

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, January 9, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Library at Coginchaug Regional High School, Durham, Connecticut.

Board members present: Mr. Augur, 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. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools and Mrs. Neubig, Business Manager.

Guest: Dr. Stevenson, The Connecticut Center for School Change

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 suggested adding 17 D1 and D2 to approve a field trip to Avery Point and to re-approve the Mt. Snow field trip because there has been a minor change.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Taylor, to add the above items to the agenda.

In favor of adding two items to the agenda, as above: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

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

In favor of approving the agenda, as amended: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None.

Introduction of new Board of Education member

Mr. Yamartino explained that Middlefield held a town meeting on Monday night and Maura Caramanello was unanimously elected to the Board of Education. Mrs. Caramanello moved to Middlefield 12 years ago and lives next door to Mr. Yamartino. She taught first grade for over 14 years, nine of them in District 13. She has four children, including students in 10th, 8th and 6th grade as well as a baby.

Administrator Welcome - Brian Falcone

Brian Falcone welcomed everyone to Coginchaug. The student representatives welcome the board at each meeting and keep them informed about CRHS happening and the students decided tonight that tonight they will let the Board know how it feels to be high school seniors at Coginchaug.

CRHS Reporters - Timothy Arcari, Emily Dell'Orfano and Lindsey Marino

Lindsey Marino explained that midterms will be in about a week and a half. She has applied to eight schools for elementary education and has been accepted into four schools already. She feels that she has been prepared for college in many ways, including academics, sports, dancing, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society and Student Council. One class in particular that helped her was career exploration where she shadowed a 3/4 classroom at John Lyman for over 20 hours and had an amazing experience. It helped her decide that her major was the best fit for her.

Tim Arcari felt that this part of the year has been one of the busiest and most stressful times of his life. He is currently playing two sports, track and club soccer. Being involved in many things has taught him to manage his time well. He just finished applying to 11 colleges and has been accepted to WPI, Penn State, Clemson and University of Vermont. Next semester, he has his internship with Medtronic which will be six hours per week. He has also had to move his schedule around and will have to make up work. Tim felt that he was able to get through all of it with the help of Mr. Falcone and guidance in moving his schedule and Mrs. Scofield has helped him with college applications. His teachers and coaches have also been very flexible.

Emily Dell'Orfano plans to study music education in college and has applied to six schools. As a music student, the application process is twice as hard as you have to be accepted academically and musically. She has auditioned at two schools so far and has heard back academically from two schools. So far, she has been accepted at one school with a great scholarship. Emily feels that Cuginchaug has prepared her for this process by giving her audition and performance opportunities. The Exploring Teaching and Learning class gave her a lot of classroom observation time to know what will be asked of her if she continues on the path of a music educator.

Mr. Falcone commented that he did not edit or revise any of the students' comments, but did suggest that the students could have replaced the word Cuginchaug with Region 13 as Cuginchaug is really the end result. Mr. Falcone could not be more proud of their work.

Dr. Veronesi asked the students to comment on how they pay attention to their well-being and if there were other things that the district could do to support them in that area.

Tim Arcari felt he was pretty independent, but definitely gets help from his teachers. He mentioned that Mr. Thompson worked hard to set up his internship at Medtronic. Lindsey Marino felt that the teachers do all that they can and look out for her. Emily Dell'Orfano felt that the teachers try to connect on a personal level and help as much as possible.

Mr. Yamartino asked if they felt there was enough support for all of the students and they felt that the teachers offer extra help whenever it's needed. National Honor Society also does tutoring on Tuesdays for any student.

Approval of Minutes**A. Board of Education regular session meeting - December 11, 2018**

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Taylor, to approve the minutes of the Board of Education regular meeting of December 11, 2018, as presented.

In favor of approving the minutes of the Board of Education regular session meeting of December 11, 2018, as presented: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Board Meeting - February 13, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Library at Coginchaug Regional High School

Progress Toward Strategic Coherence Goals

Dr. Veronesi reviewed that Dr. Taylor had requested that this item be a standing item on the Board's agenda. The three goals are student achievement, well-being and engagement. Dr. Veronesi reviewed the mission statement of the district and noted that she felt that was a promise that is made to all students. In the area of student achievement, Dr. Veronesi feels that the district is getting closer and closer every day to the realization of the vision. On December 7th, the district had a professional learning day that was focused on well-being. The teachers from the high school and middle school received training in QPR (question, persuade and refer) which is suicide prevention training. The elementary school teachers also received some training from specialists on the power of PAUSE (pause, aware, understand, speak from self and experiment). They received feedback from the teachers who were grateful to learn these strategies.

Regarding the data dashboard, you can see assessment data on individual students as well as on the class, school and district level, over many years. The discussion on transition programming continues and they are working with Isobel Stevenson, from the Center for School Change, present tonight to review the Portrait of the Graduate process. Over the next several months, they will work with this process to move from an identification level to what experiences must students have in order to realize the guarantee of the mission statement.

Another part of transition planning is looking at the HOT school and STEAM planning. Dr. Veronesi reminded everyone that the HOT school planning at the state will change. Dr. Veronesi will meet with the superintendent from Colchester to talk about partnering as they have an elementary HOT school. STEAM programming across the district is continuing to expand with plans, as shared in the Student Achievement Committee, for expansion in the high school next year.

Dr. Veronesi reviewed that there will be grade-based design teams to talk about what needs to happen next relative to the school configuration that is selected by the board tonight. They will focus on the students having voice in the process and paying attention to their transitions and programming. Kindergarten registration has begun and they are working to assure parents of students registering at Lyman that students will travel with their multi-age classroom to Brewster or Memorial depending on the configuration selected, if parents chose to do so.

Dr. Veronesi emphasized that well-being is the foundation upon which all other success is built. There have been two Equity Committee meetings so far and they will hold focus groups with diverse student populations. One of the consultants from SERC, accompanied by an Equity Committee member, will hold focus groups with students on February 1st. They have also talked about a partnership with Middletown Public Schools and have decided that that would be similar to the partnership with the high school in China, in terms of being focused in the area of STEAM. A group of administrators and teachers went to Middletown last month and they viewed STEAM programming and engineering class at the high school. The plan is to collaborate at the middle school level and offer some after-school classes within the STEAM framework.

Last month, safety and security monthly drills continued and the security grant was submitted. The SRO continues to be involved at all schools and will present to the Board next month.

In the area of engagement, Dr. Veronesi reviewed that they are talking about local and international partnerships as well as the work of the Board of Education. She commented that the Board members have done an excellent job in that area. They are making significant improvements in the district-wide communication plan, including newsletters from each school on a regular basis as well as the Board of Education newsletter. Instagram posting will begin within the next few weeks. Another step in engagement was the development of the partnership with Tonji High School. The leadership team visited in the first week of December and signed a friendship and partnership agreement.

Dr. Veronesi also stressed that they are working to follow the configuration timeline and are on track. Long-term capital needs are being addressed, along with a proposed funding plan. They are committed to building a budget that supports the district's goals and priorities. The budget process is well underway.

Dr. Veronesi also showed slides about the tile mosaic project that was done at Memorial School.

Proposed Grade Level Configuration

A. Survey Results

Dr. Taylor reviewed that they had received 80 to 100 comments with the surveys. The results showed that Option A continues to be the majority vote.

Dr. Veronesi felt that the survey results were very helpful and that the district has heard the opinions of the people. Mr. Moore noted that the driving force became the single program which resulted in not having a neighborhood school being disruptive to the community. Most people felt that the building configuration became secondary with a change in the programming and that it made more sense to keep students together.

Mr. Yamartino felt that it was clear that many people have been paying attention and that the communications have been very good. He thanked the people who responded to the survey.

B. Projected Next Steps

Mr. Moore reviewed that the single program will be developed over the next two years and they will look to get an application (for construction/reimbursement) in to the state by June. Construction will not begin until probably 2020-2021 and there will be no significant changes until that time, other than developing the curriculum. They will work on the issue of choice and keeping some classrooms together as well as space concerns. Mr. Yamartino emphasized that the final designs should have enough space to accommodate all-school assemblies.

Dr. Veronesi explained that that is a focus of the strategic planning committee and they have identified that many aspects reside within John Lyman School or within the ID/HOT program. They are developing a prototype/model that all students can be a part of.

Dr. Taylor asked what timeframe is being projected for students to actually begin going to different schools and Dr. Veronesi felt, if everything went according to schedule, students would move at the start of the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Moore explained that they will look to separate that referendum from the capital needs referendum in the spring and hope to put it into the November election timeframe which would allow more time to better define the program changes. Dr. Veronesi reviewed that the application to the state needs to be turned in by June 30th, but the district could get a waiver to have the referendum vote in November. Confirmation has not been received from the state on that as of yet. Dr. Veronesi also explained that the Board could decide that separating capital bonding from school alterations might be a good decision even if there is no waiver.

C. Center for School Change: Portrait of the Graduate Process

Isobel Stevenson, from the Connecticut Center for School Change, explained that they work with districts across the state on a variety of projects and have worked with the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, specifically on what they call “Portrait of the Graduate”. Dr. Stevenson recognized the work that the Board is doing and how they are trying to recognize the needs of their constituents.

Dr. Stevenson explained that Portrait of the Graduate does not represent a deviation from the work that is already being done here, but will help to provide some structure. The hope is that students have the knowledge skills and dispositions that the district wants them to have.

Dr. Stevenson explained that “Portrait of the Graduate” and “Vision of the Graduate” work is being adopted all over the state. The NEASC 2020 standards require this for high schools and most districts are implementing it district-wide. She highlighted a few districts in the state that have implemented this work. Looking at the graduates that a district wants to create, they must look at the experiences that they must have to get there and whether they are actually having those experiences. She gave Naugatuck as a great example and mentioned Mansfield and Farmington as well.

The portraits of the graduate do not tend to vary much. Districts are interested in what the students are capable of beyond content, including deep thinking, problem solving, critical thinking, decision making. They all include power skills, including collaboration, communication, innovation and creativity, as well as the social-emotional piece, including resilience, persistence and citizenship.

Dr. Stevenson explained that districts are implementing this work for various reasons and thus with a variety of processes. They encourage the districts to identify key areas, including equity. They help districts to backwards plan from their portrait to figure out what the educational experience should look like and what needs to be built.

The visuals of “Portrait of the Graduate” tend to be very compelling and people spend a lot of time on how they want to communicate. The process generally involves a steering committee that develops the portrait. Then, backwards planning begins and they look at high quality teaching and learning. They would then look at leadership so that the capacity of the teachers is built and then at building the leaders. Once that work is done, people begin to enact the plan.

The key variable is that kids experience something really valuable in school. The goal is to develop students who have agency, who believe in themselves, who are resilient, who understand that failure is just another step in the learning process and who have really high goals and aspirations for themselves and others.

Dr. Veronesi added that the administrative team will begin a planning session next week with Dr. Stevenson. They will also look for volunteers to participate in this process.

Mrs. Geraci asked for an example of an idea that schools are putting in place to support well-being. Dr. Stevenson suggested a project design to involve students in something that is bigger than themselves, something community-focused to help build empathy and requiring teamwork. She gave an example of a high school engineering class that helped design a shovel for a teacher with no digits on her hand.

Mr. Roraback thanked Dr. Stevenson for coming and noted how impressed he was that she used the word resilient a few times. He wondered if the opportunity for resilience is sometimes taken away and asked for examples of how that can be provided. Dr. Stevenson noted that there are big debates about exactly this issue, with the amount of protection that students are provided. She noted that research shows that kids who grow up to be the most independent are kids who have to walk to school. Dr. Stevenson felt that keeping students safe yet letting them engage in risk is an excellent design question.

Dr. Taylor asked about resources dedicated to the process and some of the metrics that other districts have used to gauge the success of the process. Dr. Stevenson felt that it is rare for districts to have external or additional resources come to support something different. She did feel that you can redesign a lot of the way that students engage in instruction and it could probably be cost-neutral. As far as metrics, she felt that that is the leading edge of where most districts are. She mentioned that districts are discovering that their metrics for outcomes are much better developed than their metrics for process.

Mr. Yamartino spoke about a conversation he had with a headmaster who said that they did not want to produce well-rounded students, but wanted to identify each student's passion and help them to expand that. He asked if that would be part of the "Portrait of the Graduate" work. Dr. Stevenson described a breadth of opportunity, including a rediscovery of the arts and giving students opportunities to develop in areas other than core academics. The idea of student voice and choice includes students being able to pursue their own interests and make meaningful choices about what they spend their time on. Mr. Roraback reviewed the exploratory phase that they do in the state technical school system. Mr. Moore commented about the mock interviews he did and the variety of things that the students are interested in. He felt that the Career Center and Matt Thompson do a great job of bringing that out to the students.

A. Vote on Grade Level Configuration

Mr. Augur reported that the Utilization Committee moved the recommendation to the full Board for the single-track choice with all aye votes with the exception of one abstention.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Augur, to adopt Plan A as outlined the Facility Utilization Committee's configuration survey of December, 2018 to January, 2019, specifically a one-building track configuration, primary, intermediate, middle and high, with placement of grades PreK-2 in Brewster, grades 3-5 in Memorial, grades 6-8 in Strong and grades 9-12 in Coginchaug Regional High School, as recommended by the Regional District 13 Facility Utilization Committee at their meeting on January 9, 2019.

Mrs. Petrella felt that no matter what decision the Board makes, there will be people who are happy and some who are not. She felt that the issue has been very well-vetted and the population progression trends have been studied thoroughly. Option A has been clearly favored by the public and she believes it will

consolidate the district's resources and materials. Middlefield will still have Memorial in town. Mrs. Petrella feels more comfortable with the decision now than she did before.

Mrs. Geraci felt it was comforting to hear about how other districts are dealing with these issues and was excited to work on something really remarkable. Dr. Veronesi felt that District 13 is different, unique and incredible and she is very hopeful for the future.

In favor of adopting Plan A as outlined the Facility Utilization Committee's configuration survey of December, 2018 to January, 2019, specifically a one-building track configuration, primary, intermediate, middle and high, with placement of grades preK-2 in Brewster, grades 3-5 in Memorial, grades 6-8 in Strong and grades 9-12 in Cuginchaug Regional High School, as recommended by the Regional District 13 Facility Utilization Committee at their meeting on January 9, 2019: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Dr. Taylor abstained. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

A. Committee Appointment of Non-Board Members

Mr. Moore explained that he has reviewed a list of people who have come forward to serve on committees. He recommended Grace Guidet, a former teacher in Hamden who now runs the Gifted and Talented Program, for the Student Achievement Committee.

Mr. Yamartino made a motion, seconded by Mr. Augur, to accept the recommendation of Grace Guidet to join the Student Achievement Committee.

In favor of accepting the recommendation of Grace Guidet to join the Student Achievement Committee: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried.

Mr. Moore also recommended John Giammatteo, a photographer in Middlefield who has taught photography at Wesleyan, to join the Utilization Committee.

Mr. Yamartino made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to accept the recommendation of John Giammatteo to join the Utilization Committee.

In favor of accepting the recommendation of John Giammatteo to join the Utilization Committee: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried.

The Board took a short break at this point.

Communications

Mr. Moore reported that he received formal letters from the Benchwarmers, Cuginchaug Football Club and the boosters for the track teams regarding getting a field house on the slab. The Benchwarmers have brought forward a proposal of approximately \$80,000, with an offer to pledge \$25,000 (\$15,000 this year and \$10,000 over the next five years). The Cuginchaug Football Club has pledged \$5,000 over the next five years and the track team has proposed \$2,000 over the next five years. They have asked the Board to

consider this in the budget for this year. Mr. Moore stated that this will go the ERC in February and he will ask the Benchwarmers to bring forth their plan and estimate.

Mr. Augur asked Dr. Veronesi to respond to the communication the Board received regarding the sound quality in the Memorial gym/auditorium. Dr. Veronesi met with Tim Fisher and the sound system has been an issue for a few years. The sound board has been at Memorial for about 10 years after having been used at Coginchaug and is working well. The issue is really the quality of the speakers which would cost between \$2,000 and \$2,500 to replace. She also mentioned that the FCC may be selling the frequency that the cordless mics in RSD 13 are run on so there will likely be a change in this system next year. Mr. Fisher also mentioned that with the move of 6th grade to Strong in the 2020 school year, the middle school plays will happen there and an upgrade to the speakers at Memorial should be sufficient to handle the other performances at Memorial. Dr. Veronesi will work with Mrs. Neubig to see whether purchasing the speakers can be accommodated this year.

Ningbo Tonji High School Partnership

Dr. Veronesi stated that she had asked Mr. Falcone to provide details about the China partnership.

Mr. Falcone started by explaining that he and Dr. Veronesi have been working to open the doors of the high school and get the students out into the real world for authentic learning. The Career Center was the first step and has been highly successful. Creating a global partnership is the next step and is so important because we are two small towns in Connecticut with very little diversity.

The goal was to foster authentic cultural, educational, societal learning and opportunities for all of the students. Mr. Falcone explained that this is not another field trip; this will be total immersion into the culture and the community of Ningbo, China and for them to be a part of Tonji High School. There will be virtual opportunities to collaborate so that all students can participate as well as opportunities to host students when they come here.

This partnership will provide the students with a deeper understanding of what a global citizen is and how to make an impact and improve the global community.

Mr. Falcone went on to explain that they worked with a consultant from ACES International who clearly outlined four main areas as to why China should be chosen for the partnership. For sustainability, the Tonji High School has the finances, the desire and the commitment to see this through. For affordability, the cost for students traveling to China would be about \$2,700 where field trips to Europe are in the \$4,000 area. This would allow more students to participate. As far as compatibility, Tonji High School really focuses on science and technology and they are also interested in collaborating virtually. This would allow students to work together over time. This partnership will also include teacher learning and teacher growth. The last area of opportunity really is the fact that Ningbo is such a large city and there are so many other schools to experience as well. Tonji has a science and technology focus, but there are other schools with an arts focus.

Mr. Falcone reviewed that they were constantly on the move during their visit and the cultural difference was huge. He felt it was important that they experienced that, for both our students and the Ningbo students coming here.

There are a number of goals in the partnership agreement. Students will stay in family homes with other students. There will also be the opportunity for all students to be part of the partnership by incorporating

a virtual STEM project. The students will work together to figure out what type of project they want to work on. Host families will also get to experience the partnership as well. Also incorporated into the partnership, teachers will be teaching in China, both cultural and language lessons. The Chinese will observe the lessons and provide feedback. They will also send teachers here for the same opportunity.

The first group of approximately 20-25 students will arrive from China in the fall of 2019. Homecoming week will be held when they are here so that the students can experience that. Teachers will teach cultural lessons and the Chinese students will also participate in a field trip to somewhere like Yale and a museum, with our students going along as well. ACES International will also set up a trip for them to New York or Boston.

Our students will visit Ningbo in the spring of 2020. They will attend Tonji High School and our teachers would teach and do observations as well. They would set up enrichment activities similar to what we are providing, the students would also go to visit Beijing and they would fly back home from Shanghai.

Mr. Falcone also explained that this partnership aligns with the NEASC 2020 standards and will provide the opportunity for the school community to actively strengthen their commitment to equity and diversity, provide support for personal experience and encourages learning and experiences that connect and have an impact on the community beyond the school campus. This will be tremendously helpful with the district's accreditation.

Mr. Falcone reviewed the timeline and next steps, including who would want to travel to China, who would be interested in taking students in from China and who would want to participate in the collaborative STEAM project. They would also need to begin to help students and families understand the cultural differences.

Mr. Hicks showed the gift that Tonji High School gave to the group which was a drawing of the school itself. Mr. Falcone showed pictures from the trip, including the school campus, classrooms, students as well as the astronomy lab and planetarium.

Mr. Moore explained that there are 1,300 students in Tonji High School, with three grades, 10-12. The school also includes dormitories. There are 6 million people living in Ningbo. Mr. Falcone also showed pictures from the Ningbo Foreign Affairs School (an art school). He also reviewed pictures from Beijing and the historical sites. Mr. Falcone summarized that this will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students.

Dr. Veronesi reported she received an email today from Ningbo extending an invitation to the towns' municipal officials. Mr. Moore agreed that it would be a life-changing experience for most of the kids that go there and spoke about the incredible size and differences. Dr. Veronesi explained that she will review some of the financial numbers at budget time as well as some ideas she has about expanding partnerships for some of the younger students.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Veronesi asked the Board to submit any ideas for the next newsletter and stated that they have been very focused on utilization to this point. They would now want to focus more on what's happening educationally and experientially for our students. The transfer of the accounting system is complete with outside support and much of the internal training is happening at the hands of Tippi Popp. Dr. Veronesi

stated that this has been a very complex and intense change and Tippi has been working at night from home to get through the process.

Business Manager's Report

Mrs. Neubig reported that there is nothing out of the ordinary with the financials. Revenue is 49 percent received YTD and expenses are 45 percent expended YTD. A water heater had to be replaced at Lyman for \$11,000. She is keeping a running list of all unbudgeted repairs. MTA is running as expected, with 52 percent revenue received so far and 35 percent expenditures. The budgeted balance transfer will be done in January and the health insurance will be reimbursed in May.

Mrs. Neubig isolated the capital responsibilities from the school reconstruction in the bonding proposal. There are a few options for bonding and the \$6.9 million will not increase the current operating budget as it will take advantage of the declining debt that comes in 2021-2022. If the debt service is level-funded, those payments can cover the interest, financing costs and up-front payments. The first principal payment would be due in 2021-2022. The \$6.9 million will cover all of the district's immediate needs, not including Lyman, and will also provide the ability to do some of the work that will come to the end of life in 2023.

Mrs. Neubig asked that the Board gives her some direction as to what their comfort level would be for bonding. If they went to \$13 million, it would increase the budget by .66 percent in the first year, 1.15 percent in the next year and then begin to decline. With the \$13 million, all immediate needs, end-of-life 2023 needs and other things can be done. She explained that there are numbers in between \$6.9 and \$13 million that can be chosen.

Mr. Augur stated that they had discussed this at the Finance Committee and he suggested that the presentation show \$6.9, \$10 and \$13 million. Dr. Veronesi stated that the Board needs to make a decision at their next meeting in February if this is going to happen at a referendum in May. Mr. Moore stated that the ERC will review it and the Board will take action next month.

Vote to approve audit report

Mrs. Neubig stated that the audit report was presented to the ERC in December. Mr. Moore reviewed that Blum Shapiro commented on one very minor issue with after-the-fact purchase orders which is being progressively addressed.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Taylor, to approve the 2017-2018 audit.

In favor of approving the 2017-2018 audit: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried.

New Business

A. 2019-2020 Board of Education and Committee Meeting Schedules

Dr. Veronesi asked that the Board members give any feedback on the meeting schedules to either her or Mr. Moore. Utilization meetings have been switched to 6:00 p.m.

B. 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 District Calendars

Dr. Veronesi explained that they are trying to do two years of the school calendar and asked the Board to review them. The unions are reviewing it as well. Dr. Veronesi also explained that they took away two early release days and made it one day after the two February break days so that students would actually have three days off. In response to Mr. Taylor's question, Dr. Veronesi noted that teachers were not generally in favor of professional development days being on Fridays due to the disruption to student learning on the same day.

C. Board Retreat

Mr. Moore stated that the Board Retreat will be held on January 19, 2019 at the Durham Town Hall at 8:30. They will finish up goals and objectives, have a budget workshop and go over performance review for the superintendent in executive session.

D. Field Trip Requests

Mr. Moore reviewed that they have received two requests, including one to Avery Point. Mr. Hicks had an issue with the Avery Point field trip as there was no employee going on the trip, but he was assured tonight that a teacher will make the trip. Dr. Veronesi explained that it was a former teacher who signed the form.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Yamartino, to approve the field trip to Avery Point on February 1 and 2, 2019, with the understanding that this trip may be withdrawn at any time by actions of Homeland Security or other law enforcement agencies and that parents or guardians will be apprised of this action.

In favor of approving the field trip to Avery Point on February 1 and 2, 2019: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Veronesi reviewed that the ski trip will now use a bus, rather than the district's vans. Some Lyman Hall students will accompany our students, so they will use bus transportation. There is no change to the cost.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Taylor, to amend the already-approved bus trip to Mt. Snow to include taking a bus instead of the school van and accompanied by students from Lyman Hall.

In favor of the amending the already-approved bus trip to Mt. Snow to include taking a bus instead of the school van and accompanied by students from Lyman Hall: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Roger Kleeman, from Durham, asked if bids were solicited for the \$11,000 hot water heater. Mrs. Neubig stated that it was under \$25,000 and no bids were solicited. Mr. Kleeman suggested that they Board look at that policy as the town's policy is significantly different.

Adjournment

A motion was made, seconded by Mrs. Geraci, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education.

In favor of adjourning the meeting: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mr. Roraback, Mrs. Petrella, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Debi Waz

Debi Waz
Alwaz First