

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 7:00 PM remotely.

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

Board members absent: None

Administration present: Dr. Schuch, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Neubig, Director of Finance, and Mr. Falcone, Principal of Cuginchaug Regional High School.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

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

In favor of approving the agenda, as presented: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried.

Public Comment

None.

CRHS Reporters - Jaden Astle, Cadence Hurlbert and Noelle Sorensen

Jaden Astle introduced the reporters to Dr. Schuch and welcomed him to the district. He reviewed the many events that are held during the year, including the craft fair, the Durham Fair, parades, homecoming week and more.

Cady Hurlbert mentioned that she is the president of the district's chapter of the National Honor Society, plays the tenor saxophone and is a member of both indoor and outdoor track. She also mentioned the extraordinary community and how they supported Mr. Fisher in his recovery from his accident.

Noelle Sorensen explained that the students may start off separately, but are slowly brought together over time. Having small class sizes allows the students to get to know all of their classmates and allows the teachers to know the students individually. Noelle, once again, welcomes Dr. Schuch to the district.

Dr. Schuch thanked the students for making him feel so welcome. Mr. Falcone explained that the students usually cover high school activities, but wanted to take tonight to welcome Dr. Schuch.

Approval of Minutes**A. Board of Education regular session meeting - December 9, 2020**

Dr. Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Dr. Taylor, to approve the minutes of the Board of Education regular session meeting of December 9, 2020, as presented.

In favor of approving the minutes of the Board of Education regular session meeting of December 9, 2020, as presented: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried.

B. Board of Education special session meeting - December 16, 2020

Mr. Moore noted that Mrs. Geraci was not present at the meeting.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve the minutes of the Board of Education special session meeting of December 16, 2020, as amended.

In favor of approving the minutes of the Board of Education regular session meeting of December 16, 2020, as amended: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Mrs. Geraci and Dr. Taylor abstained. Motion carried.

Next Board Meeting - February 10, 2021 at 7:00 PM**COVID-19 Response Update**

Dr. Schuch began by saying he has been extremely impressed with what he's seen from everyone. He feels that health and safety protocols are being taken very seriously and there is a serious commitment to learning. He is very impressed with how accommodating the district has been to families of children who are learning remotely. He is also very impressed with the contact tracing and quarantine protocols. The district's commitment to in-person learning is not happening everywhere and he congratulates everyone for that.

Moving to the most recent health data, there were fewer cases reported in the month of December than in November. That is the first decrease since July, though the number is still high. He did report that there are now two confirmed cases of the UK variant of COVID (B117) in Connecticut and we are one of only eight states with confirmed cases. The symptoms of this variant are pretty much identical and it is no more deadly or harmful than the typical COVID, however it is at least 1.5 times more transmissible. This makes it even more important to stay vigilant with the health and safety protocols that are in place. The CDC does expect this variant to be widespread across the United States by March. It does appear that the existing vaccines are effective with this variant as well.

Dr. Schuch reviewed the priority groups for vaccinations in Connecticut and noted that several of the district's school nurses have been vaccinated and others are scheduled to be this week. It is likely that all school employees will be included in the 1B group. In the State of Connecticut, the 1B group would

include close to 800,000 individuals. The state is currently receiving about 40,000 vaccines a week. It is now being recommended that individuals 65 and above and anyone with a chronic health condition be added to group 1B, which would be about an additional 700,000 individuals. Dr. Schuch summarized that everyone needs to be patient with the process.

Mrs. Booth stated that some people are having a bit of a reaction to the vaccine and it would be nice if the schedule for vaccinations was staggered. Dr. Schuch explained that individuals will have to reach out to their own providers for the vaccination and the district won't actually be scheduling anyone, but he will share that info with the team and try to coordinate it.

Dr. Friedrich asked Dr. Taylor about the expected efficacy of the vaccines if the second dose is substantially delayed. Dr. Taylor felt that the first dose was 80 percent and the second dose brought it up to the 90 percent range, but didn't feel there was great evidence for that. Dr. Taylor also stressed that the vaccines are incredibly safe and explained that of the 17,000 vaccines that were administered in the Yale system, only three people had minor reactions.

Dr. Schuch then went on to review that the CIAC is meeting tomorrow about winter sports and he expects that winter sports practices will start as early as next Tuesday and competitions will begin as early as February 1st. He then asked Mr. Falcone to share his thoughts. Mr. Falcone explained that the CIAC shared guidelines that have been approved by DPH and will finalize that plan tomorrow. At this point, basketball, spirit cheerleading and co-ops with girls' hockey, swimming and gymnastics have been approved to start on January 19th. Indoor track has been postponed, but there are no details. The competitive cheer season has been canceled. The district has instituted safety protocols and procedures for each individual sport.

Mrs. Booth had concerns about the co-op programs and felt that hockey is a high-impact sport and there is a high rate of transmission among the teams. Dr. Friedrich commented that the only member of his family that has gotten COVID is a nephew who is a hockey player. He also noted that the rate of transmission is much higher in hockey than in other indoor sports. Dr. Taylor had heard that also. Mr. Falcone wondered if there were differences between boys' hockey and girls' hockey, but Dr. Friedrich was concerned about the environment at the rink. Mr. Yamartino noted that all hockey players are required to wear face masks, but Dr. Friedrich explained that those masks don't reduce the transmission of aerosol. Mr. Falcone added that masks are required the entire time sports are played in the gym. Mrs. Booth also had concerns about basketball. She also asked about spectators for indoor sports and Mr. Falcone explained that they are uncertain about the guidelines for spectators right now. Mrs. Booth would prefer there be no spectators since they don't allow volunteers in the schools. Mr. Falcone also noted that they will live stream games for spectators to view from home. Mrs. Booth also asked if children in cohort C are allowed to participate in sports and Mr. Falcone confirmed that they are.

Dr. Schuch then went on to review early-release Wednesdays and noted that they were supposed to end at the end of January. He believes it is in the best interest of the district to continue the early-release Wednesday schedule until the end of the school year and revisit the issue for 2021-2022 at a later date. Mr. Moore added that his grandkids need Wednesday afternoons to catch up. Mr. Roraback felt it was valuable for the teachers to meet with students and have contact with parents. Mrs. Booth felt it was extremely difficult for parents to get out of work early every single Wednesday and also mentioned that

kids are being picked up in groups. She also didn't feel that the kids are getting a good amount of education on Wednesdays, particularly in the middle school and high school. Mrs. Geraci agreed that it is very difficult for working parents. Mrs. Caramanello agreed and had hoped that Wednesdays were going to become more of a wellness day. She believes that Wednesdays are just becoming days for more independent work.

Mrs. Booth reiterated that she supports the teachers, however some parents are seeing it as teachers getting paid for half a day when they're not teaching. Dr. Friedrich stated that he had originally been told that Wednesdays were a deal-breaker for teachers because of the limited time in class. He felt that Wednesdays should be re-engineered.

Dr. Schuch appreciated everyone's input and explained that he was just simply reflecting feedback. He will review the structure of the shortened Wednesday schedule and the potential hardship it presents to our learners.

Dr. Schuch reported that the principals at Brewster and Lyman had mentioned the board's policy 6156 regarding upcoming kindergartners. They have asked if they could have some extra time to think through the best way to do this since they can't do in-person visits and have asked to move the February 1st date back to the middle of March. Mr. Hicks explained that the board has the ability to waive the policy and he doesn't see any harm in it.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Taylor, to waive the February 1st deadline in policy 6156 and move it to March 15th.

Mrs. Booth questioned if the board can vote on this if it's not on the agenda

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to amend the agenda to reexamine policy 6156.

In favor of amending the agenda to reexamine policy 6156: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Taylor, to revise policy 6156's time limit from February 1st to March 15th.

Dr. Taylor was still concerned that this was procedurally correct and Mr. Hicks explained that this has been done before. Mr. Yamartino believed that you can amend an agenda to discuss an issue, but not necessarily vote on it. Mr. Hicks will have a discussion with Tom Mooney tomorrow to be sure.

Mr. Yamartino also asked if extending the date to March 15th would have any impact on budget preparations. He also suggested they have a Policy Committee meeting next week to discuss this followed by a special meeting of the full board. Dr. Taylor agreed and felt that the language regarding choice should be looked at as well. Mr. Moore suggested having a short Policy Committee meeting on January 20th and a meeting prior to the retreat on January 27th. Mr. Yamartino also suggested that the first read be by email.

Mr. Hicks withdrew his motion, as did the second by Dr. Taylor.

Committee Reports

A. Policy Committee

1. Second Read: Policy Regarding Retention of Electronic Records and Information

Mr. Hicks reviewed that this policy was suggested by Shipman and Goodwin.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve the Policy Regarding Retention of Electronic Records and Information.

Dr. Taylor asked what the plan was for storage and Mr. Pietrasko explained that the email servers will not be appropriate storage methods. Items can be printed and stored or saved as PDFs and stored on servers/drives. He also noted that Google seems to be moving to limits on storage. He also recommended that the limits on email storage start at the beginning of the next school year. Dr. Taylor asked if it pertains to any medical records and Mr. Pietrasko explained that it pertains to electronic storage of anything. Dr. Taylor asked how medical information is currently stored and Mr. Pietrasko stated that that would be a question for Mrs. Branciforte.

Mr. Yamartino asked if there were any legal requirements as to how long emails need to be retained and Mr. Pietrasko stated that they pertain to individual emails and it would be the responsibility of the recipient to store them.

Dr. Friedrich felt that it was just short of madness that correspondence might just disappear because someone hasn't had time to go through everything. He would like to hear from a lawyer that the institution would not be responsible for producing records, especially email accounts of administrators and the board members. Mr. Pietrasko reiterated that it was Shipman and Goodwin who said that this policy needs to be in place. Dr. Friedrich felt that the district would be hanging everyone out to dry and telling them to go back through all of their emails and store records. He would like the district to ask Shipman and Goodwin what the exposure would be if people failed to preserve records. Mr. Pietrasko acknowledged that this could be overwhelming for people and that is why he suggested it not go into effect right away. Dr. Friedrich mentioned that prior employees' records would still be there as well.

Mr. Hicks will ask someone from Shipman and Goodwin to address these issues for the board and hopefully attend the next Policy Committee meeting.

Mr. Hicks withdrew his motion, as did the second by Dr. Friedrich.

B. Utilization Committee Meeting - December 30, 2020

Mrs. Booth reported that the boiler was cleaned at Korn School, but there was a glycol leak with the second boiler that happened twice. The system at Korn School was now been drained and winterized which means there is no fire alarm. The fire department is aware of that. It would be about \$7,200 per

boiler to repair and the pumps would be \$4,000 to \$5,000 each. Replacement of the boilers would be about \$25,000 each. Laura Francis was at the meeting and it does not sound like Durham can commit to taking the building.

Regarding Lyman, the chiller is beyond its life expectancy and the boiler is 26 years old. If the pump goes, it will be between \$18,000 and \$20,000 to repair/replace it. If the chiller fails, that will be between \$150,000 and \$200,000.

Mr. Moore summarized that Korn School is in cold storage with no more activity proposed there. The town has removed anything perishable from the building but the voting equipment cannot be moved until they get permission from the Secretary of State.

Dr. Friedrich explained that the insurance company has also been informed about the status of Korn School. The building is no longer protected and has been officially declared a vacant building. Mrs. Neubig spoke with the insurance company and they will need to get a separate policy for a vacant building. She received a quote of \$25,000 for a year and has asked what percentage of the current policy was for Korn School.

C. Building Committee Meeting - January 7, 2021

Mrs. Booth reported that they talked about the culvert and they are waiting to see if grant money might be available. The culvert was inspected in the spring and should last for at least another two years. Memorial needs new heating and there are two options for that. Mr. Croteau would like to upgrade the units rather than put in air handling units. There is possible grant money that may be available for HVAC repair as well.

They also discussed the pump house that is in front of the high school/administrative building that is currently underground and needs to be moved above ground. That would not be done until spring/summer of 2022.

The application for the grant for the Memorial roof is ready to submit and if submitted in February, they would know by March and it could hopefully get done over the summer. Funding for that was provided for in the bonding that was done two years ago.

The vestibules will have glazing and ballistic level 3 glass and is also intended to be a summer project.

Communications

Mr. Moore reported that Donia Viola has asked to review the superintendent's contract and the contract for the administrators and Mr. Moore sent her that information. Nancy Earls, from CVEF, has asked for the board's support of the new Parent Pandemic Playbook that they are preparing. Representative John-Michael Parker has requested to meet with the board and Mr. Moore suggested he meet with the board for a bit at the retreat. Mr. Moore also received a request from Tina Hurlbert, a district teacher, asking the board to provide transportation to three students that go to New Haven for the ACES program for arts. Mr. Hicks will look into that.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Schuch has had the chance to visit all of the schools and has met lots of people. His focus is to try to learn as much as he can as quickly as he can. Everyone has been very welcoming and extremely helpful. He is basically trying to understand the district's strengths, major challenges and, most importantly, to get insight into what people think the future direction should be. Dr. Schuch does feel it's very important to meet as many people as he can.

Thinking about the district's challenges, Dr. Schuch has found that people don't hold back about that. He believes that every challenge presents an opportunity and he is hopeful that the district is actively seeking those opportunities. He also believes that anything can be faced when they work together and that that teamwork that he already sees can be sustained. Dr. Schuch also believes that the district's response to a challenge should always be rooted in its impact on the young learners that they have the honor of serving.

Dr. Schuch thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve in the district and looks forward to the work that can be accomplished together.

Director of Finance's Report

Mrs. Neubig began by noting that MTA is 23 percent expended and 38 percent of revenue received. The general fund is 46 percent expended, with 50 percent revenue received. Looking at the prior year, the general fund was at 44 percent expended, with 52 percent revenue received. Mrs. Neubig stated she is actively monitoring this year's funds to plan for the upcoming budget currently being prepared-

There were three payrolls in December and payment was also made for the Memorial playground. Brewster had a boiler go down, with an estimate of \$5,000 to \$7,000 for the repair which will be paid in January. Mrs. Neubig also reported that the district has received \$215,000 in Coronavirus Relief Funds which will be shown as revenue. A second request will be submitted this month.

A new line has been created in Capital Reserve for the Memorial roof, provided the resolution is passed tonight and the grant is approved. The roof was included in the \$6.9 million bonding package from two years ago and is reimbursable at about 53 percent. She does have a short window of only 10 days to apply for state grants and the next one opens February 1st. Mrs. Neubig also reported that the state is backlogged and has not yet reviewed the district's safety plan which could potentially hold up the application for the Memorial roof.

Mrs. Neubig reported that different options were presented to the Building committee for the pump house as well as the HVAC system at Memorial. Silver Petrucelli will do more research on the HVAC system. The Building committee will do a site visit to look at a location for the pump house, which would be either near the parking lot in front of Central Office or move to the side out of view.

A meeting was held today with the state about the vestibules and essentially no one should notice any difference in the entryways.

The FEMA grant for the cafeteria services was denied as feeding the district's students, even when ordered to do so, is not covered. Mrs. Neubig sent the executive order from the governor to FEMA, but the answer was still that the children do not meet the criteria. She noted that they had been hoping to get \$76,000 to help pay for when the district had to pay full staff even when students were not in school. The district still continues to serve free lunch for everyone and does get reimbursed for that. The general fund has been loaning money to pay the payroll in the hopes that FEMA would come through. Based on the history of the program, along with many food service programs across the state, Mrs. Neubig doesn't feel that the cafeteria service is in a position to pay back the loan as the program runs very close to even each year. Mrs. Neubig presented the option of the board absorbing the loss due to the unanticipated school closure and the executive order in place at the time. Mrs. Neubig will follow up at the next meeting.

Connecticut is set to receive \$492 million in federal funds and will compute each district's share. Mrs. Neubig felt that, if this were to follow the same sort of allocation as the previous round, the district would get just shy of \$200,000, but that is a guess at best at this time. The state is calculating allocations this week. She reviewed the many items that would be covered by this money.

New Business

A. Vote to accept Support Staff Agreement

Mr. Moore explained that the contract was negotiated with the paras, support staff and secretaries in early December. Mrs. Neubig reviewed that it is a three-year agreement and the premium contribution share for insurance did increase 1 percent in year 1, 0 in year 2 and .5 in year 3. A big change in this group's insurance is a co-pay for prescriptions which significantly reduced the premium that will occur in year 2 of the contract. Deductibles will also increase in years 2 and 3. The HSA contribution remains at 50 percent of the deductible and will be done in two deposits. There was some language clarification included in the contract. The hourly rate was increased from \$17 to \$18 for extra duty. The maximum for covering for certified teaching staff was also increased from \$30 to \$40 a day. Memorial Day was added as an additional holiday. Their gross wage increase and step was a total of 9.36% over three years, which will be offset by the large health insurance savings in year 2. The total increase over the three years is \$172,000, with approximately \$50,000 offset by health insurance.

Mr. Moore added that the union has already approved this contract.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to accept the Support Staff Agreement for the years 2021-2024.

In favor of accepting the Support Staff Agreement for the years 2021-2024: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried.

B. Vote to approve the Educational Specifications for the Middlefield Memorial School Roof Replacement

Mrs. Neubig explained that the Ed Specs for the roof were attached to tonight's agenda, though there is no project number as an application has not yet been filed with the state. She explained that the minutes will then need to be certified in order to apply.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve the resolution to approve the Educational Specifications for the Middlefield Memorial School roof replacement, dated December 29, 2020.

In favor of approving the resolution to approve the Educational Specifications for the Middlefield Memorial School roof replacement, dated December 29, 2020: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried.

C. Vote to approve Middlefield Memorial School roof replacement

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Yamartino, to approve the resolution, resolving that the Board of Education of Regional School District 13 authorizes the Regional School District 13 Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the roof replacement project at Middlefield Memorial School.

In favor of approving the resolution, resolving that the Board of Education of Regional School District 13 authorizes the Regional School District 13 Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the roof replacement project at Middlefield Memorial School: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Yamartino, to approve the resolution, resolving that the Regional School District 13 Building Committee is hereby established as the building committee with regard to the roof replacement project at Middlefield Memorial School.

In favor of approving the resolution, resolving that the Regional School District 13 Building Committee is hereby established as the building committee with regard to the roof replacement project at Middlefield Memorial School: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve the resolution, resolving that the Board of Education of Regional School District 13 hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the roof replacement project at Middlefield Memorial School.

In favor of approving the resolution, resolving that the Board of Education of Regional School District 13 hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the roof replacement project at Middlefield Memorial School: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich,

Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried.

D. Vote to approve Security Vestibules at Strong Middle School

Mrs. Neubig explained that these motions are to approve the final drawings and cost estimates.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve the drawings, specifications and cost estimates for the State Construction Grant Project 213-0047A, Security Vestibules at Strong Middle School.

Mr. Yamartino asked what the total cost of this project is and Mrs. Neubig stated the estimates at \$100,450 for Strong and \$93,850 for Coginchaug. This money has already been secured by the security funds that the board appropriated a couple of years ago meaning there will be no borrowing or bonding. Mr. Yamartino also asked if this \$193,000 completes the vestibule project and Mrs. Neubig confirmed that it does at these two locations

In favor of approving the drawings, specifications and cost estimates for the State Construction Grant Project 213-0047A, Security Vestibules at Strong Middle School: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried.

E. Vote to approve Security Vestibules at Coginchaug Regional High School

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve the drawings, specifications and cost estimates for the State Construction Grant Project 213-0048A, Security Vestibules at Coginchaug Regional High School.

Mr. Yamartino again asked about the total cost and if this would complete the project and Mrs. Neubig confirmed that information.

In favor of approving the drawings, specifications and cost estimates for the State Construction Grant Project 213-0048A, Security Vestibules at Coginchaug Regional High School: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried.

F. Vote to approve 2021-2022 Board of Education and Committee Meeting Schedules

Mr. Moore noted that the committee meetings are being approved as tentative in terms of location of the meetings.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve the 2021-2022 Board of Education and Committee Meeting Schedules.

In favor of approving the 2021-2022 Board of Education and Committee Meeting Schedules: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried.

G. Vote to approve 2021-2022 District Calendar

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Petrella, to approve the 2021-2022 District Calendar.

Mrs. Booth asked about the Professional Development day that is scheduled for after the Durham Fair and explained that it is not easy for parents to get that much time off all at once. She understands that the board doesn't have much say in this and really doesn't understand why they even vote on it. Mr. Moore did ask Mrs. DiMaggio about that and she said that teachers feel that the kids are not very productive on the day after the fair, especially in the lower grades. Mrs. Booth also noted that they are not even sure the fair will happen, so she would hope this could be amended if it doesn't. Mrs. Caramanello agreed that the Monday after the Durham Fair would be worthwhile as a PD. Mr. Moore felt that the start and end dates of the school year are the most important. The start date is September 1st for students, with teachers starting on August 27th, and the last day of school will be June 15th.

In favor of approving the 2021-2022 District Calendar: Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Mrs. Booth abstained. Motion carried.

H. Board Retreat Tentative Date - January 27, 2021

Mr. Moore explained that it will be held on a Wednesday evening this year. The three basic agenda items would be to hear Dr. Schuch's short-term goals, priorities for the budget and to meet with John-Michael Parker.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Petrella, to approve the Board Retreat date of January 27, 2021.

Mrs. Booth pointed out that they had voted to have the Board Retreat on Saturday, January 23rd and now it's being moved to the 27th. She wondered who is making those decisions and stated that neither she nor Dr. Taylor were asked about this. Dr. Schuch is available either day as is Mrs. Petrella though she does prefer Saturday. Dr. Friedrich felt that he would be fresher during the day on a Saturday, but Mr. Yamartino would prefer a Wednesday evening, particularly during ski season. Mrs. Geraci suggested having an agenda with time restrictions on each item so that the meeting doesn't go on too long and offered to keep it on time. Dr. Taylor can't make the 27th and would prefer the 23rd. Mr. Hicks would prefer the 27th and Mr. Roraback was fine with either date, but felt the 27th may be better. Mrs. Geraci would prefer Wednesday and Mrs. Caramanello would be able to do either day. Dr. Friedrich pointed out that if they choose Wednesday, Dr. Taylor cannot attend.

Dr. Schuch suggested finding a third date that would work for everyone as he would like to have all of the board members present. Mrs. Booth agreed and felt it was important for everyone to be present. Dr. Taylor would like to be present as he feels there are some major budgetary issues and the retreat has

historically been very fruitful. Dr. Taylor proposed several dates and it was agreed to meet on February 2nd from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Mr. Hicks amended his motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve the Board Retreat date to February 2, 2021, beginning at 5:00 PM.

In favor of approving the Board Retreat date of February 2, 2021, beginning at 5:00 PM: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried.

I. Vote to appoint community member to Well-Being Committee

Mr. Moore stated that Oanh Stephan has asked to join the Well-Being Committee. She has been a long-time volunteer in the district with four children, two of whom have graduated. She is involved in the leadership of the PTOs at Brewster, Memorial and Strong as well as Paperhouse Productions and POPs. She has a PhD in pharmacology and spent 15 years in that industry. She is the director of medical writers in the areas of anti-infectives, internal medicine, immunology, cellular therapy and pediatric medicine.

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to appoint Oanh Stephan to the Well-Being committee.

In favor of appointing Oanh Stephan to the Well-Being committee: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Oanh Stephan, from Durham, thanked the board for accepting her onto the Well-Being Committee. She also welcomed Dr. Schuch and had been asked to share some thoughts from sixth graders at Strong School. They “really hope you come visit soon because it would be cool and important to meet the leader of our schools.” She also mentioned that she is in an ice rink three to four times a week and has seen no evidence of the risk surface environment being a factor. They have not had any cases with figure skaters and there are sometimes 15 to 20 skaters on the ice at a time. Mrs. Stephan felt that it is really compliance with mitigation strategies off the ice and limiting spectators. They have shut down hockey all together and limited figure skaters to four at a time, but there have been no cases. Mrs. Stephan also completely agrees with Mrs. Booth about the inconvenience of Wednesday afternoons but does feel that it is important for the well-being of the students. She suggested pushing the hour of dismissal a little to align with lunch hours for working parents.

Adjournment

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

In favor of adjourning the regular meeting of the Board of Education: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

Debi Waz
Alwaz First