

The regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held May 6, 2019 at the Central Office of the Board of Education, 67 Washington Avenue, Woodbury CT.

Present: Janet Morgan, Carol Ann Brown, Mike Devine, George Bauer, Pam Zmek, Also in attendance were Superintendent Dr. Olzacki, Wayne McAllister, Mike Rafferty, Amy Perras, Donna Marcinek, Julie Luby, Kim Culkin, Marisa Christoff, Rebecca Trzaski, Alyce Misuraca, BES student reps Erin Blore and Whit DePreter along with their parents, Bill Pease, Mark Strumolo, Team Beta robotics students, their parents, NHS National History Days students: Hannah Wiesniewski, Katelyn Meyers, Sophia Pagnamenta, Rebecca Riddle, and their parents, Art teachers, CT Voices & Republican American reporters, approximately 5 other community members and BOE clerk, Natascha Schwartz.

Missing: Carol Ann Brown, John Chapman, Maryanne Van Aken

Call to Order

Ms. Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. with a pledge to the flag.

Mr. Bauer motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 8, 2019 and seconded by Mr. Lampart.
The **motion carried 5-0-0.**

Mr. Bauer motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 8, 2019 and seconded by Mr. Lampart.
The **motion carried 4-0-1, with Mr. Bauer abstaining.**

Student Reps: Whit DePreter and Erin Blore gave the BOE highlights of what has been happening recently at BES. BES hosted storyteller Len Cabral who shared many stories and left the students with an important message to spread kindness and to learn to accept others as they are. In the Physical Education classes, students engaged in a gymnastics unit led by Mr. Jackson who taught them skills on the uneven bars and balance beam. BES held their annual Spring Book Fair and Ice Cream Social and held a coin drive to help raise money to purchase books for classroom libraries.

Erin mentioned that in Kindergarten, students have been hard at work in Readers' Workshop using all of their reading "tools" to tackle tricky words when they read. In Writers' Workshop, students have been writing true stories about something that really happened in their lives. In Math, they are working on addition and subtraction to 5, and in the Science unit, called Living It Up, students are taking trips to the Science and the Lab has been a great experience. The Kindergarten students are looking forward to an upcoming field trip to visit the NHS Vo-Ag Department.

First graders are currently entrenched in all things fiction. They are delving deeply into story characters and lessons learned along the way. They are devouring their books and lifting their reading levels to prepare for second grade. Erin went on to state that the students are transferring their knowledge and are writing their own realistic fiction in writer's workshop. In Math, students are deepening their understanding of place value. Using the open number line helps them move beyond counting one by one for addition and subtraction, to strategies such as making jumps of ten, decomposing and using benchmark numbers. The last science unit is in full swing. Students are investigating external parts of plants and animals to learn how these parts keep them safe, and help them survive.

Second graders were extremely grateful for the donations that rolled in from the PTO coin drive and spring book fair. They LOVE the new books they received for the classroom library. They have been developing writing, computer and presentation skills in a poetry unit where they created poems and illustrated them using Google Slides. Second grade is also enjoying a math unit on measurement. Each day they are thinking of efficient ways to measure new objects. They love the hands-on learning when using measurement tools like rulers. In science, a visit to Flanders Nature Center is planned to help engage their scientific thinking examining and comparing different habitats.

Third graders have been working on literary essays where they are critiquing social issue texts and learning to include text evidence. In Math, the students have completed their unit on the study of fractions and are in the middle of the study of geometry. In this unit, area and perimeter are explained and explored. Students have been working on a “Canned” character book report and will present their completed summary and projects to their classmates and parents next week.

Fourth graders spent the month of April designing and building windmills in science. Working in teams, students had to engineer, test, modify and retest their models. A wonderful experience in determination and perseverance. Now, grade 4 is studying the world of geography in social studies. Students have been working with maps to determine different landmarks that are found in different areas of Connecticut. Students are exploring different kinds of maps to design a map of our state that depicts topographical features, as well as pertinent landmarks. In reading and writing, students are using text evidence to support their thinking about theme in fictional short stories. They are exploring social issues such as slavery and discrimination and learning that determination helps us achieve our goals. In Math, student just finished a unit on division and have started learning about angles.

In grade 5, math students completed two full units on adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions. Students have worked on planning out a marathon race track and placing stations around the track using their knowledge of fractions. In Reading students completed a non-fiction reading unit where they researched a topic and supported one side of it (ex. zoos should be banned/zoos should not be banned). They planned for and participated in debates with their peers. Students are now reading books that involve social issues. They have been involved with book clubs where they discuss the social issues around what message the author is saying about the social issue and how the characters grow and change throughout the book. In Science students completed their unit on Ecosystems where they studied what happens to matter in a system. As an end of unit project, students constructed ecosystem models and they observed the changes in the ecosystem as time passed. In Social Studies students have explored the 13 colonies. They are creating posters or slide shows with information on a selected Colony. Students will share these projects with their peers at the end of this unit to help build understanding around early colonial life.

In closing, Whit and Erin thanked the Board members for letting them share the amazing work happening at BES.

Superintendent’s Report

R14’s finest – Principal Misuraca was pleased to award Tricia Dannenhoffer with Region 14’s finest award on behalf of BES and the Region. Mrs. Dannenhoffer thanked Principal Misuraca and the Board and advised that she has been in the district for 20 years and doing professional develop is very important to her. Shen went on to state that she asks students every day to do their personal best and push outside of their comfort zone and as she also does. Mrs. Dannenhoffer teaches students to always put forth the effort to learn.

Team Beta demo – Mr. Pease introduced Team Beta and had the students give brief explanation of what competitions are all about and gave a quick demonstration of the robot the students built. Mr. Pease mentioned that Team Beta finished well in the Waterbury competition, making it into the quarter finals elimination round. The team also participated in the Hartford competition and prior to competing in that competition, they made some minor modifications including adding in a camera to make their robot easier to maneuver. Team Beta finished the competition tied for 5th place with Southington. The team placed 98th out of 300 in all of New England. Coach Bill Pease and assistant coach Mark Strumolo spent countless hours preparing for the competitions. The team will be participating in an informal competition this Saturday to end their season.

History Day – Ms. Luby introduced Social Studies Department Chair, Marisa Christoff, to explain what History day is. Ms. Christoff introduced the students who participated: Hannah Wiesniewski, Katelyn Meyers, Sophia Pagnamenta, Rebecca Riddle. their journey started in September when they met with Sharon Wlodarczyk, the History Day coordinator from Region 15. Together they implemented a mini history day project into the World History course with Freshmen. This project served as the students’ mid-term. They also started a History Day club headed up by History teacher Rebecca Trzaski and is being extended to Sophomores through to Seniors, to give them the opportunity to compete as well. Ms. Christoff congratulated the 4 students advising the Board that they represented NHS at Regionals in which Rebecca placed 2nd in the paper category and

Katelyn placed 1st in the exhibit category which earned them both a spot in the State competition. During the State competition, Katelyn placed 2nd in the exhibit category and has now qualified to represent Region 14 in the National History Day competition at the University of Maryland in June, where she will try for a big win. Ms. Trzaski thanked the parents, Principal Luby, Assistant Principal Sordi, Dean of Students Declan Curtin. Ms. Morgan asked each student to speak to what each project was about.

Vision of a Graduate – Ms. Luby gave a brief explanation of what NEASC is and advised the BOE members that NEASC's next visit will be in 2024. NHS will begin its self-study in 2021 to prepare for the visit which is divided into 5 standards: learning culture, student learning, professional practices, learning support, learning resources. She then asked Ms. Perras to elaborate.

Ms. Perras advised that vision of a graduate lives inside NEASC's first standard which centers around a learning culture which promotes shared values and responsibilities for achieving the school's vision. This means that the school community honors diversity and provides a safe, positive and respectful culture that fosters civic engagement along with social and personal responsibility, while providing a safe building for learning to happen. She went on to state that the school has written a document that outlines core values and beliefs and these beliefs drive student learning as well as professional practices and resource allocation. The school community values relationship with students and takes responsibility to ensure the wellbeing of students, whether physical, social, or emotional. Every student has a trusted adult they can go to for any reason and the community recognizes the importance of these relationships. The professional culture of the school is committed to continued improvement and allows for intellectual risk taking and personal and professional growth. Finally, the standard recognizes that there is common understanding of leadership and the school leaders have the authority to improve student learning.

Ms. Luby asked the BOE members as well as Dr. O to go to each station and write down specific points on what they feel is important in cultivating the vision of the graduate. Once the exercise was over Ms. Luby thanked the BOE and mentioned that she will be doing the same exercise with administrators, teachers, students, as well as parents. Once the information has been compile, she will bring the information back to leadership team with a final vision of the Region 14 graduate.

Board Committee Report(s)

Finance/Facilities - Mr. Bauer advised that the committee met tonight and discussed items such as the general YTD financials, the YTD financial for the NHS building project, funding and discussion of payment reimbursement and planned expenses. They also discussed the annual healthy food certification as well as the transportation company contract.

Building – Ms. Morgan asked to table the report as Mr. Chapman was not present.

Board Chair's Comments

Ms. Morgan asked Principal Luby to invite SRO O'Toole to the next BOE meeting to publicly thank him for being vigilant and observant in keeping NHS safe. Ms. Luby gave account of what he did to apprehend a student last week. She also stated that since the incident, they have quickly adjusted an enhanced registration process for new students coming into the building and all new students will be introduced to officer O'Toole so that he knows who they are.

Ms. Morgan was very pleased to announce that Region 14 made the USA News saying that Nonnewaug High School made the elite list in High School ranking. This story on High School rankings was put out this morning at 10 a.m. NHS is 2724th in the county and 54th in the State putting us in the top 3rd of High Schools. NHS's over score was 84.02 with 72% of our students taking at least 1 AP exam and a graduation rate is 95%. She congratulated Dr. Rafferty, the Superintendent and the staff for bringing NHS to new standards.

Privilege of the Floor - none

Old Business

Ms. Morgan requested a motion to approve the following policies:

3323 – Soliciting Prices (Bids and Quotations)

3326.3 – Board of Education Credit Card

3410 – System of Accounts

3435 – Fraud Prevention and Investigation

Mr. Bauer *moved* that the Region 14 BOE approve the policies as presented and seconded by Mr. Lampart. **Motion carried unanimously 5-0-0.**

New Business

Dr. Rafferty piggy backed on Ms. Morgan's great news of NHS's elite status in the news. He acknowledged Wendy Yatsenick, the school counselors, as well as all of the AP teachers who encourage students stretch themselves to their potential.

Dr. Rafferty and Amy Perras presented the new Art curriculum which is again is shown in the same easy format as all of the other curricula which has been brought to the BOE. They touched on the 5 highlights: Common Focus Over Time Elements of Art & Principles of Design, Etiquette of Art/Art History as Assured, Access to Arts/More Offerings, Pre-Kindergarten: Explore, Enjoy, Engage, and Developed with the latest National Standards (NCCAS, 2014). They mentioned that NHS is one of the first schools to align with NCCAS 2014.

Dr. Rafferty publicly thanked Marisa and Rebecca advising that they have invigorated the Social Studies department and have made History come alive. Dr. Rafferty gave a brief explanation of the AP standards and the selection process of choosing the right textbook. He went on to give the highlights of why they chose this textbook. The BOE will have two weeks to view the textbook prior to the next meeting where it will be brought forward during the next BOE meeting for approval.

Ms. Zmek *moved* that the Region 14 Board of Education opt in to the CT Healthy Foods Program for 2019-2020, implement the CT Healthy Food Option and certify (pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §10-10-215f) that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups. Seconded by Mr. Bauer. **Motion carried unanimously 5-0-0.**

Ms. Zmek *moved* that the Region 14 Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events, but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held. Seconded by Mr. Lampart. **Motion carried unanimously 5-0-0.**

Ms. Zmek *moved* that the Region 14 Board of Education will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes, provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to

30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held, and must be the same place as the beverage sales. Seconded by Mr. Lampart. **Motion carried unanimously 5-0-0.**

Ms. Morgan requested a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Bauer moved to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Lampart. **The motion carried unanimously 5-0-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm

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, 5/10/2019