

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 7:30 PM remotely.

Board members present: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino

Board members absent: Ms. Geraci

Administration present: Dr. Schuch, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Neubig, Director of Finance, Mrs. DiMaggio, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Mrs. Keane, Director of Student Services and Special Education, Mr. Brough, Interim Human Resource Specialist and Mr. Pietrasko, Director of Infrastructure and Security Technology

Mr. Moore called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

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

In favor of approving the agenda, as presented: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried.

Public Comment

None.

District Meeting - May 3, 2021 at 8:00 PM

Next Board Meeting - May 12, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Teacher Non-Renewals

Mr. Hicks explained that the board does this every year and typically these teachers are hired back.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, that the contract for the employment of Dana Markovitz, Ashley Rodrigues, Michelle Schwartz, Melody Lee, Todd Petronio, Lynann Troiano, Carolyn DeRosa, Nicole Fekete, Kenneth Holt, Pamela Langley, Danielle Miller, Tracey Penney, Elizabeth Bayreuther, James Hanson, Isabelle Baranski, Kate Wheeler, Amy Solomon, Kate DeMartino, Sarah Sportelli, Jeff Landry and Theresa Mautner not be renewed for the following school year, upon its expiration at the end of the 2021 school year and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise each of the persons in writing of this action.

Mr. Yamartino understands the formality and legality of doing this, but feels it's a terrible practice in light of employee well-being. Mr. Hicks felt it was somewhat harmless. Mr. Yamartino felt it creates undue stress on the employees especially when there is no projection of laying anyone off. Mrs. Booth reminded everyone that they are losing 2 FTEs at John Lyman in this budget and Mr. Moore reviewed that it was actually 3 FTEs. Mr. Brough confirmed that each of the employees have received letters from their principals. Dr. Taylor asked why this is even a necessary practice. Mr. Brough explained that state

guidelines require teachers that are not being renewed must be informed prior to May 1st and it must be done in open session during a Board of Education meeting. He felt it would be much more difficult to have to cut staff if they had not done this.

In favor of not renewing the contract for the employment of Dana Markovitz, Ashley Rodrigues, Michelle Schwartz, Melody Lee, Todd Petronio, Lynann Troiano, Carolyn DeRosa, Nicole Fekete, Kenneth Holt, Pamela Langley, Danielle Miller, Tracey Penney, Elizabeth Bayreuther, James Hanson, Isabelle Baranski, Kate Wheeler, Amy Solomon, Kate DeMartino, Sarah Sportelli, Jeff Landry and Theresa Mautner for the following school year, upon its expiration at the end of the 2021 school year and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise each of the persons in writing of this action: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Mr. Yamartino voted in opposition. Motion carried.

Communications

Mr. Moore received an email from Lindsay Dahlmeyer concerning not having everyone on Zoom and a letter from Henry Bugai thanking for the funding of the scoreboards and having another question. He also received a question from Nick Faiella about the close contact requirements for sports. Jim Irish also wrote a letter asking if the funding for the emergency generator at Memorial had taken place.

Director of Finance Report

Mrs. Neubig reviewed the financials are running at 71 percent expended and 77 percent revenue received as of March. She noted that expenses seem to be running high when she expects a surplus but that is because the Eversource reimbursement and the COVID relief funds come through as revenue, per the auditors. MTA is at 43 percent expended and 55 percent revenue received. The transfer to the general fund is typically made in May for health insurance. A transfer has been made to cancel out the baseball warning track for \$7,500 and put that into the scoreboards.

Mrs. Neubig noted that they have received new guidance that the American Rescue Plan and the ESSER funds that these grants are not subject to the supplement vs. supplant that she had thought. The ESSER II funds are earmarked for summer learning, but this new guidance does provide new avenues for the American Rescue Plan. They do state that 20 percent of the funds must be allocated to learning loss.

Mrs. Neubig also noted that the USDA has extended the free lunch program for all students through September 30th. She estimates that the district breaks even at a meal count of about 80 meals per day, which requires four staff members. If participation increases, additional staffing would be required and they may revisit this if participation is low. The district is no longer under executive order, so staffing can be done as needed. She added that people can always pick up lunch in Middletown if the district decides not to provide them. Mr. Yamartino asked if the COVID funds can help fund the meals and Mrs. Neubig confirmed that they could. Mr. Yamartino stated that he could see no reason to not continue the program.

Adjourn for Public Hearing on the Budget at 8:00 PM

The board recessed until 8:00 PM for the Public Hearing.

Resume regular session Board of Education meeting

2021-2022 Budget

- A. Discussion on Public Hearing**
- B. Finalize Budget for District Meeting**

Mr. Moore asked if there were any comments or changes to the budget before going to the District Meeting. Hearing none, the budget will stand and go to the District Meeting and referendum.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Dr. Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hicks, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education.

*In favor of adjourning the regular meeting of the Board of Education: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino.
Motion carried.*

Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

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