

The Regional District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, November 8, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in the library at Coginchauag Regional High School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currlin, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Dr. Shoemaker. Member absent: Mr. Raczka. Also present: Mrs. Viccaro, Mr. Gourley.

Mr. Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Public Comment: Sue Bianchi supports purchasing a math curriculum for grades K-4 and stated there is a lot of parent support for this program. She would like to see it be a K-4 program and not just for grades 3-4.

Donia Viola questioned the permanent substitute teachers in each building. She said the District could save money by not having these positions. She said a study of the ID and Contemporary programs were mentioned during the budget process last spring and she hoped that was still happening. Mrs. Viola said money could be saved on transportation with having only one program.

Jeremy Renninghoff stated he also agrees money can be saved with transportation by having only one program choice. He also said he is happy that the vote to have Board members elected in November passed because he feels it will hold Board members more accountable.

Next Board Meeting: The next Board of Education meeting will be December 13, 2006 at Korn School.

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion, second Mrs. Flanagan, to approve the agenda. Dr. Shoemaker, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Currlin, Dr. Ochterski, Mr. Hicks, Ms. Parsons, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick voted yes. Mrs. Adams abstained.

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion, second Dr. Ochterski, to approve the minutes to the October 25, 2006 Board of Education meeting. Dr. Shoemaker, Dr. Ochterski, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Currlin, Mr. Hennick, Mrs. Golschneider, Ms. Parson, Mr. Hicks voted yes. Mrs. Adams abstained.

Communications: Mr. Currlin attended the Veterans' Day program at John Lyman School. He said the parking is difficult, especially when the fields are wet from the rain and cannot be used for parking. He said parking is also an issue at Brewster School.

Dr. Ochterski heard from two people regarding transportation. Dr. Ochterski was able to correct some misimpressions about bus stops and door-to-door service and answer some questions concerning transportation. Other points that were made will be discussed at the next Transportation Committee meeting.

Mrs. Golschneider attended the Halloween Parade at Korn School and was one of the judges.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro reported \$3,360 was already raised for basketball. They are looking to raise another \$1,040 to equal the donation from the Benchwarmers with the fundraisers that will be happening over the next couple of weeks. Mr. Lombardo said they would probably raise more than the \$1,040, which will lower the donation from the Benchwarmers.

Mrs. Viccaro attended Memorial School's Veterans' Day program. There were veterans there from World War II who call themselves the Antique Veterans.

Thirty staff members and parents are attending the "Tools for Schools" program that is a preventive program on indoor air quality. They will meet again in January to discuss the evaluations done on their building.

The CRHS Jazz Band so impressed the Chamber of Commerce when they played for them that they are invited to the Chamber meeting on December 12 when the Governor is speaking.

Mrs. Viccaro attended four Halloween parades and the 100th anniversary celebration of CAPSS. 117 staff members took advantage of the flu clinic offered in the District.

Mrs. Viccaro has received 5 resumes from people who can do the study of the ID and Contemporary programs. The study will probably take place in January and be ready for the budget process.

December 2 is the Community Round-up. Teams of students with an adult will go out into the community collecting canned foods, donations or gift certificates.

CRHS- Steve Wysowski: Dr. Wysowski stated that he and Mr. Hauser have been reviewing the concern that students have too many study halls. He said about 100 students have a study hall and a half. These are mostly seniors in good academic standing that are able to come in late or have early dismissal. Students are encouraged to take 7 credits each year and by their senior year are able to take 6½ credits having all the necessary credits to graduate. There are not enough electives for students to take. The classes are already above their minimum in attendance.

Dr. Wysowski is requesting staffing for next year to help increase the number of electives students can take and to also help with the increased class sizes in the academic areas. He is also requesting a remedial reading teacher to work with both students and staff. Presently there are no remedial services at the high school.

2005-05 Strategic School Profiles: Mrs. Viccaro reported in comparison to the State and DRG the District is doing very well. The SAT scores are very impressive. She did note the number of students eligible for free and reduced lunches has increased as well as the number of English Language Learners in the District. Mrs. Viccaro asked that the Board members email her with any questions on the profiles and she will answer them at the December Board meeting.

Mrs. Viccaro stated the State is assessing Kindergarten students. The number of schools having half-day kindergarten is decreasing and the District may need to look at that in the near future.

Long-Term Planning: Mrs. Flanagan would like the Board to consider having a 3-5 year plan to look at the long-term needs of the District. This would not only include capital improvements but also issues like all day kindergarten. This would give the Board a broader perspective on the needs of the District when going through the budget process. The Board decided to form a long-range planning committee to discuss where to begin and what procedure to follow. They will then make their recommendation to the whole Board. The committee will consist of Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currilin and Mr. Hennick.

Finance Committee: Ms. Parsons reported the committee received the monthly expenditure report and everything is on target. They also met with the auditors. The preliminary report on the 2005-06 school year is a clean audit with no recommendations. There is \$654,442 in the fund balance, \$600,000 of that goes into the 2006-07 budget.

The District has purchased a new van for the maintenance department, a 2004 with 38,000 miles, to replace a 20-year old van.

The committee recommends going forward with the fuel cell program. Mrs. Viccaro will contact someone at CL&P about a presentation.

Search Committee: Mrs. Adams reported the committee interviewed seven people. They have selected four people to come back for a second interview.

Personnel Policies: Mrs. Flanagan reported the committee is meeting with the administrators' negotiation team. Things are going well. Anne Littlefield is the attorney representing the District.

Magnet School: Mr. Hicks reported the Thomas Edison Magnet School steering committee has begun working on the school's budget. It will be a higher increase than last year. There has been some discussion on raising the tuition to help with the higher costs. The Legislature is working on the possibility of outside districts sending individual students to the school to help fill the open slots.

On a motion by Mrs. Golschneider, second Mrs. Adams, the Board unanimously approved to adjourn.