

DRAFT
Subject to Change

Board of Education

Regional District 13

December 12, 2007

The Regional District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, December 12, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the library at Memorial School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Dr. Shoemaker. Members absent: Mr. Hicks, Mr. Currllin. Also present: Mrs. Viccaro, Mr. Melnik.

Mr. Hennick called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Next Board Meeting: The next Board meeting will be January 9, 2008 at Korn School.

On a motion by Mrs. Adams, second Mrs. Flanagan, the agenda was unanimously approved as amended to include an Update on the Bus Driver Issue and a vote on the members for a Building Committee.

Communications: Mrs. Adams received two phone calls regarding kids wearing blankets at the high school because the heat is kept very low. Some rooms are colder than others. Dr. Wysowski will check into this.

Two teachers from the high school have written a civics program regarding Freedom of Information that will be used statewide. This is from a request from the Freedom of Information Commission.

Mr. Hennick participated in the community round-up and said the community support was great.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro updated the Board on the bus driver situation. On November 30, 2007 she sent a letter home to parents of students that rode on the two bus routes of that particular driver and told them to talk to their children and contact her if they suspected something had happened. The driver was fired and arrested. On December 5, 2007, Mrs. Viccaro sent a letter home to all parents informing them of the situation. The letters were also put on the District website with the list of qualifications needed to be a bus driver for Dattco. The investigation is still ongoing. Mrs. Viccaro commended Trooper Peter DiGoia for his constant communication with the District. She said his focus is in the best interest of the students. She also commended the principals and the counseling staff involved. Support will be provided for the families and students for as long as needed. Mrs. Viccaro also stated Dattco has been very cooperative.

Mr. Hennick also thanked Mrs. Viccaro for all her work. He stated Dr. Ochterski and the Transportation Committee will be looking at the entire process on how kids are kept safe to be assured that things are being done properly and to see if any changes need to be made.

Mrs. Viccaro reported the Community Round Up was a great success. Last year there were 44 teams, this year there were 119 teams. Mrs. Viccaro said that actually was too many teams, next year they will need to cut back. There were 17,000 food items collected and \$2,400 in gift cards and money donated.

The high school is revising their site plan and the action teams have begun working.

Mrs. Viccaro attended the production of "Into the Woods" that included students from John Lyman, Memorial and Strong schools.

Strong School hosted the Middlesex County Chamber meeting on December 12th.

The Board received information on the CT Secondary School Redesign from the CT State Department of Education. This is a work in progress and modifications are still being made.

Business Manager's Report: Mr. Melnik stated the Finance Committee met with BASREP regarding the emergency information they need if a student is dropped off at BASREP. The administrators are working on a form.

The District has changed the type of checks they are using for payroll and accounts payable. In July the payroll checks will include sick time information.

For the building project, the District is getting estimates for the roofing projects and well projects needed to be done at the schools. There will be a meeting with the transfer station to informally talk about the land there for a bus depot. Mr. Melnik has also been looking at the topography of the land near the track.

Mr. Hennick stated Mr. Currlin and Ms. Gara will represent the Board on the Building Committee. Mr. Currlin will be chair.

On a motion by Mrs. Adams, second Dr. Shoemaker, the Board of Education unanimously approved the following people to be on the Building Committee: Mr. Currlin, Ms. Gara, Hans Pedersen, Lou Battipaglia, Bob Monthei, Gary Sawicki, John Biddiscombe, and Bill Michalowski.

The Board completed the rest of the agenda before moving to Memorial's Computer Lab for a presentation.

2008-09 Calendar: Mrs. Viccaro presented the 2008-09 calendar for approval.

Dr. Shoemaker would like to have students go to school for 182 days.

Mrs. Flanagan made a motion, second Mrs. Adams to approve the 2008-09 calendar. Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Adams, Dr. Ochterski, Mr. Hennick, Ms. Parsons, Ms. Golschneider, Ms. Gara. Dr. Shoemaker voted no.

Personnel Policies Committee: Mrs. Flanagan reported that they were unable to reach an agreement and are in mediation until December 25. If no agreement is reached they will go to arbitration.

The Board moved to the Computer Lab. Mr. Brough and Ms. Derrico showed the Board how the Smartboard works and all the programs available to the students to help with their work and doing reports.

On a motion by Mrs. Golschneider, second Dr. Shoemaker, the Board of Education unanimously approved to adjourn.