

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held September 17, 2018 at Nonnewaug High School Library Media Center, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Janet Morgan, Carol Ann Brown, Mike Devine, Pam Zmek, George Bauer, Maryanne Van Aken, Dave Lampart. Also in attendance were Superintendent Christine Syriac, Michael Rafferty, Chrissy Fensore, Kim Culkin, Thomas Nobili, Abbe Waldron, Suzie Greene, Wayne McAllister, Sgt. Roden, SROs Chris O'Toole, Norm George, members of Team Beta, approximately 5 community members, CT Voices Reporter and BOE Clerk, Natascha Schwartz

John Chapman arrived at 7:01pm

1. Call to Order

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

Ms. Morgan requested to add two motions under New Business.

1. Ms. Van Aken moved to add the following under new business: That the Region 14 Board of Education, on the recommendation of its Search Committee and pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §10-157, hereby elects Joseph Olzacki as its Superintendent of Schools with his initial term commencing on or about October 1, 2018, subject to the execution of a contract between the parties. Seconded by Mr. Lampart. **Motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.**
2. Ms. Van Aken moved to add the following under new business: That the Region 14 Board of Education authorize the Chairperson of the Board of Education to enter into further negotiations for and execute on its behalf a contract with Joseph Olzacki to serve as Superintendent of Schools, with said contract subject to any necessary legal review.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Van Aken motioned to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of August 24, 2018 and seconded by Mr. Lampart. The **motion carried 7-0-1, with Ms. Zmek abstaining.**

Ms. Van Aken motioned to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of August 27, 2018 and seconded by Mr. Lampart. The **motion carried 6-0-2, with Ms. Zmek & Mr. Chapman abstaining.**

Superintendent report:

Superintendent Syriac introduced SROs: Norm George of BES and Chris O'Toole new to NHS and Sgt. Roden. She asked each of them to say a few words. This is Norm George's 6th year at BES and absolutely loves it. Chris O'Toole is the newest addition to the Region and is getting settled in., getting to know the staff and students and is loving his job.

Superintendent Syriac wanted to clarify the story that Channel 3 news did stating that Region 14 was part of a list of districts which did not submit a hazard safety plan. Region 14 did in fact submit our hazard safety plan. The State confirmed that the news station utilized an inaccurate list and that we are not the only district that was inaccurately list. She went on to say that she wanted to reassure the Region that everything was in order.

She also mentioned that the Board received as part of their meeting packets the District Annual Report for 2016-17 and that Region 14 meets requirements specifically Special Education.

Mrs. Syriac reported that prior to school starting she sent a letter home to Kindergarteners along with some stickers to welcome them to Region 14 and also gave a shout out to Steven Lefevre.

Lastly, she stated that convocation went very well and on the first day of school she spent time at each school visiting classrooms and enjoying the buzz of all of the excited students.

Committee reports

Mr. Bauer presented the YTD numbers and he stated that the Region is on par in comparison to years past at the same time of year. He advised that Mr. McAllister gave the committee information regarding reimbursements and mentioned that the State's new website will be online around October 1, 2018 and is hoping that the State will be able to catch up quickly to send us our reimbursements. He went on to mention that the committee also discussed items such as the 2019-2020 debt service funding for the High School project, more specifically estimated numbers vs. actuals.

Board chair comments

Ms. Morgan thanked the Music department for sending 2 students to 9/11 memorial service to the Town of Woodbury to open the service. She also thanked the staff for their patience during the High School renovations.

Public comment

Bethlehem resident and Team Beta student president Kyle Krantz, Mr. Daniel Biron parent/Watertown resident, and Doug Whyte Bethlehem resident all spoke to their discontentment and frustration with the handling of the Robotics team since Mr. Pease resigned as club advisor to the team. They will be meeting with Principal Luby, Superintendent Syriac and Board member George Bauer on September 20, 2018 to give more insight into the history of the team, to discuss 4-H, and possibilities moving forward.

Old business

Mr. Bauer moved that the Region 14 Board of Education approve the Library/Media Curriculum (Information Literacy Curriculum) as presented, and seconded by Ms. Van Aken. The motion carried 6-0-2, with Mr. Chapman and Ms. Zmek abstaining.

New business

Presentation of Grades 9-12 Science Curriculum: Mr. Rafferty and Mr. Nobili presented the five highlights that can be found in this new curriculum. Mr. Nobili explained that the new curriculum: 1) merges earth science across the core science courses, 2) creates a focus on engineering and technology and 3) the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) can be found across the elective courses as well. Mr. Rafferty pointed out that the new courses will 4) connect across multiple content areas and practices. Finally, Mr. Rafferty informed the Board that two of the courses will be eligible for UConn credit. The two courses which are eligible are: Advanced Placement Biology and Advanced Placement Environmental Science. Mr. Rafferty informed the Board that the curriculum would be available on line in the next day or two.

Motion 1: Mr. Bauer *moved* that the Region 14 BOE approve NHS Agriscience students to the Royal Winter Agriscience Exposition in Toronto, Canada from November 8 to November 11, 2018, for 40 students and 12 background checked chaperones via coach bus and funded by student. Seconded by Mr. Lampart. **Motion carried 8-0-0.**

Motion 2: Mr. Bauer *moved* that the Region 14 BOE approve NHS Agriscience students to the National FFA convention in Indianapolis, IN, from October 22 to October 27, 2018, for 35 students and 5 background checked chaperones via coach bus and funded by the FFA, Alumni, travel accounts and by students. Seconded by Mr. Lampart. **Motion carried 8-0-0.**

Motion 3: Mr. Bauer moved that the Region 14 BOE approve NHS business students to the DECA International Career Development Conference in Orlando, FL from April 27, 2018 through May 1, 2019 for 2-10 students and 1 background checked chaperone via air, taxi, National DECA shuttle, funded by DECA and by students. Seconded by Mr. Lampart. **Motion carried 8-0-0.**

Ms. Morgan placed the two added motions prior to the other motions requiring Executive session so as not to disrupt the flow of the meeting.

Motion 4: Ms. Van Aken moved that the Region 14 Board of Education, on the recommendation of its Search Committee and pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §10-157, hereby elects Joseph Olzacki as its Superintendent of Schools with his initial term commencing on or about October 1, 2018, subject to the execution of a contract between the parties. Seconded by Mr. Bauer. **Motion carried unanimously 8-0-0.**

Motion 5: Ms. Van Aken moved that the Region 14 Board of Education authorize the Chairperson of the Board of Education to enter into further negotiations for and execute on its behalf a contract with Joseph Olzacki to serve as Superintendent of Schools, with said contract subject to any necessary legal review. **Motion carried unanimously 8-0-0.**

Ms. Morgan asked Dr. Olzacki to say a few words. Dr. Olzacki thanked the community for their trust in him and wanted to convey that he is looking forward to working in partnership with the community and in growing together. He is also looking forward to getting out into the community to meet people and is committed to staying long term.

Motion 6: Ms. Van Aken moved that the Region 14 BOE ratify the proposed collective bargaining agreement between the BOE and Nonnewaug Paraprofessional Union Local 1303-257 of Council #4 covering the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021, seconded by Mr. Lampart. **Motion carried 8-0-0.**

Ms. Van Aken withdrew her motion so that the Board could move into executive session for discussion.

Motion 7: Ms. Van Aken moved that the Region 14 BOE authorize the board chair to sign said agreement, subject to any further necessary review and seconded by Mr. Lampart. **Motion carried 8-0-0.**

Ms. Van Aken also withdrew this motion so that the Board could move into executive session for discussion.

Ms. Van Aken moved that the Region 14 BOE move into executive session for the ratification of the proposed collective bargaining agreement between the BOE and Nonnewaug Paraprofessional Union Local 1303-257 of Council #4 covering the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021, seconded by Mr. Lampart. **Motion carried 8-0-0.**

The Board moved into executive session at 7:59pm, and Ms. Morgan invited both Kimberly Culkin and Wayne McAllister into executive session.

The Board moved out of executive session at 8:15pm followed by Ms. Van Aken moving that the Region 14 BOE authorize the board chair to sign said agreement, subject to any further necessary review and seconded by Mr. Lampart. **Motion carried 8-0-0.**

Adjournment: Mr. Chapman moved to adjourn and seconded by Ms. Zmek. The motion carried unanimously 8-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Natascha Schwartz, BOE Clerk