

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, October 12, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. in the media center at Coginchaug High School. Board members present: Mr. Currlin, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Raczka, Dr. Shoemaker, Ms. Wallach. Members absent: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Hennick. Also present: Mrs. Viccaro.

Mr. Raczka called the meeting to order at 7:30p.m.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on October 26, 2005 at Brewster School.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Dr. Shoemaker, the Board of Education unanimously approved to amend the agenda to include Contract Issue and Personnel Issue under Executive Session.

On a motion by Dr. Shoemaker, second Ms. Parsons, the Board of Education unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting of September 28, 2005 as corrected.

Communications: Mr. Currlin thanked members for their kind thoughts and calls after the passing of his mother-in-law.

Dr. Ochterski said that he has spoken with the Felgates several times regarding their transportation request.

Mr. Hicks said that he is on the committee that will be interviewing principal candidates at Thomas Edison Magnet School next Monday.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro read a letter from Noreen Oslander to the Recognition Committee of the Board of Education; a thank you for the desk set she received for her twenty years of service to District 13.

Mrs. Viccaro read the official October 1 count for all schools: Coginchaug 565, Strong 368, Memorial 360, Lyman 332, Korn 209, Brewster (K-2) 298, Brewster preschool 30, Homebound 1, and Outbound 11 for a total of 2174 students.

Mrs. Viccaro had two copies of the ACES annual report. She suggested that Board members pass the reports between members, so everyone can review it.

Mrs. Viccaro reported that as of the end of September seventy-four towns are now supporting the NCLB lawsuit. She passed around a letter she received from Attorney General Richard Blumenthal thanking the District for its support.

Mrs. Viccaro gave each Board member a copy of a brochure from the State Department of Education entitled "The Condition of Education in Connecticut". She said the brochure is well done and contains a lot of valuable information.

Mrs. Viccaro said that she is on a CAPPS committee focusing on regional and small school districts and ways that they can work together to achieve their goals. They are creating initiatives and joining together to be cost effective.

Mrs. Viccaro had a newsletter created by the Superintendent of Naugatuck that is sent to all residents of the town. She likes the way the information about the schools is communicated to the residents and is considering producing a similar document.

Mrs. Viccaro said that at Administrative Council, School Improvement Plans were discussed. Literacy, Reading and Reading Comprehension are the focus. She will give more details at the next board meeting.

CRHS Presentation: Steve Wysowski said that he wanted to give the Board a chance to see a new piece of technology in action so he asked John DeMeo to present a lesson plan using a Smartboard. A Smartboard is an interactive white board. It uses a laptop or computer and a projector with a screen. It allows the teacher to be able to teach using the computer from the front of the classroom. Mr. DeMeo showed Board Members a math lesson that he developed for one of his classes. This lesson incorporated a Power Point presentation, use of the Internet, use of a graphing calculator, and graphing all through the Smartboard. At this time the District has only one Smartboard, with the projector and laptop stored on a cart and it's brought to the room requesting it. Each Smartboard costs \$2000.00 but the District was able to get this one for \$1300.00 by applying for a grant through the company who sells them.

Dr. Wysowski said he is very excited about this technology. He has watched lessons being taught with the Smartboard and the students are very engaged in their learning. Dr. Wysowski said he watched a demonstration lesson of another program today called "Paperless Classrooms". He was also very impressed with this technology.

Finance Committee: Dr. Shoemaker said the Finance Committee met this evening. He said warrants and payrolls are right on target. The cost of oil was discussed. The District has still not signed with an oil company to lock in a fuel oil price.

Buildings & Grounds/Transportation: Dr. Ochterski said a joint meeting was held last Wednesday. The current bus depot was toured to see the size and layout of the facility. The Committees then went to Memorial School to look at the available space on the grounds there and then they toured the grounds at Coginchaug. The Committees will be meeting again on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Raczka reported that he contacted the Planning and Zoning Commission to inquire about the sign for Strong School. He was told that Planning and Zoning does have jurisdiction on the size of the sign, but the Historic Commission has control over the type of sign. He has been unable to reach anyone from the Historic Commission.

Mrs. Viccaro shared that the District has 44 staff members walking on Sunday in a Walk-a-thon raising money for the American Cancer Society to fight Breast Cancer. The District has raised approximately \$6,000.00 so far and is leading the state in its fundraising effort.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mr. Currin, the Board of Education unanimously approved to go into Executive Session to discuss a Contract Issue and a Personnel Issue.

The Board of Education moved back into regular session.

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