

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held November 4, 2019 in the Board of Education Room, 67 Washington Avenue, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Janet Morgan, Pam Zmek, Mike Devine, Jim Crocker, Ed Decortin, Maryanne Van Aken, Carol Ann Brown, Joseph Olzacki and Wayne McAllister. Also in attendance were, Pam Sordi, Bill Nemeec, Suzi Greene, Alyce Misuraca, Donna Marcinek, Mike Molzon, Andrew Komar, Wendy Nelson Kauffman, Wendy Yatsenick, Mark Harutunian, Patrick DiSarro, approximately 10 residents, 2 student representatives from Woodbury Middle School, Reale Lemay and BOE clerk, Karen Daley.

Absent: George Bauer

**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**

Ms. Van Aken motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of October 21, 2019. Seconded by Ms. Brown. **The motion carried 5-0-2.**

**4. Student Representatives**

Two students Patrick Tune and Ellie McDonald both 7<sup>th</sup> grade students from Woodbury Middle School spoke about what has been happening at their school. The 2019-2020 school year is off to a great start at Woodbury Middle School with many new faces with our 6<sup>th</sup> grade class, as well as many new faces with some of our teachers. School pride was felt as we walked through the front door this year and saw the new Warrior floor mats and logos, in addition to the new TV's on the walls in the hallways and cafeteria. The show stopper for sure was the gymnasium where a new logo, safety mats, and basketball hoops were replaced bringing it back to life. On September 19<sup>th</sup>, our parents were invited to attend Open House. Members of our Alliance Leadership group helped out that evening by guiding parents through their child's schedule. In addition, a small group of Alliance members joined Mr. Nemeec in the cafeteria during grade level parent meetings where we reviewed our school values, aka "The Warrior Way", as well as a snip it into our middle school experience. WMS offers many opportunities for students to enhance and build upon their leadership skills. We are proud to say that the Athletic Department raised over \$500 to support Breast Cancer Awareness by selling pink socks and other "pink" items. A donation on behalf of WMS was made to the Harold Leever Cancer Center in Waterbury. Capstone students had an opportunity to attend the Skills 21 Workshop fall Kick Off Event at Basement Systems in Seymour in October. Students who attended learned skills that will help them prepare for this year's Expo Fest 2020. This year there is a lot of excitement with a couple of our new clubs - Drama and Cooking club! We can't wait to see the performance that's to come from Drama club as well as smell all the delicious treats created in Cooking club. There are so many things to get involved in at WMS and it's never too late to join. School Culture and Climate, building stronger relationships, while being Respectful and Responsible is the focus behind everything that WMS is about. A huge thank you to ASAP, our local prevention council who provided \$5000 in start-up funds to our Alliance leadership group. These funds gave Alliance an unforgettable experience at Club Getaway in Kent a week and a half ago. All students were given a chance to build on their leadership skills by participating in a variety of activities in a safe and comfortable environment that encourages everyone to go out of their comfort zone and try things they otherwise wouldn't. We worked through team building activities, as well as zip lining and a high ropes course. The Warrior Way is alive in our school.

### **5. Superintendent's Report -**

- a. Organizational Chart – Dr. Olzacki presented the final organizational chart that has been worked on for the last couple of months. This is a very descriptive breakdown of who reports to who within Region 14. The Board is pleased to finally have an organizational chart to show how the district is working after requesting it multiple times over the last several years.
- b. Teaching and Learning Progress – Ms. Nelson Kauffman went over how the Teaching and Learning process is working. She explained the pyramid and what is being accomplished. The teacher leaders are bringing in teachers that may not be a part of the teaching and learning group to help make them better teachers. The teaching and learning team will be meeting with the nationally renowned Kim Marshall to learn about informal evaluations and to see how best to use them. They are looking deep into the test scores to see how to best serve the students. Some teaching topics may be reordered over the course of the school year to make sure that topics which are on the SBAC are being covered before the test so students can have knowledge in the areas of the questions that are on the test. Each teacher must have 2 SLO's; one of which will be based on standardized testing. Using the Smarter Balance assessments, staff can determine from the students how well the teachers are teaching individual topics. WMS is rolling out a question of the day to find out where we need to focus our attention. The other focus is the Social Emotional Learning, building students' academic stamina and to help reinforce a don't give up attitude. The teacher leaders are coming together, collaborating and they are excited about their findings and are eager to help the students continue to achieve.
- c. FFA Convention – The VoAg students performed very well at nationals and will come back and present to the Board at an upcoming meeting.
- d. Mike Molzon and Reale Lemay came to speak about the water testing at NHS. There is an elevated level of copper detected only, not lead, from a sample that was taken in September. The state has prescribed daily flushing of the system as well as sampling the wells from several different locations now and then again in two weeks. Public notification was done as of today to all NHS students as well as family's district wide. The filters on the water bottle filling stations can be adjusted to provide more filtration of copper. Testing will continue to monitor the situation and it should be noted that there have been similar issues in other new constructions of schools in the area. Mr. Lemay is happy to answer any questions from staff, board members or residents. Current protocol at NHS is that every single faucet is run in the morning for 15-20 minutes each day before students arrive to flush out the system and the cafeteria reports that very little food is prepared with water.

### **6. Board Committee Reports**

- a. **Policy Committee Report** – Packet 4 has now been reviewed and a spreadsheet has been created showing the date of last review for all policies in the packet.

### **7. Board Chair Comments –**

- a. The Board will consider postponing the next meeting to Tuesday rather than Monday or canceling all together to accommodate the Woodbury Town Meeting.
- b. The evaluation process of the Superintendent will be reviewed at the Board Retreat on Wednesday.

### **8. Public Comment** – none

- 9. Old Business** – Calendar 2020-2021 – Ms. Van Aken prefers an earlier start date to leave more of a cushion at the end of the school year.

Mr. Crocker ***moved*** that the Region 14 Board of Education approve the 2020-2021 School Calendar option # 3 with a start date of September 2<sup>nd</sup> and the last day of school on June 16<sup>th</sup> as presented.

**Motion carried 5-2-0.**

**10. New Business**

- a. Field Trip

Ms. Zmek ***moved*** that the Region 14 Board of Education approve Nonnewaug High School Boys and Girls Tennis Teams to the Van Der Meer Tennis Academy in Hilton Head, NC, March 24<sup>th</sup> through March 28<sup>th</sup> 2020 for approximately 30 students, 2 coaches and 3 background checked chaperone via air and shuttle van and funded by the students. Seconded by Ms. Van Aken. **Motion carried 7-0-0.**

- b. Policy Revisions for first read:

5141.21 – Administering Medications

5141.7 – Student Sports – Concussions – Mr. Decortin had a few questions he would like clarification on prior to voting on the Concussion Policy. Who will monitor time off from play? Regarding the return to play, who makes the decision on when players can return? How does our return to play time to compare to others? Is the trainer at all athletic events with an AED?

Declan Curtin will be invited to come to next BOE meeting to discuss concussion policy and answer questions. The Board will also review the Medications policy for discussion at the next meeting.

**11. Other Business** –

**12. Adjournment**

Ms. Morgan moved to adjourn and seconded by Ms. Van Aken. The **motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen Daley, BOE Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Karen Daley, Board Clerk, 11/11/19