

Board of Education

Regional District 13

January 13, 2010

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the music room of Brewster Elementary School. Board members present: Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Currin, Ms. Gara, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, and Ms. Parsons. Absent: Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Flanagan. Also present: Mrs. Viccaro and Mr. Melnik.

Mr. Hennick called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Public Comment: Donia Viola of Durham spoke regarding the upcoming school budget. Mrs. Viola reminded the Board of the current economic state and asked them to remember their responsibility to the taxpayers and the students when putting together next year's budget.

Next Board Meeting: The next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting will be January 27, 2010 at Coginchaug Regional High School. Mr. Hennick said that this meeting will focus on the 2010 – 2011 budget and the approval of the 2010 – 2011 District calendar.

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

Mr. Hicks made a motion, second by Mrs. Golschneider, to accept the minutes of the meeting of November 17, 2009. Mr. Currin, Ms. Gara, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, and Ms. Parsons voted yes. Mrs. Boyle abstained.

Dr. Ochterski made a motion, second by Mrs. Boyle, to accept the minutes of the meeting of December 9, 2009. Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Hennick and Dr. Ochterski voted yes. Mr. Currin, Ms. Gara, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hicks and Ms. Parson abstained.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, second by Mrs. Golschneider, to accept the minutes of the meeting of December 15, 2009. Mr. Currin, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, and Ms. Parsons voted yes. Mrs. Boyle and Ms Gara abstained.

Communications: Mr. Hicks attended the Selectmen's meeting on January 7, 2010 with the Board of Selectmen from both towns and the Board of Education.

Mrs. Boyle asked that everyone come out and support the Coginchaug Girls' Basketball team. She said they are having a great year and the games have been a lot of fun to watch.

Ms. Gara said she spoke with a parent of a student at Coginchaug whose son has been struggling. She said that one of the art teachers at the high school has taken a special interest in this student and it has helped him with his outlook for his Junior and Senior years.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro said she met with the Brewster Playground Committee and the project is moving forward. The tentative installation date of the playground is June 24, 25 and 26, 2010. Mrs. Viccaro said that this will be a community build and that they are looking for volunteers.

Mrs. Viccaro said that the District will not be participating in the Race to the Top program with the State of Connecticut as she felt the information she was provided did not explain the program in its entirety.

Mrs. Viccaro said that she and Mr. Melnik are currently working on the 2010-2011 school budget and are in the process of meeting with the administrators of all the schools.

Mrs. Viccaro said the issue of seatbelts on the buses has come up again and that she will be review this DATCO.

Presentations: Francis Willett, Durham's Emergency Management Director and Durham resident, presented the Everbridge emergency notification system to the Board. Mr. Willett explained how the system works and how it would be utilized by Regional School District 13 for school closings, early dismissals, bus delays and any information parents and staff may need to be made aware of immediately. Mr. Willett said that the Everbridge system was purchased by the Town of Durham and the District is being offered use of the system at no cost until June of 2011. Mrs. Boyle asked how soon the system could be up and running for the District and Mr. Willett said the staff phase could be up and running by the end of the month with the parent and caregiver phase up and running shortly thereafter.

New Business: Lorrie Martin requested permission from the Board to plan a Discovery Dive field trip for her Oceanography classes. This field trip would expose her students to a safe taste of scuba diving and the operation of the gear involved in diving. Cuginchaug senior Katie Carria addressed the Board in support of the field trip. Members of the New England Dive Shop also addressed the Board. The field trip would take place in Wallingford and would be taught by instructors of the New England Dive Shop. The students attending would pay the \$37.00 dive fee. There would be no cost to the District. Mr. Melnik said the New England Dive Shop would have to add the District to its liability insurance and the students and parents would have to sign a special release. Mr. Hicks did not feel this kind of field trip should be put on by the High School and was concerned with the Districts liability. Ms. Gara asked Mr. Melnik to review the release language.

Mr. Currin made a motion, second by Mrs. Boyle, to approve the Discovery Dive field trip as proposed by Lorrie Martin. Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Currin, Ms. Gara, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Dr. Ochterski, and Ms. Parsons voted yes. Mr. Hicks abstained.

On a motion by Mr. Currin second by Ms. Gara, the Board of Education unanimously approved the National Ocean Sciences Bowl field trip, February 5 - 6, 2010.

On a motion by Mrs. Golschneider second by Mr. Currin, the Board of Education unanimously approved the Model UN Club Conference field trip, January 21-24, 2010.

2010-2012 Administrators Contract: Ms. Parsons said the Personnel Policy Committee met with the Administrators and came to the following agreement:

- 2 year contract
- 0% increase in the 1st year
- 1.75% increase in the 2nd year
- All Administrators will switch to the Health Savings Account

On a motion by Mr. Currin, second by Mrs. Boyle the Board of Education unanimously approved the 2010-2012 Administrators Contract.

On a motion by Mr. Currin, second by Mrs. Golschneider, the Board of Education unanimously approved the 2008-2009 Annual Report.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee: Ms. Parsons said the Finance Committee met with the auditors in December to discuss the 2008-2009 Regional School District 13 Audit. Ms. Parsons said that the Audit will be posted on the District's website. Hard copies will also be available at the town halls and libraries.

Ms. Parsons made a motion, second by Mr. Currin, to approve the 2008-2009 Regional School District 13 Audit. Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Currin, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski & Ms. Parsons voted yes. Ms. Gara abstained.

Policy Committee: Mr. Hicks stated that the Policy Committee met last week and that they are still reviewing the Policy manual and making minor phrase changes. He said he will bring revised policies to the Board for them to review in February.

Magnet School Steering Committee: Mr. Hicks said that the Magnet School Steering Committee met last week and Wallingford has decided to change its allocation. Mr. Hicks said they are still working on the budget for next year. He will bring a presentation on the budget to the Board in February. Mr. Hicks was happy to report that at present 13 students from the District have expressed interest in attending the Magnet School next year.

Communication Committee: Mrs. Boyle said the Committee is continuing to meet with the PTO's at both Cuginchaug and Strong and plan to meet again with them at the end of the month.

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

Virginia P. Antonelli