

The Regional District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, November 9, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. in the library at Memorial School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Raczka, Dr. Shoemaker. Members absent: Mr. Currin, Mrs. Golschneider. Also present: Mrs. Viccaro, Mr. Gourley.

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

Public Comment: Several community members spoke regarding their concern over the poor conditions of the track and tennis courts. They stated it is a safety issue and both need to be renovated.

Next Board Meeting: The next Board of Education meeting will be December 14, 2005 in the library at Coginchaug Regional High School.

Mr. Raczka was asked by Ted Lombardo to add the track and tennis courts renovation projects to the agenda.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mr. Hennick, the agenda was unanimously approved to include the Track and Tennis Court Renovation Projects.

Mr. Hennick made a motion, second Mrs. Adams to approve the minutes to the October 26, 2005 Board of Education minutes as amended. Mr. Hennick, Mrs. Adams, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Raczka voted yes. Dr. Shoemaker abstained.

Communications: Mr. Hicks showed the flow chart from the NEA that teachers need to follow to show they are highly qualified.

Mr. Raczka read a letter from Carolyn Wallach stating she has resigned from the Board of Education due to conflicts with work.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Dr. Ochterski, the Board of Education accepted Ms. Wallach's letter of resignation with regret and thanked her for the time she was on the Board.

Track and Tennis Courts Renovation Projects: Mr. Lombardo stated both the track and tennis courts are in need of a major renovation. There are cracks in both surfaces that have been repaired over and over for several years and it is time to redo them completely for safety reasons. An estimate of the costs has been received: 6 lane track: \$225,000-250,000, 6 lane track with 8 lanes to the sprint side: \$275,000-300,000; and an 8 lane track: \$350,000-375,000. It would cost \$30,000-35,000 for each tennis court and this would include the fences that are also in bad shape. Mr. Lombardo said there are usually seven games going on at the same time in tennis. Now there are six courts, adding a court would make it faster for the matches to finish instead of waiting for one game to finish for the last one to start.

Mr. Lombardo also spoke about adding a second gym. He stated currently there are 6 basketball teams, about 100 students involved in track and 2 cheerleading squads. When all need to practice the gym is in use from 2:30-8:30pm every night. The gym is used seven days a week between practices and games.

Mr. Lombardo said in the past, facilities upgrades have been generously donated by various organizations and community people with no charge to the District. He would like approval to start a fundraiser for the track and tennis courts projects. He would like to kick-off the fundraiser at the Sport Banquet on November 28th. He will solicit donations from community members and organizations, and area businesses. After 2 months he will come back to the Board to report the results.

On a motion by Dr. Shoemaker, second Mr. Hennick, the Board of Education unanimously approved for Mr. Lombardo to begin the fundraiser for the track and tennis courts projects on November 28th.

Ms. Parsons asked if a second gym was built, would the District need to bring the building up to current codes? Mr. Gourley stated yes. It was also noted the \$500,000 requested in the fundraiser is for the track and tennis courts and does not include a second gym.

The total amount of donations for the past facilities upgrades is very significant and the Board thanked people for their generosity and thanked Mr. Lombardo for coordinating the projects.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro reported the CAPSS legislative priorities for this year are ECS, Special Education, Quality and Diversity, Early Childhood, and Technology.

Mrs. Heckler and Brewster School have received a grant for second graders to work with sister school Dwight Elementary School in Hartford.

Several students from Strong and CRHS have received awards from the 2005 American Choral Directors Association.

The Board received the Strategic School Profiles for last year. Copies of the reports are included with these minutes.

John Lyman School – Karen Brimecombe: Mrs. Brimecombe reported Lyman School is working on ways to improve student learning in the areas of reading, writing and math. Student projects include math concepts, artwork, language and graphs. There are also written interpretations on what the students have learned from their graphs.

Grade 1-2 students are studying about oceans. They make a graph about the animals in their tank, talk about the comparisons, do observational drawings over time and list the animals.

Grade 3-4 students are learning about Native Americans. They talk and write papers about what it would be like to be a Native American.

Students also work with the core ethical values. Grade 1-2 students learn about the poem *Dreams* and talk about their hopes and dreams for this school year. Students also raised money to help build a 1500 pupil school in Sri Lanka and attended a ceremony with former President Bill Clinton.

First and second graders made videos they call "Morning Challenges". Mrs. Brimecombe shared a video where three students showed how to hang up your coat, hat and mittens, and snow pants.

Model UN Field Trip Request to Yale University

On a motion by Mr. Hennick, second Dr. Shoemaker, the Board of Education unanimously approved the Model UN Field Trip Request to Yale University to attend a simulation of the United Nations for February 2-5, 2005.

Spanish Honor Society Field Trip Request to Mexico

On a motion by Dr. Shoemaker, second Mrs. Adams, the Board of Education unanimously approved the Spanish Honor Society Field Trip Request to Mexico for April vacation 2007.

Smoking Policy: Mr. Hicks reported the committee revised the policy to include no smoking or smoking materials on school grounds at any time.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Dr. Shoemaker, the Board of Education unanimously approved Smoking Policy 5131.7.

It was noted this policy is under the heading of students even though it also applies to adults. The committee will talk about adding the policy to other sections of the policy book.

Finance Committee: Dr. Shoemaker reported the committee received the draft copy of the 2004-2005 Audit. The unqualified fund balance for 2004-05 was \$691,630 but \$700,000 was put into the 2005-06 budget. For 2004-05, there was a \$96,000 balance in the lunch budget. Except for some salary support, all money for the lunch program was taken out of the 2005-06 budget. The lunch program is self-sufficient.

The audit is described as a clean audit with no findings and nothing to fix. There are no changes recommended to policy or procedures. It was also noted the school activity funds are also audited and they are also clean with no findings.

The monthly warrants and payroll are where they should be and the District has locked into \$2.03 for heating oil and \$2.16 for diesel.

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