

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held October 7, 2019 in the Board of Education Room, 67 Washington Avenue, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Janet Morgan, Pam Zmek, George Bauer, Mike Devine, James Crocker, Ed Decortin, Maryanne Van Aken, Carol Ann Brown, Joseph Olzacki and Wayne McAllister. Also in attendance were, Marisa Christoff, John Dominello, Devon Bares Taryn Fernandez, Andrew Komar, Pam Sordi, Wendy Nelson Kauffman, Patrick DiSarro, approximately 10 residents, 20 students from the Nonnewaug High School Wingman program, 2 students from the NHS DECA program, 3 student representatives from Mitchell Elementary School and BOE clerk, Karen Daley.

1. Call to Order

Janet Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Morgan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Bauer motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of September 16, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Decortin. **The motion carried 8-0-0.**

4. Student Representatives

Charlotte Davis, Aubrey Salisbury and Grayson Leveille from Mitchell Elementary School gave an update of what is going on at their school. Preschool students are becoming more comfortable in their environment and they are enjoying their new friends. The Kindergarten students have been adjusting well to their daily routines and are working hard to learn the names of all of the students in their classes. First grade students are working hard at reading long and strong to build their reading endurance. Second grade students are building class communities and are learning how to offer feedback to others to help them grow as learners. Grade three has really enjoyed investigating forces and motion in the STEM lab using marbles and pendulums. In fourth grade students are using Second Steps strategies to collaborate and support their fellow classmates with kindness and empathy. In Science class fifth grade students have constructed mini-ecosystems and are learning about decomposition. Fifth grade students are also looking forward to Student Council Elections that will be held soon.

5. Superintendent's Report -

- a. Farm to Table – Dr. Olzacki attended a drop off of food from the Farm to Table class to the Woodbury Food Pantry. The amount of produce delivered was extraordinary.
- b. Curriculum update – Wendy Nelson Kauffman is meeting with the district leaders on the first Wednesday of each month to get the curriculum finished. She will give a full curriculum update at the Board of Education meeting on November 4th.
- c. Dr. Taryn Fernandez introduced the Wingman Group students from NHS along with John Dominello and Marisa Christoff. They spoke about what the program is, what it means to them and how it is improving the school climate at Nonnewaug. Allison, Jillian, Erin, Maddie and Owen gave first hand testimonials regarding what the program has done for them over the years and the joy they get from helping other students as Wingman Leaders.

- d. Test Results – State testing results from grade eight were particularly troubling. A diagnostic was done by College Board and a meeting was held to go over the findings with the Vice President of College Board and district administrators. There will be changes implemented to help improve these scores and there will be a continual focus on assuring that the students are prepared for and perform their best for these important assessments.

6. Board Committee Reports

- a. **Finance Committee Report** – Mr. Bauer reports that the year to date spending and revenue is on track for this fiscal year. There has been a small decrease in VoAg tuition from sending schools. This is due to a small decrease in the number of students enrolled. Donna Marcinek, Director of Student Services gave the quarterly update. The budget looks good but will be closely monitored. The Finance Committee was not able to go over all agenda items due to time constraints getting to the regular Board of Education meeting. They will meet again prior to the next Board of Education meeting on October 21, 2019 to finish up the agenda items that weren't discussed.
- b. **Building Committee Report** – Mr. Bauer reported that the building committee met on September 17th. Several change orders were approved. Furniture delivery and classroom set up is finishing. The gym floor change was approved and is moving forward. After the floor is complete the bleachers can be installed. The A/V infrastructure was reviewed to look at being able to provide better video production possibilities to the students as well as the community. Protective mats will be installed on the track to protect the surface from cleats. The committee heard through various channels that residents were concerned that the field sizes were not proper and to specifications. The committee measured the fields and they are all exactly correct and to the specifications given to the architect. Mr. Bauer asked that if residents are concerned about anything related to the renovations that they go straight to the committee to have their questions answered.
- c. **Policy Committee Report** – Ms. Morgan reported that the Policy Committee met and went over where they are in the policy revision process. There is one policy ready for first read, Religion and Religious Requirements. Ms. Morgan asked that the Board review the policy prior to the next Board meeting so it can be discussed and voted on. The next Policy meeting is on October 28th at 6:00 pm.
- d. **Workshop Committee Report** – Ms. Zmek reported that the workshop on September 28th was very productive and Dr. Erardi and Attorney Sommaruga gave excellent presentations to assist the Board with their work. The board agreed that they ran short on time during the workshop so they would like to meet again to pick up where they left off. The original date to meet again was October 29th but that day will not work for all members. Ms. Zmek asked the members to look at their calendars and work together to choose a new date that will work for everyone.

7. Board Chair Comments –

- a. Letter of Thanks – Ms. Morgan read excerpts of a letter from parents to Bill Nemecek and Suzie Greene at Woodbury Middle School. The family is pleased to see all the positive things happening at Woodbury Middle School and commented to what a great team everyone is.
- b. Donation – Dr. Jason Bouchard, Director of Arts and Music has facilitated a donation from Enfield Public High School of 125 band uniforms. The uniforms are black with a blue sash. They will be fitted with a patch that represents Region 14. The value of all of the uniform pieces is \$25,237.50. Mr. Bauer moved that the Region 14 Board of Education accept the donation of the band uniforms. Mr. Crocker seconded. **Motion carried 8-0-0.**

8. Public Comment –

- a. Annabelle Montero and Victoria O'Bar, Woodbury – They are members of the girls Volleyball team and would like to thank Mr. Nemeec, Mrs. Greene, the Superintendent and the Board of Education for making the necessary adjustments so they could play home games at Woodbury Middle School this fall rather than having away games due to the renovations.
- b. John Chapman, Woodbury – Leadership and goal setting should be at the forefront of the work. Mr. Chapman would like to know if the evaluation criteria's have been put in place for the Superintendent since his contract was renewed? How are goals overseen with the school level administrators and how does that trickle down to the teachers?

9. Old Business - none

10. New Business – Field Trips

Motion 1: Mr. Bauer *moved* that the Region 14 Board of Education approve Nonnewaug High School DECA students to the DECA International Career Development Conference in Nashville, TN, April 29th through May 3rd 2020 for 2-15 students, and 1 background checked chaperone via air, taxi and DECA shuttle and funded by the Nonnewaug DECA student fund and the Business Department budget. Seconded by Ms. Brown. **Motion carried 8-0-0.**

Mr. Devon Bares, DECA advisor introduced Cassandra Barbino and Cosmo Lovig. Cassandra is the President of the Nonnewaug DECA chapter and is also on the DECA State Board for Connecticut. Cosmo is the Vice President of the Nonnewaug chapter of DECA. Cosmo and Cassandra spoke about what DECA does at NHS. The school store is run by DECA and the group also assembled prosthetic hands for children in Africa. The DECA International Conference is held at a different location each year and NHS has represented very well in the past. Groups from all over the world compete at the conference. The organization provides leadership, networking and learning opportunities.

Motion 2: Mr. Bauer *moved* that the Region 14 Board of Education approve Woodbury Middle School 8th grade Students trip to Washington DC May 6th through May 8th 2020 for approximately 107 students and 15 background checked chaperones via coach bus funded by the students. Seconded by Ms. Van Aken. **Motion carried 8-0-0.**

Calendars: The draft of Board of Education meetings for next year needs to be reviewed by the Board. There will be meetings in Bethlehem in March, May, July and November. The budget meeting dates are tentative. This meeting schedule is to be review and voted on at the next meeting on October 21st.

There are two different calendars for next school year. One with a student start date of August 26, 2020 and the other with September 3, 2020 as the start date. Dr. O is requesting three days for staff prior to the students returning to get through all of the mandatory training that needs to be done. The Board members will review, discuss and vote on the calendar at the next meeting on October 21st. On the back of the calendars will be a listing of holidays relevant to our students but are not always holidays that school is closed. If a student is celebrating their religious holiday when school is in session their absence will be excused.

- 11. Other Business** – Dr. Olzacki introduced Patrick DiSarro as the new Webmaster for Region 14. He will be overseeing the website, app and digital backpack to name a few. Mr. DiSarro is happy to be onboard as a part of the Region 14 team.

12. Adjournment

Mr. Bauer moved to adjourn and seconded by Mr. Crocker. The **motion carried unanimously 8-0-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Daley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Daley, BOE Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Karen Daley, Board Clerk, 10/11/19