

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held November 5, 2018 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, George Bauer, John Chapman. Also in attendance were Superintendent Dr. Olzacki, Michael Rafferty, Wayne McAllister, Kim Culkin, Suzi Greene, Bill Nemec, Kevin Mahoney, Sarah Mazzei, Beth Mauro, Melissa Fitzpatrick Brenda Williams, Thomas Nobili, Abbe Waldron, Amy Perras, student reps Julia Pape, Jack Rubacha with their parents, reporter from CT Voices & and approximately 2 community members.

Absent: Pam Zmek

1. **Call to Order**

Ms. Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and led the pledge of allegiance.

2. **Approval of Minutes:**

Ms. Van Aken motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 22, 2018 and seconded by Mr. Bauer. The **motion carried 6-0-1, with Mr. Chapman abstaining.**

Student Representatives: WMS 8th Grade students Julia Pape & Jack Rubacha started off by formally welcoming Dr. O to Region 14. They went on to present all of the great things that have been happening at WMS. Over 88% of WMS students participated in the summer reading challenge and collectively read over 1,100 books over the summer! Other great things happening: After school clubs began in October, Trick or Treat Street was held on October 20, 2018 and the Woodbury Alliance room came in second place out of 11 rooms judged. The music department has partnered with the Woodbury Senior Center to form an intergenerational Ukulele band with the possibility of an upcoming show. In support of French week, students in French class have created posters and put them up throughout the school with funny French facts. Students will be Skyping with actual students from France who are currently learning English on November 12. WMS Alliance was formed at the start of the 2018-2019 school year, have 63 members and was created to develop leaders in the school who focus on improving the climate and culture at WMS. Warrior council sponsored a Spirit week where students participated in daily themed activities and were asked to bring in a canned food items which were donated to the Woodbury and Bethlehem food banks. On October 26th over 50 students participated in one of three workshops which were held at the Hartford Art School. It was a successful sports season with WMS boys' and girls' soccer teams finished up the season undefeated! The field hockey team was impressive under the direction of a new coach. The cross-country team also had a great season and hosted over 60 athletes. Winter sports practices will begin this week.

Superintendent report:

R14's Finest: Ms. Morgan asked Mr. Rafferty to come up to say a few words and present his team with their certificates of recognition. Mr. Rafferty noted how proud he is of his team's accomplishments and mentioned that he and his team are honored that the BOE wanted to recognize them. He went on to mention that the team could not accomplish what it does without the dedication and hard work of the teachers as well. Team members present were: Kevin Mahoney, Sarah Mazzei, Beth Mauro, Melissa Fitzpatrick, Brenda Williams, Thomas Nobili, Amy Perras, and Abbe Waldron. Rita Cole, Sharon Heady Labansky, Deb Benedict, Aimee Shuhart, Wendy Yatsenick, Lisa Valenzisi were also honored but could not be present. Ms. Morgan and Ms. Van Aken also presented Mr. Rafferty with a certificate for his significant contributions as well.

Dr. O advised he is continuing on with his listening, learning tour and sending out weekly synopses on his adventures in Bethlehem and Woodbury. He mentioned that he and Len Assard participated in the BES Halloween parade and met approximately 30 parents/community members. He went on to advise that he will be going to meet with clergy in the communities to discuss the possibility of collaborative efforts with regards to concerts, etc.

Committee reports

Ms. Van Aken reported that the Safe Schools committee met on October 26 and discussions centered around arrival/dismissal at NHS, potential of a new safety grant that the Region will be applying for, emergency management assessment of all buildings is completed and to be sent to the State. She also mentioned the See Something, Say Something initiative which is a take-off of a national program and that they discussed that each school will develop their individualized campaigns in each building. The committee also discussed 911 texting emergency plan, security cameras and that the gentleman from Johnson Controls will be coming back to visit each of the schools and discuss any issues that they are experiencing.

Building: As Mr. Chapman was not able to be present for the last Building Committee meeting on October 23, this update to be tabled

Policy – Mr. Chapman advised that there was no quorum but there was a roundtable discussion on prioritization of remaining policies.

Board chair comments

Ms. Morgan read a letter received from the First Selectman of Woodbury, Mr. Bill Butterly, expressing his heartfelt gratitude to the BOE and other Town Departments for making the dedication of the cornfield in Danny Logue's memory such a special event.

Public comment - none

Old business

The Board wanted to table the 2019-2020 school calendar discussion once again as Mr. Chapman wasn't able to attend the building committee meeting to make recommendations in regards to school start date. Mr. Chapman advised that they could discuss during the meeting tonight and will have more concrete information to bring to the next BOE meeting after the next building committee meeting. Ms. Morgan requested a motion to open for discussion:

Ms. Van Aken *moved* to open the floor to the BOE for the purpose of discussing the 2019-2020 school calendar and seconded by Mr. Lampart. **The motion carried 7-0-0.**

Mr. Chapman doesn't believe either starting before Labor Day or after will be an issue either way. Ms. Brown would like to start after Labor Day due to the potential of heat in September. She would like a survey done to staff/faculty to find out their preference. Ms. Van Aken mentioned that starting later could impact the April vacation. Mr. Devine suggested that if the school year starts later, to take off a few days from April break. The BOE discussed polling the staff in regards to having a half day on Good Friday instead of full day. The discussion to be tabled to the next BOE meeting. Dr. Olzacki mentioned that he would check the sending towns' start dates and send out a Survey Monkey to the staff/faculty for their input.

New business

Mr. Bauer *moved* that the Region 14 BOE approve the WMS 8th grade students to attend an educational trip to Washington D.C. from May 8, 2019 to May 10, 2019 for approximately 135 students and 18 background checked chaperones via motor coach bus and funded by students, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Lampart. **Motion carried 7-0-0.**

Other business - none

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "N. Schwartz".

Natascha Schwartz, BOE Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Natascha Z. Schwartz, Board Clerk, 11/12/2018