

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 7:00 PM in the Auditorium at Coginchaug Regional High School, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, Connecticut. Board members present: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff and Dr. Taylor.

Board members absent: Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, and Mr. Yamartino

Administration present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Russell, Interim Business Manager.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment

Dr. Veronesi thanked everyone for their emails on several topics, but primarily about the Strong School athletic program. Dr. Veronesi reviewed the budget process and explained that nothing has been decided, added or eliminated at this point and this is all purely discussion. She also explained that the discussion on the intramurals will be moved to the top of the discussion items so that people in attendance can get home earlier. Dr. Veronesi did ask that all public comment be kept to three minutes.

Oanh Stephan, from Durham, explained that she had emailed the Board members about the proposed cuts on music and technology and introduced two students who are taking part in the production of Guys and Dolls. The students are high honors students and are passionate about the arts. One of the senior students explained that she has a sister who is a freshman and she is concerned about how the budget would impact her. She is heavily involved with the music program and has felt it to be life-changing. The other student explained how he was in Memorial School when music had its first impact. Music has gotten him through many difficult parts of his life.

Laura Francis, First Selectman of Durham, explained that this is the first year that the towns don't know if they can actually proceed with a worst case scenario with the State budget. The governor's proposal could, in fact, result in a 5 mill increase for both towns. The two towns are looking at postponing the budget process or even a supplemental tax assessment at this point. Mrs. Francis urged the Board to continue with their deliberations and assessments, make their best judgment and then decisions will have to be made on how to move forward once the legislature acts on the budget. Mrs. Francis explained that the State budget really does affect education and small towns. She encouraged the Board to continue to provide a holistic education that includes reading, writing and arithmetic, but also music, art and sports. Mrs. Francis will continue to provide any information that she gets to the Board.

Donia Viola, from Durham, reviewed that she had attended the last Board meeting and is concerned that it's not about the bottom line, but how you get there. She also reported that East Hampton was going to expand their pre-K program with a grant from the State, but she reminded everyone that the taxpayers still pay the grant. Mrs. Viola is concerned that it will take 70 students to pay for the before and after school program and she does not feel it is prudent to pursue that program at this time. Mrs. Viola also mentioned that bus transportation for magnet school students is not mandated and would save the District \$36,000 if it was not provided.

Katie Tiegan, from Durham, is the library media specialist at East Hampton High School and spoke in favor of the technology integration specialist positions in the District. The specialist that we have at the

elementary level is well-known throughout the state. Ms. Tiegan encouraged the Board to keep moving forward and not take a step back.

Laurie Middleton, from Middlefield, is a counselor at an area high school as well as in her own practice and noted the growing lack of resilience, perseverance and determination in young people. Ms. Middleton feels that early adolescence is the time when young people learn their purpose and their passion and a lot of that happens on the athletic fields. She feels that the idea of cutting sports programs at the middle school is alarming and will have compounding effects in years to come.

Christine Geraci, from Durham, spoke about the four-year-old preschool program that her two daughters attend. One of her daughters is in the peer program and the other is in the special needs program. Her daughter with special needs receives quite a lot of therapy and does not get to spend much time in the classroom. Mrs. Geraci encouraged the Board to expand the hours in the day for the preschool program. Mrs. Geraci also pointed out that the one area that Governor Malloy did not cut in his budget proposal was intellectual disabilities.

Matthew Stopka, an eighth-grade student at Strong School, reported that he played three sports this year and felt it was one of the best experiences of his life. He also mentioned that cross country helped him to lose a lot of weight and connected him with new friends. He also had a great experience with his basketball teammates and coaches. He also plays intramural volleyball, but feels like it's more for fun and isn't as involved as the other sports.

Sharon Case, from Middlefield, asked if there were other options to cutting the sports program, such as pay-to-play or cutting the schedule back.

Debbie Huscher, from Durham, commented that her son is a student athlete at Strong and she sees the student support from the stands when she attends games. Mrs. Huscher also commented that she is a realtor and sales are up, but Durham and Middlefield do compete against Haddam-Killingworth that has a very strong school system. She feels that buyers look at what the schools have to offer and HK offers several sports and clubs that District 13 does not. She would like to see the Board maintain what the District has available.

Kate Schulten, a student-athlete at Coginchaug, asked everyone that has been impacted by sports to stand and acknowledged the student athletes in the room. She felt that student sports are invaluable and it would be a huge disappointment to not have the opportunity. Ms. Schulten received a huge amount of encouragement in eighth grade and would never have joined high school sports without it. She felt that competitive sports are essential to the developing athlete.

Allie Alsup, a student-athlete at Coginchaug, commented that she had not started running until she arrived at Coginchaug, but played soccer at Strong. It taught her how to be competitive, how to have grit and to be part of a team. She felt that sports help make students well-rounded, teaching them how to put in hard work at practice and then go home to work on homework. Ms. Alsup felt that sports at the middle school level will help to prepare the students for success at high school.

Michael Barry, from Middlefield, currently teaches in the Windsor school system, taught in North Branford and did his student teaching at Coginchaug. He and his wife moved to Middlefield less than a year-and-a-half ago. The three most important reasons they moved to town were their children who are

soon to go into middle school. As a teacher and a parent, he is concerned about his children feel going to school on a day-to-day basis and how that translates into academic, personal and future success. Students who participate in school activities, from clubs to sports, enjoy going to school and receive added benefits. Mr. Barry stated that it is important to everyone that their children love going to school and that reducing the sports program in the middle school will diminish that enjoyment.

Michael Doyle, from Durham, addressed the before and after school program that is proposed and the elimination of interscholastic sports at Strong School. He had three sons that participated in interscholastic sports in middle school and feels that it is an important program that should be maintained. A few years ago, Mr. Doyle found out there was unbudgeted, self-generating expense of \$65,000 for interscholastic sports at Strong School and he was appalled. Having said that, he would ask all members of the Board to be sure that the proposal to eliminate interscholastic sports does not happen. Mr. Doyle also commented that his three children have gone through BASREP and their experience was wonderful. He also explained that his daughter will not continue in the program if it is run by the School District as he feels that the District already has enough control over his children. He encouraged the Board to look at the program and see that the nonprofit is doing a great job with the service and continue that relationship.

Thomas Pierce, an eighth-grade student at Strong School, commented that he's not that interested in sports, but has a lot of friends that are and they would be devastated if they were eliminated. He would like to Board to focus on how to spend the money wisely to keep enough money to run the sports program. He felt that people discover who they are in middle school and that experience should be available for everyone.

Carly Vednow, a seventh-grade student-athlete at Strong School, commented that she played soccer and basketball as well as volleyball. She feels that sports are really fun and she had a great experience and would like her sister to be able to experience that as well.

Jeannie King, a seventh-grader at Strong School, participated in cheer this year and met many new people. She felt that not having sports will not let students meet new people and try new things.

Corey Milardo, from Rockfall, has a daughter at Coginchaug and one in seventh grade at Strong. Both of her daughters have been involved in sports at Strong School, including cross country, basketball and softball. She feels it would be a shame to eliminate that. She related a story about her niece getting hurt and the opposing team making her a sign and bringing it to her. Ms. Milardo felt that that kind of a bond between two towns would be lost. Ms. Milardo also works as a juvenile probation officer and they are being taught to get the kids involved. Kids who are involved are not likely to be arrested and make bad choices. She felt that the elimination of sports would be a huge mistake for the community.

Next Board Meeting - March 8, 2017 in the CRHS Library

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Flanagan made a motion to move item 6(D) to the top of that section. Mrs. Boyle seconded the motion.

In favor of amending the agenda as above: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff and Dr. Taylor. Motion passed.

In favor of approving the agenda, as amended: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff and Dr. Taylor. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes B February 8, 2017

Mr. Renninghoff made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Boyle, to approve the minutes of February 8, 2017 as presented.

In favor of approving the minutes of February 8, 2017: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff and Dr. Taylor. Mrs. Flanagan abstained. Motion passed.

2017-2018 Regional School District 13 Budget Discussion

A. Intramurals: Mr. Barbieri

Dr. Veronesi reviewed that she knew that she could not present a budget that represented a 7.8 percent increase and they had looked at JV sports at the high school, freshmen sports and Strong School athletics. The initial budget proposal to the Board included three math interventionists as well as other focus areas. The team did not feel that the proposal would be positively received by the community, but did bring the proposal forward because they looked at every area and felt this would be the best answer. Dr. Veronesi felt that competition with other districts should be on the academic level first and foremost and that is her priority. The team does believe in the well-rounded experience that students have and their focus is student achievement, well-being and engagement. Dr. Veronesi explained that intramurals were not talked about as a replacement for competitive sports, but rather an opportunity for some of the experiences that happen in interscholastic sports could be realized through intramurals.

Dr. Veronesi explained that Mr. Barbieri had reached out to a number of people for a preliminary meeting, including members from the soccer club, the football booster club, Jen and Scott Penney, Jen Schulten and other people who represent different groups in the community. Dr. Veronesi felt that the conversation was very constructive and asked Mr. Barbieri to highlight the work that he has done.

Nick Barbieri, Athletic Director, reviewed that all the Board members have received a copy of the Powerpoint presentation. He began with a definition from the CIAC and the philosophy behind intramurals. The biggest difference is the competition piece and intramurals tend to be a little bit more fun than critical. Intramurals still encourage social development, skill development, physical education and lifelong activities.

Mr. Barbieri explained that the current sports coordinator at Strong School would continue on with the intramural program which would be year-round. There would be six cycles, each consisting of five weeks. There would be three intramural activities offered within each cycle and student surveys will suggest other sports to be brought in.

Intramurals covers all of the District's goals, including student achievement, well-being and engagement. Student choice has been found to be a motivator. Intramurals also encourage the spirit of sport.

The activities would differ, depending on the facilities available and time of year. Some outdoor activities might include flag football, ultimate Frisbee, whiffle ball, softball, baseball and backyard games. Indoor activities might include volleyball, pickle ball, badminton, indoor soccer and handball. Students would be surveyed for their interest.

Mr. Barbieri went on to review how the six five-week cycles would work. This type of schedule would offer variety to the students, with some sports being offered two to three days a week. Mr. Barbieri went through various scenarios for each of the seasons.

Mrs. Petrella asked if the hours included total hours and Mr. Barbieri explained that there would be warm-ups, team drills, lead-up games and then a tournament. Each activity would be one-and-a-half hours per day. Mrs. Petrella also asked if Mr. Barbieri had information available for the interscholastic vs. the intramural and he explained that he could get that for the Board members. Mr. Barbieri explained that cross country and boys and girls soccer are currently offered in the fall, boys and girls basketball and cheerleading in the winter, and baseball and softball in the spring. Each of those sports includes approximately two-hour practices every day, five days a week. Mr. Barbieri will create a printed comparison for the Board members. Mrs. Petrella would also like to see the philosophy for interscholastics as well.

Dr. Taylor asked what percentage of students participate in interscholastic sports and Mr. Barbieri only had total numbers of participants per sport. He thought that the total number of participants in the fall was 99 and in the spring, it was 36. Dr. Taylor asked if the anticipation would be that that level would increase with intramurals and Mr. Barbieri did not have that information.

Mrs. Boyle asked if a survey was sent out to the students and Mr. Barbieri explained that no survey has been done.

Dr. Taylor asked if there was any evidence that intramural vs. interscholastic affects high school performance in sports and Mr. Barbieri did not.

Mrs. Petrella asked if there was any data on how many other middle schools in Connecticut had intramurals vs. interscholastic sports and Mr. Barbieri stated that he could provide a list of schools, but did not have extensive data. Mr. Barbieri did explain that currently Strong School plays 14 games, seven home and seven away, in most sports. The middle school league includes different schools than the high school plays against.

Mrs. Boyle asked what would happen to cheerleading at Strong School and Mr. Barbieri explained that that could be offered through Durham and Middlefield Park and Rec programs. There is also a Sports Advisory Council for the District which includes parents and also representatives from youth leagues in town. The District would continue to reach out to these local programs.

Mr. Barbieri went on to describe staffing for the intramural program. He felt that more teachers would be involved that can't make a commitment of five days a week. High school students can also participate through internships with teachers in the program.

Moving on to communication, the plan would be to use a Google site for one-stop shopping, including intramurals, high school sports, park and rec programs as well as youth leagues. Emails will be sent and the student bulletin board would be utilized. Mr. Barbieri went through a demonstration of the website.

Mr. Barbieri felt that the whole intramural program would cost approximately \$10,000 per year.

Mrs. Boyle asked about the line item for salary for athletics at Strong was \$37,010 and has been cut by 100 percent in the proposed budget. She asked if stipends for the coaches/teachers have been included in the budget and Mr. Barbieri stated that they had (\$20/hour with each program being approximately \$300). Mrs. Boyle asked if the cost of supplies for new activities were included anywhere and Mr. Barbieri felt there would be not a significant cost for supplies and items are passed down from the high school.

Mr. Moore thanked Mr. Barbieri for his presentation and explained that the Board will consider the presentation and all of the comments provided tonight in their deliberations along with the remainder of the budget.

Mrs. Boyle did not feel it was necessary for Mr. Barbieri to do any additional work on this subject. She did not feel that the Board should pursue this and felt that more work needed to be done on it and that it was not something the Board should do. Mrs. Boyle did respect the hard work that was put into this and respects the courage that it took to think outside the box, but she did not believe this was the direction for the Board to go.

Mr. Moore felt that there were a lot of issues for the Board to review over the next coming weeks and was not prepared to take any action tonight. Dr. Veronesi explained that the team had reviewed all options and one thing that was brought up at the meeting last week was to reinstate a pay-to-participate fee. Dr. Veronesi had explained that that would be a decision for the Board to make. Mrs. Boyle felt that pay-to-participate should be something the Board should consider.

Mr. Moore also mentioned that he will be sure that all emails, petitions and public comments will be included as part of the record.

B. Insurance

Dr. Veronesi reported that the renewal rate as of February 16, 2017 is 7.99. The renewal rate for this year had been 2.99 and two years ago was 7.0. This includes medical, pharmacy and dental. The most recent update was received today and self-funding could be -7.4 percent, with a potential savings of \$450,000 total. Conversations on self-funding are in progress. If the plan is kept the same, there would be an increase of approximately \$340,000. Contract negotiations begin in March with the nurses' union with reopeners for food service and custodians in the next couple of months.

C. Capital

Dr. Veronesi directed the Board members to page 65 of the budget book to quickly review capital. Mr. Russell distributed a summary of various capital projects (49 total projects). Looking at page 55 of the budget book, \$189,500 has been projected for an increase in capital this year, with an additional \$50,000 being proposed for building maintenance, \$22,500 for track maintenance, \$50,000 for turf replacement, \$5,000 for upgrades in the phone system, \$15,000 for the Strong and Memorial School generators as well as \$10,000 for furniture replacement.

Mrs. Boyle requested that total replacement costs be included in the chart to compare against what has already accumulated. Dr. Veronesi thanked Mr. Russell for putting the chart together in an understandable way. Mrs. Petrella also asked if the dates of required replacement could be included in the chart.

D. Object Summary

Dr. Veronesi directed the Board to page 19 of the budget book. There is money in the budget as a placeholder to cover if Korn School is sold to the Town (including legal, surveying and real estate transaction costs). There is a slight increase in in-district pupil services which has to do with proposed changes with the pre-K programming (including furniture and supplies) as well as students who are out-placed (including tuition and transportation).

Moving to Brewster School on page 21, Dr. Veronesi pointed out the increase in certified staff due to the contractual increases as well as a proposed increase of a .5 math interventionist and a .6 pre-K teacher. There is a proposed decrease in noncertified staff and purchased services.

Korn School is pretty self-explanatory, with custodial services and supplies. Dr. Veronesi explained that there are currently three employees with offices at Korn School and space has also been used for in-service/professional development for large groups.

Dr. Veronesi pointed out that a .5 math interventionist is included in part of the increase for certified staff at Lyman School. There is a reduction in purchased services and big cuts in postage. The 53 percent increase at Lyman School is due to the Chromebook support and Mr. Ford commented that there are currently five Chromebook carts at Lyman.

Mrs. Petrella asked about the teacher assistants in kindergarten and Dr. Veronesi explained that they are currently needed, but if the class sizes dip below the number in the policy (15 students), then the positions can be eliminated.

Last year, there had been a recommendation to reduce the salary line by \$200,000 and that was taken out of the certified staff line at Memorial School. That line item is projected to be \$140,000 over budget. Again, there are reductions in purchased services and a request for a laptop for the Main Office at Memorial School has been withdrawn.

Moving to Strong School, the overall budget has decreased by 2.38 percent which includes decreases in interns, referees, Chromebook, building and grounds, transportation and sports.

Dr. Veronesi continued with the Cuginchaug budget which includes a nearly 18 percent reduction in purchased services (interns, piano accompanist, athletic trainer and physician services). There is an increase in dues and fees, including sports entry fees and the athletic director's professional dues.

Dr. Veronesi directed the Board's attention to the total increase of 2.16 percent and explained that if they had not removed the \$200,000 from the budget last year, the increase would be 1.1 percent.

Looking at Pupil Services (Special Education), Dr. Veronesi explained that there is a reduction in certified staff but it really has to do with paying staff at a lower rate through the hiring process. The increase in non-certified staff reflects the kindergarten teaching assistants. Operating services includes transportation and tuition and equipment and capital includes necessary technology upgrades.

Moving to Central Office, Dr. Veronesi reviewed the various offices that fall within that area. There have also been some changes in health, life, worker's comp, pension and unemployment benefits, with a small give-back of 4 percent in worker's comp. Dr. Veronesi also pointed out that \$91,000 has been added to Purchased Services for Korn School (as she mentioned earlier), but reductions were also made in that area.

Mr. Renninghoff felt it was unreasonable for the Board to expect the Town of Middlefield to pay for services relating to Korn School and felt that the Town of Durham should pick up those expenses. Mr. Renninghoff felt that the District was essentially paying to keep the building off the market while the Town of Durham "spins its wheels" about purchasing it. He would like to see this come to a conclusion soon.

Mr. Moore asked Dr. Veronesi for her thoughts on when she thought the insurance issues would be resolved, but she was not sure about when that could happen. She will provide information as she receives it.

Dr. Veronesi moved on to the Summary by Object and referred the Board to page 38, where there is a .82 decrease in unemployment. The District had fewer people collecting unemployment this year than had been expected and there is one person coming off of unemployment within the next month.

Mr. Moore had asked why Professional Development had decreased and Dr. Veronesi explained that Professional Development and In-Service are linked.

Dr. Veronesi did not feel there were very significant changes in transportation. Mr. Renninghoff then asked about the District's legal obligation to provide transportation for magnet school students and Dr. Veronesi explained that she felt that the District does have to provide transportation. They had done some research into this issue and she felt that the District is obligated to provide the transportation, but she will look into it further. Mr. Renninghoff also asked if the increase in Special Ed Transportation also included monitors who are not employed by the District and it was explained that it does include that.

Regarding Communications, there is a 52.48 percent for postage which includes approximately \$3,000 for Federal Express which has been consistently underfunded. Mrs. Boyle asked for details about Federal Express costs and Dr. Veronesi explained that that included legal documents and overnight services, but she will provide more detail.

In the area of tuition, updated enrollment numbers have been included and types of schools have been included in that information. Athletic supplies have increased by nearly 50 percent due, with the biggest item being the pole vault system and mat for track. Buildings and Grounds Operation has decreased in a couple of areas. There are some reductions in the purchase of textbooks and classroom libraries.

Finally, in Debt Service, there is a reduction in interest expense as the debt has been paid down with an approximately \$515,000 decrease going into next year.

Mr. Moore asked about Transportation and Dr. Veronesi explained that they had looked at eliminating a bus which could be close to a \$50,000 savings, but the bus company did not recommend that based on the routes and that it would possibly end up altering the start times of the schools. Dr. Veronesi said she would continue to look into this matter further. Mr. Moore thought that it might be of some value since Korn School is no longer in the system. Mrs. Flanagan asked when the Dattco lease expired and it was stated that it was 2018-2019.

Mrs. Boyle asked if the before- and after-school programs would affect transportation expenses at all and would like that figure calculated into the bus expenses. Mr. Renninghoff asked about approximately six projects on the Capital list that have already been completed and have remaining balances and he felt that that money should be able to be re-appropriated to other projects. He also asked benefits, Social Security and Medicare relating to the before- and after-school program and asked if that was included in the payroll numbers being proposed. Dr. Veronesi felt that those benefits were included in the line item, but will check to be sure that is true.

Mrs. Boyle stated that she heard Mr. Doyle's earlier comments and is worried that they are making the school district bigger and would like to be sure the Board considers adding this new before- and after-school program. She feels that it would make the Board's responsibilities larger and would require more diligence. Mrs. Boyle also commented on the District subsidizing some of MTA's expenses and worries that the numbers for the before- and after-school program are too close. She wanted to share her concern and caution with the Board and stated that she is not for the program.

Mr. Renninghoff added that he too is not in favor of the District getting into that operation. He reminded the Board of when they took over the bookkeeping for the food service and how more clerical staff has had to be added for that purpose. He felt that that could happen in this case as well. Mr. Renninghoff also commented that he does not like using the budget process as a forum to effectuate change in policy. He felt that these types of decisions should be made long in advance of the budgeting process.

Mr. Moore commented that the Board did have a presentation on the before- and after-school program by Kevin Brough a while back and did not act on it at that time. Dr. Veronesi added that she had introduced the idea prior to last year's budget meeting and began working on it at that time. She also added that they have been in constant contact with the people operating BASREP and it does not appear that it is a viable business endeavor for them to continue. Dr. Veronesi is continuing to meet with them consistently about this process.

Communications

Mr. Moore reported that quite a few emails and comments have been received on the sports program, before- and after-school and pre-K programs. Mr. Moore also commented that Dr. Friedrich's stepson had a heart attack and he is in Dallas.

Mrs. Boyle also reported that she had received a letter from Heather Parente who specifically asked that her letter be read in open session. Mrs. Boyle will not read the letter publicly as Mr. Moore will add it to the record.

Mrs. Petrella also mentioned that she had received a couple of comments with regard to the cuts in the music program.

Mr. Moore thanked the public for all of their well-written, thoughtful letters and was especially impressed with the letters from students. Mrs. Petrella concurred.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Veronesi reported that Mr. Barbieri had learned that he and our school has been recognized as the Unified Rookie School of the Year by the CIAC. Mr. Barbieri was also recognized by the Director of Special Olympics Unified Sports and the CIAC for his outstanding work within the Shoreline Conference.

Dr. Veronesi also reported that the District had an early release day last week on Thursday and a full professional development day on Friday. Mary Ellen Manning sent out a survey for immediate feedback and it was very impressive, with over 200 people responding and it was overwhelmingly positive. Dr. Veronesi described some of the highlights from the professional development days.

Dr. Veronesi also stated that Mrs. Boyle had asked for an update on the estimated bid for the field house and JD Rosa Construction submitted a bid for the full field house at \$1,052,800 and for just the bathrooms at \$652,000. Dr. Veronesi suggested that an ERC meeting be scheduled for next week to review the plans more carefully. It was agreed to schedule the ERC meeting for Monday, February 27th at 4:00 pm. Mr. Moore also commented that the Board's intention would be to go to referendum on the field house at the same time as the budget. If it passes, construction would be authorized for the summer and bond issues would be for the following year's budget.

Business Manager's Report

Mr. Russell explained that this is his first attempt to give the Board an end-of-year projection and there are 658 accounts in the accounting system. Balances range from 20 cents up to tens of thousands of dollars. He began by explaining the \$141,000 deficit in certified salaries which is two-thirds of the reduction that was made in the budget. Noncertified salaries have gone up to a \$63,000 surplus, but cautioned the Board that snow removal is included in that. Employee benefits has the largest surplus at \$260,000, assuming that the health insurance accounts stays constant for the next several months. Unemployment benefits are under budget and course reimbursement will probably also have a surplus. Legal is projected to have approximately a \$20,000 surplus, but there are some upcoming negotiations that may change that. Transportation is running at a deficit. Utilities still has a surplus even though that budget was reduced last year.

Mrs. Boyle thanked Mr. Russell for providing this information and stated that this was the first time they have ever received anything like this. Mr. Russell stated that Tippi Popp has been an extraordinary help.

Dr. Veronesi also asked the Board if anyone would be interested in taking part in the interviews for a new Business Manager. Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Augur and Mrs. Boyle volunteered.

Committee Reports

- A. Policy Committee - First Read of the Following Policies:
 - Non-Discrimination
 - Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug-Free Workplace
 - Social Media

Mr. Moore asked that the policies be entered into the record without reading them aloud. He summarized that Non-Discrimination refers to non-discrimination in hiring practices. Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug-Free Workplace is for not only employees and students, but also the Board. And the third is for control of Social Media and the use of that.

Mrs. Petrella remarked that the Board had received a small summary of the policies and read them for the public. Minor revisions were made to the Non-Discrimination policy including designating an area for cross-referencing sex discrimination, sexual harassment and disability discrimination policies, revising legal references and changing an address. For Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug-Free Workplace, minor revisions were made in accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act. The Social Media policy was revised to reflect changes in a law concerning employee online privacy with an optional section on crowd-funding activities.

Mr. Moore explained that these policies will be addressed at the March 8, 2017 meeting.

New Business

None.

Public Comment

Donia Viola thanked the Board for the presentation this evening and stated that she has spoken to the Director of Magnet Schools in Hartford and was told that transportation is not mandated and it is up to each district or town to determine whether they choose to provide transportation. Mrs. Viola also asked about the amount of the proposed increases in Central Office, Strong School building and grounds, miscellaneous hardware and equipment and capital at Lyman. She also voiced her concern about the costs associated with the pre-K program and she would like to see the parents contribute. Mrs. Viola is aware that other districts charge for students to participate.

Michael Doyle thanked the Board for their time and commented that he had no knowledge about the viability of BASREP and respectfully asked the Board to deal directly with the Director of the program. He also stated that he had been deeply involved with the evaluation of the athletic department that was conducted. At that time, the idea to create a full-time athletic director's position was

controversial. He did congratulate the current athletic director on his accomplishments, but Mr. Doyle does not feel that a lot of what was talked about in that evaluation was ever implemented.

Roger Kleeman, from Durham, thanked the Board for their time and asked if there was an actual number available of students participating in sports at Strong School. He thought that that information would be helpful for the Board's decision-making. He also asked for the presentations to be made larger for people to be able to more easily read them.

Mr. Moore thanked everyone for their attendance and of their good comments. Budget deliberations will continue for two weeks.

Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

In favor of adjourning the meeting: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff and Dr. Taylor. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

Debi Waz
Alwaz First

Regional School District 13
Board of Education
Addendum to the Minutes of February 22, 2017

Names of community members who sent comments via email in support of maintaining Strong Middle School athletics.

Nicole	Albanese
Chari	Baldwin
Amanda	Boyle
Annjeannette	Bugai
Eileen	Casey
Will	Dalles
Sandra	Dalles
Kathy	Debrum
Dorothy	Decaprio
Amrit	Dhawan
Michelle	DiMauro
Michael	Doyle
Stacey & Mike	Durand
Patrick	Finnerty
Mike	Finnerty
Lori & Mike	Fusco
Go Far Board of Directors: Jen Schulten, Becky Finnerty, MaryBeth Gossart, Kim Salley, Melissa Lesniak, Sandi Dalles and petition	
Hayen	Gonzales
Owen	Gonzales
Rick & LuAnn	Hanley
Ethan	Kupec
Ken	Landy
Stephen	Lipka
Alana	Marino
Claudia	O'Connell
Terese	Opalacz
Arlene	Paul
Jennifer	Penney
Naomi	Rinaldo
Robin	Ryan
Matt	Stopka
Kari	Sullivan
Connor	Willett
Kate & Matt	Wiseman