

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in special session on Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 7:00 PM in the Library at Coginchaug Regional High School, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham,

Connecticut. Board members present: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino.

Board members absent: Mrs. Boyle.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Administrator Welcome - Scott Sadinsky

Mr. Sadinsky reviewed how Strong School goes about their testing and explained that testing is done by team. The students are really committed and caring and it doesn't appear that testing is even happening. The eighth grade at Strong School was selected to pilot the NGSS test this year. Feedback from students was that it was a very positive, unique experience.

Mr. Sadinsky reported that Tony Ferraiolo, a transgender youth advocate, worked in the district a few months ago with counselors and special education teachers. He returned again yesterday and visited with the Strong staff. He shared his personal journey, provided data and shared policy and laws to help the staff have a deeper understanding of how to work with students on gender identity.

The month of May is a big transition month at Strong School. On May 23rd and 24th, the sixth grade students will come to visit, with the sixth grade student and parent orientation meeting to be held on the evening of the 24th. A scavenger hunt will be held that night with the students and parents searching for QR codes.

The eighth graders will come to visit the high school, starting with lunch and moving into smaller groups to tour, learn about clubs and activities and sports.

Mr. Sadinsky also reported that Snow White: The Variety Show was held two weeks ago. This was an opportunity for the students to write the script and 80 percent of what was performed was actually written by the students. Mr. Sadinsky felt it was highly successful and a lot of fun.

He also reported that last Wednesday was the third of three consecutive sessions that a core group of teachers worked with consultants from CREC, learning about student engagement strategies. He mentioned one activity in particular, Highlighting the Mistakes, which one of the math teachers did. One of the students reported that instead of receiving a grade on a test, they had the mistakes highlighted and had the opportunity to correct the mistakes. The teacher felt it was a good example of having the students gain a deeper understanding of the math, rather than be concerned about the grade.

CABE Student Leadership Awards

Dr. Veronesi was pleased to recognize four students who have been selected by their teachers to receive the CABE (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education) Student Leadership Award: Jack French and Madison Terrill from Coginchaug and Patrick Finnerty and Cadence Hurlbert from Strong School. These students have demonstrated various leadership skills. Dr. Veronesi has met with each of the students and

is tremendously proud of them all. Dr. Veronesi asked the students to stand while she read what the teachers have said about them.

A brief break was taken while pictures were taken.

Trip to Spain and France - Kate Germond, Coginchaug World Language Teacher

Mrs. Germond explained that 10 students went to Spain and France over the April break and they had a video for the Board to watch that included pictures of where they went as well as interviews with the students. A few students also told the Board how much they enjoyed the trip and why. Mrs. Germond felt that a big benefit of the trip was that the students now realize they can get their point across when trying to communicate in a foreign language. Mrs. Germond thanked the Board for the opportunity to travel.

Public Comment

Mr. Moore recognized Christine Geraci and Jamie Roraback, two of the new Board members who were elected on Monday night. They will start with the meeting on July 5, 2017. Mr. Hicks reminded the new Board members that they need to go to Town Hall and get sworn in. Mr. Moore also stated that there will be a small reception for Mrs. Flanagan and Mr. Renninghoff in June as they will be leaving the Board.

Janice Corder, a parent of a six-year-old kindergartner at Brewster and a three-year-old child who will be coming into the school system, introduced herself by stating that she has a master's degree in education from Harvard University and has worked as a supervisor at DCF for over 20 years. Her husband is a police officer and they are the parents who were called "whining parents" at the last Board meeting. They are parents who need to have the before and after school program and she would like to know why Mr. Renninghoff feels that they are whiny and why he feels they expect the Board to manage their children from the moment they wake until the time they go to bed. (Mr. Renninghoff was prepared to answer, but other members of the Board discouraged discourse during Public Comment.)

Mrs. Corder felt it was very hurtful and disheartening to be called names, especially when they have just moved into town and did so for the school system. She is interested in her children's education and needs enrichment for her kids after school, not just a babysitting service. She also commented that there are no other schools around that don't offer the program and that it would be a money-maker for the district. She reiterated that her feelings were very hurt by what was said at the last meeting.

Dave Uhlman asked the Board to reconsider their vote on the before and after school program. He found that there are only four licensed home care centers in Middlefield and Durham, all of which can only have six kids under their care. They are also allowed three more school-aged children, including their own children. He also looked into the three daycare facilities, Dolphin Days, BASREP and the Middlefield Children's Center, and found that Dolphin Days has only seven slots available for the fall and the Middlefield Children's Center only serves K through 3 children and opens at 7:30 am. The future of BASREP is unknown at this point. Mr. Uhlman reiterated that 89 families had shown interest in the program and the demand seems much higher than the supply.

Mr. Uhlman also noted that the proposed cost was actually more expensive than the local programs that currently exist, but the parents were willing to pay more because of the value. He also pointed out that the program would pay for itself and shouldn't have an impact on taxes. Mr. Uhlman ended by paraphrasing two Code of Ethics statements, that a Board member will think of children first and that the

Board represents the entire school community. Mr. Uhlman acknowledges that the District is not responsible for his children from the time they wake until the time they fall asleep, but he would suggest that the Board, at the very least, give the program a pilot year.

Mrs. Corder also commented that her son goes to Brewster and takes a bus to Korn School (which is 2.9 miles away). There are some days when he gets on the bus at 3:15 and doesn't get to Korn until 4:30.

Christine Geraci also spoke in support of the before and after care program. She acknowledged the concerns about impacting other local businesses and she also researched and found that there are three daycare licenses in Durham and one in Middlefield and agreed that there are only seven spots left for the fall. She related a story about her job as a controller at a nonprofit and believes that the income from the before and after school program could help offset an unexpected expense. Ms. Geraci also believed that a before and after care program would be an incentive for young families to move into the district. She also asked the Board to reconsider their vote.

Toby Bates stated that he had four boys go through the BASREP program and now has three stepchildren who will be coming up. He had been the treasurer for BASREP for 10 years and knows that the District will not make any money on this. He reminded the Board that BASREP has been getting kids off the bus in the afternoon when nobody is home and felt that the liability would be on the District if that wasn't available.

Michael Doyle from Durham Another member of the public thanked Kerrie Flanagan for her years of service. He has also had four children go through the BASREP program and he is also concerned about whether that program will continue. He felt that the District should find an alternative school for BASREP to operate in. He does feel that his children are enriched by their experience at BASREP. He asked for the Board to do everything possible to make sure BASREP continues to have a home, but is not in opposition to what the other parents are in favor of. He did not believe a pilot program would work as the alternatives may disappear.

Michelle Rolnick, from Middlefield, has two children that have been and are part of the school system and she is also the CEO of the Northern Middlesex YMCA. Ms. Rolnick feels that a well-run, well-funded after school program is part of an educational system and the outcomes are very clear. She does believe there are costs associated with running such a program and is not necessarily a proponent of the school system taking it on. However, she would much rather see the school system take it on than not to have it. She explained that the YMCA has 12 licensed before and after school programs and serve 1,000 kids. Parents often call her looking for a before and after school program right in their district. Ms. Rolnick felt that the program does not have to be run by the school to be a high-quality program, but does need to be run by an organization that really understands what it takes to run such a program and is committed to child development, outcomes and an integrated program with the school. Ms. Rolnick reiterated that quality programs are not babysitting. She does not feel that a district of this size will make money from this type of program and also felt that a subsidy program will be necessary.

Carl Stoup, from Durham, continues to object to the program and feels that it is way beyond the mission statement for the Board of Ed to get involved. He mentioned declining enrollment and rising costs and didn't feel that the District needs to take on something else.

Next Board Meeting - May 24, 2017 in the Library at Coginchaug Regional High School

Approval of Agenda

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

In favor of approving the agenda as presented: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes - April 19, 2017 and May 1, 2017

Mr. Renninghoff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hicks, to approve the minutes of April 19, 2017, as presented.

In favor of approving the minutes of April 19, 2017, as presented: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed.

Mr. Renninghoff made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Petrella, to approve the minutes of May 1, 2017, as presented.

In favor of approving the minutes of May 1, 2017, as presented: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff and Dr. Taylor. Dr. Friedrich and Mr. Yamartino abstained. Motion passed.

Communications

Mr. Moore has received a proposal from Senator Suzio's staff for new legislation to recognize schools that teach about veterans programs. Mr. Moore had explained that a veterans' concert was held and each of the District's school has a veterans program. The senator's aide felt that the District would already be eligible for the recognition.

Mr. Moore had also received an email from Sheryl Slight who is concerned about the complexity of scheduling of events. They pulled up the calendar and could see the confusion. Dr. Veronesi explained that the administrative team gets together in April or May to create the following year's calendar and they are very deliberate about the process. Dr. Veronesi will respond to Mrs. Slight.

Mr. Moore asked if any Board members would be available to attend the National Honor Society induction tomorrow night and Mr. Hicks reported that he plans to attend.

Dr. Veronesi received a letter from the ID team at Memorial as well as the school counselor regarding grade configuration and the integrity of the ID program. She had copies of the letter for the Board members.

Before and After Care Proposal Update

Dr. Veronesi understood the reasons why the Board did not feel they could support the before and after care programming at this time, and noted that Michelle Rolnick had reached out to her and wanted to share her expertise. Dr. Veronesi would like to be able to provide STEAM enrichment on the six half-days that students could sign up for. Those six sessions would be staffed by either retired teachers, volunteers from Wesleyan, student volunteers and paid substitute teachers. This would be based on the

model that is used at the middle school. She has talked to several teachers and, in particular, Tina Hurlbert who runs the STEAM program, and there is a tremendous amount of enthusiasm and ideas.

Dr. Veronesi also felt that this would be a good way to pilot a program that would not require a huge financial input. It isn't clear yet which students would be included, but Dr. Veronesi felt she'd like to pilot it with the elementary schools and Memorial. The program would be held at each specific school and no busing would be provided. Parents would need to pick the students up at the regular time.

Mrs. Petrella was concerned that the Board just voted down the before and after program and this may lead parents to believe that the program may happen in the future since this is being done. She was also concerned about the cost for staffing and wondered if there would be tuition. Mrs. Petrella has a lot of reservations as the issues already exist.

Dr. Veronesi assured the Board that she wouldn't have brought it forward if she thought it would cost the District money. Mrs. Petrella also mentioned the idea of restructuring the school day to open up many more opportunities, but not cost any more. Dr. Veronesi commented that the Board had previously decided that any restructuring of the school day should be part of discussions about utilization. She also felt that restructuring the start and end times of the school day would be a time consuming endeavor that would best be addressed through committee work.

Mr. Renninghoff echoed what Mrs. Petrella said and agreed that it would give a false promise to parents who want this type of program. Mr. Renninghoff also confirmed his opposition to a Board-run before and after school program or anything that would lead into that.

Mr. Moore felt it was a good proposal on how to deal with those six half-days. The Board had concerns about how those six days would hurt the students and he felt that this was a great alternative. Mr. Moore also volunteered to help with engineering as well as other things. He also felt that the District would know after the first day whether it works or not.

Dr. Veronesi also assured the Board that she would not intimate to people that this is a precursor for a before and after school program. Mr. Augur was concerned that the agenda says Before and After Care Proposal Update, not half-day enrichment. Dr. Veronesi explained that these half-days had been part of the Before and After Care proposal and she did not want the Board to feel that she was trying to introduce a new proposal when it had been a part of the original before and after care and enrichment programming proposal.

Mr. Yamartino was taken aback when they looked at the proposed half days and he does see some value in using this time for enrichment. He would need to understand more about how it would be structured and what costs there would be.

Mrs. Flanagan thanked Dr. Veronesi for being straightforward with the Board and agreed that she would like to hear more about the proposal. Mr. Hicks felt that it might be possible that some of the teachers might not be in development on a particular day. Dr. Veronesi agreed that that would be an opportunity for teachers to practice their new learning. She also mentioned that she ran a volunteer-run after school program for many years in her own school system and it was widely successful.

Dr. Friedrich felt that this would happen within school hours and would not represent an extension into after-school care. He thinks a STEAM workshop is a fine idea and would be a great chance to try things out at different grade levels.

Dr. Taylor asked if this would be available to all students and whether there would be a tuition required. Dr. Veronesi felt that there would be tuition (possibly \$40) for the afternoon. Mr. Hicks also mentioned that this would be a different constituency group and an early-release day presents problems to parents that already have after-school care. Mr. Yamartino wondered if transportation would be an issue, but did feel it was worth exploring.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Flanagan, to authorize the Superintendent to investigate the possibility of early-dismissal STEAM workshops.

Dr. Taylor reminded everyone that the Board had made a decision not to offset teacher development and put it on a separate day and are now effectively supplanting that by asking parents to pay for their kids to attend these workshops. Dr. Taylor would be more in favor of paying the teachers for development outside of normal classroom hours. Mrs. Flanagan explained that the District is under contract with the teachers and it would not be an option to extend the number of days.

Dr. Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hicks, to call the question and end the debate.

In favor of calling the question and ending the debate: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed.

In favor of authorizing the Superintendent to investigate the possibility of early-dismissal STEAM workshops: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed.

Mr. Yamartino asked about the letter that was received from BASREP about an alternate location and wondered where the Board stood on that issue. Dr. Veronesi explained that they would prefer not to house BASREP in an operating school and she had already alerted them to the fact that a school may not be available to support the program. Dr. Veronesi has reached out to Ed Bailey about them using the Middlefield Community Center, but she does not feel it is her responsibility to find them a place to operate.

Dr. Veronesi has not responded to BASREP as she felt the Board needed to discuss it. Mr. Augur wondered why the issue did not come up in Communications or Before and After Care Proposal Update on the agenda. Mr. Moore reviewed that the Board had decided to stop all activity at Korn School by September 1 and that would be why they are asking for the use of Lyman. Dr. Taylor asked if this might be something that should be discussed in Executive Session at some point and Dr. Veronesi reiterated that her comments are not disparaging of the BASREP program.

Mr. Renninghoff agreed that the District is not obligated to find BASREP another place. Dr. Veronesi stated that the BASREP lease runs through June 30th, but they were told they could continue the program through the summer. A decision would need to be made on whether the District extends the lease for two months.

Dr. Taylor feels that this goes against the Board's decision about before and after care and would be potentially shutting down two before and after care programs. He reminded the Board that multiple community members have spoken out that they need this service. Dr. Taylor would want to know the difficulties of housing the program in our schools. Mr. Augur suggested that there may be other real estate available for the program.

Dr. Friedrich confirmed that Dr. Veronesi had communicated to BASREP that Korn School would be closed so they have known that for a while. He asked if any offer has been made to BASREP for any space in the district and Dr. Veronesi stated that it had not. BASREP has now made a request for space, but this is the first time.

Mr. Moore summarized that the Board would allow Dr. Veronesi to let BASREP know that we have no interest in having them using Lyman at this time. Mrs. Petrella felt that they should know as soon as possible if none of the schools will be available to them. Dr. Veronesi believed that BASREP's total enrollment was 23. Mr. Yamartino asked if BASREP has been at Korn School for all 25 years of their existence and it was believed that they have been except for being at Lyman while Korn School was renovated.

Mrs. Flanagan did not feel that the Board should assume that if a school building is not available that BASREP will go out of business. Dr. Taylor stated that he felt it would make it more difficult for them to continue by the Board making that decision. Dr. Friedrich felt it was Dr. Veronesi's decision whether a program like this interferes with the operation of the school or degrades the operation of the school in any way. The Board's priority is to operate the schools for the District's children. Dr. Friedrich feels that the Board needs to accept Dr. Veronesi's recommendation.

Mrs. Petrella also commented that the Board had just decided not too long ago that Korn School will be closed. Mr. Renninghoff stated that that was back in March and BASREP has had that long to look for another place. Dr. Veronesi also stated that she had told BASREP that she was going to pursue a District-run before and after care program.

Mr. Moore would recommend that Dr. Veronesi respond to BASREP and let them know that a school is not available at this time and if they have no other choice, they can come back to the District.

Business Manager's Report

Mr. Russell stated the fiscal year is 10/12 over and almost done with the school year as well. They are getting more accurate with financial projections. He is projecting \$263,000 as a surplus on the expenditure side and \$139,000 on the revenue side. Salaries were at a negative \$182,000, but the projections on how many substitutes we were going to use is less (due to difficulty finding substitutes) and the number is moving toward the positive.

Mr. Russell stated that unemployment benefits are down to just one \$5.00 per week charge. He also stated that legal fees are projected at a \$13,000 surplus, but that will depend on the three unions remaining to negotiate. Mr. Russell stated that the biggest problem is the fact that there were eight budgeted special ed children and the District actually has 10 and one of them is a residential placement. Tuition is projected to go over \$156,000, however more money is expected from the State because of that rise.

Good news on the total budget is that revenues are up and expenditures are holding steady.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Veronesi wanted to publicly acknowledge that this week is Teacher Appreciation Week and she feels that these are the finest group of professionals that she has ever had the opportunity to work with. She does hope the Board notices the change of what's happening with collaboration and improvement in

instruction. Dr. Veronesi also commented that professional development is only as good as teachers' ability to apply what they learn and for that to have an impact on student learning. There was a round of applause for the teachers.

Dr. Veronesi also mentioned that there will be a Board of Education award, per Mr. Moore's suggestion, and hoped that there would be a scholarship created from contributions from Board members. Dr. Veronesi described what the Board of Education award will be based on and it will be awarded on Awards Night. Board members agreed to contribute to the award.

Dr. Veronesi explained that there had been a misunderstanding that Board members could not wear their hood if they have an advanced degree and, in fact, they can as long as they have their own hood. A gown will be supplied to all Board members. Dr. Veronesi would love to have all the Board members be part of the procession. Most members agreed to be part of the ceremony.

Lunch Prices and Overview of School Lunch Program - Mark Basil, Director of Dining Services

Mark Basil remarked that there had been a lot of concerns about the District subsidizing the lunch program, so gains are being made with this recommendation to provide more cash flow. Declining enrollment is going in one direction and the free and reduced eligibility is going the other way. As free and reduced eligibility goes up, less students buy the a la carte items. He reviewed the history of the lunch program since 2007.

Mr. Basil gave an overall operational breakdown and pointed out that product costs have been maintained at 44 percent or better. Labor was at 57 percent when Mr. Basil first came to the District and they have worked to maintain that at 55 percent. Sales continue to climb and have kind of plateaued at approximately \$600,000.

Mr. Basil felt that the impact of increasing all meals by 25 cents would be \$81,000 and he also explained that the price of milk has not been touched in 15 years and is just 50 cents. They have also found that secondary school students prefer to drink milk out of a plastic bottle rather than a carton. He would suggest that the bottle increase by 5 cents to 80 cents and the milk carton go from 50 cents to 60 cents.

Mr. Basil also mentioned that adult meals have been \$4.00 for the length of time that he has been in the District. He recommended that they be increased to \$4.50. In summary, the hope would be to raise an additional \$25,000 with these price adjustments.

He has also broken down labor costs, operating at 18 staff members. He reviewed the numbers of employees at the schools and total number of hours. He is looking to reduce the staffing down to 14 for the next school year. In the 2016-2017 school year, there are six at the high school, three at Strong and two at all the other schools. Average sales at the high school produce almost \$38/man hour. The proposed changes would reduce one position which is now two part-time subs that are on call. If that change is made, the dollars per man hour would be almost \$43.

Mr. Basil reviewed what is currently offered at the schools and explained that breakfast and lunch are offered at the high school. He would be looking to simplify the menu a bit at Lyman and Brewster. A change at the high school would be to have the Greens station (made-to-order salads) available twice a week instead of every day. Salads would still be provided on the other days, just not made to order. This change would save 12 hours per week or \$4,600 over the year. At the elementary schools, making the shifts three hours would potentially save \$7,200. In total, Mr. Basil feels he could save \$16,000 in labor

by making these small changes. Combining that with the additional \$25,000 revenue, he feels he can save the District close to \$41,000.

Mr. Russell commented that if the District had 350 more students, there would be no need to subsidize the program at all. He would not want to raise prices too much and lose the amount of meals sold.

Mr. Yamartino asked what the average lunch price was and Mr. Basil explained that the base meal price is \$3.25. Mr. Yamartino suggested charging the parents \$20 per week and eliminating cash cards and cashiers. A vending machine could be put in for any extras. Mr. Russell explained that we then would not get any reimbursement from the State and that is a lot of money. The State audits the District's recipes and portion controls and would not reimburse the District on a salad bar.

Mr. Russell also explained that the school lunch program is in a different fund and is not part of the budget process.

Mr. Renninghoff made a motion, seconded by Dr. Taylor, to adopt Mr. Basil's recommendations of raising the base lunch price to \$3.50, the adult meal to \$4.50, the milk carton price to \$.60 and the milk bottle price to \$.80.

Mr. Yamartino asked what happens when a student wants lunch and doesn't have the money available and Mr. Basil explained that the POS system allows parents to put funds on their student's accounts and also puts alerts on when the account reaches a certain balance. The District allows a three-meal charge per student if the parents forget to put funds on the account. After those three meals, if the parents are trying to work with the District, they continue to feed the student. No elementary students have ever been turned away. If no attempt has been made to pay the balance, the student gets an alternative meal (a cheese sandwich, fruit, vegetable and milk).

In favor of adopting the new lunch and milk prices: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed.

Mr. Basil then thanked Mrs. Flanagan and Mr. Renninghoff for their support over the years and wished them both the best of luck.

Committee Reports

A. Educational Resources Committee

Mr. Moore reported that the ERC met today and discussed the role of a financial advisor with an interest in debt management over the next couple of years. There had been a presentation and copies were available for any Board members who were interested. They also talked about the budget and field house referendum.

New Business

A. Possible Action on ACES Thomas Edison Middle School Partnership Agreement

Mr. Hicks reviewed the history of Thomas Edison Middle School and explained that the original participants back in 1996 were Meriden, Middletown, Region 13 and Madison. It worked out very well

and the District actually made money. We originally had the opportunity to send 40 students, but have only sent 20 at most and none of the towns have ever filled all their available seats.

There is a Steering Committee that basically works on policy and finances. Mr. Hicks is the only person from Region 13 to have served on that committee. The District was receiving reimbursement from the State for transportation and ECS. Madison left the school about 10 years ago and then, a few years ago, a feeling developed that Region 13 was no longer wanted, mainly because enrollment went down into the low single digits. Right now, Mr. Hicks believed the District had three students there and one will be leaving for high school. Each town involved had had two votes per town and, at this point, one vote was taken away from District 13. Meriden now had four votes, Middletown had three and the executive director of ACES had one.

Mr. Hicks explained that the transportation cost for a student to go to TEMS is pretty high and, because we are part of the partnership, we are obligated to provide transportation. If we opt out of the partnership agreement, there is no obligation to provide transportation. Mr. Hicks explained that parents can opt for their child to go to any magnet school in the state at no cost, however, that does not include transportation. He believes that it makes little sense for the District participate any further in this partnership arrangement.

An issue that the Board needs to consider is that there will still be two students attending TEMS and if the District opts out of the agreement, what would happen to them. The two students will be going into eighth grade next year. The District could continue to supply transportation or ACES would offer the parents \$5.00 a day to cover the cost of fuel. The other issue is that the agreement requires notice of one fiscal year to the other partners, however, Mr. Hicks pointed out that there is no signed partnership agreement between ACES and Regional School District 13.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Renninghoff, to withdraw from the partnership with Thomas Edison Middle School as soon as possible.

Mr. Hicks and Mr. Augur would be in favor of continuing to provide transportation or offering the \$5.00 per day to the parents for transportation.

In favor of withdrawing from the partnership with Thomas Edison Middle School as soon as possible: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed.

B. Superintendent's Performance Review Documents

Mrs. Flanagan explained the review process and distributed the review documents to the Board members. She also went over the rating scale and asked for Board members to get their forms to Nancy Boyle via email by Friday, May 19, for consolidation. Mrs. Flanagan also stressed the importance of everyone on the Board completing the review documents.

Public Comment

Rebecca Adams, from Middlefield, explained that she is a senior staff attorney and director of labor relations for the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education. Ms. Adams explained what she does at CABA and offered her support in contract negotiations. She also explained that District 13 is in ACES and there is no need for an agreement. Ms. Adams also commented that the income limits for free and

reduced lunch start out at a little under \$22,000 and maxes out at a little over \$76,000 for a household of eight.

Ms. Adams reported that legislation passed in the House today that would push off the data privacy items which would have been crippling to some programs. The Professional Development Task Force bill also passed and will allow districts to expand their options for PD. Budget-wise, the Governor announced a mitigation package for the current year. There are education changes, but they do not affect this District. The impact on losing out on some Pequot money is just under \$7,000 for Durham and about \$5,500 for Middlefield. The budget for next year is believed to include the Teachers' Retirement Fund and cuts to ECS, with deep cuts to basically everything.

Ms. Adams also commented that she was very impressed with what Mr. Basil presented for labor reductions and felt that to be best practice. She also commented on extending the school day and bargaining would need to be done under the contract. Ms. Adams gave some details about the New Milford case that was happening on this exact issue.

A member of the public asked if there would be an option to have a program other than BASREP in the schools. She asked that the Board look into it. Mr. Moore stated that the Board would consider any proposals.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Renninghoff, to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing a real estate transaction and that the Superintendent be invited to participate.

In favor of going into executive session: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed.

Anticipated Executive Session - Discuss Real Estate Transaction

Adjournment

A motion was made by Jeremy Renninghoff and seconded by Victor Friedrich to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education.

In favor of adjourning the meeting: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

Alwaz First