

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, April 27, 2005 at 7:30pm in the music room at Brewster Elementary School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Brown, Mr. Currlin, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Raczka, Dr. Shoemaker. Also present: Mr. Gourley, Mrs. Viccaro.

Mr. Raczka called the meeting to order at 7:33pm.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Education will be the District Meeting on the budget on May 2, 2005 in the Coginchaug High School Auditorium at 8:00pm. The next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting will be at Korn School on May 11, 2005.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Dr. Shoemaker, the agenda was unanimously approved as amended to add an Executive Session to discuss a Student Issue.

Mr. Hennick made a motion, second Mrs. Golschneider to approve the minutes to the March 30, 2005 special meeting of the Board of Education. Mrs. Adams, Mr. Brown, Mr. Currlin, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Raczka voted yes. Dr. Shoemaker abstained.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Dr. Shoemaker the minutes of the April 6, 2005 meeting of the Board of Education were unanimously approved.

Communications: Dr. Shoemaker said he received several phone calls today regarding the flier that went home with chorus students about the District Choral Night. Students are being limited to bringing only 2 guests each. Mrs. Luckenbach explained that this night is a chance for students to hear each other perform and is more curricular in nature. She believes the schools are all having individual choral concerts where parents will have a chance to bring more guests. Dr. Shoemaker is concerned that because this is being called a concert parents will be upset that they can't bring as many guests as they want.

Mr. Currlin encouraged members to attend the Memorial School Evening of Excellence being held tomorrow evening at Memorial.

Mrs. Adams received a phone call about the library aide position at Coginchaug. She was asked if the Board's position is final and she did not know how to answer the question, not having past experience. Mr. Raczka asked if anyone felt strongly about discussing the issue further. Mr. Gourley has talked with Steve Wysowski about the decision and he has not had a change of heart. He feels that he can exist without it. Members agreed that the administrators know best what the needs are and they decided to stay with the current plan.

Mr. Hennick said his one of his daughters attended the band trip to Virginia and another daughter attended the London trip over the April vacation. He had great reports from both the kids and the chaperones about the trips. The band and chorus both brought home trophies and the hotel in London said this was the best group of students they have ever had stay at their hotel. Mr. Hennick also participated in the Writers Jubilee at Korn School today.

Mr. Hicks received a call from a parent regarding the student discipline policy. He will refer the comments to the policy committee.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro welcomed Scott Nicol to the meeting.

Mrs. Viccaro asked Carol Luckenbach to share some exciting news. Ryan Russell came to visit Strong School today with his parents. He is looking terrific and plans will be made soon for his return to school.

Mrs. Viccaro attended a business education partnership meeting at Pratt & Whitney. It is a program that is being developed by the Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Viccaro is very excited about the program. It will expand our business connections to regular education students.

Mrs. Viccaro attended the Korn School Talent Show. The show is always great fun and showcases many kids talents.

Mrs. Viccaro talked with Michael Klimas, the teacher in charge of the London trip. He would like to bring a group of students to a Board meeting in May to talk about their trip.

Mrs. Viccaro reminded members about the Rededication Ceremony in honor of the veterans at Memorial School at 9:00am on May 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Viccaro told Board members that the District Annual Report was in their packets. She asked them to review it and she will answer questions at a future meeting.

CMT Report: Mrs. Viccaro reviewed the latest CMT results with Board members. She shared a chart depicting the last five years' scores in all areas and cautioned members that each class of students is different. She said that teachers are asked to chart individual weaknesses of students and identify strands of weakness within classes and schools. Mrs. Luckenbach said there is cause for concern because our scores went down but next year things will be changing again with the beginning of annual testing. She has been frustrated with the State because she has still not received the CMT handbook that was due out in October. Mrs. Viccaro said that in our Strategic Plan it is one of our parameters that the District be in the top 20% of our ERG on all areas of the mastery test. We are not meeting this goal.

Mrs. Viccaro has scheduled a meeting with area superintendents from our ERG who are doing well on the tests to talk with them about what they are doing differently. The building administrators have sent her information on what they do when a student does not meet goal. She is currently reviewing this information. Mrs. Viccaro has emailed Howard Fedema, the consultant who worked with the district on the Strategic Plan, and asked him if the District should consider making this a goal instead of a parameter. She asked him if an action team should be formed.

Mrs. Luckenbach suggested that the administrative team could also take this on as a school improvement plan at all schools.

Mr. Raczka asked how students in the graduating class are doing. They would have been eighth graders in 2001, one of the years reported. Are they getting into the colleges of their choice and how were their SAT scores? Mrs. Luckenbach and Mrs. Viccaro said they have not compiled this information but they can get it for the Board.

Mr. Hicks and Dr. Ochterski were on the Strategic Planning Committee and agree that Howard Fedema may be a good resource to help decide whether the parameter should become a goal. The Board agreed to wait to hear from Mr. Fedema before taking further action.

2005-06 District Goals: Mrs. Viccaro reviewed the District Goals for 2005-06. Some of these are new goals and some are continuing from last year. Administrators are put in charge of different areas. Mrs. Viccaro is confident that the goals are attainable. A copy of the 2005-06 Goals is attached.

On a motion by Mr. Brown, second Mr. Hennick the Board of Education unanimously adopted the 2005-06 District Goals.

Policy Committee: Mr. Hicks said the Policy Committee met recently. The Non-resident Student policy (5118a) has been changed in response to concerns discussed at the last meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mr. Currin the Board of Education unanimously approved the Non-resident Student (5118a) Policy.

The Student Discipline (5114) Policy was distributed to members for their review. This is a model policy adopted from a sample given by the District's attorney. It is much more comprehensive than what the District has. Some slight modifications have been made with additions from our existing policy. Members were asked to carefully review both before the next meeting. The Policy Committee recommends adopting it in its entirety.

Sponsorship discussions were also held with the Athletic Director. The District will need to craft our own policy regarding this as no others have been found. Information is still being gathered on 501C3 foundations. The Defibrillator policy has been approved by the medical advisors and will be brought to the next meeting.

Personnel Policy: Mr. Raczka reported that the negotiations with the custodians and the support staff are moving along. A meeting is being held tomorrow.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Adams the Board of Education unanimously approved to move into Executive Session to discuss a Student Issue.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mr. Currin the Board of Education unanimously approved to adjourn.