

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held October 21, 2019 in the Board of Education Room, 67 Washington Avenue, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: 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 Wendy Nelson Kauffman, Donna Marcinek, Wendy Yatsenick, Sergeant Roden, Pat DiSarro, Tom DiMarco, 7 students from the Nonnewaug High School VoAg program, 2 residents and BOE clerk, Karen Daley.

Absent: Janet Morgan

1. Call to Order

Ms. Zmek called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Zmek 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 October 7, 2019.
Seconded by Ms. Van Aken. **The motion carried 7-0-0.**

4. Student Representatives

FFA Parliamentary Procedure group was introduced by their advisor Mr. Thomas DiMarco. They are a state winning team that will be competing at the National FFA competition in Indianapolis. The group presented their skills in a mock meeting.

5. Superintendent's Report -

- a. VoAg Conservatory – The area is 99% complete. The animals are mounted with museum like quality. This was done by Mr. Birkenberger's class.
- b. Organizational Chart – The organizational chart is nearly done. A draft version was passed around for the board to review. Final copies will be distributed to Board members in the next couple of weeks.
- c. Ruler program update – Wendy Yatsenick gave a report on the Ruler training that was attended by staff members from BES and MES at Yale. The Ruler program stands for Recognize, Understand, Label, Express, Regulate. This program will be rolled out to the entire school building from custodians to teachers and was created to help students process and handle their emotions. This program will include parent input to help understand what is going on in the lives of the students. Teachers have already asked about piloting this in their classroom and they are excited about this program. The "Mood Meter" is a great way to gauge where a student is emotionally right at the start of the day with very little time but a few seconds for students to place their card on the area of the mood meter that corresponds with how they are feeling. The staff is very excited about implementing this program to assist the students.
- d. Budget Process – This process has begun, building administrators are working on their numbers. It will be needs based budget.

6. Board Committee Reports

- a. **Finance Committee Report** – Mr. Bauer gave the report from the finance committee. The NHS project is on track and the year-end close out from 2018-2019 is in the audit process. School lunch financials are in good shape. There will be a few new contracts coming up in the next few months.

7. Board Chair Comments –

- a. Board of Education Retreat – Part 2 will be held on Wednesday November 6th from 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm at NHS.

8. Public Comment – none

9. Old Business –

- a. Mr. Bauer **moved** that the Region 14 Board of Education approve the following mandated policy supplied and revised by CAFE Policy Services in addition to Pullman and Comley, having been reviewed and recommended by the Policy Committee:

6141.22 – Religion and Religious Accommodations

seconded by Mr. DeCortin. **Motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.**

- b. Mr. Bauer **moved** that the Region 14 Board of Education approve the 2020-2021 School Calendar as presented. Seconded by Ms. Van Aken. Ms. Van Aken is concerned about the September start date and the impacts that snow days will have on the last day of school. This does raise a concern about the possible heat in June and keeping student in school with no air conditioning. Mr. Devine suggested having staff start on August 27th and students start August 31st. That would put the last day of school for students on June 12th. BOE Clerk Daley will create a draft with these dates. It will be presented to the administration and their opinions will be presented back to the board. This motion will be revisited again at the next meeting.

- c. Mr. Bauer **moved** that the Region 14 Board of Education approve the 2020 Board of Education Meeting Schedule as presented. Seconded by Ms. Van Aken. Ms. Van Aken asked that the Board make an accommodation for the Woodbury Town Meetings on May 18th and November 16th. She would suggest that the Board of Education Meetings be moved to Tuesday for those two dates. The Board agreed and the meeting schedule will reflect that change. **Motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.**

10. New Business – none

11. **Other Business** – Ms. Brown congratulated the boys' soccer team on their win on Friday. She also commented how wonderful the robotics team French toast breakfast was. The robot was present for the event and it was wonderful to see a great turn out. Ms. Van Aken mentioned the drug take back program that is taking place this weekend.

12. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Karen Daley, BOE Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Karen Daley, Board Clerk, 10/27/19