published.

Dr. Veronesi asked Attorney Chudwick what the role of the board is in being able to talk about this and he explained that once the questions are approved, they would be within the State Election Enforcement Commission provisions and cannot advocate for or against the proposal. The board cannot spend any district money to either promote or defeat the referendum question. The board members, however, can express their own personal views. These same rules apply to the public as well. The board will then prepare explanatory text and the attorneys will review it to be sure it is not biased in any way and it will then be made available to the public. Mr. Moore explained that a draft of the explanatory text has been provided to the board members.

Mr. Moore also explained that Attorney Chudwick has also prepared a schedule of how people would move into positions based on the elections based on Durham's Town Charter. Those members whose terms would be up in July, 2020 would then move to November, 2021. That would mean four board members would be extended to November, 2021 and then three would be elected for a four-year term with the fourth person being elected for a two-year term. Those members whose terms would be up in 2022 would extend to 2023, being elected for a four-year term at that point. This language has also been sent to the town's attorney but they have not received any response as of yet. Attorney Chudwick explained that that timing is based on both the town charter and state statutes.

Dr. Friedrich asked what the process will be if a member cannot complete their term and Attorney Chudwick explained that he thought it would be as with any other vacancy and the Board of Education would appoint a member to fill the term, but he will research that and get back to the board. Attorney Chudwick added that the referendum questions will have to be approved in each individual town, including the way that the Durham board members will be elected.

Dr. Taylor asked if the attorney was aware of any other regional school districts that have different voting patterns for their board members. Attorney Chudwick has not looked at the way other regions hold their elections, but he stated that the statutory provisions for regional school districts are very disjointed in certain spots and that is one of them.

In favor of approving the questions for a referendum vote to amend the Plan of Regionalization for the district and to authorize the preparation of explanatory text: Mrs. Booth, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee Meeting - November 18, 2019

Mr. Moore reported that the Finance Committee met, with both First Selectmen present to talk about the upcoming needs for both towns. Durham will be faced with EMS services, solid waste and tree removal will be major factors. The continued reduction of ECS funding is an issue for both towns. Middlefield is also faced with additional work on the roads. It was also announced that the towns have hired a Town Planner. They also discussed budget priorities for the schools.

B. Student Achievement Committee Meeting - November 20, 2019 (next meeting January 22, 2020)

Mrs. Petrella reported that they discussed how STEAM is integrated in math workshop and the use of maker spaces in the classrooms. They reviewed the different technologies that students use and it was

explained that they were used over the summer months as well. There was some discussion about screen time for students, but the integration of technology is only a piece of the learning process and not the whole thing. The committee also reviewed professional learning ideas for January and February. They also received an update on enrichment and Mrs. DiMaggio is working with teachers and staff to develop a program to have equitable enrichment opportunities for all students as well as to identify talented and gifted students. Mrs. Petrella felt that the board needs to discuss if having enrichment for all would meet the needs of the talented and gifted students. It may also be necessary to hire a new staff person to oversee this process.

1. Vote to adopt mathematics curriculum

Mrs. Petrella explained that the math curriculum has been developed by the teachers and staff in the district. The information was sent to board members in November and discussed at the meeting on November 13, 2019. This new curriculum for grades K-5 has been in effect since the start of the school year.

Mrs. Petrella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roraback, to approve the RSD13 K-5 math curriculum.

In favor of approving the RSD13 K-5 math curriculum: Mrs. Booth, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Petrella added that the 6-8 math curriculum will be presented at their January meeting.

C. Utilization Committee Meeting - November 21, 2019 (next meeting January 23, 2020)

Dr. Taylor reported that they had a presentation on pickleball in the context of playground equipment, etc. at Memorial School. They had a lot of discussion about Korn School and the district's viable options. They also had a brief discussion about the plans for Memorial and Brewster schools moving forward.

1. Possible vote to approve letter to Boards of Selectmen in Durham and Middlefield regarding the donation of Korn School building to the Town of Durham

Mr. Moore read the draft of his letter to the Boards of Selectmen, explaining that after much discussion, the Board of Education has determined that the best use of the building is as a town-owned and operated facility for community use. The board offered to work with the town to make this a viable choice. Mr. Moore explained that the board needs to vote on whether or not to send the letter.

Dr. Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hicks, to send a letter to the Boards of Selectmen in Durham and Middlefield regarding the donation of the Korn School building to the Town of Durham.

Dr. Taylor reviewed that they have been trying to figure out what to do with Korn School for some time and the fact that it is not very desirable from a commercial standpoint. There are continuing ongoing costs keeping the building in a mothballed state, running between \$80,000 and \$100,000 per year. If they were to make the building operational, those costs would be around \$150,000 per year. Dr. Taylor added that there were a lot of capital improvements that will become necessary over the next five to 10 years. Incorporating all costs, it will be approximately \$200,000 to \$300,000 per year to operate the building. No one felt there was a viable option to cover those costs in an income-based way as they would be bound to be educational uses. The town, however, would not be limited in the potential uses.

Dr. Taylor added that if the town did not want to accept the donation, most people on the Utilization Committee felt that demolition would be the next best option.

Mr. Moore added that Bill Warner, the interim Town Planner, gave insight on how the Town of Haddam handled their school closure and explained the various restrictions on the Korn School building.

Mrs. Petrella thought there were some issues with the state and Mr. Moore reviewed that there is an outstanding note from the state on the building, but that would be forgiven if the building is used by the town. The other outstanding debt on the building will expire next year. Mrs. Neubig added that there is \$222,000 left on that debt which would need to be paid before the building is transferred. Mrs. Booth asked if Middlefield would get any money from Durham and Mr. Moore stated that they would not. The only reason that had been proposed was because of the outstanding debt which will no longer exist.

In favor of sending a letter to the Boards of Selectmen in Durham and Middlefield regarding the donation of the Korn School building to the Town of Durham: Mrs. Booth, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

D and E. Policy Committee Meetings - November 25, 2019 and December 9, 2019

Mr. Hicks reported that the Policy Committee met on two occasions and reviewed the policies that are listed on the agenda, plus 13 more. These policies are basically an interpretation of state statutes. Mr. Hicks felt that, since six out of the seven board members present have already approved the policies at the committee level, he would like to see the policies approved tonight.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Taylor, to approve the policies as listed on the agenda.

In favor of approving the policies as listed on the agenda: Mrs. Booth, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Educational Resources Committee Meeting - December 10, 2019 (next meeting February 12, 2020)

Mr. Moore reported that the ERC met earlier this evening and had a proposal to change the investment in the pension fund. The Pension Committee recommended this change and Morgan Stanley recommended a new manager. Mr. Roraback explained that the objective was to increase performance.

1. Possible vote to approve investment changes for pension fund

Mr. Roraback made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, to add Lessard Asset Management to emerging market equity manager to manage 5 percent of the defined pension benefit plan for the employees of Regional School District 13.

In favor of adding Lessard Asset Management to emerging market equity manager to manage 5 percent of the defined pension benefit plan for the employees of Regional School District 13: Mrs. Booth, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Possible vote to authorize financing of energy project

Mr. Moore explained that they need authorization for Mrs. Neubig to go to bid on financing for the energy project. Mrs. Neubig reviewed that she needs approval to create an RFP for financing but they would not be bound to anything. She reviewed that the energy project will be paid for through the energy savings.

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to authorize Mrs. Neubig to create an RFP for financing of the energy project.

In favor of authorize Mrs. Neubig to create an RFP for financing of the energy project: Mrs. Booth, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

Communications

Mr. Moore reported that Phil Russell, the interim business manager, died in a car accident in Vermont about two weeks ago. He had helped the district through a very difficult time.

Mr. Moore received comments on transition from Janina Eddinger, Kim Johansen, Jenna Driscoll, Missy DiPietro, Alana Marino, Maygan Morello, Carolyn Janis, John Farnsworth, Sherri Adams and Sarah Fulmine. Some were in favor and others were not. Mr. Moore apologized for not responding to Missy DiPietro.

Mr. Moore also received comments from Karen Cheyney about the date of the referendum. Another person had a question about the National Honor Society. Christina Talbot-Steigel offered to give a lecture on world health. Ron Melnik sent a letter about his pension that Mrs. Neubig has since resolved. They also received a link to a website about the 70th anniversary of the high school in Ningbo.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Veronesi reviewed that they had had multiple discussions about sixth grade moving to Strong School, knowing that enrollment at Strong School was continuing to decline. Once it was decided to move to the primary, intermediate, middle school, one-track design, they still believed that moving sixth grade to the middle school was the correct move for students.

Dr. Veronesi added that if sixth grade is moved to Strong School next year, there will be quite a bit of room at Memorial School, with a capacity of 15 classrooms. They have also talked about moving third grade to Memorial and have heard the concern that some Lyman parents have about their students being at Memorial for just one year as fifth grade and have asked about fifth graders remaining at Lyman until the reconfiguration.

The administrative team feels that these moves make sense for a lot of reasons and doesn't have a large concern about students spending one year in a particular building. However, they felt it was important to listen to the parents' concerns and look at the opportunities and challenges. The updated enrollment study was recently received and there is a continued decline which, in the next 10 years, shows that the district will decline by another 200 students. Dr. Veronesi felt that the district will hover around 100 students per grade, with a high school in the 300s. The current enrollment is 1,491 and the projection for the 2019-2020 school year was 1,495.

Dr. Veronesi then went on to review that the sixth-grade students are socially and emotionally prepared to go to Strong School and they would propose an exploratory period for sixth graders to learn about different world languages. The administrative team met with Tim Fisher, who has a comprehensive plan for more robust music offerings at the middle school. She also mentioned the proximity to town attractions, such as Dairy Serve, the public library and Allyn Brook Park as well as having their own Chromebooks and being part of the athletic programs. Dr. Veronesi also mentioned how the staff population is aligning to student enrollment and positions can be repurposed as enrollment declines. She did state that there will be a proposal for an enrichment teacher in next year's budget. Dr. Veronesi also felt that they would consider having someone from the teachers' union serving in the role as a dean of students at the middle school.

Dr. Veronesi described an area at Strong School that they think will be perfect for sixth graders. It was also explained that world language would be offered to sixth graders in an exploratory format.

Dr. Veronesi went on to review some of the challenges, including emotional and anxiety issues for students as well as expectations of the staff. She also felt that there will be some challenges with blending people from both schools as well as staff uncertainty. Decisions will be made based on a number of factors and will be long-term decisions. The actual logistics of the move and trying to avoid disrupting student learning will. Parents have brought up the concern of student start time and they are continuing to discuss that as an administrative team. Other items, such as library books and recess time, are also being discussed.

They then went on to discuss moving the third graders from Brewster to Memorial and felt that it would help to begin the transition that was voted on last year to move to a one-track design. Space at Brewster School is at a premium at this point and, if the three classes of third graders moved to Memorial, it would give two additional classrooms spaces. It would only be two classrooms because an additional second grade classroom will be added next year at Brewster. These moves will help to create more balanced schools, with approximately 12 classes at Brewster, Lyman and Memorial.

Dr. Veronesi added that she has not received any negative feedback to this plan from parents at Brewster, but she understands that parents may have concerns that she hasn't yet heard.

Moving to keeping fifth graders at Lyman would avoid students having just one year at Memorial. Dr. Veronesi added that the current fifth grade class will, in fact, only be at Memorial for one year. Both the administrative team and parents would like to maintain continuity and keep the special feeling that exists at Lyman. This would also provide the opportunity to have a K-5 configuration and student leadership for the fifth graders.

Looking at the challenges, Lyman is also using every possible space and some teachers may have to move from Memorial to Lyman and then back to Memorial again. In the past, parents have made a request to change from the ID to contemporary program in grade 5. Dr. Veronesi added that they recently discovered some rotting floorboards in one of the portables at Lyman which are now 20 years old. The preliminary estimate for the repairs is about \$10,000. Dr. Veronesi also noted that she did not believe that every parent of a fourth grader would choose to keep their child at Lyman if given the choice.

Looking at the enrollment projections again, Dr. Veronesi reiterated that the district will level off at about 100 students per grade level and class sizes in the high school, in another 10 years, will be in the 70s and 80s.

Dr. Veronesi then went on to review potential floor plans of Strong school. She mentioned that it is likely that some sixth-grade teachers will need to teach a section of either seventh or eighth grade as well. She emphasizes that it will be unrealistic to think that the sixth graders will be able to be kept completely separate from the other grades.

Dr. Veronesi then reviewed the floor plan at Brewster, with four sections of grades K, 1 and 2. If the third grade remained there, a lot of consolidation of special education and support services would be required. Moving to Memorial, she reviewed that there would be no need for portables there and it would also provide the opportunity for an innovation lab.

Moving to Lyman, Dr. Veronesi explained that there will be five 3/4 classrooms which will likely all be in the main building. The two fifth grade classrooms could go in the portables. Mr. Ford explained that that would also entail relocating resource rooms. Mrs. Booth asked if the portable classroom floor needs to be repaired immediately and Dr. Veronesi felt that it could potentially wait but wasn't sure. Mrs. Neubig explained that the damaged floor is underneath bookshelves, so there is no student traffic in the area.

Mrs. Booth asked what the capacity of Strong School is and Mr. Sadinsky stated that they had been at around 365 to 370 and are now down to around 350. He never felt that space was too tight at the higher numbers. Mrs. Booth felt that moving 200 kids was a huge transition on many levels, but Dr. Veronesi explained that 100 would move anyway. Dr. Friedrich mentioned that the district has the advantage of having gone through this before.

Mrs. Booth had reservations about the contingencies that will be required to make these changes, such as the amendment to Regional Plan getting passed and whether it will be just one program at Memorial School. She felt that students are just getting settled at Memorial and now will have to move again. Mrs. Booth felt that she was not ready to vote on that move without sending out a survey to parents about whether they would want to stay at Lyman for fifth grade. Mrs. Stone explained that she hoped that the fifth graders would all be one team at Memorial.

Dr. Veronesi explained that these changes could be made even if the amendment to the Regional Plan fails. She believes that this is better than staying where they are now. Dr. Taylor also had reservations about voting on something that is contingent upon approval of the amendments and the bonding issue. He doesn't feel he's heard an alternative for what will happen if the amendment is not approved. Dr. Taylor does believe it is the right plan, but with the amendments and bonding in place. Mr. Moore didn't feel that moving sixth and third grade had that type of impact, but Dr. Taylor felt that sixth grade moving up has always been contingent on the building configuration and optimized space. He has not yet heard any discussion about the 6/7/8 configuration as being optimal.

Dr. Veronesi explained that eighth grade could, in fact, be moved to the high school, but people are not interested in that. There is research about why having 6, 7 and 8 in the same school is good for students, but our district has to consider what buildings exist in the district and the program decisions that have been made. She also believes that those grades could still be in Strong School if the plan amendment failed. Dr. Taylor felt that it was pretty bold to go against a potentially large vote on an issue that the towns have made. He is more concerned about the snowball effect of all the other grades moving than he is about moving sixth grade to Strong School.

Dr. Friedrich felt that moving sixth grade to Strong and third grade to Memorial prepares the system to absorb the Lyman students into a coherent plan. He sees these shifts as being a decision about how the

district wants the schools to look in the future, whether students are moved out of Lyman or not. Dr. Veronesi also reminded everyone about the capital improvements that Lyman School needs. She also agreed about the timing not being perfect due to the amendment vote, but felt that it needed to be a board vote to begin the plan for reconfiguration. Dr. Veronesi felt that if the board likes the idea of giving parents the option of having their fifth-grade students stay at Lyman, then they should get something out to parents to see how many people would be interested.

Mrs. Petrella thought that Memorial had been a 5-8 school at one point which is not an unusual situation. Dr. Taylor stated that he would have liked to have seen each option thought out and each move independent of building configurations. He did feel Dr. Friedrich made a good point and it would be reasonable to move students around, but felt that the board was ignoring the possibility of the amendments not going through.

Mr. Moore summarized that there are two uncertain issues, one being the referendum on the amendments and the other is the referendum on the bond issue. He felt that they needed to start the process and they can deal with other changes along the way. Mr. Moore also noted that kids already participate with other grade levels in outside activities.

Dr. Veronesi also mentioned that she has thought about what the next step would be if the amendments failed and feels that the curricular design would be implemented district-wide, regardless of the buildings. Mrs. Booth agreed that kids need space and Brewster School is full. She also feels that there are some very strong-minded people in Middlefield who want John Lyman School to stay open and the amendments passing in both towns will be a struggle. She suggested that the board further explain what the capital needs are at Lyman. Dr. Veronesi added that the board needs to state that, yes, they are willing to put \$4 million into capital improvements at Lyman or, no, they are not doing that. Mrs. Booth agreed with Dr. Taylor in that there is really no plan B for if the amendments do not pass.

A. Discussion and possible vote to move grade 6 to Strong School effective the 2020-2021 school year

Dr. Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hicks, to move grade 6 to Strong School effective the 2020-2021 school year.

In favor of moving grade 6 to Strong School effective the 2020-2021 school year: Mrs. Booth, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Discussion and possible vote to move Brewster grade 3 to Memorial School effective the 2020-2021 school year

Dr. Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Petrella, to move Brewster grade 3 to Memorial School effective the 2020-2021 school year.

In favor of moving Brewster grade 3 to Memorial School effective the 2020-2021 school year: Mrs. Booth, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella and Mr. Roraback, with Dr. Taylor abstaining. Motion carried.

C. Discussion and possible vote to include grade 5 at Lyman School effective the 2020-2021 school year

Dr. Friedrich did not want to make a motion to include grade 5 at Lyman because he agreed with Mrs. Booth and would like to get some idea of the wishes of the parents. Mr. Moore asked Dr. Veronesi to conduct a survey and report back with the findings.

Dr. Veronesi also reported that Jacob Fazzino, a student at Coginchaug who did his Eagle Scout project of renovating the Brewster School nature trail, ended up having about \$700 in excess donations and he donated them back to the school. Those funds will be going to a 5K trail at the high school.

Director of Finance's Report

Mrs. Neubig reported that revenue is 44 percent received and expenses are at 36 percent. No unusual payments were made in November. There are some potential repairs needed on the portables at Lyman, but she will provide information about that at another time.

MTA revenue is at 38 percent and expenditures are at 26 percent.

New Business

A. Vote to accept Teachers' Contract

Dr. Veronesi thanked Mr. Moore, Dr. Taylor, Mrs. Geraci, Mrs. Petrella and Chuck Stengel for their help in the negotiations. The increases in year one is 3.16, year two is 3.14 and year three is 3.10, for a three-year total of 9.4 percent. The overall impact to the budget, in year one, is .89 percent; 1.24 percent in year two and 1.30 in year three. All stipends had an increase of 2 percent, with a span of an \$8,500 to \$8,900 increase over the three years.

Mrs. Neubig explained that there had been a savings in the health insurance, by adopting a prescription co-pay of \$5, \$10 and \$25, which brought the premium down considerably in year one (\$141,000 savings). Year two has a savings of \$24,000 and year three is a savings of \$12,000. The total cost to the district for year one, with the GWI, step and stipends, including the insurance offset, is \$328,000 or .89 percent of the existing budget. In year two, it would be \$457,908 or 1.24 percent of the current budget. And year three would be \$478,000 or 1.3 percent of the current budget. The three-year total costs the district \$1.2 million.

Dr. Veronesi also recognized the teachers who represented their union and were outstanding, professional and collaborative in the process.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to accept the Teachers' Contract.

In favor of accepting the Teachers' Contract: Mrs. Booth, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Vote to approve CRHS Ocean Bowl field trip request

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve the CRHS Ocean Bowl field trip request with the understanding that the trip may be withdrawn at any time due to actions of Homeland Security or

other government agencies or law enforcement agencies and that parents or guardians of the students planning on attending be apprised of this action.

Dr. Veronesi reported that a staff member has been found to accompany the students on this trip.

In favor of approving the CRHS Ocean Bowl field trip request: Mrs. Booth, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Vote to approve Strong School Camp Jewell field trip request

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve the Strong School Camp Jewell field trip request with the understanding that the trip may be withdrawn at any time due to actions of Homeland Security or other government or law enforcement agencies and that parents or guardians of the students planning on attending be apprised of this action.

In favor of approving the Strong School Camp Jewell field trip request: Mrs. Booth, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Vote to appoint community member to the Utilization Committee

Mr. Moore explained that Kim Johansen, who is a social worker with the New Haven Housing Authority, has volunteered to serve on the Utilization Committee.

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Dr. Taylor, to appoint Kim Johansen as a community member of the Utilization Committee.

In favor of appointing Kim Johansen as a community member of the Utilization Committee: Mrs. Booth, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Accept a \$7,000 grant from the Merwin Fund

Dr. Veronesi explained that Diane Moore, Etzie Heyl and Bill Kowalski are all active with the Merwin Trust and the funds are to be used at Coginchaug. This particular grant is given for the high school to begin a first robotics club and be involved in competitions. The total grant amount is \$13,332, with \$7,000 as the first installment, which was received today.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roraback, to accept the \$7,000 grant from the Merwin Fund and that the board chair or designee send a note thanking them for their generosity.

In favor of accepting the grant from the Merwin Fund: Mrs. Booth, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Janina Eddinger, a mom of four kids in the district and twin three-year-olds that will be coming up, believes that she provides a unique perspective. She has a sixth grader at Memorial and a fourth grader, second grader and kindergartner at Lyman. A lot of parents from Lyman are worried that their kids will not be able to experience the same things that their older children have experienced at Lyman. Mrs. Eddinger felt it would be wise for the board to consider putting all kindergartners at Brewster sooner rather than later. She hoped that the students at Lyman could finish out and the board would receive less push-back from parents. Mrs. Eddinger also supported the exploratory idea for world languages for sixth graders and hoped that Mandarin could be added to the mix. She also asked the board to consider allowing the third graders to explore band if they are moving to Memorial.

Adjournment

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Taylor, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education.

In favor of adjourning the meeting: Mrs. Booth, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

Debi Waz
Alwaz First

RESOLUTION 1

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 13
TOWNS OF DURHAM AND MIDDLEFIELD**

**RESOLUTION TO CALL A SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING TO PRESENT THE PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS TO THE PLAN OF REGIONALIZATION FOR THE DISTRICT**

BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 10-47c of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Regional School District 13 Board of Education hereby calls a Special District Meeting to be held on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 for the purpose of holding a public hearing to present and receive public comment on proposed amendments to the Plan of Regionalization for Regional School District 13.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the attached Warning of Special District Meeting is hereby approved.

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 13
WARNING OF SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2020

The electors of the Towns of Durham and Middlefield, Connecticut, are hereby warned and notified that a Special District Meeting will be held at the Coginchaug Regional High School Library, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, Connecticut, on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. for the following purposes:

- ITEM 1. To choose a moderator for said meeting.
- ITEM 2. To hold a public hearing to present and receive public comment on proposed amendments to the Plan of Regionalization for Regional School District 13.

A copy of the report on the proposed amendments to the Plan of Regionalization is on file and available for inspection at the Office of the Town Clerk of Durham, the Office of the Town Clerk of Middlefield and on the District's website at www.rsd13ct.org. Following the Special District Meeting, the District Board of Education is expected to set the date for a referendum vote in Durham and Middlefield for approval or disapproval of the proposed amendments to the Plan of Regionalization.

Dated at Durham, Connecticut this 10th day of December, 2019.

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 13
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Robert Moore, Chairman

RESOLUTION 2

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 13
TOWNS OF DURHAM AND MIDDLEFIELD**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE QUESTIONS FOR A REFERENDUM VOTE TO AMEND
THE PLAN OF REGIONALIZATION FOR THE DISTRICT AND TO AUTHORIZE THE
PREPARATION OF EXPLANATORY TEXT**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Regional School District 13 Board of Education hereby approves the following referendum questions which shall be submitted to electors of the Towns of Durham and Middlefield:

QUESTION 1:

“SHALL THE PLAN OF REGIONALIZATION FOR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 13 BE AMENDED TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO DETERMINE THE PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES REQUIRED TO SERVE THE STUDENTS OF THE DISTRICT, INCLUDING THE ALTERATION, EXPANSION OR CLOSURE OF DISTRICT SCHOOL BUILDINGS?

YES

NO”

QUESTION 2:

“SHALL THE PLAN OF REGIONALIZATION FOR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 13 BE AMENDED TO PROVIDE THAT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS FROM THE TOWN OF DURHAM BE ELECTED AT MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AND SERVE TERMS OF FOUR YEARS, AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE DURHAM TOWN CHARTER?

YES

NO”

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Board of Education is authorized to prepare, print and disseminate a concise explanatory text concerning the referendum questions above. Such explanatory text is subject to the approval of the Board of Education's attorney. Subject to the approval of the Board of Education's attorney, the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to prepare and print explanatory materials regarding the proposed amendments to the Plan of Regionalization. The explanatory text and explanatory materials shall not advocate either the approval or disapproval of the referendum questions above and shall be prepared in accordance with Section 9-369b of the Connecticut General Statutes.