

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held February 19, 2019 at the Central Office of the Board of Education, 67 Washington Avenue, Woodbury CT.

Present: Janet Morgan, Carol Ann Brown, Mike Devine, Maryanne Van Aken, Dave Lampart, George Bauer, Pam Zmek, John Chapman. Also in attendance were Superintendent Dr. Olzacki, Jodie Roden, Betty Cragan, Mike Rafferty, MES student reps Lilah Caccio & Catherine Viveros, their parents, volleyball and field hockey Berkshire League winners, coaches Beth Tardy & Martin Malaspina, Pam Sordi, CT Voices reporter, approximately 20 community members and BOE clerk, Natascha Schwartz.

1. Call to Order

Ms. Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Van Aken motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 4, 2019 and seconded by Mr. Bauer
The **motion carried 8-0-0.**

Student reports – MES 3rd grade student reps Lilah Cacciato and Catherine Viveros gave an update on what's been going on at MES. The students advised that they just finished up their non-fiction writing unit and wanted to share our facts about our school which they divided into chapters: Teachers, Rules, Specials, Leadership Opportunities for students, Classrooms, Recess and Fun Things to Do.

Teachers: MES has many teachers at MES from pre-k to 5th grade. Ms Roden is their principal and they think she is very kind They went on to state that the school also has helpers who help with the teachers such as Ms. McGee, Ms. Zak, Mr. Mahoney and many more.

Rules: MES has a set of rules put into place to help students be mindful. It is the acronym S-O-A-R which stands for **Self**-control, **O**n task, **A**ct responsible, **R**espectful. They also we have second steps to help students.

Specials: During specials, the students do fun and different things each week for examples, during gym they play games, during library the older students work on their Chromebooks while the Kindergarteners use their tablets. In music they get to play instruments and sing songs.

Leadership Opportunities: Students have the opportunity to be first grade buddies. They can participate in the student safe school climate committee where students in grades 2 through 5 come together to discuss how to independently put Second Steps strategies into place. Students can also join the science club where they perform fun experiments during recess. The Math club has students working together to solve math related problems instead of going to recess, the 4th grade forever waves squad take turns raising and lowering the flag each day. They can join student council and 3rd graders are chosen to be Board of Education representatives.

Classrooms: The girls advised that they do fun and all different sorts of learning in our classrooms. They learn math, social studies, and in some classes they have lots of flexible couch seating in Ms. Marshal's and Ms. Baker's classrooms.

Recess: The students let the BOE know that they have a playground and large playing field with different equipment for games and were very excited when they mentioned the gaga pit.

Fun Things to Do: Both Lilah and Catherine were excited to mention that MES has many fun things to do such as field day, a yearly basketball game of students vs. teachers, and there are of course all of the field trips!

Lastly, they mentioned that Mitchell Elementary School is a busy place where they all like to do things together and they would love to have the Board of Education stop by for a visit.

Superintendent report:

Dr. Olzacki asked Principal Roden to present Region 14's finest award to Betty Cragan. Ms. Roden advised Betty Cragan is the Instructional Leader for Science at Mitchell Elementary School. She has taken MES's science curriculum and NGSS by storm. Not a minute goes by that Betty is not doing something "sciency" with MES staff or students. Betty has led professional learning to build the capacity of our teachers, she created a Science Club for students to attend (during their recess!) and brought a whole new level of enthusiasm to our Science Fair this year with a marketing video of science around the building. What is most important to know about Betty is that everything she does is with a smile! She loves helping our eagle soar in Science and that they consider themselves most fortunate to have her on their team.

Dr. Olzacki asked the girls varsity field hockey coach, Beth Tarby, and girls Volleyball coach, Martin Malaspina, to say a few words about the Berkshire League champions. Ms. Tarby thanked the BOE for having the girls attend, to be noticed for their hard work and stated how proud she is of the teams. Ms. Morgan thanked the girls on behalf of the entire BOE for coming and how impressed they are of the region's sports teams. Field Hockey Berkshire league winners: Ava Cawley, Shelby Plotkin, Alyssa Renihan, Jillian Roden, Lindsey Ross, Eva Brown, Stephanie Davino, Elena Eschmann, Savannah Fish, Hannah LoPresti, Rebecca Reimold, Isabella Calvano, Victoria Canonico, Stephanie DiSarro, Zuzu Gacso, Adrianna Gottmeier, Madison Grieger, Loyola Taylor, Sierra Wilson, Julia Altueru, Erin Classey, Anna Culkin, Alyssa DeMarest, Samantha Faull, Jade Fortin, Meryl Hartmann, Maria Longo, Lauren Parker, Madeline Roden, Hannah Wisniewski. Volleyball Berkshire league winners: Megan Andrew, Allison Codianna, Hannah Dreska, Phoebe Hale, Sarah Maclean, Amanda Probst, Marissa Puglia, Elizabeth Savio, Sindy Gorka, Olivia Hendershot, Annabelle Montero, Victoria O'Bar, Samantha Ponte, Abigail Scheurich, Emily Wisniewski, Elyza Bruce, Victoria Maclean, Gianna Piscitelli, Lindsey Reelick, Courtney Rowland, Annalise Rupe, Amanda Taddeo, Samantha Thompson, Emma Alexander, Keira Buckley, Sabrina DeSorbo, Alaina Edmonds, Brianna Hynds, Madeline Marks, Sarah Ruiz, Allison Southard, Hope Stanton.

Committee reports

Community Relations – Ms. Zmek advised the BOE that the committee met on February 11, 2019 and had guest Mark Harutunian from Simsbury come to present to the committee how he could help Region 14 rebrand NEATV by working with High and Middle school students to make it more appealing for the community to watch. The committee also discussed taking advantage of the new equipment at the high school and extending the invitation to all schools and by coaching students. Mr. Harutunian met with WMS Principal Nemeck and NHS Assistant Principal Pam Sordi and are getting the ball rolling. The committee also discussed holding the next community forum in mid to end of October and talked about what the question should be and possible venues. She advised that they are in the very early stages of planning and that the next meeting will be held March 5, 2019.

Policy – Mr. Chapman advised that the policy committee met just before the Board of Education meeting and that they started going through policies and will be meeting next month to continue discussions and bringing some of those policies discussed to the BOE for a 1st read.

Board chair comments - none

Public comment – none

Old business – none

New business –

Ms. Van Aken moved that the Region 14 Board of Education approve the Nonnewaug High School Cheerleading team to the National Cheerleading Competition in Virginia Beach, VA from March 8 through March 11, 2019 for 16 students, and 3 coaches and 7 background checked chaperones via coach bus and funded by fundraising. Seconded by Mr. Bauer. **The motion carried unanimously 8-0-0.**

Ms. Van Aken moved that the Board of Education enter into executive session for the purpose of a personnel matter; specifically, the Superintendent's evaluation. Seconded by Mr. Bauer. **The motion carried unanimously 8-0-0.**

Ms. Morgan invited Dr. Olzacki into executive session.

The Board moved into executive session at 7:25 p.m.

Mr. Devine moved to exit executive session and seconded by Mr. Lampart. The Board moved out of executive session at 9:36 p.m. and no action was taken.

Adjournment:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Natascha Schwartz, BOE Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Natascha Z. Schwartz, Board Clerk, 2/26/2019