

Board of Education

Regional District 13

April 7, 2009

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the library at Coginchaug High School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Currlin, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara (7:55 p.m.), Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons.

Also present: Mr. Melnik, Mrs. Viccaro.

Mr. Hennick called the meeting to order at 7:42 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held at Korn Elementary School on April 29, 2009.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Adams the Board of Education unanimously approved the agenda.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, second Mrs. Boyle to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 25, 2009. Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Currlin, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons voted yes. Mrs. Adams abstained.

Communications: Mr. Currlin said he judged at the Invention Convention today. He said some of the inventions have real potential. Ten of the inventions will be going on to the State competition.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro said she participated in a conference call with Rosa DeLauro regarding the AARA money disbursement. The District must apply through the IDEA grant. It must be approved at the State and Federal levels. It is still unclear how the money can be used. The money will come in 3 or 4 installments, starting in a couple of months and going until September 2011.

Mrs. Viccaro said Eida Hinson-Yokubinus received a letter from the State Department of Education commending the District on the progress that the ELL students from the District have made in English acquisition. The ELL program is currently serving students who speak six languages and are at varying grade levels within the District. Mrs. Viccaro commended Mrs. Hinson-Yokubinus for the nice job she does coordinating the program.

Mrs. Viccaro attended the Senior Arts Showcase at the high school last evening. She said six students had their best artwork on display in the cafeteria.

Regarding the stimulus money, Mrs. Viccaro said she will be attending a meeting later this week to discuss its distribution. She has been told that the District will be receiving \$440,000 over a two year period but that figure can change. The money should be used to support special education students. It may be used to buy items such as software and technology equipment. The area superintendents have been in contact with each other offering suggestions about uses for the money. Some are considering using it for special education personnel, but Mrs. Viccaro thinks that is risky because the positions will be expected to be kept in the budget when the stimulus money is gone.

The District has received the check for the security grant and will be receiving bids on the phone systems next week.

Set Graduation Date: On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Golschneider the Board of Education unanimously set the graduation date for Coginchaug High School as June 26, 2009.

Building & Grounds/Transportation Committee: Mr. Currlin said the contract with DATTCO is still being reviewed by the attorneys. All of the changes that were requested have been agreed to. The new contract has many positive changes in it. The document will be ready before the next meeting and will be voted on at that time.

Building Committee: Mr. Currlin said the Committee met last evening. Ten proposals for architectural or engineering services have been received for the athletic complex project. Interviews will take place within the next two weeks.

On a motion by Mr. Currlin, second Mr. Hicks the Board of Education unanimously adjourned to the Public Hearing.

The Board of Education reconvened at the conclusion of the Public Hearing.

Finalize Budget for District Meeting: Mr. Hennick asked Board members if they heard anything at the Public Hearing that makes them want to change anything in the budget.

Mr. Hicks said he is happy with the budget as it is. He did not hear one thing that makes him want to change it.

Mr. Currlin feels that the public will look at the bottom line. He is confident the Board met all standards.

Mrs. Flanagan feels they have been responsible balancing the wishes of the District and the public. She feels they need the referendum results to really know how the people feel.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Adams the Board of Education unanimously approved to go to the District Meeting on May 4, 2009 with a \$34,205,853 gross Regional District 13 education budget for school year 2009-10 followed by a referendum on May 5, 2009.

Mr. Currlin distributed a picture of the "tree" that Project Graduation will be building on the hallway wall as a fundraising effort.

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