

The Regional District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, October 26, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. in the music room at Brewster School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currin, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Raczka. Members absent: Dr. Shoemaker, Ms. Wallach. Also present: Mrs. Viccaro, Mr. Gourley.

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

There was no Public Comment.

Next Board Meeting: The next Board of Education meeting will be November 9, 2005 at John Lyman School.

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

Mr. Hicks made a motion, second Dr. Ochterski to approve the minutes to the October 12, 2005 Board of Education meeting. Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Mrs. Golschneider, Ms Parsons, Mr. Raczka, Mr. Currin voted yes. Mrs. Adams, Mr. Hennick abstained.

Communications: Several employees of the District walked in the recent cancer fundraiser and raised a donation of \$13,000.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro recently attended the CAPSS Fall Legislative Conference where Attorney General Richard Blumenthal spoke on the NCLB lawsuit. He stated 88 towns support his efforts. He was supposed to hear from the federal government last Friday, but the districts have not received any notice from the State Department of Education stating there has been any response.

Commissioner Sternberg will be visiting Superintendent regions to talk with people and see how things are going.

At the Curriculum Council meeting today, there was discussion on the number of committees and state mandates that involve increased teacher time. Mrs. Viccaro stated the teachers are getting stressed and they are working many hours trying to get all the work done. She is working on a plan to help reduce their overload.

Mrs. Viccaro and other area superintendents were invited to visit the new Middletown Adult Education facility today. They have a new video conferencing center that can be used for distance learning and they are continuing to expand their building. Over 70 teachers work at Adult Education.

NCLB requires that all teachers be highly qualified. They have specific requirements that all teachers have to meet. Mrs. Viccaro is in the process of reviewing all certified staff files to see which staff have met these requirements. Teachers must have majored in the area they are

teaching and their certification must match their transcripts. This will affect veteran teachers more than the new teachers, because one requirement is to have passed the praxis and it has only been around the last several years. If all conditions are not met, the District will use their evaluation plan to determine if teachers are highly qualified in the area they are teaching.

The high school has produced a CD of the students who participated in the Shoreline Music Festival with equipment that was purchased through the Merwin Fund. Both band and chorus are on the CD.

Brewster School – Nancy Heckler: Mrs. Heckler reported on the STARS (Students and Teachers Aim for Success) reading program at Brewster. The program focuses on reading success for all students and begins in Kindergarten. Students start by learning both upper case and lower case letters and their sounds. By the time they are ready for first grade they are learning to spell phonetically and begin recognizing words.

Students in first grade learn to read out loud and silently, and by the end of first grade are able to retell the story they have read. Second graders learn to read both fiction and non-fiction books and improve on their fluency in reading and on summarizing what they have read.

Brewster's school improvement plan is based on reading. Teachers at both Brewster and Korn are working on the consistency of their reading program. This helps students to have a smooth transition from one school to another.

Camp Jewell Field Trip Request

On a motion by Mr. Hennick, second Mrs. Adams, the Board of Education unanimously approved the seventh grade Camp Jewell Field Trip request for June 5-6, 2006.

Policy Committee: Mr. Hicks reported the committee discussed several items. The State Board of Education has developed guidelines for districts to implement policies for home schooling, management of students with life threatening allergies, and for nutrition and physical activity programs. The committee will be developing these policies in the near future. The committee discussed the Use of School Facilities policy and will be making changes to the policy at their next meeting. They are also reviewing the graduation policy and will be including several requirement changes. They also revised the Smoking Policy. The Board received the revised policy and will vote on it at their next meeting.

Building and Grounds/Transportation: Mr. Hennick reported the committees met with Dattco to discuss a school bus depot location. Several options were discussed and the committees will be looking into a couple of locations.

Mr. Gourley reported the Technology Committee is working on an infrastructure grant that will come to the Board for review in the near future. The District is also looking into getting a credit card from Liberty Bank to purchase technology equipment quickly when needed.

Building Committee: Mr. Gourley reported the District has been working with Attorney Brad Wolfe on finalizing the punch list of incomplete work that will be sent to Haynes.

Magnet School: Mr. Hicks reported a new principal has been hired for the Thomas Edison Magnet School. She currently is a principal in Wolcott and will start at the magnet school in 30 days.

Mrs. Viccaro will be the superintendent representative on the magnet school board this year. Also, the budget has been developed for next year with a 2.5% increase. It will be voted on at the next magnet school board meeting.

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