

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, April 26, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in the music room at Korn Elementary School. Board members present: Mr. Currin, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks (8:00p.m.), Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Raczka, Dr. Shoemaker. Member absent: Mrs. Adams. Also present: Mr. Gourley, Mrs. Viccaro.

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

Public Comment: Jeremy Renninghoff, a resident of Middlefield said that he is frustrated over the fact that the Board returned the same budget for a second vote last year. He has found out that a State general statute exists, Sec. 10-51 that allows education budget votes to have three possible choices, 1. yes, 2. no, the budget is too high and 3. no, the budget is too low. If it is not too late to change the question he thinks this would be a better way to gauge what the public is feeling. If it is too late, then if the budget goes down, he would like to see the next referendum question stated this way.

Mr. Raczka responded that he believes it is too late to do anything to change the ballot question at this late date. It may be possible to do this in the future.

Mr. Hennick agreed that this could be done. He just found out about the statute himself and agrees that it is worth pursuing.

Mrs. Viccaro will send out an email to CAPPs members to see if other Districts have used this format for a referendum question and if it has been successful.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Education will be the District Meeting, held on May 1, 2006 at the Cuginchaug High School auditorium at 8:00pm. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held at John Lyman School at 7:30p.m. on May 10, 2006.

On a motion by Ms. Parsons, second Mr. Currin, the agenda was unanimously approved.

On a motion by Dr. Shoemaker, second Mr. Hennick, the minutes to the April 5, 2006 Board of Education meeting were unanimously approved.

Communications: Mrs. Flanagan received a call from a resident who is concerned about the proposed cost of parking passes for students at the high school.

Mr. Raczka and Mrs. Viccaro were invited to meet with Board of Finance members in Middlefield. They presented the school budget to them. Mr. Raczka said the finance members suggested that the school board consider setting aside \$50,000 in each budget for capital improvement items to be able to accomplish big projects such as the track. Both Mrs. Viccaro and Mr. Raczka felt that the meeting gave the finance board members a better understanding of the budget and it was informative.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro reported that Memorial School is the recipient of a grant for \$1650.00 from Liberty Bank. This will be used to support a writing project with an author from Madison.

Mrs. Viccaro said Liana Braga, a Cuginchaug student, was the winner of a National Kidney Foundation Poster Contest.

The Superintendents' Consortium meeting was held at the Central Office this morning. There were two new initiatives discussed that Mrs. Viccaro is very excited about. The first is a program being designed by the Middletown Adult Education Program to accommodate expelled students from any of the consortium high schools. This would offer considerable savings to the District. A maximum of fifteen students can be accepted into the program. The second program is an alternative evening high school program that was started by Middletown High School this year. It is for students 16 years or older who are not making it in a traditional high school program. Students would work during the day and go to class in the evening. Middletown is offering it to members of the consortium at a cost of \$4,000 per District. The superintendents will meet again in June to talk about more of the specifics of the program. Mrs. Viccaro will visit the program before that time.

Mrs. Viccaro said Coginchaug students attended a career fair at Wesleyan. Eighty-six vendors participated in the event. The students came back with a lot of great information and the vendor evaluations of the day were very positive.

Mrs. Viccaro and Mr. Hennick both had children participate in the trip to Spain. Their children both had a fabulous experience.

Mrs. Viccaro said that she will not be a voting member of the Magnet School Steering Committee next year but she will still be able to attend their meetings.

Mrs. Viccaro explained a handout that the Board received in their packets. It is a document from the State in response to a class action lawsuit regarding students with intellectual disabilities. The State lost this case and as a result all school districts are going to be monitored by someone from the State between April 24 and June 15. All students identified with an intellectual disability will be monitored for fifteen minutes during their school day.

Mrs. Viccaro also gave the Board members a copy of a NCLB Action Alert Newsletter. She said the newsletter was well written and contained a lot of information that members would be interested in reading regarding NCLB.

Mrs. Viccaro said the State has eliminated the ERG (Education Reference Group) designation for districts. They have now created DRG's (District Reference Groups) designations. It does not really mean much of a change for the District. A few of the school districts within our reference group have changed.

Bill Currlin reminded members that the Evening of Excellence is at Memorial School on Thursday evening. He encouraged members to attend the event.

Curriculum/Professional Development: Carol Luckenbach, Director of Curriculum and Professional Development gave an update on both the curriculum areas being focused on this year as well as the professional development focus for teachers. She explained that the NCLB testing mandates have dictated many of the curriculum changes that are taking place across the District. This year the math and science curriculums are being revised.

The School Improvement Plan for all of the schools is to work on increasing reading comprehension. This has been the focus of much of the professional development this year. Professional development takes place in large group instruction on professional development days, during faculty meetings, team meetings, release time, summer curriculum work, and teachers working on their own time.

CRHS Field Trip Request to Italy: Kelly Falvey and Anthony Pulino, the CRHS teachers chaperoning the trip were present to answer any questions. They explained that the cost of the trip is now down to \$2,812.00 per student. Mrs. Golschneider questioned how the students would be speaking Italian when it is not a language that is taught at Coginchaug. Mr. Pulino said that he speaks it and will be offering after school classes to the students attending the trip. Dr. Shoemaker was concerned that there appears to be a lot of free time on the itinerary. Ms. Falvey responded that students will always be chaperoned and more specifics details are still being planned. She said there would not be that much free time.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mr. Hennick, the Board of Education unanimously approved the 11th & 12th grade Social Studies trip to Florence and Rome, Italy from April 12, 2007 to April 20, 2007.

Mrs. Golschneider asked if students are made aware that the Board has the right to cancel the trip for safety reasons. Ms. Falvey said that students would be able to get their money back if there is a national emergency.

2006-07 District Goals: Mrs. Viccaro reviewed the District Goals for next year.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Dr. Ochterski, the Board of Education unanimously accepted the District Goals for 2006-2007. A copy is attached to these minutes.

Policy Committee: Mr. Hicks said the Committee continues to work on the Use of School Facilities Policy. The Committee hopes to have this wrapped up soon to be able to inform the community of the changes being presented before applications for next year start arriving. Mrs. Viccaro thanked Sue Gaudreau for the work she has done on consolidating school use.

Communications: Mr. Currilin said the committee met tonight. He reviewed the program. The committee meets once a year but will become more active in reviewing the applications for awards.

Magnet School: Mr. Hicks said they met last week. They expect staffing to be relatively the same next year. Middletown has a waiting list of 45 students, Meriden has a long waiting list, Madison is not sending any students next year and District 13 has 23 or 24 students attending and 3 on the waiting list. The Magnet School had a very successful year.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Golschneider, the Board of Education unanimously approved to go into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation.

The board moved into regular session.

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