

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held September 16, 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, Joseph Olzacki and Wayne McAllister. Also in attendance were, Declan Curtin, Taryn Fernandez, Alyce Misuraca, Pam Sordi, Jason Bouchard, Wendy Nelson Kauffman, Patrick DiSarro, Donna Marcinek, approximately 8 residents, 2 student representatives and BOE clerk, Karen Daley.

Absent: Carol Ann Brown

1. Call to Order

Janet Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 3, 2019. Seconded by Ms. Van Aken. Ms. Zmek made one correction under 8. Old Business; add the word "district" after "excellent school". **The motion carried 7-0-0 to approve the Revised Minutes.**

4. Student Representatives

Ethan Butkus and Eliza Butkus from Bethlehem Elementary School attended as student representatives and gave updates on the school year so far. There was a visit from Bonnie Knapik from the Woodbury Public Library who distributed two books to each student. Nancy Tucker from the Bethlehem-Woodbury Community Music Foundation performed for the Kindergarten and PreK students at orientation. Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade students have made a nice transition back to school; they are settling in to the new routines. Grade 3 is working hard to create a positive and kind classroom community. Grade 4 students have been practicing how to work in groups and how to be a part of an academic conversation. Grade 5 students have started writing narratives and have picked books for their interpretation book clubs.

5. Superintendent's Report -

- a. Start of school review – Central office Administrative staff has been going around to the schools to assist where needed and everything is going very smoothly.
- b. Curriculum update – Wendy Nelson Kauffman has met with Instructional Leaders to gather information on the status of the curriculum.
- c. ASAP program status – The Empathy Project 2020 is the Region 14 program being run by ASAP. Students will come together to create a project after a trip to the holocaust museum in NYC on November 4th. A holocaust survivor will also come speak to students at NHS. These events will be extremely beneficial to students as there are curricular ties throughout the year to the holocaust. Dr. Bouchard will have an evening of arts based on students' experiences with the ASAP program which can include music, art, dance, poetry or any other way students feel they would like to express their feelings based on this program and what they have learned. The ASAP group is looking into more funding to continue this program for future years through grants but they also believe that the donor funding this grant would come through again for future years if needed to continue this

program in the district. The donation that is starting this program for Region 14 is from a single donor in connection with the museum of Jewish Heritage in NYC.

- d. Three-month calendar – Central office will continue working to avoid multiple events in the district on the same evenings allowing families to attend all of the events in town. The TV's will be utilized in school buildings for news purposes and will be monitored if there are events happening that may be sensitive in nature. Mr. Devine questioned why cable is needed in the schools. Dr. O explained that it not only helps with the three-month calendar which can be displayed but it can also help with NEAT TV and keep students up to date on current events. Dr. Olzacki is continuing his work to get the best from the website and give out the most accurate, up to date information available. This is another piece in the connectivity of the district with students and families.
- e. Command structure – A team met to document the organizational structure of Region 14. The team then inverted the organizational chart to get a visual of how to best serve the students and tax payers. They will continue working on this organizational chart to produce a visual document to share. This new chart will help everyone better understand their role in supporting the teachers who deliver high quality instruction to the students.
- f. Dr. Jason Bouchard introduced himself. He's been enjoying his time in district since June getting to know the everyone. His vision is to take all the ideas in the district and make one cohesive group integrating the arts into the curriculum.

6. Finance Committee Report – The year to date spending and revenue is on track for this fiscal year. The Building project is on track for spending and revenue as well. The 2018-2019 final budget was on target with slightly less than 1% overage in revenue to go to capital reserve.

7. Board Chair Comments –

- a. Policy Committee – Ms. Morgan like to reschedule policy meeting for Monday night, September 23rd. Ms. Morgan thanked Dr. Bouchard for pulling together a musical tribute at the 9/11 service with very little notice. She commented that it was very well done.

8. Public Comment – none

9. Old Business

- a. Football update – Declan Curtin gave a comprehensive overview of the football team this season. Parents seem very happy with the structure and managing of the team. There have been two assistant coaches hired and the head coach is happy with the number of coaches and does not plan to take advantage of the option for a third. A couple of students are still in the process of joining the team. Mr. Devine asked if we have been communication with other Regional districts. Mr. Curtin said that he does communicate with other districts regularly and Region 14 is in far better shape than most of the other districts being able to run sports programs with enough participants to make up a team. Other districts do not have the numbers of athletes to run a football program. The other sports teams are doing well this year with their numbers. There has been talk about lacrosse to see if we can co-op that with a couple of different towns. Pam thanked Declan for all of his hard work, not just for football but all of the sports given the status of the fields.

10. New Business – field trips

Motion 1: Mr. Bauer *moved* that the Region 14 BOE approve NHS Agriscience students to the National FFA convention in Indianapolis, IN, from October 28 to November 2, 2019, for 38 students and 11 background checked chaperones via coach bus and funded by the FFA, Alumni, travel accounts and by students. Seconded by James Crocker. **Motion carried 7-0-0.**

Motion 2: Mr. Bauer *moved* that the Region 14 BOE approve NHS French students to Quebec City, Canada, from November 9 to November 11, 2019, for 30-40 students and 3-4 background checked chaperones via coach bus and funded by the students. Seconded by Mr. Crocker. **Motion carried 7-0-0.**

11. Other Business – none

12. Adjournment

Janet Morgan moved to adjourn and seconded by Mr. Bauer. The **motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen Daley, BOE Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Karen Daley, Board Clerk, 9/24/2019