

The regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held March 18, 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, Pam Zmek, John Chapman. Also in attendance were Superintendent Dr. Olzacki, Jodie Roden, Mike Rafferty, Donna Marcinek, Julie Luby, Alyce Misuraca, Jess McKay, Ray Robillard, Chris York, Marisa Christoff, Taryn Fernandez, Devon Bares, Dina Kayser, Wendy Yatsenick, Bill Davenport, NHS student reps Luke Lavan, Mikela Caruso, their parents, LCSA Superintendent award winners James Gengenbach, Tiffany Brum, Jack Rubacha, Annie Woodward, their parents, NHS cheerleading team with coaches, swim team with coach Chris York, Pam Sordi, CT Voices & Republican American reporters, approximately 20 staff /community members and BOE clerk, Natascha Schwartz.

Call to Order

Ms. Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with a pledge to the flag.

Ms. Van Aken motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 19, 2019 and seconded by Mr. Bauer. The **motion carried 8-0-0.**

Ms. Van Aken motioned to approve the minutes of the Emergency Special Meeting of March 1, 2019 and seconded by Mr. Lampart. The **motion carried 6-0-2, with Mr. Chapman and Ms. Zmek abstaining.**

Student reports – Luke Lavan and Mikela Caruso gave an update on what's been happening at NHS.

This spring at NHS, the entire student body will be participating in the *Truth About Hate*, an assembly program designed to help students understand how stereotyping, jokes, name-calling, and rumors affect their daily lives and the role they can play in challenging prejudice and hate.

School Counseling: School Counselors and the College and Career Resource Center are happy to announce that 76% of our senior class has applied to college thus far. An additional 18 students will be taking part in our On-site Acceptance Day with NVCC at the end of the month. We have five upcoming field trips to explore post-secondary options including: Waterbury UConn, NVCC, Porter & Chester, Lincoln Tech and the NACAC Hartford College Fair. We will be hosting our annual College Night for Juniors and Underclassmen to begin the college planning process on April 8.

Sports: The athletic department would like to congratulate Jack Cronin, who was crowned the class S State Champion in his weight class for wrestling. Eddie Nicholas won the 2-mile race at the class S State Championships. The boys' basketball team ranked 4th in the state in their division.

Agriscience: *Farm to Table* class has been busy harvesting vegetables, greens and herbs from the abundance of products in our greenhouse and delivering it to the local food pantry for distribution. We are working outside presently, tapping maple trees for syrup. We have gathered approximately 80 gallons of sap. We are boiling the sap to make maple syrup for several cooking labs to include Maple-Bacon Chocolate Chip Cookies (our maple syrup and Arethusa Farm Bacon) and Maple Cheddar Biscuits. Mr. Cremeans and Mr. Dominello are also preparing for a Farm to Table Adult Education class that will include harvesting from the greenhouse and preparing several recipes from our fresh ingredients.

Culinary Arts: The Advanced Culinary Arts class is getting ready for the Region 14 Senior Citizen Spring Luncheon and Musical on April 4th. The seniors will enjoy a luncheon prepared with greenhouse ingredients and then enjoy the NHS production of *Into the Woods* at the Middle School.

Our Culinary Arts room has a new vertical garden which allows us to plant and cultivate herbs and vegetables that we will either use in our labs or replant in the greenhouse. This will be another opportunity for culinary arts students within our classroom.

Business: The Nonnewaug business department's FBLA and DECA chapters are preparing to send over fifty students to their upcoming state career development conferences. Students will be presenting and competing in entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, management, technology and public speaking events.

Video Production: Video students have entered three videos into the *Skills 21 Red Carpet Film Festival* and will be entering more next month. The Festival will occur on Friday May 31, 2019 at the Oakdale Theater in Wallingford, CT.

Superintendent's report

LCSA Superintendent's Award Winners - Dr. Olzacki advised that he had the pleasure of meeting the LCSA Superintendent Award winners at a banquet which was held on March 14, 2019. The CAPSS Superintendent's Award Recognition Program is designed to be a meaningful superintendent-to-student link, and to provide public awareness of the role of the local and chief school administrator.

Students were selected for their demonstration of outstanding leadership, citizenship, academic performance, participation in community service and extra-curricular activities. Dr. O invited WMS students Jack Rubacha and Annie Woodward, along with NHS students Tiffany Brum and James Gengenbach to come forward to be recognized by the Region 14 community:

Cheerleading team – Dr. Olzacki asked the Cheerleading team to come forward to also be recognized. Head coach Trisha wanted to thank the BOE for letting the Cheerleading team go to the competition this year. The students wanted to let the BOE know why it was so important to them. One of the team members advised that they placed 3rd overall and that the Nationals competition is a way for the team to come together after working so hard for almost a full year, to showcase their talent and to bond even further. The girls thanked the BOE and mentioned how appreciative they are of having the opportunity to go and to be able to bring back honor to NHS.

Swim team – The swim team thanked the BOE for their support again this year. They have grown from their first year with 13 members, to this year having 21 members. Each captain gave the stats of how their team did and it was a large improvement over last year, and they are confident that they will continue to do better next year.

Wrestling – Mrs. Luby apologized that Jack Cronin and coach Dave Green were not able to attend the meeting this evening as Jack went home sick today. Mrs. Luby did say something on his behalf. Jack placed a record setting 2nd place in the State Open and is only the 6th finalist ever in NHS history to do so, and then qualified for the New England Championships in which he placed in the top 12 in all of New England.

Scholastic art award winners – This was tabled to the May 6th meeting.

R14's finest- Mrs. Luby presented Jess McKay, Ray Robillard, Chris York, Marisa Christoff, Taryn Fernandez, Devon Bares, Dina Kayser, Wendy Yatsenick, Amy Perras, Bill Davenport with Region 14's finest award in recognition of their leadership, dedication to high quality instruction, high level of professionalism, and compassion to students and staff alike. Mrs. Luby went on to mention how proud she was to be able to give them this recognition and thanked them on behalf of their NHS family and Region 14.

Elementary school counseling curriculum presentation - Dr. Rafferty presented the elementary comprehensive school-counseling curriculum to the Board. This curriculum is to be partnered with the secondary curriculum that was presented at the previous meeting. The curriculum addresses issues such as kindness, citizenship, self-management, and academic and career awareness.

The curriculum is built on a developmentally appropriate progression of social emotional learning standards. Dr. Rafferty indicated that it would take a while to fully implement the curriculum as the counseling team will be investigating and rolling out resource materials. Dr. Rafferty also presented an update concerning the work of the elementary counselors and their work with students in large group, small group and individually.

2018-19 budget calendar final review: Ms. Morgan went over the budget calendar meetings and asked the board members to review their budget books which they received this evening and send any questions to her as soon as possible so that Mr. McAllister and Dr. O have time to review and have responses ready for the first budget workshop on Wednesday of this week.

Committee reports:

Policy – Mr. Chapman advised that the committee met this evening and will have a few policies to bring to the next regular BOE meeting for a first read.

Wellness – Dr. O mentioned that the committee met and listened to concerns brought up by parent and staff committee members. He went on to state that he is working on gathering information to respond to concerns at their next meeting which should be held within the next month.

Building – Mr. Chapman stated that he has nothing new to report, but that the committee will be meeting tomorrow night.

BOE Chair comments: – none

Privilege of the floor – Woodbury resident, Diane Macleod shared her gratitude to the administration and staff, and wanted to recognize Principal Nemeec and Assistant Principal Greene for doing such a wonderful job in their first year. She mentioned that she is very pleased with Middle school. She went on to state that she attended Principal Roden coffee talk where she learned that MES was named as a school of distinction. She also wanted to recognize Mr. Rafferty and former Superintendent Dr. Anna for their vision in getting the curriculum written. She also extended kudos to Principal Roden for getting the curriculum implemented. Ms. Macleod also wanted to recognize the instructional leaders, as well as all of the staff and parents who make it possible. She went on to state that we have very hard working staff, is pleased with all of the new curriculum being written. Finally, she also thanked the Board of Education.

Old Business: - none

New Business:

Ms. Morgan wanted to advise the community that the reason that the board held this emergency special meeting was because the team didn't know until 3 days prior to leaving that they had advanced to the championships. She wanted to be clear that this was a rare exception that this type of meeting was held.

Ms. Morgan requested a motion to approve and ratify the NHS Wrestling student to the Annual New England Championships.

Mr. Bauer moved that the Region 14 Board of Education approve the Nonnewaug High School Wrestling students to the 55th Annual New England Interscholastic Wrestling Championships in Providence, RI from March 1 through March 2, 2019 for 2 students, and 3 coaches via First Student bus and funded by the athletics fund. Seconded by Ms. Van Aken. **The motion carried unanimously 8-0-0.**

Dr. O's budget presentation:

Dr. Olzacki showed a video presentation of his proposed budget.

Budget Highlights:

- Dr. O presented a responsive budget which does not impact programs.
- His budget focused on needs rather than wants.
- Dr. O used his listening tour to build his budget.
- The presentation included many achievements from each school.

- Enrollment information was shared from a study done by Milone and MacBroom through the District Advisory Committee.
- In the area of teaching and learning, Dr. Rafferty touched on program improvements from last year's budget including new elementary science labs, new middle school programming in culinary and music, increase in AP offerings at NHS.
- Dr. Rafferty highlighted the three main goals in the budget proposal for the upcoming year. They are centered on social emotional learning, global citizenship, and professional learning for staff.
- Mr. McAllister presented the historical budget numbers for requested yearly increases. An important notation that this year's operating budget request is 1.193% increase, which is below the 10-year average. The remaining 2.724% increase request is due to the debt service due on the high school renovation project.
- Mr. McAllister highlighted with greater specificity the budget impacts regarding salaries, employee benefits, capital outlay, instructional supplies and materials, purchased services and dues, insurance, and debt service. This year's capital improvement projects include continuation of partial roof replacement at both BES and MES, WMS and NHS oil tank removal, district wide replacement and purchase of new musical instruments, and technology upgrades.
- Dr. Olzacki highlighted staffing changes impacted by the upcoming budget request, which include the elimination of one central office position, two classroom positions, 0.5 middle school library media specialist position. He went on to mention that the high school will gain an additional 0.4 ASL position making it a full time position, and the middle school will gain a 0.2 music position.
- In conclusion, Dr. Olzacki proposed a 3.92% increase for the 2019-2020 school year.

Ms. Morgan requested a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Van Aken moved to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Bauer. **The motion carried unanimously 8-0-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Natascha Schwartz, BOE Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Natascha Z. Schwartz, Board Clerk, 03/25/2019