

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, May 25, 2005 at 7:30pm in the library at Strong Middle School. Board members present: Mr. Brown, Mr. Currin, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Raczka. Members Absent: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Hicks, and Dr. Shoemaker. Also present: Mr. Gourley, Mrs. Viccaro.

Mr. Raczka called the meeting to order at 7:34pm.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Education will be on June 8, 2005 at John Lyman School.

On a motion by Mr. Hennick, second Dr. Ochterski, the agenda was unanimously approved as amended to add Bus Storage after Old Business.

Ms. Parsons made a motion, second Dr. Ochterski, to approve the minutes to the May 11, 2005 meeting of the Board of Education. Mr. Brown, Mr. Currin, Mr. Hennick, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Raczka voted yes. Mrs. Golschneider abstained.

Communications: Dr. Ochterski attended the Korn School Concert this evening. He was impressed that all 149 students were singing together. The concert was very well done.

Mr. Raczka attended a WISE presentation last week by Gina Libassi, on being a pastry chef. She had many samples of delicious pastry and was very engaging.

Mr. Currin thanked the Board for their support of the Ryan Russell Benefit. The day was extremely successful and there was tremendous community support.

Mrs. Golschneider encouraged members to attend the Latin Banquet at the high school. She has attended for many years and said it is an excellent program.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro stopped in at the diversity conference at Wesleyan today. Students from Strong School and Cuginchaug participated in the program.

Mrs. Viccaro talked about the two-day CAPPS conference she recently attended. The focus of the conference was on ethics and leadership.

The State Department has issued new directives for determining Highly Qualified Teachers under the No Child Left Behind Guidelines.

Mrs. Viccaro explained a new initiative introduced by the State Department of Education. The Connecticut Vanguard School Initiative is a partnership of the State Department of Education and the Connecticut Business and Industry Association to identify and recognize successful schools and to have them share their successful school-improvement strategies with other schools. Eida Hinson-Yokubinas will be the administrator working on the program.

2005-2006 Budget: Mr. Raczka wanted to publicly thank everyone who worked to support the passing of the budget. He is concerned about educating the public more during the coming year about how the District operates. He thanked Mrs. Viccaro and the Board members for their work in supporting the budget.

Mr. Raczka said that it was clarified from counsel that even though the Town of Durham did not post the call of the District Meeting, it was still a legal meeting because it was posted in the newspaper and properly sent to the towns.

Counsel is still looking into the question of whether a quorum was needed for the meeting. At this time Mr. Raczka has been told that a quorum was not necessary but he is going to get it in writing from our legal counsel.

Bus Storage: Mr. Raczka said that we have used almost one year of our five-year lease on the property that the buses are stored on. Mr. Raczka suggested that the Transportation Committee begin to look at the possibility of storing the buses at Coginchaug and at Memorial School. At Coginchaug he is suggesting that they could be stored on the area near the track. He would like the Committee to begin to work with Dattco and the towns to see what the approval process would be. If these sites are not acceptable he wants other District properties explored as potential sites. He would like a preliminary report for the Board by late August or early September. He wants to communicate to the public that the Board is trying to be innovative and is looking for ways to save money.

On a motion by Mr. Hennick, second Mr. Currin, the Board of Education unanimously approved the field trip for Mrs. Berndt's 2nd Grade Student Camp Out at John Lyman School on June 17, 2005.

Policy Committee: In Mr. Hicks absence, it was explained that the Defibrillation Program Policy was changed slightly to reflect the fact that rescue personnel will be taking charge of the scene and using their own equipment once they arrive. Because of this, it was decided that the brand name of Hewlett Packard Services, mentioned in #8, should be eliminated. The third bullet will be eliminated entirely.

Mr. Brown made a motion, second Mr. Currin to approve the Public Access Defibrillation Program (4165/4265) as amended.

In discussion, members realized that they did not have the most updated copy of the policy reflecting other changes that were made prior to this meeting. It was decided that new copies will be sent to members and the policy will be voted on at the next meeting.

Mr. Brown withdrew his motion, Mr. Currin withdrew his second.

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