

MINUTES

Meeting of the Agriscience Advisory Committee

Region 14 Board of Education

Tuesday January 5, 2021 at 6:30 pm

Zoom Meeting Info

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84292342419?pwd=c0RlZjFjSWJxR3VnU1IxTUI4bjV6UT09>

Meeting ID: 842 9234 2419

Passcode: GP16Jj

Present

Karen Kalenauskas, Chair
Jennifer Jedd
Edward Belinsky
Kathleen Gorman
Ray Connors
Tyler Cremeans
Jennifer Ayers

Andrew Zielinski
Marisa Bedron
Carol Ann Brown
Tom DiMarco
George Lyman
Eric Birkenberger
Dan Caron

David Golembeski
Dr. Ira Stone
Jennifer Shields
Michael Lavoie
Pat DiSarro
Patricia Paige, BoE Clerk

Call to Order

Ms. Karen Kalenauskas called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes dated January 21, 2020

The meeting minutes from January 21, 2020 were not included in the packet; item tabled for the next meeting when the committee members are provided the opportunity to review them.

Introductions of members, staff, and stakeholders

Members of the committee offered their names and occupation

Building Project and Program Status Update, NAAE Award, 100 Year Celebration

Ed Belinsky shared exciting news - they are finally able to move forward with the horse arena after nearly seven years of planning. The state committed to the first phase of the project and granted the funding to begin. Next will be the Sugar House, which will replace the homemade structure at the end of the parking lot. The construction crew is lined up and ready to go and would like to start closer to the spring to avoid the weather delays of winter. Materials left over from the current building project must be removed first.

Money has been retained for a second project, a third greenhouse, which has been on hold for approximately 4-7 years due to construction. Central office administration would like to have the horse arena underway prior to starting a new project.

Jenn Jedd provided an update on the NAAE program and what the learning structure has looked like since the onset of Covid; remote, hybrid and in person, including schedules. Students will be returning to in person learning on January 19th.

FFA is still active and continuing their efforts to improve and innovate.

The department is very pleased to announce that they have won the outstanding program for Region 6 within the National Association of Agriculture Educators. It is a very prestigious award that speaks to the work of the Advisory Committee.

Due to Covid restrictions, the 100 Year Celebration has been moved – hoping to hold it in the summer.

Grip and Grin

Since the students are not back in school, the committee must strategize on how to present the program this year. One option was a virtual presentation and the use of breakout rooms through Google Meets. Another option was to utilize the PowerPoint presentation, which was thought to be a stronger tool.

After much discussion, it was the consensus of the committee to utilize Wednesdays for the presentation since all students would be remote. With permission from administration, it would be deemed a “field trip” day as this would provide for the much needed time to present.

*The following dates and times were put forth:

January 20th at 6:00 p.m.

Freshman pre-session for volunteers

January 27th

In school field trip for the freshman

- First option – full day; volunteers only in the am
- Second option – ½ day, with time for teachers to reflect on what was presented the next day in class

February 10th at 6:00

Sophomore pre-session for volunteers (reflect on freshman presentation)

February 17th

Ask for same set up

Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

Jenn will send Google Meet link to familiarize use of platform for pre-meetings. Will advertise on social media and reach out to those volunteers, who are not present tonight, but have helped out in the past.

*with permission from administration

Review list of members and assign people to contact

Item excluded from discussions

Program Steering Discussion

a) Curriculum Dinner Meeting

A dinner offered every other year for industry members to meet with teachers for the purpose of discussing updates in the industry. Due to Covid restrictions it has been moved to next year.

b) Review National Quality Program Standards Idea

Item tabled

c) Stakeholder Needs

What else do we need?

d) Recruitment, Advertising, Public Outreach

Due to time constraints, the item was excluded from discussions

e) BOE Meetings in Sending Towns

The BoE presentations need to put back into an active plan starting with Watertown. Once climate upticks, Jenn will reach out to them to be placed on the agenda.

Next Meeting

Advisory meeting after the two Grip and Grins for the students is scheduled for March 9th at 6:30 p.m.

Other Business

No other business was brought before the committee

Public Comment

There was no public comment

Adjourn

The committee members adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Patricia Paige



Regional School District 14

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Patricia Paige