

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Library at Coginchaug Regional High School, Durham, Connecticut.

Board members present: Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks (arrived late), Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino.

Board members absent: Mr. Augur

Administration present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools and Mrs. Neubig, Business Manager.

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

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Moore suggested adding that they board will recess after item 7 for the public hearing.

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

*Dr. Taylor made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to add an item to have a discussion about the survey and some concerns have been raised.*

Dr. Veronesi explained that that item is on the agenda for the April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, but Dr. Taylor stated that he will not be at that meeting. Dr. Moore agreed to add it after item 8.

*In favor of approving the amendments, as proposed: Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.*

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

### **Public Comment**

Donia Viola, from Durham, was present as she thought this was where the board was going to formulate the budget for approval and stated that she is disturbed that the Board of Education paid something like \$38,000 to take a trip to China. She felt like the board was acting like the state in that they know how to get more money, but not how to spend it. The consensus in China seems to be that they don't value life and are just coming around to accepting children without killing them if they aren't a son. She stated that it was about 15 years ago that China had the white-nosed dolphin in the Yangtze River and they allowed them to be hunted and become extinct. Mrs. Viola also stated that the district doesn't even have a Chinese course in school. The dominant foreign language in the US is Spanish and she would like to see that in the elementary schools as she feels that Spanish will be spoken by the majority of US residents as Caucasian is now. She, of course, would like to see English stay as the number one. Mrs. Viola does not feel that the culture or the politics (a Communist country) is what we would like to see our children share value with. She does not feel their values meet our aspiration or expectations and does not want to see our children put in that position. She does not like to see a budget item for \$28,000 when \$38,000 was already spent on something she finds to be unwarranted and uncalled for and unacceptable. Mrs. Viola also commented on the Latin program and stated that it is a dead language and has been for some time. A

lot of words are also derived from Greek, if the board wanted to look at other languages. She feels that any child will pick up on whatever is provided, if they have the will, encouragement and support. She was taken back when she saw the letter from Mrs. Horn in the Town Times where she stated that if it weren't for the Spanish program helping the English teachers with regard to grammatically correct indirect or direct nouns. She felt that the English teachers should be teaching all of that. Mrs. Viola asked that the board give serious consideration to reformulating the budget and she does not feel Latin needs to continue if it doesn't interfere with the rest of the program. She does not want to see sign language or Chinese offered and she strongly supports Spanish.

### **Approval of Minutes**

#### **A. Board of Education Regular Session Meeting - March 13, 2019**

*Dr. Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Dr. Taylor, to approve minutes of the March 13, 2019 regular session meet.*

*In favor of approving the minutes of the March 13, 2019 minutes, as presented: Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.*

#### **Next Board Meeting - April 10, 2019 at Coginchaug Regional High School**

##### **A. Board of Education meeting in the library at 7:30 PM**

##### **B. Public Hearing on the 2019-2020 Education Budget in the auditorium at 8:00 PM**

### **Approve graduation date, last day of school and last day for staff**

Dr. Veronesi stated that June 14<sup>th</sup> will be the graduation date and last day of school.

*Dr. Taylor made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve June 14, 2019 as the last day of school and graduation date.*

*In favor of approving June 14, 2019 as the last day of school and graduation date: Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.*

### **Committee Reports**

#### **A. Utilization Committee Meeting - March 28, 2019**

Dr. Taylor reported that they discussed a bit about the Korn building update and there really hasn't been a lot of movement from the town. They would like to bring this discussion back to the board about what should be done long-term with this building. They also had a discussion about sixth grade transition and the optimal timing of that. They also had some discussion about the EdSpecs with regard to Brewster and Memorial as well as a brief discussion about the school safety plan. Lastly, they reviewed the Building Committee's charge and the hope was that they would take over a lot of the aspects of Utilization. Mr. Moore added that the members of the Building Committee are Phil Augur, Martin Anderson, Darin Overton, Will Norton, John Giammatteo and Missy Booth. Mr. Moore explained that

anyone who would like to serve on the committee is still welcome. Dr. Veronesi also added that the EdSpecs will be voted on at next week's board meeting and they plan to have a discussion about Korn School at that meeting as well. Dr. Veronesi met with Laura Francis this morning and she asked if she could attend a Utilization Committee meeting.

#### **B. Educational Resources Committee Meeting - April 3, 2019**

Mr. Moore explained that the ERC meeting had been canceled.

The board recessed to the public hearing at this point.

Mr. Moore called the meeting back to order.

#### **Consider and act upon resolutions with respect to an appropriation and borrowing authorization for costs related to the design, construction and implementation of various capital improvements to District schools, facilities and property, and related improvements and work, the calling of a District referendum thereon, and related matters.**

*Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Yamartino, to approve the resolutions with respect to an appropriation and borrowing authorization for costs related to the design, construction and implementation of various capital improvements to District schools, facilities and property, and related improvements and work, the calling of a District referendum thereon, and related matters and to waive a reading of said resolutions, copies of which are available here and the District's office, but to include them as part of the minutes.*

*In favor of approving the resolutions with respect to an appropriation and borrowing authorization for costs related to the design, construction and implementation of various capital improvements to District schools, facilities and property, and related improvements and work, the calling of a District referendum thereon, and related matters and to waive a reading of said resolutions, copies of which are available here and the District's office, but to include them as part of the minutes: Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Moore announced that the referendum will be on May 7, 2019, along with the referendum on the total budget. The public hearing on the total budget will be next Wednesday in the auditorium.

#### **Engagement Survey**

Dr. Taylor wanted to know where the district stood after hearing the stance of the teachers' union. Mr. Moore explained that he had referred Mr. Bradanini's request from the executive board that the board destroys any survey results that have been received to the district's lawyer. He has not heard back yet and would like to evaluate the legal aspects before the board takes any action. It is on the agenda for next week's meeting.

**Communications**

Mr. Moore has received letters from Nick Faiella and Henry Bugai and others about the field house.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Adjournment**

*Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Geraci, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education.*

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

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz  
Alwaz First

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 13 ADOPTED APRIL 3, 2019**  
**APPROPRIATING \$6,900,000 FOR DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO DISTRICT SCHOOLS, FACILITIES AND PROPERTY, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND TEMPORARY NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION**

RESOLVED,

1. That Regional School District No. 13 of the State of Connecticut appropriate SIX MILLION NINE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$6,900,000) for costs related to the design, construction and implementation of various capital improvements to District schools, facilities and property, contemplated to include:

- On the Coginchaug Regional High School/Frank W. Strong Middle School campus, resurfacing of all or portions of Pickett Lane and replacement of the Pickett Lane culvert near the former Francis Korn Elementary School;
- At Coginchaug Regional High School, installation of a water line connection and sprinkler system, ADA upgrades to the auditorium and parking lot, and conversion of the heating system boiler from oil to natural gas;
- At Frank W. Strong Middle School, conversion of the heating system boiler from oil to natural gas;
- At Memorial Middle School, upgrades to the heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems including conversion from steam to hot water heating, replacement of the building automation system, lighting upgrades, and replacement of all or portions of the media center and the cafeteria roofs;
- At Frederick F. Brewster Elementary School, upgrades to the heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems including replacement of boilers, upgrades to the building automatic systems, an electrical equipment preventative maintenance thermal scan, installation of a sprinkler system, replacement of exterior doors, investigation of septic system, and installation of an emergency generator; and
- related work and improvements.

The appropriation may be spent for design, demolition, installation and construction costs, equipment, materials, testing costs, disposal costs, architects' fees, engineering fees, construction management costs and fees, grant application and management costs, legal fees, net interest on borrowings, other financing costs, and other expenses related to the projects. The Regional School District 13 Building Committee,

established by the District Board of Education as the building committee for each of the projects, shall be authorized to determine the scope and particulars of each of the projects, and may reduce or modify the scope of each of the projects as desirable, and the entire appropriation may be spent on the projects as so reduced or modified. The District anticipates receiving grants from the State of Connecticut for a portion of the eligible costs of various of the projects to defray in part the appropriation.

2. That the District issue its bonds and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed SIX MILLION NINE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$6,900,000) to finance the appropriation for the projects. The amount of the bonds authorized shall be reduced by the amount of grants received by the District for the projects. The bonds and temporary notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 10-56 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds and notes shall be general obligations of the District and its member towns, secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the District and its member towns. The law firm of Day Pitney LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds and notes. The Chairman and the Treasurer of the Board of Education, or such officer or body to whom the Board of Education delegates the authority to make such determinations, are authorized to determine the amounts, dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds and notes; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds or notes; to provide for keeping a record of the bonds or notes; to designate a financial advisor to the District in connection with the sale of the bonds or notes; to sell the bonds or notes at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes.

3. That the District hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that the District reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the projects. The Chairman and the Treasurer, or such officer or body to whom the Board of Education delegates such authority, are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the District pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes authorized by this resolution if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

4. That the Chairman and the Treasurer, or such officer or body to whom the Board delegates such authority, are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds or notes.

5. That the Regional School District 13 Building Committee is authorized to contract with architects, engineers, contractors and others in the name and on behalf of the District with respect to each of the projects, to approve design and construction expenditures for each of the projects, and to exercise such other powers as are necessary or appropriate to complete each of the projects. Committee members shall not receive any compensation for their services. Necessary expenses of the Committee shall be included in the cost of the projects. The records of the Committee shall be filed with the Secretary of the District Board of Education and shall be open to public inspection during normal business hours. Upon

completion of the projects, the Committee shall make a complete report and accounting to the District Board of Education.

6. That the authorization of bonds and temporary notes shall be subject to approval by a referendum vote to be held in the Towns of Durham and Middlefield, being all of the towns comprising said District.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education recommends to the towns comprising Regional School District No. 13 that the aforesaid bond and temporary note authorizations be approved by referendum vote; and that said referendum be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2019; that notice of said referendum be given by publication and posting between five and fifteen days before said date, and that said notices of the referendum in the Towns of Durham and Middlefield be substantially in the following form:

“WARNING  
REFERENDUM VOTE  
Regional School District No. 13  
Town of \_\_\_\_\_  
May 7, 2019

A referendum vote of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of \_\_\_\_\_, Connecticut will be held in the Town of \_\_\_\_\_ at the following polling places:

*[INSERT TOWN POLLING PLACES]*

and simultaneously in the other Town in Regional School District No. 13 on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. pursuant to Section 10-56 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, upon a resolution adopted by the Regional Board of Education at meeting held April 3, 2019, which will be placed on the ballots as the following question:

SHALL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 13 APPROPRIATE \$6,900,000 FOR DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO DISTRICT SCHOOLS, FACILITIES AND PROPERTY, AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND TEMPORARY NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION?

Voters approving the resolution shall vote “Yes” and those opposing the resolution shall vote “No”. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk’s office. The full text of the resolution adopted by the Regional Board of Education is on file and available for public inspection in the Town Clerk’s office.

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_, Connecticut this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk  
Town of \_\_\_\_\_ “

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Board of Education is authorized, in such official’s discretion, to prepare, and to cause to be printed and disseminated, a concise explanatory text or other printed material regarding the aforesaid question to be submitted to the voters of the District at referendum to be held May 7, 2019, such explanatory text to be subject to the approval of the District’s general counsel and to be prepared and disseminated in accordance with Section 9-369b of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended.