

Board of Education

Regional District 13

March 3, 2010

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, March 3, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the library at Strong School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Currin, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara, 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 7:31 p.m.

Public Comment: Donia Viola of Durham wanted to remind the Board of the economic times and she feels that any increase would be out of line at this time. Mrs. Viola also said that with the decrease in enrollment there should be no increase in staff, teachers or programs.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held at Strong School on March 10, 2010.

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

Mrs. Adams made a motion, second by Mrs. Golschneider to accept the minutes of the meeting of February 24, 2010. Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks and Ms. Parsons voted yes. Mr. Currin and Dr. Ochterski abstained.

Communications: Mrs. Golschneider and Mrs. Boyle both attended Read Across America at Korn Elementary School on Tuesday.

Mrs. Boyle was happy to report that the Cuginchaug Girls Jr. Varsity Basketball team is continuing to have a great year.

Mrs. Boyle also wanted to let the Board know that the Communications Committee will hold two public meetings at Perk on Main in Durham. The dates are Saturday, March 13, 2010 and Saturday, March 20, 2010 from 10 am to 12 pm. She asked that the public come to voice their concerns, comments and suggestions.

Mrs. Adams wanted to remind everyone that the first hour of the March 17, 2010 Board meeting has been set aside for public comment.

Mr. Currin attended the Harlem Wizard Basketball game on Sunday at Cuginchaug. The fund raiser was put together by the Brewster Korn PTA. Mr. Currin said a great time was had by all.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro was sad to report that Dr. Steve Wysowski, Cuginchaug Principal would be leaving at the end of the 2009-2010 school year. Dr. Wysowski will be taking a position as Principal of Bristol Eastern High School.

Mrs. Viccaro reported that the Cuginchaug High School National Ocean Sciences Bowl team captured the 2nd Place trophy plus the Sportsmanship Award at the CT/RI Regional Quahog Bowl held at the University of Connecticut Avery Point Campus on February 6, 2010. Mrs. Viccaro stated that Lorrie Martin was very proud of her team.

Mrs. Viccaro handed out a letter she received from the State Department of Education regarding early childhood development and in particular early childhood reading. Mrs. Viccaro stated that their overall vision was to have children proficient in reading and numeracy by age 9. Mrs. Viccaro said she would not be surprised if the State mandated all day kindergarten in 5 to 10 years.

Mr. Hennick asked that there be a moment of silence for former Superintendent Howard Kelley and former Board member Dr. Felix Sheehan.

2010-2011 Regional School District 13 Budget: Mrs. Viccaro presented the Regional School District 13 budget. Mrs. Viccaro stated the 2.88% increase was primarily due to salaries and benefits. Mrs. Viccaro stated that there will be one less staff member due to a retirement in the proposed budget and is recommending no further staff cuts. She commended her administrators and staff for providing her with a very lean and thorough budget and thought they did a great job at keeping the student's needs in mind.

Mrs. Flanagan explained to the Board the importance of a Capital Reserve and how having one would help fund long range projects for the future. She stressed how important it was for the District to continue to maintain and update its schools and how setting funds aside each year would help defer or pay for some of these projects when the time comes for them to be completed.

Mrs. Viccaro said that the Strategic Planning Team met last week. She stated that they revised their Mission Statement and have worked on the action plans for 5 new strategies. These plans will have little or no funding implications on next year's budget. Amy Emory and Carol Luckenbach will present the new Strategic Plan to the Board in April.

Ms. Parsons explained to the Board the Fund Balance and how this figure carries over from one year to the next. She wanted to stress to everyone that this figure is not a reserve but a rolling balance that is left at the end of each fiscal year.

Mr. Hennick asked the Board members to review the budget and contact Mrs. Viccaro or Mr. Melnik with any questions they may have. He invited the public to do the same. Mr. Hennick also stated that the budget presentation will be made available on the District website on Thursday.

Resolution to Refinance Various Bonds:

**On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mr. Currin the Board of Education unanimously approved the following resolution:**

**RESOLUTION OF REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$11,000,000 REFUNDING BONDS FOR PAYMENT OF ANY OR ALL OF THE OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST AND ANY CALL PREMIUM ON \$9,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, ISSUE OF 2001 AND \$7,300,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, ISSUE OF 2003 OF REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 13, AND COSTS RELATED THERETO**

RESOLVED,

(a) That Regional School District Number 13 of the State of Connecticut issue its refunding bonds, in an amount not to exceed ELEVEN MILLION DOLLARS (\$11,000,000) the proceeds of which are hereby appropriated: (1) to fund one or more escrows, and to apply the balance held in such escrows, together with the investment earnings thereon, to the payment in whole or in part, as to be determined by the Chairman of the Board of Education and the Treasurer of the District, of the outstanding principal of and interest and any call premium on the District's \$9,000,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2001 and \$7,300,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2003, or any of them, including the payment of interest accrued on said bonds to the date of payment, and (2) to pay costs of issuance of the refunding bonds authorized hereby, including legal fees, consultants' fees, trustee or escrow agent fees, underwriters' fees, bond insurance premiums, net interest and other financing costs and other costs related to the payment of the outstanding bonds described above. The refunding bonds shall be issued pursuant to Section 10-60a of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds shall be general obligations of the District and its member towns, secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the District and its member towns.

(b) The Chairman of the Board of Education and the Treasurer of the District shall sign the bonds by their manual or facsimile signatures. The law firm of Day Pitney LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds. The Chairman and Treasurer, or such other officer or body to whom the Board of Education delegates the authority to make such determinations, are authorized to determine the bonds to be redeemed and the amount, date, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions,

form and other details of the refunding bonds; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds; to sell the bonds at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds.

(c) That the District hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that costs of the refunding may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that (except to the extent reimbursed from grant moneys) the District reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the refunding. The Chairman and Treasurer, or such other officer or body to whom the Board of Education delegates such authority, are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the District pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

(d) That the Chairman and Treasurer, or such other officer or body to whom the Board of Education delegates such authority, are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds.

(e) That the Chairman and Treasurer, or such other officer or body to whom the Board of Education delegates such authority, are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to enable the District to effectuate the refunding of all or a portion of the District's outstanding \$9,000,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2001 and \$7,300,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2003, and to issue refunding bonds authorized hereby for such purposes, including, but not limited to, the entrance into agreements on behalf of the District with underwriters, trustees, escrow agents, bond insurers and others to facilitate the issuance of the refunding bonds, the escrow of the proceeds thereof and investment earnings thereon, and the payment of the outstanding bonds in whole or in part.

(f) That the Superintendent of Schools, the Chairman, the Treasurer and other proper officers and officials of the District are authorized to execute and file all necessary applications, agreements and documents with the State Board of Education in order to obtain State grants, to the extent available, to defray in part principal and interest on and to pay issuance costs with respect to refunding bonds authorized hereby to the extent such bonds are allocable to the refunding of portions of the District's \$9,000,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2001 and \$7,300,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2003, representing school bonds issued pursuant to Section 10-56 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended.

(g) That the above authorization to issue refunding bonds shall lapse on June 30, 2010.

#### Committee Reports:

Policy Committee: On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mr. Currlin the Board of Education unanimously approved to delete the following Policies from the Policy Manual: 1112, 1220, 1312 (already present in subsequent policy), 1340 (policy appears in subsequent policy), 3000, 3241, 3510, 3541 and refer to regular transportation services, 3542.1, and 3542.31(A) as it is covered in our wellness policy.

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

*Virginia Antonelli*