

Board of Education

Regional District 13

April 29, 2009

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, April 29, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the music room of Korn School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Currin, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara (arrived 7:55), Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, and Ms. Parsons. Also present: Mr. Melnik, Mrs. Viccaro.

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

Public Comment: Donia Viola of Durham expressed her concerns regarding children attending the Magnet School not being able to participate in District 13 school activities. She asked if it was possible for the Magnet School's Board of Directors to meet and find a way for these students to do functions with District 13 students.

Mrs. Viola also asked about field trips and what the process was in selecting chaperones. Mrs. Viccaro said parents are allowed to be chaperones and it is a first come first serve basis at all levels. She also stated that if a parent is selected to chaperone a field trip, the parent pays their own way.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Education will be the District Meeting on the 2009-10 Budget at Cuginchaug Regional High School.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting will be May 13, 2009 at Brewster School.

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

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second by Mrs. Golschneider the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting of April 7, 2009.

Communications: Mr. Hennick informed the Board that he submitted a letter to the Town Times which should appear in the Friday, May 1, 2009 paper. He wanted to clear up some inaccuracies that were made in a letter to the editor regarding the District 13 budget in a prior edition of the paper .

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro discussed the Swine Flu with the Board members and the actions she was taking for the District. She said that the child in question does not have a confirmed case of the flu at present and has not attended school since returning from vacation. She stated she is taking her direction from the Department of Public Health and the Center for Disease Control. She will be on a conference call Thursday morning with Governor Rell and other superintendents statewide to discuss the flu and any steps that need to be taken. She has asked for all bathroom fixtures and door knobs to be disinfected at all schools. Mrs. Viccaro also stated that she will continue to keep parents updated with any new information that becomes available via the District website.

Mrs. Flanagan asked if she knows how the child was exposed. Mrs. Viccaro said it was while on vacation. Mrs. Flanagan asked if more families were involved, and Mrs. Viccaro said that everyone involved has been cooperating.

Mrs. Boyle asked what the District is doing to be proactive as to where people had traveled while on vacation. Mrs. Viccaro said that there was really no way to track it. She stated that HIPPA laws prevent the District from violating the privacy of the students and that the news media will have more information than the District will be able to give out.

Mrs. Viccaro also stated that she has been in contact with Ashley Horn, teacher of the Mexican students who participated with CRHS in a Student Exchange program. Ms. Horn states that all of the Mexican students who stayed in Durham with host families from April 2, 2009 through April 17, 2009 are symptom free and are showing no signs of the virus.

Mrs. Viccaro attended a United Way Breakfast where the District was presented an Award for a 10% or More Increase in Employee Participation.

Mrs. Viccaro shared with the Board several awards that were given to students and faculty.

- On April 7, 2009 Hannah Bober, Colleen Chausse, Kate Clarke, Olivia Cocchiola, Katie Francis, Aubrey Keurajian, Alicia Light, Alison Neuburger, Jen Ochterski, Emily Romanoff and Garri Saganenko represented Coginchaug at the Annual Connecticut Council of Language Teachers (COLT) Poetry Contest. Receiving medals for their poetry reading were Emily Romanoff who placed 3rd in level I; Olivia Cocchiola who placed 2nd in level II and Hannah Bober who placed 2nd in level V.

- The following students have videos in the running for the scholarship awards from the Fox 61 Student New Program: Brooke Sheriden, Amanda Boyle and Kelsey Bogen for their news piece on the Corn Maze at Lyman Orchards; and Sarah Hopkins, Alyssa Marone, and Steve Thompson for their story about the sport of cheerleading. Sarah Hopkins is also the student who created the new teen driving laws video that won \$1,000.00 for Coginchaug in February from Allstate in Conjunction with Channel 3. The award ceremony will take place in Hartford on April 8, 2009.

- FBLA Conference took place on March 30, 2009 where Coginchaug competed against 70 other Connecticut High School. Coginchaug received the Bronze Chapter Award which is awarded to the chapter with excellent participation and community involvement. Katie Francis received the "Who's Who in CT FBLA" award; Sierra Querns took 4th place for her Annual Business Report; Lora Manley took 1st place for her Business Calculations; Katie Francis and Tayler Dontigney took 1st place for their Business Plan; Chris Smith and Matt Solomon took 3rd place for their Business Presentation; Eric Kelly took 1st place for his Computer Problem Solving; and Jen Heller took 2nd place for her Job Interview.

- Approximately 200 Coginchaug students took part in the Heritage Music Festival in Anaheim, California April 16 – 20, 2009. Jazz Ensemble received the Silver award; Concert Band received the Gold 1st award; Wind Ensemble received the Gold 2nd award; Concert Choir received the Silver 2nd award; Show Choir received the Silver award; and Chamber Choir received the Gold 2nd award. The Wind Ensemble and the Concert Band also received the Adjudicators Award. This award is an invitation to another festival. The festival they are invited to attend will be held at 3 possible locations, one of which is Carnegie Hall. Joe Oblon, junior at CRHS also received the Spirit of Anaheim Disney Award.

- Dr. Steve Wysowski will be honored on Friday, May 22, 2009 by the Connecticut Association of Schools for service to CAS-CIAS.

Business Manager's Report: Mr. Melnik said it was again time to decide as to whether the District wanted to participate in the State Healthy Food Certification reimbursement program.

Mr. Hennick stated that not joining means that the District maintains control of the food that is served in our schools.

On a motion by Mr. Currlin, second by Mrs. Golschneider the Board of Education unanimously voted to not comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published pursuant to §10-215e of the Connecticut General Statutes for the period of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

Mr. Melnik said that the phone bids were all in and that Rich Fielding is in the process of reviewing them.

Mr. Melnik said that the bus contract was reviewed and went back to DATTCO with changes. He expects to hear something in a few days.

Mr. Melnik said the audit has been completed and all their findings will be addressed by summers end.

Strategic Plan Renewal 09: Mrs. Viccaro and Carol Luckenbach presented a power point presentation to the Board on the Strategic Plan renewal. The planning team met for an intense 2 ½ days in April and have made revisions to our current Strategic Plan which will carry us through the next 5 years. A draft copy of the Strategic Plan Renewal will be made available on the District website, by email and will also be sent out to elementary school parents next Wednesday. Copies will also be available at the Library and Town Halls. They

are looking for volunteers within the community and the District to serve on one of the 5 action teams. The Board will approve the plan after the action teams have completed the action plans. Amy Emory, Pupil Personnel Director will also be submitting an article to the Town Times next Friday encouraging all community members to sign up and take part in the Districts Mission.

CRHS Field Trip to Costa Rica, April 12-18, 2010:

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second by Mrs. Flanagan, the Board of Education unanimously approved the CRHS Field Trip to Costa Rica, April 12-18, 2010.

Mrs. Golschneider wanted to add as done in the past, the Board reserves the right to cancel this field trip should they feel the students are in any danger due to world events.

2009-2010 District Goals: The Board received a handout of the 2009-2010 District Goals and agreed to review the information and will approve it at their next meeting.

District Logo: Mr. Currllin, Mrs. Flanagan and Mrs. Golschneider received several entries for the District Logo from students of Jan Wenzel and Amy Schaffer. They reviewed the entries and narrowed it down to one entry.

Mr. Currllin made a motion, second by Mrs. Golschneider to approve the District Logo entry.

The Board of Education discussed the entry and decided it needed more work.

Mr. Currllin withdrew his motion and Mrs. Golschneider her second to approve the District Logo entry.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: Ms. Parsons said that the Finance Committee met tonight and that receipts are tracking as expected. She said the District was on budget except in snow removal and heating oil where it is in the negative.

Building Committee:

Appointment of New Members:

On a motion by Mr. Currllin second by Dr. Ochterski the Board of Education unanimously approved the appointment of Paul Haberern and Paul Sutterlin as new members of the Building Committee:

Appointment of Architect/Engineer Firm for the Athletic Fields:

On a motion by Mr. Currllin second by Dr. Ochterski the Board of Education unanimously approved the appointment of Clough Harbour Associates and Richard Webb as Architect / Engineer Firm for the Athletic Fields.

Approval of Plans and Cost Estimates on Roof Projects:

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second by Mr. Currllin, the Board of Education unanimously approved the final plans and project manual as prepared for bidding and dated March 11, 2009 and the professional cost estimate dated April 27, 2009 for the following projects approved at the referendum held May 6, 2008:

1. Replacement of the roof of the Lyman Elementary School located in Middlefield, Connecticut; and
2. Replacement of the roof of the Memorial Middle School located in Middlefield, Connecticut.

Personnel Policy Committee: Mrs. Flanagan said that they are making good progress in the negotiations with the Support Staff, Cafeteria Staff and Custodial Staff and they are very close to agreement with all three bargaining units.

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