

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, March 4, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the gym at Strong School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currlin, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, and Ms. Parsons. Absent: Mrs. Boyle

Also present: Mr. Melnik, Mrs. Viccaro.

Mr. Hennick called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

Public Comment: Tina Gossner of Durham voiced her concern on class size and possible staff cuts at the elementary school level for next year.

Donia Viola of Durham brought up three issues to the Board: Bus transportation; the new fish tank located at Cuginchaug; and the Town of Durham's elected officials forgoing their raises for next year.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held at Strong School on March 11, 2009.

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

Ms. Parsons made a motion, second by Mr. Currlin to accept the minutes of the meeting of February 25, 2009. Mr. Currlin, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, and Ms. Parsons voted yes. Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Flanagan and Ms. Gara abstained.

Communications: There were no communications.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro said that should there be no further snow days, graduation day / last day of school will now be June 26, 2009.

Mrs. Viccaro informed the Board that due to the snow day Monday and the 2 hour delay Tuesday the Connecticut Mastery Test started today.

Mrs. Viccaro said that Brewster School celebrated Read Across America Day today. Principal Nancy Heckler read Dr. Seuss' "Cat In The Hat" to the students.

Mrs. Viccaro informed the Board that Strategic Planning Renewal '09 will be taking place in April 2 – 4, 2009. The Strategic Plan is a 5 year plan showing the direction that the District will be taking over the next 5 years.

Business Managers Report: Mr. Melnik informed the Board that he sent a letter to the Department of Transportation regarding the reading rooms at Korn and Cuginchaug and that there will be no additional traffic due to adding these rooms.

Mr. Melnik said that the Board met with Merrill Lynch tonight and Merrill Lynch suggested the District consolidate the Merrill Lynch and the Bank of America accounts.

On a motion by Mr. Hennick, second by Mrs. Flanagan the Board of Education unanimously approved to amend the agenda to include a vote on the pension plan investments.

On a motion by Mrs. Flanagan, second by Mr. Currlin the Board of Education unanimously approved moving the Defined Benefits investments of Regional School District 13 pension plan held at Bank of America to Merrill Lynch consults service.

2009-2010 Regional School District 13 Budget: Mrs. Viccaro presented the Regional School District 13 budget. She stated that there were a few unknowns in her budget figures like how much funding the

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District will receive for transportation and special education from the State of Connecticut; what the health insurance cost will be for the upcoming school year; how much funds (if any) the District will receive from the government's stimulus bill; and what the final outcome of the Cafeteria, Custodial and Support Staff contracts as we are currently in negotiations with all three groups. Mrs. Viccaro said that with the help of Mr. Melnik and Amy Emory, Pupil Personnel Director, the District was able to maximize grant funds and only cut 4.5 positions. Those positions are three elementary school teachers, one part time support staff position and one support staff position that will not be replaced from a retirement. Mrs. Viccaro told the Board that she met with these individuals today and informed them that their positions were being eliminated.

She commended her administrators and staff for providing her with very lean and thorough budget. She stated that she still managed to cut an additional \$277,000.00 from their budgets.

Mrs. Viccaro informed the Board that the incoming 5th grade class at Memorial will be comprised of 80 integrated day students. The class size for this group of students will be 26, 27 and 27. This class size is larger than normal but it will only remain this size for 2 years. Mrs. Viccaro also stated that there is no more space to house an additional class to make the class sizes smaller. Mr. Hennick asked Kevin Brough, Principal at Memorial School to present at the next Board of Education meeting to discuss class size.

Mrs. Golschneider asked Mrs. Viccaro if she would provide the Board with a prioritized list of cuts if the Board had to cut \$100,000.00, \$200,000.00 or \$300,000.00 from the budget. Mrs. Viccaro said she would get the Board that information.

Mr. Hennick said that Mrs. Viccaro did an excellent job meeting the request of the Board of Education made of her with this budget.

Committee Reports:

Transportation Committee:

Mr. Currlin said the Transportation Committee met on Tuesday March 3, 2009 with DATTCO and negotiations are ongoing. Mr. Currlin said everything should wrap up in about 2 weeks.

Buildings and Grounds Committee:

Mr. Currlin said the Buildings and Grounds Committee met with Patty Douglass, Project Graduation Coordinator, and she presented the committee with their fund raising idea for 2009. Mr. Currlin passed out a handout showing the Giving Tree which would be located at Coginchaug in the hallway leading from the Library to the Cafeteria. Mr. Hennick asked Dr. Wysowski how he felt about having the Giving Tree in the hallway and he said he would be fine with it. Mr. Currlin said the committee recommends to the Board that they approve the Giving Tree.

Mrs. Golschneider asked if there would be any cost to the District for this Giving Tree and Mr. Melnik said there would be an electrical cost but no other cost to the District.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Golschneider the Board of Education unanimously approved to have a Giving Tree located at Coginchaug Regional High School.

Magnet School Steering Committee:

Mr. Hicks stated the Magnet School Steering Committee met today and unanimously approved a 3.05% increase to their budget. Mr. Hicks stated that Regional School District 13 will be receiving an over \$2,000.00 decrease in their payment with this new budget.

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