

Board of Education

Regional District 13

April 28, 2010

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, April 28, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the music room of Korn School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Currin, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, and Ms. Parsons. Absent: Ms. Gara and Mrs. Golschneider. Also present: Mr. Melnik, Mrs. Viccaro.

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

Public Comment: Dave Montgomery of Durham spoke regarding the athletic field project. Mr. Montgomery wanted to know how the funds that were raised, donated and willed by the community were used in this project. Mr. Hennick said that a total of \$40,000.00 was raised and those funds were initially going to be used to restore the track. Ms. Parsons stated that the District was then told by the CIAC that they would no longer be able to have a combined football team with Vinal and so a football field also needed to be built. Mr. Hennick stated that the track was deemed unsafe and those funds were used to do the preliminary design work for the current Athletic Complex.

Kathy Kokoszka of Middlefield spoke regarding the 2010-2011 school budget. She asked where the Board expected the taxpayers to get the funds to pay this increase given the current economic state. Mr. Hennick stated that the budget was a responsible budget and the increase was modest. Mrs. Adams said that most of the increase went to teacher salaries which is part of their contract and is binding. She also said that only so much could be cut from other areas without it affecting the students.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Education will be the District Meeting on the 2010-11 Budget May 3, 2010 at Coginchaug Regional High School.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting will be May 12, 2010 at Lyman School.

The Board agreed that the administrators do not need to be present at the May 3, 2010 District Meeting.

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

On a motion by Mrs. Flanagan, second by Mrs. Boyle the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting of April 7, 2010.

Communications: Mr. Hicks said he and Mr. Currin attended and were judges at the Invention Convention at Memorial Middle School on April 9, 2010. He wanted to thank Maureen Hamilton for inviting them. He said the inventions were very interesting.

Mrs. Adams said she attended the Art Show at Coginchaug on Monday night and found it to be very enjoyable.

Mr. Hennick attended the musical at Coginchaug before the break. He thought the students were very well rounded and did a great job.

Mrs. Boyle reminded the Board that both Strong and Memorial both have their school plays coming up next week.

Mrs. Boyle told the Board that the PTO at Memorial has donated a TV that displays important information and the school's daily announcements. The TV is mounted in the main lobby of the school.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro congratulated senior Matthew Soloman on being one of 10 Connecticut seniors to receive a \$1,000.00 Arrive Alive Scholarship from Carter Mario Injury Lawyers. Over 350 students across the State applied for this scholarship.

Mrs. Viccaro reviewed a letter Laura Francis had forwarded to her from John Carey of the State Department of Transportation regarding the crossing guard. The letter stated that the State believes there should be a light at the end of Pickett Lane. Mrs. Viccaro said the light would most likely be triggered by the weight of a vehicle and would more than likely be in use only during peak time. Mrs. Viccaro said the cost to the District would be 10% or about \$10,000.00 with the Town of Durham picking up the electrical cost. Dr. Ochterski stated that if Capital Reserve funds are used to pay for the District's portion there would need to be a District vote.

Mrs. Viccaro shared a letter she received from the Department of Education regarding teacher shortage areas.

Mrs. Viccaro said that Korn School received a \$1,000.00 grant from Liberty Bank to purchase literacy materials in science.

Mrs. Viccaro passed out 2 handouts to the Board regarding Race to the Top Funds. Mrs. Viccaro asked the Board members to review the information as they would have to vote on whether or not to participate in the program at the next Board Meeting. Mrs. Viccaro said the grant money would not be significant for the District - approximately \$39,000.00 – and would be given out over a 4 year period. Mrs. Adams asked Mrs. Viccaro if she could identify the main points that would impact the District and share them at the next meeting. Mrs. Viccaro said she would. Mrs. Boyle asked if the District signed on could they get out of it. Mrs. Viccaro said she was not sure but would find out.

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. He handed out a spreadsheet showing the current amount the District receives without state reimbursement and what those same figures would be with state reimbursement. Mr. Melnik also discussed how going with the State program would require the District to use state guidelines in the lunch menus and portions. Mrs. Boyle said she feels the District lunches are very healthy and the students seem happy with what they are eating.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second by Mr. Currin 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, 2010 through June 30, 2011 .

SRBI / FTI: Mrs. Viccaro reviewed the RTI and DI handout she handed out at a prior Board meeting. Mrs. Flanagan noted the handout's emphasis was on the importance of planning.

Strategic Plan: Carol Luckenbach and Amy Emory presented a power point presentation to the Board on the new 5-year Strategic Plan. This was the Districts 4th renewal of the Strategic Plan which began back in 1993. Mrs. Luckenbach and Mrs. Emory reviewed the new Strategic Plan and highlighted changes made to the mission statement, parameters, objectives and strategies. They thanked the action teams for their hard work and especially thanked action team leaders Jen Keane, Jenny Lussier, Jan Wenzel, Tara Amatrudo, Tara Heikkila and the entire administrative staff for helping to organize each team's plan.

On a motion by Mr. Currin, second by Mrs. Boyle the Board of Education unanimously approved the 5-year Strategic Plan for 2010 - 2014.

Mrs. Viccaro said that there will be special reception to thank everyone who participated with the 5-year Strategic Plan on May 26, 2010 at 7:00 prior to the Board of Education meeting at Brewster School.

Mrs. Viccaro asked if the Board wanted to distribute the Strategic Plan Summary via mail to the community as it has in the past. She said the cost for such a mailing would be approximately \$590.00. Mrs. Adams didn't think a mailing would be necessary and suggested printing some out and having them left at the town halls, libraries and key locations throughout the community. Mr. Currin asked if the website could add a section for someone to request their own copy of the Strategic Plan since the District will already be posting the new Strategic Plan it on its website. Mrs. Viccaro thought this was a good idea and thought that could be done.

Committee Reports: Mr. Hicks wanted to acknowledge Coginchaug students Brian MacDuff and Taylor Lauretti for taking 2nd place in the 2009-2010 Teen Safe Driving Video Contest which was sponsored by The Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles, Travelers Insurance and WFSB Channel 3. Coginchaug will receive \$3,000 and the students will each receive a video camera. WFSB-TV will also air the videos as public service announcements.

Communications Committee: Mrs. Boyle said the committee met last week and discussed adding another retreat for the Board. They suggested a Board questionnaire in advance to prepare thoughts and action items. Mrs. Boyle also said she has asked Ms. Gara put together an article regarding frequently asked questions of the budget which will appear in Friday's Town Times.

Finance Committee: Ms. Parson said that the Finance Committee met with Bob Yamartino to discuss his concerns on the 2010-11 Budget. She also stated that the fund balance keeps moving and receipts were low.

Other Committee Reports: Mr. Currlin said the Building and Grounds Committee met tonight and decided they would like to move forward with adding solar panels on the roofs at Lyman and Memorial. The total savings to the District will be approximately \$14,000.00 per year and can also be used as a teaching tool at both schools. Mr. Currlin said there would be no cost to the District for the equipment and installation. Mrs. Boyle was concerned about the cost to replace a panel should one need to be replaced. She was also concerned on how long the District would be tied to the Agreement. Mr. Hicks said the agreement stated it was a 25 year lease. Mr. Melnik stated the contract was reviewed by Shipman and Goodwin LLP and they found it to be a very favorable contract. Mr. Melnik said he would contact them again regarding Mrs. Boyles concern's and would get back to everyone by Friday, April 30, 2010. The Board Members felt they should proceed with the vote and rescind should they need to.

Mr. Currlin made a motion, second by Mr. Hicks to accept the Power Purchase Agreement as presented by DBS Energy for solar panel installation at Memorial and Lyman School at no cost to the District. Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currlin, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, and Ms. Parsons voted yes. Mrs. Boyle abstained.

Superintendent's Evaluation: Due to the length of this meeting, the Superintendent's Evaluation was tabled until the next Board Meeting.

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

Virginia Antonelli