

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held July 9, 2018 in the Board of Education Room , 67 Washington Avenue, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Janet Morgan, Mary Ann Van Aken, Carol Ann Brown, Mike Devine, Dave Lampart, Pam Zmek. Also in attendance were Dr. Anna Cutaia, Kim Culkin, Christine Syriac, Jim Crocker, Pat DiSarro, Attorney Gerarde, reporter from Republican American and BOE clerk, Natascha Schwartz.

Absent: John Chapman, George Bauer

1. Call to Order

Dr. Anna called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Anna led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Election of Board Chairperson

The superintendent called for nominations for Chairperson of the Board of Education. Ms. Zmek nominated Janet Morgan, and seconded by Mr. Lampart. Vote: 6-0-0. Ms. Morgan accepted the position and conducted the remainder of the meeting.

4. Election of Board Officers

- A. Mr. Lampart nominated Ms. Van Aken to be Vice Chairperson of the BOE and seconded by Ms Zmek. The vote carried unanimously 6-0-0.
- B. Ms. Van Aken nominated Ms. Zmek as Secretary of the BOE and seconded by Mr. Lampart. The vote carried unanimously 6-0-0.
- C. Ms. Zmek nominated Mr. Bauer to be Treasurer and seconded by Mr. Lampart. The vote carried unanimously 6-0-0.
- D. Ms. Van Aken nominated Ms. Brown to be Assistant Secretary/Treasurer and seconded by Mr. Lampart. The vote carried unanimously 6-0-0.

5. Board Appointments

- A. Ms. Zmek moved that the Board of Education approve Natascha Schwartz to be Board of Education clerk for the 2018-19 school year and seconded by Ms. Van Aken. The motion carried unanimously 6-0-0.
- B. Ms. Van Aken moved that Andrea Needleman, MD, be appointed Health Director for the Region and seconded by Mr. Lampart. The motion carried unanimously 6-0-0.
- C. Ms. Van Aken moved that James Bauer, DMD, be appointed school dentist and seconded by Mr. Lampart. The motion carried unanimously 6-0-0.

6. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ms. Van Aken motioned to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of May 25, 2018 and Seconded by Mr. Lampart. The motion carried 6-0-0.

Ms. Van Aken motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 18, 2018 and Seconded by Mr. Lampart. The motion carried 6-0-0.

6. Board Chair Comments

BOE state letter

Ms. Morgan wanted to advise that the region received a letter from the State Board of Education who through factfinding came to the conclusion that it supports the region's policies/procedures and asked if Dr. Anna had any comments in light of this letter. Dr. Anna was very thankful to the BOE for their support throughout the fact finding process and the region's communications with the State. She went on to thank the community who supported us through the entire process and for knowing and believing in our protocols and procedures that we have in place in our schools. Dr. Anna wanted to clarify a misunderstanding in the community that we do have school safety committees in each school that meet regularly. The recommendation from the State Board of Education to fulfill the legislative requirements to have parents serve on the committee. It is a good recommendation and we will be modifying the membership to include parents to sit on these committees. This recommendation will be put into place for the 2018-19 school year. Additionally the BOE has a safe schools committee that also meets regularly and we will continue focusing on keeping our children safe.

Ms. Morgan wanted to thank Dr. Anna on behalf of the Board of Education for her four years of dedicated service to Region 14 and presented her with flowers and a card.

7. Public Comment – none

8. Old Business –

Ms. Van Aken moved that the Region 14 BOE approve the Farm-to-Table curriculum as presented and was seconded by Mr. Lampart. Ms. Van Aken gave kudos to everyone that worked so hard in getting this curriculum done and is very excited to see where it goes. Ms. Brown was just as enthusiastic and talked about the potential of new and innovative classes going forward. The motion carried unanimously 6-0-0.

9. New Business

- A. Ms. Zmek moved that the Region 14 BOE approve the NHS Agriscience students' out-of-state trip to the World Dairy Expo FFA Dairy Judging Contest in Madison, WI as presented and was seconded by Mr. Lampart. **The motion carried unanimously 6-0-0.**
- B. Ms. Zmek moved that the Region 14 BOE approve the NHS FFA Officers' out-of-state trip to Animal Adventure Park and Binghamton Zoo in New York as presented and was seconded by Mr. Lampart. **The motion carried unanimously 6-0-0.**
- C. Ms. Van Aken moved that the Region 14 BOE appoint Christine Syriac as Interim Superintendent of Schools, commencing on August 1, 2018 and to serve until such time as a new Superintendent begins employment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lampart. Ms. Zmek requested to amend the motion so that it coincides with the contract which states a timeline of August 1, 2018 through November 2018.

Ms. Zmek moved that the Board of Education amend the motion to state, Move that the Region 14 Board of Education appoint Christine Syriac as Interim Superintendent of Schools, commencing on August 1, 2018 and to service until such time as a new Superintendent begins employment or through November 2018, whichever comes first and seconded by Dave Lampart. **The motion to amend carried unanimously 6-0-0.**

The BOE then voted on the amended motion. **The motion carried unanimously 6-0-0.**

Ms. Morgan asked Christine Syriac if she wanted to say a few words. Ms. Syriac thanked the Board for giving her this opportunity. She has been a Bethlehem resident for 26 years, her daughter spent her formative years in the district enjoying it thoroughly. In her 26 years as a resident, she has never had the opportunity to work in district and looks forward to it and working with everyone.

- D. Ms. Van Aken moved that the Region 14 BOE approve the contract with Christine Syriac as Interim Superintendent of Schools, as presented to the Board, and to authorize the Chairperson of the BOE to execute the same as presented and was seconded by Mr. Lampart. **The motion carried unanimously 6-0-0.**
- E. Ms. Van Aken moved that in lieu of the Treasurer, the Region 14 Board of Education hereby appoint Mike Devine to set the terms of, to sell and to do all things and to execute all documents in connection with the district's bonds and notes expected to be issued in July 2018. Seconded by Mr. Lampart. **The motion carried unanimously 6-0-0.**

Ms. Morgan requested to add two motions to the agenda.

- F. Ms. Van Aken moved that the Region 14 Board of Education enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing and possible action on written legal opinion, protected by attorney client privilege re: proposed agreements concerning student placement. Seconded by Mr. Lampart. **The motion carried unanimously 6-0-0.**

Ms. Morgan invited Dr. Anna, Ms. Culkin and attorney Mike McKeon into executive session.

- G. Ms. Van Aken moved that the Region 14 Board of Education enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing the strategy/status of new state court lawsuit brought by parent, protected by attorney client privilege re: treatment of student. Seconded by Mr. Lampart. **The motion carried unanimously 6-0-0.**

Ms. Morgan invited Dr. Anna, Ms. Culkin and attorney Tom Gerarde into executive session.

The Board moved into the 2nd of the two executive sessions at 7:33pm and exited the executive session at 8:23pm. No action was taken.

The Board moved into the other executive session at 8:26pm and exited at 9:14pm. No action was taken.

10. Adjournment

Ms. Van Aken *moved to adjourn and seconded by Mr. Lampart.* **The motion carried unanimously 6-0-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9.16pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Natascha Schwartz, BOE Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Natascha Z. Schwartz, Board Clerk, 7/17/2018