

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Library at Coginchaug Regional High School, Durham, Connecticut.

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

Board members absent: Mrs. Caramanello and Dr. Taylor

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. Hicks asked to add six items to New Business that have to do with the vestibules at the two schools. Items D and E will be moved to J and K. Mr. Hicks would also like to add the words “possible vote to authorize the Superintendent to complete the hiring process” to item 19 and the vote will be in public session.

Dr. Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Geraci, to approve the agenda, as amended.

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

Public Comment

None.

Administrator Welcome - Brian Falcone

Mr. Falcone reported that there are many exciting opportunities for the students between now and the end of the year. They are here tonight to highlight the Senior Field Experiences program.

Mrs. Melillo explained that they had two goals in mind for the course, the first being opening the doors of the classroom into the real world and the second being choice. They provided a variety of offerings and came up with five experiences that were offered this year. They included Emerging Business Leaders, Career Exploration, Campus Unification, Making a Difference Through Community and Exploring Teaching and Learning. Students were present tonight to briefly speak on each field experience.

Bryce Fleck and Cole Niedmann are members of the Emerging Business Leaders senior experience. They found that this experience did a lot for them and allowed them to gauge their interest in their field of choice. The goal was to gain a deeper understanding in their field. Three out of nine students went to the international competition and five out of nine placed in the state competition. They felt it was a fantastic experience.

Connor Rulnick was in Mr. Thompson’s Career Exploration class. This class gives students the opportunity to leave Coginchaug and shadow positions. He shadowed at Physical Therapy Sports

Medicine Center in Middletown. He felt it was a great, hands-on experience but it did make him realize he didn't want to do physical therapy. They also did mock interviews in class as well as had presentations from local businesspeople.

Tanner Jameson participated in the Campus Unification class. This class was all about leaving Coginchaug better than they inherited it. Each student was given the opportunity to improve the school with their own talents. Some groups worked on murals around the school, another group cleaned and filled the cracks in the outdoor basketball courts and a group created a vegetable garden to supply the nutrition class. The class taught students to never underestimate the task at hand and the morals of resilience, integrity, responsibility and teamwork. A car show fundraiser will be held on Sunday at Coginchaug from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Kelsey O'Sullivan and Anna Rose DiPentima represented the Making a Difference to the Community. In the beginning of the year, students chose a location to volunteer at, such as animal shelters and healthcare. Both students volunteered at Twin Maples as they are both interested in careers in healthcare. The group is also working to organize the school-wide Senior Service Day which will take place on May 23rd, starting with breakfast at Allyn Brook Park at 9:00 AM. They then go to their assigned workplaces and then gather back at 12:30 PM for lunch. Jobs will include painting, weeding and working on the trails behind Brewster School. This day allows the seniors to give back to the community after all the years the community gave to them as well as spend time with friends one more time before they graduate.

Kate Cummings participated in the Exploring Teaching and Learning class. They started off the year by observing classrooms and saw how the classrooms function through the lens of both the teacher and the students. After observations, they reflected on what they saw to begin developing their own teaching persona. They were given an assignment each quarter to create a bulletin board which illustrated a theme in education, including the 4Cs (creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and communication) as well as others. They also developed lessons for the STEAM camp participation at Brewster, Lyman and Memorial. They were also responsible for collecting the materials, doing a trial run and conducting the lessons with the children. During the third quarter, the students designed a lesson plan and worked with the cooperating teacher. They taught the lesson within the classroom which helped them gain practice in the classroom and confirm if teaching is the career path they want to pursue. It also opened the students' eyes to how much work and time teachers put in. Finally, they worked on describing their own ideal classrooms.

Margaret Fiondella read an email that was sent to Mr. Thompson and Mr. Falcone about Tim Arcari's senior field experience. Tim Arcari presented his project to the staff at Medtronics. They expect to see a significant drop in the total number of rejects from the visual inspection station that is based on Tim's work. They estimate a six-figure savings. The email was signed by Jim Ledford, Engineer Manager, at Medtronics.

Dr. Friedrich added his congratulations to Mr. Falcone for the success of the program.

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

Tim Arcari reviewed that the Marty Roberts Invitational Track Meet was held two Saturdays ago, with about 21 schools and 1,500 athletes participating. Coginchaug won the meet. Last week, the National Honor Society inducted 22 students, including four seniors and 18 juniors. AP exams have been going on for the past two weeks. Sophomores went to Wesleyan on April 26th for the Middlesex Career Fair which went really well. On May 6th, Trooper Hesselstine organized the Choices Matter assembly which had a

speaker talking about how alcohol influenced his life along with an interactive session. The Blue Devil Fair is scheduled for this Friday, where Strong students take a tour of Coginchaug, eat lunch and review academic courses as well as sports programs. Finally, the second round of mock interviews are next week and he also has his interview with Medtronic tomorrow.

Emily Dell'Orfano reported that the Music Department competed in Festival Disney from April 11th through the 15th. They brought 150 students (29 percent of the student body). Concert band was rated excellent and won third in class. Jazz band was rated superior and won second in class. Concert choir was also rated superior and won best in class. Chamber choir was rated superior and won best in class and won gold for earning the highest choir score. The Jazz band concert was held on May 9th and the Wind Ensemble and Chamber Choir Concert will be held on May 23rd. On May 27th, the Band will march in the Memorial Day Parade and performing during the ceremony on the Green and the final Concert Band and Concert Choir performances will be on May 29th. All performances will be at 7:30 PM in the auditorium.

Lindsey Marino reported that 12 students participated in Coginchaug's official NCAA signing event and will be a part of Division I, II and III athletics. The Senior Scholarship night is coming up on June 4th in the auditorium. The Coginchaug Awards ceremony will also be held in the auditorium on June 10th. The Junior and Senior Prom will be on Saturday at Water's Edge in Westbrook. The Senior Class Picnic will be at Holiday Hill on Friday, May 31st. The 2019 Coginchaug graduation ceremony is on Friday, June 14th, at 6:00 PM at the field, weather permitting.

Mr. Moore explained that June 12th will be the last meeting with the CRHS reporters when they will introduce the new reporters.

CABE Student Leadership Award Recipients - Hayden Gonzales, Jayson Penney, Ava Pitruzzello and Pierce Stephan

Dr. Veronesi explained that the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education awarded their student leadership awards to Hayden Gonzales and Jason Penney at the middle school. Dr. Veronesi also reported that Ava Pitruzzello and Pierce Stephan were the students awarded at the high school. Dr. Veronesi read the awards for all four of the students.

Acknowledgments - CRHS Chorus, Band and Play

Mr. Moore read a recognition of Beauty and the Beast as well as the Coginchaug Regional High School Band and Chorus for their performance at the Disney Festival music competition.

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hicks, to accept the recognitions.

In favor of accepting the recognitions: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

A. Board of Education Regular Session Meeting - April 3, 2019

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Geraci, to approve minutes of the April 3, 2019 regular session meeting.

In favor of approving the minutes of the April 3, 2019 minutes, as presented: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Board of Education Public Hearing on Capital Projects Bonding - April 3, 2019

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roraback, to approve minutes of the April 3, 2019 public hearing on capital projects bonding.

In favor of approving the minutes of the April 3, 2019 minutes, as presented: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Board of Education regular session meeting - April 10, 2019

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Petrella, to approve minutes of the April 10, 2019 regular session meeting.

In favor of approving the minutes of the April 3, 2019 minutes, as presented: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Board of Education Public Hearing on Education Budget - April 10, 2019

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Geraci, to approve minutes of the April 10, 2019 public hearing on education budget.

In favor of approving the minutes of the April 10, 2019 minutes, as presented: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Board Meeting - May 29, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Library at Coginchaug Regional High School

Progress Toward Strategic Coherence Goals

Dr. Veronesi reported that the district has completed almost all SBAC and NGSS testing and the students have done a remarkable job. They will start iReady testing next week and Mrs. DiMaggio will review the results at the June Student Achievement meeting. One strategy is to align professional learning with identified student learning outcomes and the May 24th PD will include curriculum writing and continued work on report cards. They have worked with the CT STEAM Academy and programming will be provided for students on an early release day. The work continues on the Data Dashboard and a field has been added for math fluency and the interventionists have been trained on how to add data on their students in order to analyze the performance of those students.

As far as designing schedules and programs that align with identified student learning outcomes, the decision was made to keep the Latin teacher at 1.0 FTE at Strong School. Summer school will also be provided this year. The Portrait of the Graduate work will kick off next Thursday night and some staffing changes are starting to be made with teachers who have worked in the ID program transferring to the

Contemporary program next year. This is in preparation of the changes that will be happening in the next few years as well as the sixth grade moving to Strong School at the end of next year.

In terms of well-being, the district has applied for a \$25,000 grant to support internal family systems work and if it is received, the district will be the first ever to receive that grant for implementation of that programming. Partnerships with outside agencies to support social-emotional learning has continued. The fourth proactive parenting session was held at IDS last month with the focus on mental health. Each session in that series had approximately 30 parents attend. The district is now doing exit interviews with everyone leaving the district and Mrs. Manning is working to get feedback. While the students have been going through the testing these last few weeks, they have been using some research-proven strategies including brain breaks, yoga, board games and breathing activities. The district continues to focus on safety and security and they are exploring ALICE (alert, lockdown, inform, counter and evacuate) training. In addition, they are always working on updating drills and processes that are used. The state had asked the district to look at the process used for family reunification, so Sue Gaudreau and Dr. Veronesi have been working on finalizing the form for that. Dr. Veronesi asked Tim Fisher if they could use the band class to run a reunification drill after the Memorial Day parade. In terms of the equity work, five Coginchaug students were awarded scholarships to attend the Dismantling Racism conference and the district was one of eight districts who received an award for their work on social equity and racial justice. Student focus groups have been held on issues relative to equity and diversity and a report will be shared with the Board at the June meeting. Over the course of the past month, they have worked on finalizing the partnership with Middletown High School which will focus on experiences that students are having around equity and diversity. That work will begin in the fall. Doing a curriculum audit to see how equity and diversity is included would be an enormous project, so they are making sure to include this focus in the new curriculum that is being written.

Regarding engagement, the communication plan that has been developed has been followed throughout the year. Central Office puts out a bimonthly update for all employees that comes out every other Wednesday. Close to 300 staff members receive these updates and approximately 250 people read it each time. The partnership with Ningbo, China has been finalized with an agreement and their students will spend 12 days here just after the Durham Fair. We will be accepting 21 students and so far, seven host families in our community have signed up. At this point, 13 CRHS students have signed up to travel to Ningbo in the spring.

Dr. Veronesi reiterated that there are some grant opportunities in advancing the HOT approach. The State Department of Education is still looking to advance the HOT approach and is hopeful that District 13 will be a leader in that work. Finally, the district has developed and will be following a designated capital plan.

Mrs. Geraci asked if the district has thought about doing anything regarding the news of the measles outbreak and educating people on vaccinations. She felt that would be important for the children in the district. Dr. Veronesi indicated she will talk to the head nurse about that tomorrow and follow-up with Mrs. Geraci. Mr. Yamartino thought that could be coordinated with each of the towns' public health departments and/or health district and felt they may have a lot of materials available.

Mr. Yamartino felt that a lot has been accomplished over the past year by the administration, teachers and students and thought it would be nice to have a summary go out as a communication to the community. He was thinking of some kind of annual report of the Board of Education that would show how they performed financially and relative to achievement. Mr. Moore added that he will include a lot of that in the community newsletter. Dr. Veronesi felt that the fourth community newsletter from the board could

be an annual report. Mr. Hicks added that ACES is required to do that every year and he will share that with Dr. Veronesi.

Committee Reports

A. Well-Being Committee Meeting - April 23, 2019

Mr. Moore reported that the committee spent some time trying to come up with a definition of the committee and what its role would be. Their focus will be to first find out what's going on and if there are any obvious holes. Mrs. Caramanello will be attending the faculty well-being committee meeting to get a sense of what they are doing. They also talked about recognitions of both students and faculty and if there was anything else the board should be doing. Mrs. Schaefer talked about how the students work with the SRO. A student climate survey is done in the fall every other year and Mrs. Caramanello was interested to see if one could be done in the spring just for the high school or just for the middle school to get a sense of whether springtime is a better time for a survey. They also talked about security and the lockdown for the threat against Durham Manufacturing. Nobody knew what was going on during that time nor did anyone know what the end product was. They discussed whether or not there should be a statement after an incident to either the students and/or the teachers. Dr. Veronesi explained that the faculty is always informed directly after a situation. The last thing the committee did was to talk about what the students want and that included lacrosse and field hockey as well as girls' golf for Spring sports. They also had interest to have a place to hang out and gather before and after. The committee talked about the coffee bar that the students run in China and they were very interested in having a place where both teachers and students could gather. The next committee meeting is on May 28th.

Mrs. Petrella felt that the presentation given by Mr. Falcone and the SRO a while back was only the tip of the iceberg. The connection with the students is at a whole other level. Dr. Veronesi also stated that the SRO has supported individual students in different situations and how that could be another avenue of support for a student or a family.

B. Human Resources Committee Meeting - April 23, 2019

Mrs. Petrella reported that the committee reviewed the district and building staffing. There were some positions that have different names and they are working to clarify that. Mrs. Manning is also working on job descriptions. They also reviewed the stipend positions and they may revisit that. Dr. Veronesi stated that the district will be in teacher negotiations this fall and that will probably be an appropriate time to look at that. She also noted that two negotiations ago, the board had identified a sum of money that was given to the teachers' union to assign the compensation to the positions. Mr. Augur would like the language to be the same across all platforms. Dr. Veronesi hopes to have the list online and each position would have a hyperlink to its job description.

The committee also reviewed the superintendent's evaluation document. There are five performance ratings and Mrs. Petrella stated that it would be okay to use .5 in the ratings. Mrs. Petrella then reviewed the rubric and the difference between 1s and 2s. Mrs. Petrella suggested taking out the wording about a performance improvement plan should be created. Mr. Hicks felt that if someone was receiving a 1, some sort of remediation plan should be in place. It was generally agreed to remove the wording.

The committee weighted each of the four areas of the evaluation and student achievement and fiscal oversight were clearly significantly more important. They are weighted at 40 percent each, with well-being and engagement being 10 percent each. The math will automatically be done.

Mrs. Petrella went on to suggest some other wording changes in several areas and there was discussion about what could be included in notes. It was agreed to include an area for comments. Mrs. Petrella explained that the evaluation form will be sent out to the board members and will need to be returned as soon as possible. Dr. Veronesi will receive all of the comments as well as a summary. Mr. Moore explained that the May 29th meeting was to be for the superintendent evaluation unless Mrs. Petrella didn't feel there was enough time. Dr. Veronesi didn't have a problem with the evaluation being moved to June 12th, if needed. It was generally agreed to move the superintendent's evaluation to the June 12, 2019 meeting.

Mrs. Petrella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hicks, to approve the revised superintendent's evaluation document.

In favor of approving the revised superintendent's evaluation document: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Student Achievement Committee Meeting - April 24, 2019

Mrs. Petrella reported that the report cards are in the process of being revised for grades K through 5 and will reflect the standards, Common Core, NGSS, science and social studies. Instead of grading, there will be rubrics, 1 through 4, with 1 being the lowest. During the school year, the majority of students will have 3's and 4's, with the starting points being at 1 and 2. The committee had a discussion about the students starting each year with 1s and 2s. There was some discussion about the fact that nothing showed that students exceeded.

Dr. Friedrich felt that the point was to move to a standards-based system and one feature of that is that during any year, the students will be graded at the end-of-year standards which will likely mean that most people will get low scores in the beginning.

Dr. Veronesi believes that it gives greater specificity and will be much clearer in terms of what is being taught is aligned with standards. She does believe that it is important to have communication with parents very early and hopefully share an example with parents this year. Mr. Augur and Mrs. Geraci felt that the elementary teachers are doing this already.

Mrs. Petrella went on to explain that the committee looked at grading practices and how it's done districtwide. They discussed homework and other policies, perhaps a no zero policy, opportunities to make up missed work, formative assessments vs. grading averaging and grades on particular standards. The committee questioned whether students would do homework if they knew it wasn't counted and there was a discussion about the purpose of homework, practice vs. learning. Dr. Friedrich felt that this was an enormous and revolutionary effort and is consistent with the development of the one-track program.

The committee also discussed summer school and approximately 40 tier 2 intervention students were identified in grades K through 3 for the program. There will be approximately four teachers and a coordinator or two. Summer school will run from July 8th through August 1st at Brewster. There is no charge for summer school, but there may be a charge for transportation.

The committee discussed Portrait of the Graduate and felt that some of the parents are confused about what it means. Mrs. Petrella reviewed that work has begun and went over some of the meeting dates. Dr. Veronesi explained that about 400 people have answered the Thought Exchange question and the district has gained some very rich information.

They also had some discussion about course credit for the music program and Dr. Friedrich explained that the reason for that is that the school system is downgraded in arts because the students don't get enough course credit. Mrs. DiMaggio was going to talk to somebody to find out what can be done about that. They also discussed credit for sports taking the place of PE classes.

Mr. Yamartino asked how the district will handle students who can't afford the transportation charge for summer school. Dr. Veronesi explained that just because 40 students have been identified does not mean that all 40 students will attend. She will meet with Mrs. DiMaggio tomorrow and ask her about the course credits and an update on summer school and transportation. She will include that information in her update this weekend.

D. Utilization Committee Meeting - April 25, 2019

Mr. Moore reviewed that the Utilization Committee met with the Selectmen to talk about Korn School. The two options had always been to tear the building down or sell it to Durham. At this meeting, Utilization was asked to go back and look at more options, including leases, rents and possible other uses. Dr. Veronesi has put together costs for maintenance of the building and any short-term improvements that are needed. Mr. Moore mentioned that the state bonding is done in 2023 which would then free the building up for virtually any use.

Dr. Veronesi prepared a draft fact sheet and she asked the board members to review it and give her feedback. Dr. Friedrich reviewed that Laura Francis had stated that she will not prepare another package to have the town take over the building, but it would be possible to move the Community Center to Korn School. They would be willing to pay the same amount of rent that they pay now, however that would be less than what it costs the district to keep the school in mothballs. Mrs. Francis had asked the committee to think of other uses for the building that might bring in money. Dr. Friedrich summarized that the building would remain the district's and, therefore, any repairs, etc. would be the responsibility of the district.

Mr. Augur thought that the attorneys had said that the district could not be a landlord and Mr. Moore reviewed that those opinions were about leasing and/or selling under the current conditions of the State bond. Mrs. Neubig explained that the State construction grant has been forgiven, but the bond amount of \$222,000 still lives until 2023 and that is what limits the district's use of the building. Dr. Veronesi felt that they needed a summary of the various options and costs.

Mr. Augur asked if the committee had talked to Ed Bailey about Lyman School and Mr. Moore stated that they did not talk about that, but a new Town Planner will be coming on July 1st and they asked that the Town Planner be included in any of this. Mr. Moore also reported that the Building Committee will look at bathroom facilities in the storage shed and come up with a cost. The next Utilization Committee meeting will be on May 30th.

Communications

Mr. Moore reported that both the budget and bond issue passed at the referendum. He also reported that Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Yamartino and Dr. Friedrich had been re-elected to the Board and Missy Booth was also elected from Durham. Mr. Moore mentioned that the board will be sorry to see Mr. Augur leave.

Mr. Moore also received an email from Ryan and Christine Walsh about a bus stop issue which Mrs. Neubig resolved very quickly. Mr. Moore also spoke with Nick Faiella was told the handicapped portapotty overflowed at the track meet and they had extra ones brought in.

Mr. Hicks wanted to clarify some issues from last meeting, one being that the board could not take action on executive session as it wasn't noticed. He looked into that and it was incorrect. It also requires a simple majority to go into executive session, not two-thirds.

Mr. Yamartino received communication from Melissa DiPietro about the current status of the playground equipment at Memorial. She stated that the equipment there is not in great condition and she asked if the Korn playground equipment could be relocated to that facility or if there was any money available. Dr. Veronesi responded that it was not in the current capital plan, but would be looked at later.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Veronesi explained that she had spoken to Silver Petrucelli today about the vestibule plans at Cuginchaug and Strong and whether that project should be linked to the alterations of Brewster and Memorial. If the district is going to referendum on Brewster and Memorial in November and are likely to add those vestibules, Silver Petrucelli encouraged her to bundle those, though they can always be taken off. The combined vestibules at Brewster and Memorial will total \$276,000 which would be added to the \$4 million project. If the reimbursement comes in at 52.5 percent, the total cost to the district is estimated at just over \$2 million. This is why they have added the votes to tonight's agenda.

Dr. Veronesi also suggested adding an ERC meeting right before the board meeting on May 29th to go over these issues.

Business Manager's Report

Mrs. Neubig reported that 82.5 percent of the budgeted revenue has been received and 77.6 percent of budgeted expenditures have been expended to date. She is not forecasting a large fund balance to be carried over at the end of this year and it looks as though it will be approximately a \$250,000 surplus. Salaries are estimated to have \$150,000 surplus and benefits will have a surplus of close to \$300,000. Legal will also have a surplus as they have not expended the Korn legal transfer that was budgeted. The tuition account has a deficit of close to \$90,000 and the buildings repair account is running at a deficit of \$33,000. Fuel has a deficit of \$5,000 so far this year, specifically at Korn because it was not budgeted for the entire year. MTA is at 108.5 percent of revenue received, with a surplus of \$200,000. MTA is 78 percent expended and the health insurance will transfer in June.

Mrs. Neubig received two bids for audit services, one complete and one incomplete. Mrs. Geraci also reviewed the bids and they both agreed to go with the incumbent auditor. Mrs. Geraci suggested a partner change, but to stick with Blum Shapiro for audit services.

They are also exploring informational meetings with ECG, the energy conservation group, who will be attending the special ERC meeting on May 29th with an energy company and they will give a full presentation. If the ERC recommends it, they could possibly present to the full board that night.

Healthy Food Certification - vote on Healthy Food Initiative and Food Exemptions

Mrs. Neubig explained that the district participates in the Healthy Food service and needs to vote to continue to do so. They would also need to vote on exemptions for fundraisers and concessions.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to continue participation in the Healthy Food Initiative.

In favor of continuing participation in the Healthy Food Initiative: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to allow food exemptions.

In favor of allowing food exemptions: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

A. Vote to accept donation of sprinkler system for the varsity baseball field

Dr. Veronesi explained that this is an after-the-fact acceptance as the Babe Ruth organization paid for and had the sprinkler system installed prior to it coming to the board for formal approval. The donation has a total value of \$5,764.17.

Dr. Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Geraci, to accept the donation of the sprinkler system.

In favor of accepting the donation of the sprinkler system: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Veronesi will send a thank you vote on behalf of the board.

B. Vote to send Brewster Elementary School Alteration and Extension project to referendum on November 5, 2019

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to send the Brewster Elementary School Alteration and Extension project to referendum on November 5, 2019.

In favor of sending the Brewster Elementary School Alteration and Extension project to referendum on November 5, 2019: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Vote to send Memorial Middle School Alteration project to referendum on November 5, 2019

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to send the Memorial School Alteration project to referendum on November 5, 2019.

In favor of sending the Memorial School Alteration project to referendum on November 5, 2019: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Vote to authorize the district to apply for grant for vestibule project at Brewster School

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to resolve that the Board of Education of Regional School District 13 authorizes the district to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services for and to accept or reject a grant for the construction of a blast- and ballistic-proof front entrance vestibule at Brewster Elementary School.

In favor of resolving that the Board of Education of Regional School District 13 authorizes the district to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services for and to accept or reject a grant for the construction of a blast- and ballistic-proof front entrance vestibule at Brewster Elementary School: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

E. Vote to refer the vestibule project at Brewster School to the Building Committee

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to resolve that the Board of Education of Regional School District 13 hereby refers the construction of a blast- and ballistic-proof front entrance vestibule at Brewster Elementary School to the Regional School District 13 Standing Building Committee.

In favor of referring the construction of a blast- and ballistic-proof front entrance vestibule at Brewster Elementary School to the Regional School District 13 Standing Building Committee: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Yamartino asked if this committed the board to do this project or if it was just procedural and Mr. Moore explained that it allows the district to apply for the grant.

F. Vote to authorize the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the vestibule project at Brewster Elementary School

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Petrella, to resolve that the Board of Education of Regional School District 13 hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the construction of a blast- and ballistic-proof vestibule at Brewster Elementary School.

In favor of authorizing at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the construction of a blast- and ballistic-proof front entrance vestibule at Brewster Elementary School: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

G. Vote to authorize the district to apply for grant for vestibule project at Memorial Middle School

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Petrella, to resolve that the Board of Education of Regional School District 13 authorizes the district to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services for and to accept or reject a grant for the construction of a blast- and ballistic-proof front entrance vestibule at Memorial Middle School.

In favor of resolving that the Board of Education of Regional School District 13 authorizes the district to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services for and to accept or reject a grant for the construction of a blast- and ballistic-proof front entrance vestibule at Memorial Middle School: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

H. Vote to refer the vestibule project at Memorial Middle School to the Building Committee

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Petrella, to resolve that the Board of Education of Regional School District 13 hereby refers the construction of a blast- and ballistic-proof front entrance vestibule at Memorial Middle School to the Regional School District 13 Standing Building Committee.

In favor of referring the construction of the blast- and ballistic-proof front entrance vestibule at Memorial Middle School to the Regional School District 13 Standing Building Committee: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

I. Vote to authorize the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the vestibule project at Memorial Middle School

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to resolve that the Board of Education of Regional School District 13 hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the construction of a blast- and ballistic-proof vestibule at Memorial Middle School.

In favor of authorizing at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the construction of a blast- and ballistic-proof front entrance vestibule at Memorial Middle School: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

J. Transportation Bid Review

Mrs. Neubig reviewed that bids had gone out with a return date of May 2, 2019. A mandatory pre-bid meeting was held on March 28th and one bidder showed up. She did receive a call from another bidder, but was unable to accept the bid because they did not make the mandatory meeting. The bid received was from the incumbent transportation provider, DATTCO, and was a very respectful bid with a lot of integrity. The first year represents a 5.5 percent increase (about \$75,000) which was the same as what was presented during negotiations. Mrs. Neubig mentioned that the district will no longer lease the buses and will use DATTCO-owned buses. The district lease for the buses in 2018-2019 was \$168,000, so there will be a savings of about \$93,000.

Years 2 to 5, there will be a 3.5 percent increase which represents a .5 percent increase over the prior negotiations. Because there was only one complete bid, the district will sign with DATTCO for another five years with the ability to extend another five after that.

Mrs. Geraci asked if we knew the age of the fleet of buses and Mrs. Neubig stated that it has to be an average age of under five years. The district's current buses are 10 years old.

K. Security Discussion

Mrs. Neubig reported that the security grant has been awarded, with \$73,000 to Durham but Middlefield was not awarded anything. This is a 50 percent matching grant and the paperwork states that they were awarded \$146,000 but the district has to spend \$73,000. The money has already been spent on camera upgrades, so the \$73,000 can be used at the district's discretion.

The board had originally set aside \$400,000 in the operating budget for security enhancements. That funds the SRO, but no other security upgrades have been done from that money. Because they will receive the \$73,000, they can fund that toward the district's share of the vestibules at Cuginchaug and Strong. That will leave approximately \$223,000 that can be spent on security, but the funds would need to be committed by June 30, 2019. Mrs. Neubig asked that either a decision be made to encumber these funds or shift them to capital reserve.

Mrs. Neubig had an updated sheet of the security projects, including a visitor management system which would also be an emergency management system that includes a family reunification piece, attendance and a lockdown alert. That is about \$35,000 total for all five schools for the first year and falls to about \$7,000 in the following years. She also mentioned universal cell boosters at a cost of about \$50,000 to \$60,000. The third priority was the bulletproof film on lower level windows and selected others at a cost of \$180,000.

Mrs. Neubig would recommend the visitor management system and universal cell boosters and possibly doing some window film with the remaining money.

Mr. Augur suggested that the Utilization Committee discuss this at their next meeting and it was generally agreed to do that. Mr. Yamartino and Mrs. Geraci asked that the Utilization meeting be scheduled for a later time and Dr. Veronesi agreed to schedule it for 6:00 PM on May 30th. She also mentioned that the Student Achievement meeting will be canceled for May 29th.

Public Comment

None.

Anticipated Executive Session

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to enter into Executive Session for Brewster principal interviews and possible vote to authorize the Superintendent to complete the hiring process and invited the interviewee and the Superintendent to join the board in Executive Session.

In favor of entering into Executive Session: Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

Debi Waz
Alwaz First