

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held August 12, 2019 in the Board of Education Room, 67 Washington Avenue, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Janet Morgan, Pam Zmek, Carol Ann Brown, George Bauer, Mike Devine, James Crocker, Ed Decortin, Maryanne Van Aken, Joseph Olzacki and Wayne McAllister. Also in attendance were, Taryn Fernandez, Andrew Komar, Wendy Nelson Kauffman, Kim Culkin, Donna Marcinek, Patrick DiSarro, 5 residents and BOE clerk, Karen Daley.

**1. Call to Order**

Janet Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Ms. Morgan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

George Bauer motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of July 1, 2019.

Seconded by Michael Devine. **The motion carried 6-0-2 with Maryanne Van Aken and Ed Decortin abstaining.**

**4. Superintendents Report -**

Dr. Olzacki read a welcome back letter that will be communicated to returning and new staff this week. He welcomed the new administrative staff, Andrew Komar, Dr. Taryn Fernandez, Donna Marcinek, Wendy Nelson Kauffman and Dr. Jason Bouchard.

Mr. Komar, Principal at Mitchell Elementary School introduced himself. His first day was August 12<sup>th</sup> and he reported having a great first day getting to know some of his staff and working with his administrative team. He shared his educational and teaching background and is looking forward to seeing his excitement for his role at Mitchell to carry through to the staff and students.

Dr. Taryn Fernandez, Assistant Principal at Nonnewaug High School introduced herself. She has been a teacher in Region 14 since 2005. She had already built relationships with the NHS staff and is looking forward to continuing that in an Administrative role. She is ready to keep working and improving on the growth that is already happening at NHS.

Dr. Olzacki announced that Kim Culkin has accepted a new position in the Bristol Public Schools and wished her well in her new role.

Ms. Donna Marcinek, Director of Special Services introduced herself. She thanked the Board for giving her the opportunity to service as the permanent Director after her time serving as the interim for the last 10 months. She is excited to continue her work and dedication to the students of Region 14.

Dr. Olzacki gave some background on Dr. Jason Bouchard the new Director of the Arts for Region 14. Dr. Bouchard comes with an extensive background as Northeast Regional music chair, time spent on Broadway and with private bands and choruses. He is away with his family at this time but we welcome him.

Ms. Wendy Nelson Kauffman, Director of Teaching and Learning introduced herself. She is two weeks in and is very excited meeting people and loves the energy and comradery that she sees. She gave a bit about her background and how that brought her to be the Director of Teaching and Learning for Region 14. She believes that Region 14

has a great foundation in place and she looks forward to working on and improving what is already being done. She will be devoting one Wednesday a month with staff for curriculum review to stay on top of the implementation. She will help teachers focus on implementing high quality instruction. She is very impressed by AP statistics. Region 14 is ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in the state for participation in AP classes with 40% of students taking at least one AP exam. Out of 20 AP courses, 17 had a majority of students scoring high enough on the AP exam to earn credit for college. In four of the AP courses: Calculus, Computer Science, Spanish and Art, 100% of students who took the exam earned college credit. A College Board representative is coming in September to see where we can continue to improve in the AP area as well as SAT and PSAT scores.

**5. Building Committee Report** – Mr. Bauer held a Building Committee meeting on July 23, 2019. The project is moving along well. Phase 4A, World Language and Math is looking at an August 15<sup>th</sup> completion date, ready for the start of school. Phase 4B, 4C and 4D, locker and fitness rooms and the gym should all be ready for mid to late September. These projects should wrap up most on the inside construction at NHS. The turf field project is running about one month ahead of schedule because of the good weather we have been having and should be ready for the beginning of school as long as weather continues to cooperate. This includes the resurfacing of the track. Final paving for a significant portion of the school will be complete this week. There is a small section that will not be paved yet to accommodate for some septic system repairs that still need to be completed. Next meeting is on Tuesday, August 20, 2019.

**6. Board Chair Comments** – On behalf of the Board, Ms. Morgan welcomed new staff and those that have moved into new positions. She thanked Kim Culkin for her service and wished her well. She thanked the interview committee participants for their time over the summer sitting in on interviews for the administrative positions that needed to be filled. She thanked Wayne McAllister, Barry Bernabe, Mr. Bauer and Mr. Devine for their work on the Bond Sale which will be discussed at a future meeting. The Board is working on the calendar of topics for the next several months. Ms. Morgan wished Mr. Devine well in recovering from his knee replacement.

**7. Public Comment** – none

**8. Old Business** – Structure of the Building Committee. John Chapman who is currently the Chairman of the Building Committee is no longer on the Board of Education. There has been some discussion among the Board members that they would like an active member of the Board to serve as Chairman of the Building Committee but they do want Mr. Chapman to stay on the building committee as a member. Ms. Van Aken questioned why, nearing the end of the project, the Chairman would be removed just because he no longer sits on the Board, there is no rule saying that a Building Committee Chairman needs to be a Board member. Mr. Bauer explained that the Building Committee is a great group of people, including Mr. Chapman, and that the meetings are really a round table discussion and collaboration. Mr. Bauer has been Chairman of the Building Committee in the past and he would be happy to be the Chairman in the future with Mr. Chapman sitting as a member of the committee. Mr. Chapman is willing to stay on the building committee even if he is not the Chairman. The concern of the Board is to make sure the Chairman of the Building Committee works well with the Board of Education. Pam Zmek motioned *to amend the resolutions previously adopted by the Board of Education on December 1, 2014 and December 10, 2015 regarding the establishment and membership of the Building Committee for the Nonnewaug High School renovation project so as appoint George Bauer to serve as the Committee's Chairman, effective immediately, and to serve subject to annual appointment and removal by the Board Chair, as permitted by Board Policy 9300.* Motion was seconded by Mr. Devine. **The motion carried 7-1-0.**

**9. New Business** - Mr. Bauer moved that a discussion about school lunch pricing be added to the agenda. Motion was seconded by Mr. Devine. **The motion carried 8-0-0.** Mr. Bauer reports that there was a proposal to increase all school lunch prices by \$0.20 which was discussed at the Finance Committee meeting. This would bring the lunch prices at the Elementary Schools to \$2.95 and at the Middle and High School to \$3.30. This increase is needed to

cover the increased cost of food prices and labor. These recommended prices came from Peter Brooks who is the Director of Food Services for the district and he reports that there hasn't been an increase in nearly 5 years. Mr. Bauer motioned *to increase all school lunch prices for \$0.20 for the 2019-2020 school year*. Seconded by Ed Decortin. **The motion carried 8-0-0.**

10. **Other Business** – Dr. Olzacki discussed a Teacher Learning Academy moment. On August 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> all new teachers will work with Ms. Nelson Kauffman and other staff to get off on the right foot. This will include a bus tour of Bethlehem and Woodbury led by Carol Ann Brown to help new staff become familiar with the district they are serving and lunch will be catered for them. The Board of Education will be invited to join for lunch to come and meet the new staff members on August 29, 2019.

11. **Adjournment**

Mr. Bauer moved to adjourn and seconded by Mr. Devine. **The motion carried unanimously 8-0-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen Daley, BOE Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Karen Daley, Board Clerk, 8/15/2019