

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held January 7, 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, Pam Zmek, Dave Lampart, George Bauer. Also in attendance were Superintendent Dr. Olzacki, Michael Rafferty, Wayne McAllister, Julie Luby, Pam Sordi, Wendy Yatsenick, NHS student reps Rebecca Hibbard, Tyler Wagner with his father, reporters from both CT Voices and Republican American, approximately 2 community members, and BOE clerk, Natascha Schwartz

Absent: John Chapman

1. **Call to Order**

Ms. Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and led the pledge of allegiance.

2. **Approval of Minutes:**

Ms. Van Aken motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 3, 2018 and seconded by Mr. Lampart. The motion carried 6-0-1, with George Bauer abstaining.

Student Representatives:

NHS reps Rebecca Hibbard and Tyler Wagner gave the NHS update. There are lots of great things happening in the Arts and Music at NHS which include announcing that three music students have auditioned for and have been selected to participate in the 2019 Northern Region Music Festival. Additionally, those same students have auditioned for and have been selected to participate in the All State Music Festival taking place later in the month. One student recently auditioned for and was invited to participate in the 2019 New England Music Festival. Two NHS students have had their artwork selected to be a part of the National Art Honor Society's National Exhibit and rehearsals for the 2019 drama production of Into the Woods are in full swing and will be held at WMS April 5 to 7, 2019.

They went on to mention that the Woodbury FFA chapter sent 32 students and graduates to the 91st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis to compete in the National FFA Career Development events. We are the only chapter in the nation, out of over 7,900 FFA chapters and over 650,000 members nationwide to send 6 teams from one chapter in the same year. We came home with 5 National Silver Medal teams, with individuals on all of these teams earning a total of 2 National Gold Medals, 20 National Silver Medals, and 2 National Bronze Medals.

They talked about the Farm-to-Table students having many opportunities to participate in different activities such as taking ingredients they had grown in the greenhouse and turning them into pesto, participating in a build your own salad lab in which they harvested their greens and created a vinaigrette with the help of Mr. Dominello.

Rebecca and Tyler went on to advise that NHS started a student-led Athlete's Council that has representation from every sports team. The mission of the council is to spread the positive attributes of athletics to the great Nonnewaug Community. Other important news is the boys soccer team was received the Ted Alex Award for sportsmanship. The field hockey team brought home the Berkshire League Championship, girls volleyball held onto the Berkshire League Championship for a second consecutive year. Every NHS sports team

In the counseling, college, and career area, of the 194 seniors, 689 college applications have been submitted. WMS 8th graders will visit NHS to the Electives Fair which includes visiting all departments, seeing and hearing about elective options available to them next year. The scholarship pizza party will be held on January 31 in the Library Media Center which helps in assisting seniors applying for scholarships. The counseling department sponsored a community service trip to the CT Food bank in Wallingford, to which 39 students and 5 counselors attended. They helped pack over 11, 000 lbs. of food.

Lastly, Students participated in the Wingman Leaders' Summit, whereby they worked together to discuss their experience to date and to develop a plan for success. NHS Wingman project has been positively received and quite successful to date. The students will continue planning and plan to meet monthly to continue community building.

Superintendent report:

Dr. Olzacki was invited to the CT Food bank in Wallingford and commended the students on how hard they worked packing boxes.

Dr. O asked Mr. Rafferty and his team to present the new NHS Graduation requirements. Mr. Rafferty and Ms. Luby, presented the new state graduation requirements and impact on the freshmen class of 2019-2020. Mr. Rafferty stressed that this will be a multiyear rollout, and that the region will have better clarity this year. Ms. Luby went on to new requirements differences: Currently students require 23 credits to graduation and that number has changed to 25 credits. She was happy to report that over 85% of NHS already graduate with 25 credits. The major changes are as follows:

- Humanities: 9 credits
- Science/Technology/Engineering/Math: 9 credits (credit may be granted for Algebra I and World Language taken in 8th grade)
- Physical Education and Wellness: 1 credit (previously 0.5 credits)
- Health and Safety: 1 credit (previously 0.5 credits)
- World languages: 1 credit
- Mastery-based diploma assessment (CAPSTONE): to be determined

Ms. Luby advised that she would like the students to have an art credit. The administrators will be carefully studying the experience of students, making sure it is meaningful and attainable for all students. The district in partnership with legislation will further define the boxes and create mastery based assessment, etc. Will be looking at scheduling if needed.

Mr. Rafferty added that they must take another look at curriculum; to do a deep study and schedule mock ups. Since the Region has an Agriscience side of the school, there will be additional challenges. The goal as a team is to make sure that Region 14 can honor what the State is asking. The team will come back in the fall to present to the Board of Education. He and his team will have a better idea and much more clarity going forward. He believe that a presentation to the BOE should be done annually to keep them updated.

Dr. O advised he was invited to a Kindergarten class as guest reader and students were very engaged. He also mentioned that he went to Logue Farm and met with the veterinarian who showed him how to see the fetus of a baby calf through ultrasound.

Ms. Yatsenick updated the BOE on the tremendous district-wide effort through support services again this year to provide holiday aid and assistance to students and families at all 4 schools. This year saw an increased need but also benefitted from increased community support and resources. Dr. Olzacki reached out to local leaders and organizations to spearhead an increased and comprehensive effort that was conducted quietly and respectfully. Many important organizations helped to make students and families holiday season brighter: Tribury Rotary Club represented by Ron Webb and Bernie McManus, Mike Devine of the BOE, Drakeley Real Estate, Caring for Bethlehem, the Woodbury Women's Club, Community Council of Woodbury, North Congregational Church, Woodbury United Methodist Church, CT Voices Newspaper, Ameritrade. Also Counselors/Student Support Services at both elementary schools worked to construct a non-denominational anonymous "giving tree" for those in need. Ms. Yatsenick also thanked Ace Hardware in Woodbury for the tree donation. Lastly, teachers at all 4 schools anonymously and generously donated gift cards, and the Region 15 Teachers' Association also donated gift cards to students. In total approximately 70 families were helped this year.

Committee reports

Building: Mr. Chapman will give an update at the next BOE meeting as he is not able to be present.
Finance/Facilities: Mr. Bauer advised that next meeting will be at BES.

Board chair comments

Ms. Morgan read a few letters which she received. The first letter was from the Abbey stating how thankful they were for the cookies that were prepared by the NHS culinary students and which were delivered to them by Dr. Olzacki. The second was a thank you card from Roger Parkhouse, and the third came in via email from the Commander of the VFW1607 stating that he had the pleasure of participating in the Veteran's Day celebration at the schools and that he recommended to continue promoting Veteran's Day by giving presentations etc., so that students could learn and understand more. Lastly Ms. Morgan read an email from William Michaels of NHS saying how pleasurable it was to serve the Veterans and that this could develop into a beautiful tradition going forward.

Public comment –

Glenn Jameson NHS student, class of 2019 and Woodbury resident is hoping to get some sort of technology to be able to communicate instantly to speak with teachers. He would like to know if there exists the possibility for the region to implement the use of a regulated texting app or some similar app that could help students better communicate with teachers other than google classroom. Ms. Morgan advised that she would be happy to have him as well as a few of his fellow students attend a policy meeting to plead their case.

Jim Crocker of Woodbury stated that with the new State requirements for graduation, would like confirmation that these will not negatively impacts the students. He wants to see what the additional benefits are to raising the number of credits needed to graduate.

Old business

Ms. Van Aken moved that the Region 14 BOE approve the 2019-2020 School Calendar as presented, seconded by Mr. Bauer. The board discussed the two different scenarios on the table. Ms. Luby, Principal of NHS commented that she has learned that the standard fire marshal upholds is "life safety" and instructional readiness looks quite different. She believes it would be wise to start after Labor Day to give everyone that extra bit of time to unpack boxes and have the classrooms ready to go for day one. The BOE discussed two different scenarios on whether to start before or after Labor Day.

Ms. Morgan requested a motion to amend the original motion on the table. Mr. Bauer moved that the Region 14 BOE amend the motion to approve the 2019-2020 to include Veterans Day as a working day and to change the tentative last day of school to June 16, 2019. Seconded by Ms. Van Aken. **The motion passed 5 -2 -0, with Mr. Devine and Ms. Zmek opposed.**

Mr. Bauer moved that the Region 14 BOE approve the 2019-2020 to include Veterans Day as a working day and change the tentative last day of school to June 16, 2019. Seconded by Ms. Van Aken. **The motion passed 5 -2 -0, with Mr. Devine and Ms. Zmek opposed.**

New business

Ms. Van Aken moved that the Region 14 Board of Education approve Nonnewaug High School Agriscience Students trip to Delaware State University's Aquaculture/Horseshoe Crab Spawning Event in Rehoboth, DE, from May 24 through May 26, 2019 for 15 students, and 3 background checked chaperones via the Agriscience bus and funded by students and seconded by Mr. Lampart, **The motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.**

Mr. Bauer moved that the Region 14 Board of Education approve Nonnewaug High School Agriscience Students joint educational trip with Suffield High School students to the Philadelphia Flower Show in Philadelphia, PA, from March 7 through March 9, 2019 consisting of a total of 44 students (32 Woodbury and 12 Suffield), and a minimum of 5 background checked chaperones (3 Woodbury and 2 Suffield) via coach bus and funded by students and the Horticulture account and seconded by Mr. Lampart. **The motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.**

Other business – Ms. Morgan requested to have the Berkshire league athlete winners attend the February 19, 2019 meeting in order to showcase them.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Natascha Schwartz, BOE Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Natascha Z. Schwartz, Board Clerk, 1/14/2019