

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held December 16, 2019 in the Board of Education Room, 67 Washington Avenue, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Janet Morgan, Pam Zmek, George Bauer, Carol Ann Brown, Ed Decortin, Maryanne Van Aken, and Joseph Olzacki. Also in attendance were, Pam Sordi, Wendy Nelson Kauffman, Taryn Fernandez, Jason Bouchard, Donna Marcinek, Steve Bingham, 2 residents and BOE clerk, Karen Daley.

Absent: Mike Devine, Jim Crocker

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

Mr. Bauer motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of December 16, 2019.

Seconded by Ms. Brown. **The motion carried 5-0-1.**

4. Superintendent's Report -

- a. Farm to Students – NBC 30 was at BES to report on an initiative to bring local farms food into the cafeterias. This is a program that will not only benefit students but the local farms as well. It is being piloted at BES with the hopes of rolling it out district wide.
- b. WMS Cafeteria Painting – The WMS cafeteria was painted during the holiday break. It is looking great and the students are happy to have an updated café.
- c. Fine Arts Update – Dr. Bouchard – Two grants have been received to benefit the music departments in all of the schools. One grant has enabled the district to purchase a string bass for each school. This will allow students to learn on an instrument at school that they otherwise wouldn't have access to. This has also allowed the district to broaden the jazz music program. An additional grant has enabled the district to purchase a baby grand piano that is appropriate for the size of the high school auditorium. The piano that was at the high school will be moved to the middle school. The district has also purchased new risers for the choral students. Four more music library cabinets have been purchased to keep the districts investments safe. Several instruments have also been donated to the program. Ms. Brown commented how pleased the senior citizens from town were to hear the jazz band and also noted the diversity of the students in the program and they weren't students she had seen before at music events. The engagement at the concerts with the students and families was wonderful to see. Dr. Bouchard will bring the grants forward to Mr. McAllister so the Board can review and accept them at the next meeting. The Berkshire League music festival will be held at Nonnewaug this year in October. Dr. Bouchard will publicize the dates and times to bring in the community. The uniforms that were donated look spectacular on the students. They will be outfitted with a patch to show the representation of NHS. Dr. Bouchard is working to teach the students how important it is to present themselves professionally.

5. Board Chair Comments –

- a. Budget Calendar – The organization of the budget calendar will get underway over the next couple of weeks.
- b. School Climate – At the February 3rd meeting the two elementary school Principals will provide and update on the school climate.

- c. Mid-Year Review – The Board and Superintendent are due to have their midyear review. It will be discussed at the next Board meeting which is Tuesday, January 21st, not a Monday, due to the Martin Luther King Day observance.

6. Public Comment – none

7. Old Business - none

8. New Business

- a. World Language Curriculum Presentation – The World Language curriculum is completed and was provided to the Board. Dr. Fernandez has connected the curriculum with the national standards. The curriculum is cohesive across the three languages, ASL, French and Spanish so there is not a need for a separate curriculum for each language. The curriculum covers four levels plus Advanced Placement. Dr. Fernandez gave an overview of some of the terminology that is used in the curriculum to help the Board understand what the curriculum means. This curriculum includes interest career pathways with the instruction to allow students to gear the vocabulary learning to what is of interest to them in the field they intend to pursue. All state schools require two years of the same language for admission. Ms. Brown asked if our students who are English Language Learners can be of assistance in the World Language classes. Dr. Fernandez says that they can be helpful but there is also plenty of room for growth of these students even if the language they are taking is their native language. The ASL program is growing as the students move through the levels. The Board will review the curriculum, discuss it and potentially vote to approve it at the first meeting in February.
- b. Discussion and possible action on ratification of proposed collective bargaining agreement between Board and the Nonnewaug Administrators Group. Mr. Bauer moved that the Board of Education ratify the proposed collective bargaining agreement between the Board and the Nonnewaug Administrators Group covering the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023. Seconded by Ms. Van Aken. **Motion carried unanimously 6-0-0.** Mr. Bauer moved that the Board of Education authorize the Chairman to sign said agreement, subject to any further necessary legal review. Seconded by Ms. Van Aken. **Motion carried unanimously 6-0-0.**

9. Other Business - none

10. Adjournment

Ms. Van Aken moved to adjourn and seconded by Mr. Bauer. **Motion carried unanimously 6-0-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen Daley, BOE Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Karen Daley, Board Clerk, 1/8/2020