

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, August 31, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. in the media center at Memorial School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currlin, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Raczka, Dr. Shoemaker, Ms. Wallach. Also present: Mr. Gourley, Mrs. Viccaro.

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

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Next Board Meeting: The next Board of Education meeting will be held at John Lyman School on September 14, 2005 at 7:30p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Dr. Shoemaker, the agenda was unanimously approved.

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion, second Mrs. Golschneider to approve the minutes to the July 6, 2005 Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currlin, Mrs. Golschneider, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Raczka, Dr. Shoemaker, Ms. Wallach voted yes. Mr. Hennick and Mr. Hicks abstained.

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion, second Mrs. Adams to approve the minutes to the July 26, 2005 Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currlin, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Raczka, Dr. Shoemaker, Ms. Wallach voted yes. Mr. Hennick abstained.

Communications: Mr. Hicks said he and several other Board members attended the New Staff Luncheon and opening day ceremonies. He was very impressed with the quality of the new hires. Mr. Hicks also said that Mr. Raczka spoke eloquently on behalf of the Board at the opening program.

Mrs. Adams attended the opening professional development program and enjoyed hearing Tom Guskey speak.

Mr. Hicks also wanted to acknowledge the administrators for the effort they put into their articles in the Town Times this past week.

Mr. Currlin went to a bus stop on the first day of school. He heard many nice comments from parents about the schools.

Mr. Gourley gave transportation letters to Dr. Ochterski for the Transportation Committee to review.

Mr. Raczka has been asked why we are not using smaller buses when many of our buses are not full. It was explained that we must provide a seat for every child regardless of whether or not they are planning on riding the bus. The District also uses the same buses for three waves.

Dr. Ochterski said that Dattco has provided him with data and he is analyzing how well our buses are utilized.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro attended the Superintendents' Back to School Conference with Betty Sternberg, The Commissioner of Education. Thirty-five new

superintendents have been hired in the state this year. Mrs. Viccaro shared some of Mrs. Sternberg's goals for the state this year.

Mrs. Viccaro said the New Staff Orientation and luncheon went very well. The energy level is very high and she feels that the new staff has a good understanding of the District mission.

Mrs. Viccaro was very pleased with the opening speaker for professional development, Tom Guskey. He spent the entire day with the high school staff and the evaluations from the staff are the best the District has ever had. Mrs. Viccaro would like to invite him back to work with the entire District in a couple of years.

Mrs. Viccaro reported that the Memorial School staff is going to be interviewed for Career World magazine.

Mrs. Viccaro said that there are now forty-two school districts supporting the State lawsuit against NCLB and more will be voting during the month of September. Mr. Raczka wanted members to be aware that full day kindergarten is part of the requirements of NCLB and would have a significant budget impact on the District. Mrs. Viccaro said that the State is headed in the direction of mandating full day kindergarten and we will have to deal with this in the near future.

Mr. Gourley went to a workshop on the costs of implementing NCLB. He said that three school districts were assessed and costs estimated for full implementation of NCLB. For the suburban school district the cost of implementing the federal mandates doubled.

Mr. Gourley was asked to total the cost of the current federal mandates and report back to the Board.

Durham Manufacturing has donated 100 first aid boxes to the District.

2005-2006 Calendar: Mrs. Viccaro presented a revised calendar for the 2005-06 school year. The calendar needs to be adjusted because January 2, 2006 is a Federal holiday. The principals have requested that the March conference dates be changed now that the Mastery Testing schedule has been established and the fall conference dates are also being reevaluated. Teachers are being polled regarding the fall conferences. The Board will be asked to vote on the calendar at the next meeting.

Show Choir Field Trip Request to America Sings: This is the first time that Ms. Larsen is asking to take the Show Choir to Disney World but the group has performed with America Sings many times before at the Macy's Parade on Thanksgiving Day.

On a motion by Mr. Currlin, second Mrs. Adams, the Board of Education unanimously approved the field trip request for the Coginchaug Show Choir to go to Orlando, Florida from February 23 – 27, 2006 to perform with America Sings at Disney World.

Board of Education Priorities for 2005-06: Mr. Raczka said that during this year's meetings he would like to have presentations on topics that the Board is questioned on by the public. At the next meeting there will be a presentation on the Contemporary and Integrated Day Program and their impact on busing. He has also asked administrators to write articles for the Town Times about what they do and how they go about their jobs.

Ms. Wallach asked about the Board being able to communicate to the public on their own behalf.

Mrs. Adams said the Board used to meet with public groups. She would be willing to start doing this again.

Mrs. Viccaro suggested that one of the presentations to the Board could be about No Child Left Behind.

Finance Committee: Dr. Shoemaker said that tonight's Finance Committee meeting was cancelled. The committee will meet before the next Board of Education meeting.

Personnel Policies: Dr. Shoemaker said that the Personnel Policies Committee has been meeting with the nurses. They hope to be done by September 19<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Currilin asked if anyone has looked at what the impact of the increase in fuel costs will be. Mr. Gourley said that the District did not lock in a price for heating oil. The consortium was waiting until Labor Day, in hopes that the price would start to go down. The increased costs will have a significant impact on both the fuel for buses and heating oil.

Buildings & Grounds: Mr. Hennick said the Buildings & Grounds and the Transportation Committees will have a joint meeting on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

Building Committee: Mr. Raczka said the neighbor who initiated the complaint about the air conditioning noise has said he is pleased with the response from the District.

Communications: Mr. Currilin said that at the opening meeting five awards were given out, four Good Apples Awards and one Friends of Education Award. Mrs. Viccaro read the nomination form for each of the recipients to the Board members.

On a motion by Mr. Currilin, second Mr. Ochterski, the Board of Education unanimously accepted Barbara Derrico, Carol Luckenbach, Lorrie Martin and Lauren Roberts as the recipients of the Good Apple Awards and The Levi Coe Library as the recipient of the Friends of Education Award.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mr. Hennick, the Board of Education unanimously approved to go into Executive Session to discuss Pending Litigation.

The Board of Education moved into regular session.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mr. Hennick, the Board of Education unanimously approved the Custodians' Contract for the period July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2008.

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