

A special meeting of the Board of Education was held on Wednesday, July 31, 2013 in the library at the Brooklyn Middle School. In attendance were: Mrs. Trivella; Mr. Rossi; Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Lyons and Attorney Kelley members of the Board of Education. In addition were: Mr. Tanner, First Selectman; Mr. Ives, Chair of the Board of Finance; Ms. Fran Rotella and Mr. Yanku, Principals; Mrs. Berry, Superintendent of Schools, and members of the community.

Mrs. Trivella, acting chair in the absence of Ms. Gerardi-Voccio, opened the meeting at 7:30 PM

The agenda for this meeting included a review of the 2012-2013 School Climate Report and a request for the use of space in the elementary building by the town's Recreation Department.

Both Ms. Rotella and Mr. Yanku reported a positive response to this yearly survey of the atmosphere in their buildings and noted what the results of this year's survey will be used to develop an action plan to improve the interaction among all teaching staff thus creating a more positive environment for students and staff.

Comments by Board of Education members included:

- it appears that students and parents are relatively happy and think the elementary building has a safe, secure and comfortable atmosphere; however there is work needed with the teaching staff; and
- there are comments by students at the middle school that upset other students.

Ms. Rotella commented on her plans to establish an action committee to develop plans for a more professional atmosphere at the elementary building. This issue will be on the October agenda for discussion.

Following the review of the 2012-2013 School Climate Survey, the members of the Board of Education discussed the use of space at the elementary building by the Town's Department of Recreation. Mrs. Berry reported that there will be space in the elementary building which will not be used for classes during the 2013-2014 school year and there is a storage room in the basement with access to the driveway which also will not be used in 2013-2014. Mrs. Berry also stated that the decision on the use of this space was an issue for the Board of Education and the First Selectman.

There were many negative comments from members of the audience concerning this issue and following these comments and a statement by Mr. Tanner on office space for the Recreation Department, it was the consensus of the Board that there should be further discussion on this issue. Therefore, this issue will be placed on the August 28th regular Board of Education agenda, for additional discussion.

Mrs. Johnson requested that an executive session be placed on the agenda at the August meeting to discuss an anonymous letter received by all members of the Board of Education.

Motion: (Lyons/Kelly) against the recommendation to schedule an executive session.

Vote: In favor: Mrs. Lyons; Mr. Rossi; Mrs. Johnson; Mr. Kelley.
The chair abstained.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM by consensus.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Rossi
Secretary

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