

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held February 4, 2019 at the Central Office of the Board of Education, 67 Washington Avenue, Woodbury CT.

Present: Janet Morgan, Carol Ann Brown, Mike Devine, Maryanne Van Aken, Dave Lampart, George Bauer. Also in attendance were Superintendent Dr. Olzacki, Michael Rafferty, Donna Marcinek, Kim Culkun, WMS students Emily Lungarini & Casey Watson, their parents, Suzi Greene, DAC committee members Jim Agostine, Jim Crocker, Vin Bove, Silver Petrucelli & Associates Bill Silver, Michelle Miller, Rebecca Augur of Milone and Macbroom, Pat DiSarro, reporters from both CT Voices and Republican American, Channel 3 news, and BOE clerk, Natascha Schwartz. Pam Zmek arrived at 7:03pm.

Absent: John Chapman

1. **Call to Order**

Ms. Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and led the pledge of allegiance.

2. **Approval of Minutes:**

Ms. Van Aken motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 22, 2019 and seconded by Mr. Bauer. The **motion carried 6-0-0.**

**Superintendent report:**

Dr. Olzacki announced the upcoming Elementary winter concert taking place on Thursday, February 7, 2019 at MES.

He also mentioned that the WMS Superbowl pancake breakfast was a successful event and proceeds raised will go towards the WMS March Madness event.

WMS Students, Emily Lungarini and Casey Watson, showed a Public Service Announcement on Suicide Prevention which they created with the help of school counselors and their peers. They thanked the Board of Education and let them know that the purpose of the presentation is to bring awareness to the community. It's a subject that is close to their hearts and are looking to change people's perception and teach them that suicide is not a laughing matter. They went on to advise that they enlisted the help of their fellow WMS friends and created the video as part of their innovation lab class project in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and decided to go a step further than merely having the video. They carried their project over into 8<sup>th</sup> grade by building a lesson plan which they rolled out to their 8<sup>th</sup> grade peers. Emily and Casey gave the students a 3 minute warm up exercise of writing about a time in their lives when they saw someone get hurt by words. They then presented their video and students were asked to take 2-3 key points from the video and write them down. The students were then asked to write down what they believed the motive was of creating and presenting them the video. Lastly, they were asked to complete an anonymous exit slip and hand it in. The feedback from the lesson plan was very positive and powerful. Students who approached them said that they now have a good understanding and better appreciation of the topic.

**Elementary Science Lab Update**

Dr. Rafferty and Dr. Nobili were happy to share an update of the elementary science lab curriculum since its implementation. They explained 4 main changes which students are experiencing with the elementary science curriculum which are: exploring phenomenon, student driven investigations, authentic data collection, and integrated engineering practices. The presentation concluded with hearing from 4 students in regards to what they enjoyed most about the science labs.

Silver Petrucelli & Associates presentation

Jim Agostine introduced Bill Silver and Michelle Miller of Silver Petrucelli & Associates. He also welcomed Rebecca Augur of Milone and Macbroom, DAC committee members, and key people who helped get the presentation ready for the public. Bill Silver and Michelle Miller gave a full overview of the process which included assessing facilities conditions, planning and programming, enrollment projections, and understanding the capacity and utilization of the buildings. The focus was mainly on Mitchell Elementary, Woodbury Middle, and Bethlehem Elementary schools.

Rebecca Augur with Milone and Macbroom went over the enrollment projections. She mentioned that the key factors in demo trends are decreasing in the 35-50 year old range. She mentioned that birthrates are down in both communities and advised that the 10 year enrollment projection trends which her office created include Agriscience students. She prepared low, med, and high projections to benchmark. For long range planning, she recommended using the high side of enrollment projections. She also went over the breakdown of elementary schools projections.

Bill Silver went through all 20 facilities scenarios showing the pros and cons for each scenario. Silver Petrucelli and Associates' facilities and demographics recommendations are the following:

- Use the facility conditions in each building to create a 10 year facilities capital plan.
- Continue with current programming and eliminate all portables.
- Recapture programming or lease the wing at Woodbury Middle School.

Mr. Agostine wanted to clarify that these four buildings belong to the district and not the towns.

**Committee reports**

Finance/Facilities: Mr. Bauer advised that the meeting was cancelled as Mr. McAllister was not able to be present and will communicate shortly when the next meeting will be.

**Board chair comments** - none

**Public comment** –

Glenn Jameson Woodbury Resident and NHS senior advised that he spoke to the board members approximately one month ago regarding communication between students and teachers upon receiving feedback and concerns about communications from some of his peers. He went on to reiterate that some students have stated that they have difficulty communicating via Google classroom since it is more of a discussion board rather than being an instant messaging application. He believes there is a gap in communication when there is time sensitive information which he and his peers would like addressed. He went on to say that he is hoping for a common conclusion. Ms. Morgan thanked him and reiterated from the last time he spoke during public comment, that he would be personally invited to the next policy meeting to hear his and his peers' concerns as part of the process. Mr. Jameson thanked the BOE.

**Old business**

Ms. Morgan reminded the BOE members of the Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco policy which was included in their meeting packets and asked that if anyone had any questions, to send them to policy committee chair, John Chapman.

**New business** - none

**Other business** - none

**Adjournment:** Ms. Van Aken moved to adjourn and seconded by Mr. Bauer. The **motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Schwartz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Natascha Schwartz, BOE Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Natascha Z. Schwartz, Board Clerk, 2/8/2019