

The regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held May 20, 2019 at the Central Office of the Board of Education, 67 Washington Avenue, Woodbury CT.

Present: Janet Morgan, David Lampart, Carol Ann Brown, Mike Devine, Maryanne Van Aken, George Bauer, Pam Zmek. Also in attendance were Superintendent Dr. Olzacki, Wayne McAllister, Mike Rafferty, Donna Marcinek, Suzi Greene, Bill Nemeck, Amy Perras, Leeza Desjardins, WMS student reps Madison Willis and Julian Daou along with their parents, Julee Oppici, Carol Tomkalski, Mike Hadoulis, Todd Gorski, Maureen McCurdy, Priscilla Appiagyei, NHS Football team, parents, coaches and NHS graduates, Girls Lacrosse team members and supporters.

Missing: John Chapman

### Call to Order

Ms. Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. with a pledge to the flag.

Ms. Van Aken motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 6, 2019 and seconded by Mr. Bauer. The **motion carried 6-0-1, with Ms. Van Aken abstaining.**

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

Ms. Van Aken motioned to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of May 9, 2019 and seconded by Mr. Lampart. The **motion carried 4-0-3, with Mr. Bauer, Ms. Brown, and Ms. Van Aken abstaining.**

**Student Reps:** WMS Student Reps Madison Willis and Julian Daou gave an update on what's been happening at WMS.

Julian advised eighth grade students just returned from Washington D.C. where they had the opportunity to tour the Capitol, visit several memorials, museums, and danced the night away while enjoying good food and the camaraderie of their peers. Madison mentioned that it was the first of many fun end of the year activities for their 8th grade class. One museum which students were truly moved and engaged while traveling through, was the Holocaust museum. On the Monday prior to their departure on the D.C. trip, the 8th grade class was visited by Gisela Adamski, a holocaust survivor. Through the support of the ADL, Mrs. Greene, and Dr. Olzacki, students were able to hear Mrs. Adamski's firsthand account of her experience as a survivor of the holocaust. Eighth grade alliance members stayed after Mrs. Adamski's presentation for a roundtable discussion on how to be an up stander vs. a by stander. Students were very moved by this experience and were on the lookout for several artifacts that Mrs. Adamski highlighted during her presentation.

WMS's Spring sports season is well underway with track and field, baseball and softball all having a great year! Some impressive times and distances for track and field this year: Boys - Nolan Jacobi: 5:17 Mile, John Paul Cuccia: high jump 5'2", Nikita Nicholas: disc 122'2", Joey Pelletier: 55 meter hurdles 8.25 seconds, Joey Pelletier, John Paul Cuccia, Lincoln Nichols and Trey Medonis: 4 x 100 team 55.41. For the girls' team - Ryan Samuel: 56'5 3/4" discus, Annie Woodward and Emily Fonte: High jump: 4'2", Ellie McDonald: 100 meters: 13.0 seconds (tying the school record), Sydney Grogean: 800 Meters: 2:59, Annie Woodward, Maylan Hardisty, Lux Calo and Emma Primini 4x400 team: 4:58...28 seconds faster than their first time! The boys' baseball team has a record of 7-0 which has allowed all players to get a chance to get into the game. The girls' softball team started their season off with a 50-1 win and have taken their overall record to 4 & 3. Both boys' baseball and girls' softball take on Memorial Middle School this Thursday at home

Madison thanked to the "Parents in the Middle" for organizing a delicious luncheon to recognize teacher appreciation week, as well as for running a very successful plant sale. Plans are also well underway for our "End of Year Celebration" which PIM is also very involved in making a success for our students each year.

Julian advised that Alliance members have been working hard all year and most recently have offered collaborative opportunities for WMS families to come together to challenge one another through various minute to win it activities. For one of their recent activities, "sticky situation", they had to bounce a ping pong ball on a piece of bread with fluff on it and they enjoyed it immensely.

Madison also stated that several Alliance and Warrior Council members attended a Youth Conference at Holiday Hill with several other student leaders from various middle schools throughout Connecticut. It was an exciting trip for the student leaders and they had an opportunity to attend two different workshops on various topics. One of the workshops which Madison attended was called the Rope Trick, which was a fast moving drama regarding a family and their progression through addiction.

Madison thanked Mrs. Paolino who will be teaming up with Warrior Council members to set up the flag display to honor all of the men and women who died while serving in the United States military.

Finally, they recognized all of the end of year events are run through our Unified Arts program. Students who participated in the Capstone experience will be presenting at Expo Fest 2019 at the Oakdale Theatre on June 1st. In addition, the WMS band, orchestra and chorus students will perform at their Spring Concert. All events are sure to be a lot of fun and will highlight the talent and hard work of their fellow peers.

### **Superintendent's Report**

WMS Alliance Member Presentation – to be tabled until the next BOE meeting on June 3, 2019.

R14's finest – Principal Nemeč was pleased to award certificates to the following individuals: Julee Oppici, Adam Brutting, Ericka Bonetti, Carol Tomkalski, Josh Kornblut, Mike Hadoulis, Jami Archambeault, Liberty Fitzpatrick, Todd Gorski, Jeremy Heyel, Maureen McCurdy, Priscilla Appiagyei. These individuals were recognized for their contribution in making the Washington D.C. trip a huge success. They worked tirelessly in preparing for the trip and were chaperones as well. Not all recipients were able to attend tonight, but will receive their certificates from Mr. Nemeč. Ms. Morgan thanked them on behalf of the BOE as well.

Recognition SRO Chris O'Toole – To be tabled as Officer O'Toole was not present.

Flanders Visit Update – Dr. Rafferty gave an update regarding the rollout of the first elementary science field experience in partnership with Flanders Nature Center. He informed the board that all second graders participated in an assured field experience related to the new science curriculum. He indicated that the field experience will continue each year thereby giving students the opportunity to review and analyze the data collected by Region 14 students year after year.

Graduation Requirements – Tabled to the next BOE meeting.

### **Board Committee Report(s)**

Finance/Facilities - Mr. Bauer advised that the committee met tonight with Mr. Bernabe again to discuss financing of the high school renovation project. The committee spoke about long term and short term financing and getting the best value for the Region's money. They also discussed audit services and bringing a motion to the BOE concerning the Vo Ag Grant.

### **Board Chair's Comments**

Woodbury resident Heidi Hillman sent a letter to the BOE advising that she would like to donate her daughter's gymnastics equipment which is in very good condition. The BOE will get in touch with Mrs. Roden to accept the donation. Ms. Morgan requested a motion to accept the donation of the gymnastics equipment.

Ms. Van Aken moved that the Region 14 Board of Education accept the donation of the gymnastics equipment. Seconded by Mr. Bauer. **The motion carried 7-0-0.**

### **Privilege of the Floor**

An overwhelming number of NHS Football students, parents, grads and other supporters spoke to advocate for the NHS Football program. They expressed their pride in their team and also their disappointment in the possibility that the Region may not continue the program going forward. Ms. Morgan advised everyone present that the Board would put together a committee to hear everyone's concerns and to come up with some common ground solutions.

A request was also made for a CIAC sanctioned Boys Lacrosse program. Several parents spoke about Lacrosse and Football. A proposal was given to the BOE and Chairwoman Morgan advised that a committee would be formed.

Also advocating for the possibility of creating a school sponsored Girls Lacrosse team were some NHS students and their parents. Ms. Morgan advised that she'd like to set up a similar committee to look at Lacrosse as a potential school sponsored sport as well.

Ms. Morgan advised all who were present that they will be able to view all of the comments from this evening's meeting on the website in the coming days.

### **Old Business**

Ms. Van Aken moved that the Region 14 BOE approve the Art curriculum as presented and seconded by Mr. Bauer. **Motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.**

Ms. Bauer moved that the Region 14 BOE approve and adopt the following Bedford, Freeman and Worth textbook for Nonnewaug High School AP Government textbook: *American Government, Stories of a Nation*, AP Edition First Edition as presented and seconded by Ms. Van Aken. Ms. Brown had concerns with the textbook and Ms. Zmek advised that she'd like more information and time to look the book over more in depth. Ms. Morgan advised the BOE that they could withdraw the motion and table it until the next meeting. Mr. Bauer withdrew the motion which was on the table.

Dr. Rafferty advised that he could set up a time to meet with a teacher who went to the training, so that members could ask questions. Ms. Morgan welcomed the idea.

### **New Business**

Mr. Bauer moved that the Region 14 BOE approve Katelyn Meyers of NHS to attend the 2019 National History Day International Competition in College Park, MD from June 6 through June 9, 2019 for 1 student and 2 background checked chaperones via personal vehicles and funded by the student. Seconded by Ms. Van Aken. **Motion carried 7-0-0.**

Ms. Morgan asked to add a new motion to the table.

Mr. Bauer moved to add the following motion: Move that the Region 14 Board of Education authorize the Director of Finance and Operations to commit an additional \$88,542 (new total committed equals \$220,942) from the Region 14 Capital Reserve Projects Fund as its share of the State of Connecticut Vo Ag Building Grant #214-0094 VA/EA. Seconded by Mr. Lampart. **Motion carried unanimously 7-0-0 to add the motion. Motion added.**

Mr. Bauer moved that the Region 14 Board of Education authorize the Director of Finance and Operations to commit an additional \$88,542 (new total committed equals \$220,942) from the Region 14 Capital Reserve Projects Fund as its share of the State of Connecticut Vo Ag Building Grant #214-0094 VA/EA. Seconded by Ms. Van Aken. Mr. McAllister explained the need for the motion. The members discussed the details of the motion. **The motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.**

Ms. Morgan requested a motion to adjourn.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Natascha Schwartz, BOE Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Natascha Z. Schwartz, Board Clerk, 5/20/2019  
**Revised: 5/28/2019**