

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, September 28, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. in the media center at Memorial School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Raczka, Dr. Shoemaker, Ms. Wallach. Member absent: Mr. Currin. Also present: Mr. Gourley, Mrs. Viccaro.

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

Public Comment: Bruce Schmottloch, a Durham resident, past District 13 teacher and grandparent in the District is concerned about the small signs being placed at the end of Pickett Lane. He feels that it is bad for public relations that the campus entrance has no sign. He gathered information eleven years ago and turned it over to a Board member then and was told that the Board would pursue a sign. Now that the building projects are completed he thinks it is time to work with the Historic Commission to see what can be approved. If funding is an issue he believes there are groups that would be willing to support the cost of the project.

Mr. Hicks commented that the Strong School sign is also in poor shape and was not replaced as a part of the building projects.

Rob Gourley said the Historic Commission was involved in the past. They have strict size limits and said no signs can be greater than what is there now. Members said the Historic Commission has changed since then and the guidelines may have changed as well.

Mr. Raczka said that he would have the Buildings & Grounds Committee pursue the issue. He will find out if it is the Planning and Zoning Commission or the Historic Commission who has jurisdiction over the size of signs.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held at Cuginchaug Regional High School on October 12, 2005.

On a motion by Dr. Shoemaker, second Ms. Wallach, the Board of Education unanimously approved the agenda as amended to include Lease - Type II Buses and Four Sedans under New Business.

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion, second Mr. Hennick to accept the minutes of the September 14, 2005 meeting of the Board of Education. Mrs. Adams, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Raczka, Dr. Shoemaker, Ms. Wallach voted yes. Mrs. Golschneider abstained.

Communications: Mr. Hicks said he had several conversations with Directors of the Fair Association who are very upset with District 13 for not being able to work out the operation of the lemonade stands. They feel that the school was turning down free money. Mrs. Viccaro explained that the concern was about the appropriateness of the students working with the adults responsible for the booths and there were not any District 13 personnel willing to take on the additional responsibility of running the booths on their own. Mrs. Viccaro thanked members of the Fair Association for going above and beyond to try to work out the lemonade stands for the track team, but it was a decision that she and Dr. Wysowski had to make. The issue did not surface until Tuesday of Fair week and there was not enough time to work out alternatives. Plans are being made for next year to be sure that this does not happen again.

Members congratulated Mr. Raczka on the birth of his first grandchild- a Durham Fair baby!

Mr. Hicks reported that Cheryl Saloom, Director of ACES, is retiring at the end of January. An interim director is being appointed until a new one is hired.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro reported that five students from Coginchaug have been named National Merit Commended Students for their performance on the PSAT tests, they are: Michele Carter, Brittney Dalton, John Derlaga, Chelsea Murphy and Olivia Swerling and one student, Selie Bekui, was named a National Semi-Finalist and is one of the top ten students in Connecticut.

Last year the combined SAT scores of Coginchaug students were the highest of the shoreline schools.

Mrs. Viccaro and Dr. Wysowski attended the Connecticut Association of Schools convocation dinner at the Aqua Turf. Mrs. Viccaro hopes that next year she can have all of the school administrators attend the event.

Mrs. Viccaro attended a meeting of the consortium. Three new superintendents were introduced. They began making plans for this year and there were some great ideas discussed, such as a leadership conference and a career fair.

Mrs. Viccaro has begun to make HOUSSE (High Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation) plans for the District. A requirement of NCLB, the District has been identifying our teachers that are considered highly qualified, based on the criteria and framework given. Many of our veteran teachers are not considered highly qualified under the new criteria. States have been given options to prove that teachers are qualified but it is going to take considerable time to get through this process.

Mrs. Emory attended a State workshop on the new IEP. She then trained staff members in its implementation. Since then the State has decided to make changes and has asked Districts to hold off on implementation. Some Districts had already implemented the on-line version at the start of the school year and it is causing a lot of problems.

Mrs. Viccaro showed a copy of the Data Acquisition Plan from the State that lists all of the reports that the District must produce for the State every year.

Mrs. Viccaro said that at the last council meeting the administrators talked about mastery testing and CAPT scores. This year schools will be focusing on reading and comprehension. Administrators met with staff members and school improvement plans in the area of reading are being developed.

Memorial School: Kevin Brough shared a sample of an Office Referral Form that students must fill out if they are sent to the office. This was implemented last October and gives students a chance to reflect and focus on the core ethical values. Memorial is also trying to recognize students who embody the core ethical values by a recognition bulletin board and by giving the students ribbons.

The Connectedness Committee is planning a family night on October 5th to benefit the victims of Hurricane Katrina. There will be a DJ, pizza, and a bake sale.

Mr. Brough shared a handout outlining Memorial School's month-by-month Action Plan for the CMT's. Teachers will be attending professional development programs and then training other teachers at future faculty meetings.

New Business- Type II Buses and Four Sedans: Mr. Gourley explained that two new smaller buses and four sedans have been leased to replace older similar vehicles.

Mr. Hicks read the resolution from the leasing company for the Municipal Lease Purchase Agreement.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Dr. Shoemaker, the Board of Education unanimously approved the resolution for the Lease Purchase Agreement between Regional District 13 and Banknorth Leasing Corporation. A copy of the agreement is attached to these minutes.

Buildings & Grounds Committee: Mr. Hennick reported that the Buildings & Grounds Committee met on September 17th. Ted Lombardo, Rob Francis and Sue Viccaro met with the Committee to discuss projects on the baseball field and the hill behind the track. Mr. Lombardo has raised \$43,000 to support these projects. The hill behind the track is going to be cut into a sitting area and the infield of the baseball field in being redone.

On a motion by Mr. Hennick, second Mr. Hicks, the Board of Education unanimously approved receipt of the funding to move forward with the projects on the baseball field and the hill behind the high school track.

Mr. Hennick said the Buildings & Grounds Committee met with the Transportation Committee tonight to begin to discuss a permanent bus depot site. The committees will continue to meet and explore options.

Transportation Committee: Dr. Ochterski said he would be calling Mr. Felgate with the Transportation Committee's response to his request for a bus stop change.

Policy Committee: Mr. Hicks said the Policy Committee would be meeting on October 18th at 7:30pm.

Magnet School: Mr. Hicks said the Magnet School had a great opening. They have an interim principal; Mr. Hicks is on the search committee for a new one. Enrollment for the school is not full. District 13 currently has 21 students at the school, Madison 10, Wallingford 10, Middletown 145, and Meriden 585. The schools budget for next year is being formulated now to prevent the problems that occurred last year.

Finance Committee: The Finance Committee will meet on October 12, 2005.

Personnel Policies: Dr. Shoemaker reported that the Committee has settled with the Nurse's Union. Dr. Shoemaker reviewed the contract because it is the first time that the nurses have negotiated a contract. In the 1st year the net increase is 1.8%, in the 2nd year it is 3.2% and in the 3rd year it is 3.4%. The net increase over three years is 2.8%.

On a motion by Dr. Shoemaker, second Mr. Hennick, the Board of Education unanimously approved to accept the contract with the Nurse's Union as negotiated pending the ratification of the contract by the Nurse's Union.

Members were reminded that the Board Retreat would be held on October 30, 2005.

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