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Board of Education

Regional District 13

May 18, 2009

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in special session on Monday, May 18, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the library at Coginchaug High School. Board members present: Mrs. Boyle, Ms. Gara, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons. Members absent: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Currilin
Also present: Mr. Melnik, Mrs. Viccaro.

Mr. Hennick called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Mr. Hennick said the purpose of the meeting was to set the final numbers for the budget. The unions were asked to respond about concessions by today.

Mrs. Viccaro said agreements were reached for the one day furlough from the administrators' and the nurses' unions. She was told that the teachers did not want to risk opening their contract. Teachers were already frozen on steps in two of three years of the current contract and they do not want to give back more.

Only one group had another suggestion besides the one day furlough. The administrators suggested a second option of a two day deferral. They would give back two days pay this year to help out with the difficult budget, but would like to be paid the money back when they leave the District.

Mrs. Viccaro said in addition to these two union groups, five additional central office employees have agreed to the furlough day including herself, the Business Manager, the Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds, the Facilities Manager and the Technology Director. The total savings from the one day furlough is \$7,883.

Mr. Hennick said he was most comfortable with the one furlough day for next year and although the Board members appreciated the second option from the administrators they did not want to add an additional expense to a future year.

Mrs. Viccaro said that after the last meeting the administrators asked if they could look at other alternatives to cutting the additional money from their supply budgets. They feel that they are already at the bare bones for supplies and it will really hurt the students to cut further. The administrators met this morning and came up with an alternative. They are proposing to cut three of the intern positions from the budget for a savings of \$27,000 and to reinstate the \$25,000 in supply money. Each intern costs the District \$9,000.

Mrs. Golschneider asked for an explanation of how cutting the interns will save money when they were initially added to save money on substitutes. Mr. Melnik said the university has not always been able to fill the number of positions that have been requested or budgeted for. Thirteen interns were budgeted for next year and it will be cut to ten. He does not think it will have that much impact on the cost of substitutes. The principals each discussed how many interns they have had in their buildings this past year and stated that they believe they can manage with less.

The impact of adding the supplies back in and taking the three interns out of the budget will decrease the budget by \$2,000.

Ms. Gara questioned the elimination of the late bus for Memorial and the impact it will have on parents using it to transport their children to the after school program at Korn. It was explained that the bus has not been eliminated; it was budgeted for an incorrect number of days and that has been corrected.

Mr. Hennick said it was not his goal to cut more from the budget this evening. He felt that their purpose of this meeting was to hear the results of the concessions and to set the final budget figure. Board members agreed.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Golschneider, the Board of Education unanimously approved to hold a referendum on June 2, 2009 on the proposed \$33,876,691 gross 2009-10 Regional District 13 education budget preceded by a District Meeting to be held on June 1, 2009.

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