

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, May 26, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the music room of Brewster School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Currlin, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Dr. Ochterski, and Ms. Parsons. Absent: Mr. Hicks and Ms. Gara. Also present: Mr. Melnik, Mrs. Viccaro.

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

Mr. Hennick started the meeting by expressing his gratitude to the community for passing the 2010-2011 school budget earlier in the week.

On a motion by Mrs. Adams, second by Mrs. Flanagan, the agenda was amended to add an executive session and was then unanimously approved.

New Business:

Naming of the Strong School Library: Former Board Chairs Joyce Kellish & Etzie Heyl along with former Board Member Pam Lang proposed the naming of the Strong School Library in dedication of former Superintendent of Schools Dr. William Breck.

In accordance with policy 3281 Mr. Currlin made a motion, second by Mrs. Golschneider, the Board unanimously approved the naming of the Strong School Library to the Dr. William Breck Library.

Mrs. Kellish said the dedication ceremony will take place on October 17, 2010.

Mrs. Kellish, Mrs. Heyl and Mrs. Lang also proposed the naming of the Conference Room at the Superintendent's Office in dedication to all past, current and future Board of Education Members.

In accordance with policy 3281 Mr. Currlin made a motion, second by Mrs. Adams, the Board unanimously approved the naming of the Conference Room at the Superintendent's Office to the Regional School District 13 Board Members Conference Room.

Mrs. Kellish said a date for the dedication ceremony of the Conference room will determined at a later date.

Public Comment: Donia Viola of Durham spoke regarding the passing of 2010-11 school budget and how the net increase for the Town of Durham is above the cost of inflation, how we didn't hear from the teachers' union on any give backs and how we need to put a freeze on contracts in the future.

Mrs. Viola also spoke about the Naviance Presentation that took place at the previous Board meeting and the costs involved. Mrs. Viola doesn't feel this program is necessary especially for the costs involved. She asked Mrs. Viccaro to reiterate the cost per year for the programs at Strong and Cuginchaug. Mrs. Viccaro stated that the costs for program is \$1,800.00 per year at Cuginchaug and \$400.00 per year at Strong.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on June 9, 2010 at Cuginchaug Regional High School.

Mr. Currlin, made a motion, second by Mrs. Flanagan, to accept the minutes of the meeting of May 12, 2010. Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Currlin, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Hennick, Dr. Ochterski, and Ms. Parsons voted yes. Mrs. Golschneider abstained.

Communications: Mrs. Boyle said she heard from a lot of happy parents with the passing of 2010-2011 school budget. She also heard from parents who wanted to be a part of the budget process. They were interested in some sort of special think tank meetings for ideas on budgeting.

Mrs. Flanagan said she was contacted about bullying. Mrs. Flanagan was wondering if a mail box could be put in each school for students as a way for them to have a safe easy way to go for help. Mrs. Viccaro said that Korn already has this in place. She was not sure if the other schools did but she will find out and get back to the Board. Mrs. Viccaro said the Tech Integration Team have implemented a cyber bullying email address where students can forward any email they feel uncomfortable with.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro passed out to the Board the Annual Performance Report on Connecticut's State Performance Plan for Regional School District 13 for 2008-2009 school year. She said that this report is like a report card for the District for special education. She thanked Pupil Personnel Director Amy Emory and the entire special education department for striving to meet the State's requirements.

Mrs. Viccaro said that the District has been notified that the 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade have been selected to participate in NAPE testing next year. Mrs. Viccaro said the testing will take place from February thru April and will cover 1 or 4 areas. She said it could be all students or it could be a random selection of 100 from each grade. Several Board members questioned the timing of the testing and how it was taking place right around the same time as CMT's and CAPT's testing and asked if the tests were mandatory or if the parent can opt there child out of this additional testing. Mrs. Viccaro said she was not sure but would find out and let the Board know at the next meeting.

Mrs. Viccaro read a State Mandate on the use of green cleaning products in the school. Starting by October 1, 2010, the act requires each school district to give school staff and, if they request it, students, parents and guardians a written statement about its green cleaning policy. It requires the "notice" (presumably the written statement and the notice are the same) to include:

1. The names and types of environmentally preferable cleaning products used in the schools and where in the buildings they are applied;
2. The schedule for applying the products; and
3. The name of the school administrator or designee from whom the parent, guardian, or student may obtain more information.

The notice must also contain the following statement: "No parent, guardian, teacher, or staff member may bring into the school facility any consumer product which is intended to clean, deodorize, sanitize or disinfect".

Districts must provide the notice to parents and guardians of students who transfer to a school and to any staff hired during the school year. They must also post it on the Board of Education's and each school's website or, if there is no website, make it publicly available in another way.

Rob Francis, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds stated that he had been using green products and is in the process of completing the procedural manual to meet the requirement for this program. He stated the manual will be completed by the end of the summer.

Mrs. Viccaro discussed the Traffic Light at the end of Pickett Lane. She said she has been contacted by Laura Francis who asked that the Board write a letter to her stating that they wanted to proceed with adding the traffic light. Mrs. Viccaro said she would write the letter if the Board wanted to proceed. She also stated that the Department of Transportation feels a traffic light is appropriate for that location. Mr. Curren stated we will need a traffic light with all the increased activity that will be coming in and out of Pickett Lane once the athletic facility is completed. Mrs. Viccaro said the cost to the District will be \$10,000.00 with the State picking up \$90,000.00. Mrs. Viccaro said the funds required would come from the Capital Fund Account and would need to be voted on. Mrs. Boyle asked if there was time to look into grant money to pay for the District's portion. Mrs. Viccaro said that may be possible since it may take a few years for the light to be operational.

On a motion by Mrs. Golschneider, second by Mrs. Boyle, the Board of Education unanimously approved Mrs. Viccaro drafting a letter to Laura Francis stating the Board would like to proceed with the Town of Durham to add a traffic light at the end of Pickett Lane.

Mrs. Viccaro happily announced that Cuginchaug took 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the 19th Annual CT Envirothon that was held on May 20, 2010 at Deer Lake Scout Reservation in Killingworth, CT.

Mrs. Viccaro said that the Connecticut Council of Language Teachers held a Technology workshop at Cuginchaug on Monday, May 24, 2010. MaryLou Ennis and Bill Kurtz, the District's tech integration specialist helped organize the event.

Mrs. Viccaro handed out the Proposed District Goals for 2010-2011 to the Board. She said that these are the targeted goals for the 2010-2011 school year.

On a motion by Mrs. Flanagan, second by Dr. Ochterski, the Board of Education unanimously approved the 2010-11 District Goals.

Presentation:

CMT/CAPT/SAT: Mrs. Viccaro handed out 3 reports to the Board showing the District status from the 2009 CMTs; CAPTs and SATs. The CMT report showed a 4 year period from 2006-2009 of scores for students from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The CAPT report showed a 3 year period from 2007-2009 of scores for students in grade 10 and the SAT report showed a five year profile of students from 2005-2009.

Mrs. Viccaro said an area of concern in the elementary level is reading and that the District needs to have more fluent readers. She said she will be using Data Teams to work with groups of students to try and find out what skills they are missing.

Mrs. Boyle asked why was there was such a big decline in 2009 of students taking the SATs from the prior year. Mrs. Viccaro said she feels that number more than likely represented an economic trend with more students going to a community college for 2 years and then transferring to a 4 year college. Mrs. Viccaro said that SAT scores are not needed to attend community colleges. Principal Nancy Heckler stated that it could also be that students are taking the ACTs and not the SATs as the SATs are not needed when applying to schools in the south. Mrs. Viccaro said that students entering the military would also not be included in this report as they are more than likely not taking SATs or ACTs. Mrs. Boyle asked if the guidance department contacts students not taking the SATs or ACTs and if there was any financial assistance that could be given to those students who would like to take the tests but are financially unable to. She also asked if Mrs. Viccaro could find out how many students took the ACTs in lieu of the SATs and how many students entered the military and if this data could be added to the report. Mrs. Viccaro said she was sure the Guidance Department had this information and will get those figures.

Field Trip Requests:

On a motion by Mrs. Adams, second by Ms. Parsons, the Board of Education unanimously approved Mrs. Berndt's Grade 2 Overnight Camp-out at Lyman School on June 12, 2010.

On a motion by Mrs. Adams, second by Mrs. Golschneider, the Board of Education unanimously approved the High School Trip to Spain, during April Vacation 2012 with the exact dates to be determined.

Principal Search Update: Mrs. Viccaro said the Focus Groups will be meeting with a final candidate this week and next.

Building Committee: Mr. Currlin spoke about the recent energy audit and the proposed energy project costs. He said the District has been awarded the CL&P Connecticut Clean Energy Fund Award of \$161,688.00 toward the project. Mr. Currlin said that the total project cost would be \$374,235.00 with the District's portion being \$212,369.00. Mr. Melnik handed out a cost overview to the Board and discussed the options for funding the project. Mr. Melnik said that the District has applied for a State of Connecticut Block Grant for \$206,000.00 which if awarded the District's portion would be \$6,369.00. Mrs. Golschneider asked when we would be notified if we received the grant and Mr. Melnik said the District would hear by the end of the month. Mr. Melnik also discussed another option which involved using funds from the Building Project (\$162,470.00) and the Capital Plan (\$49,899.00).

Mr. Currlin said the annual energy cost savings if the District went forward with the project would be \$113,000.00 per year which would pay the District back in 1.9 years. Mr. Currlin said the Building Committee has spent a year on this and fully endorses this proposal.

Ms. Parsons made a motion, second by Mr. Currin to accept the Clean Energy Efficiency Fund agreement presented by Connecticut Light and Power in its letter dated May 5, 2010 in the amount of \$161,865.79.

Ms. Parsons made a motion, second by Mr. Currin to accept the Siemens Corporation proposal dated May 26, 2010 in the amount of \$374,235.00 to update the facilities of Regional School District 13 as outlined in the proposal.

Other Committee Reports: On behalf of the Communications Committee, Mrs. Boyle wanted to thank all the PTAs and various organizations that helped get the budget passed by getting voters out to vote on Tuesday's budget. Mr. Hennick suggested she should send letters to them expressing the Board's gratitude for all their hard work. Mrs. Boyle said that she would do so.

On a motion by Mrs. Golschneider, second Mrs. Adams the Board of Education moved into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation.

The Board moved out of Executive Session.

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

*Virginia Antonelli*