

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held October 9, 2018 at the Central Office of the Board of Education, 67 Washington Avenue, Woodbury CT.

Present: Janet Morgan, Carol Ann Brown, Mike Devine, Pam Zmek, John Chapman, Maryanne Van Aken, George Bauer. Also in attendance were Superintendent Christine Syriac, Superintendent Dr. Olzacki, Michael Rafferty, Wayne McAllister, Eric Birkenberger, Kate Peterson, Karen Sandor, members of Team Beta and parents/mentors, Pat DiSarro, and a few community members.

Absent: Dave Lampart

**1. Call to Order**

Ms. Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:03pm and led the pledge of allegiance.

**2. Approval of Minutes:**

Ms. Van Aken motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 17, 2018 and seconded by Mr. Bauer. The **motion carried 7-0-0.**

**Superintendent report:**

Dr. O thanked those that came out for the meet and greet prior to the BOE meeting and went on to say that he's been in the community, has toured all schools and is pleased with what he is seeing so far.

Dr. O introduced Eric Birkenberger to give a little more insight into the Petal it Forward campaign. Mr. Birkenberger gave a brief overview and showed a 3 minute clip of what the Petal it Forward campaign is. He mentioned that he shows the students how to approach people to tell them about the campaign. The horticulture students will be giving out carnations in the High School as well as in both the communities of Bethlehem and Woodbury. The National event is taking place on October 24<sup>th</sup>, however the NHS students will run their campaign on October 19 as some will be away at a competition the week that the National campaign will be running the event.

Dr. O also mentioned that community members that as Thanksgiving approaches, they should consider donating to various charities for families in need.

**Committee reports**

DAC – Ms. Morgan gave an update regarding the DAC meeting that took place on October 2, 2018. The committee reviewed demographics, the facility conditions assessment and began programming discussions. Ms. Morgan mentioned that the committee meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month and the community is welcome to participate.

Safe Schools – Ms. Van Aken advised that the committee met on September 28, 2018 and discussed security camera placement during the NHS renovations, retraining of the secretarial staff on building access control, follow up on PA system issues.

**Board chair comments**

Ms. Morgan advised the BOE that they received a letter from Richard Michaels asking that a bronze statue be erected at NHS to commemorate Chief Nonnewaug. Ms. Morgan asked if this should be brought to the Building committee to which Mr. Chapman advised that he can certainly bring it to the Building Committee however he believes this would be more of a community decision.

Ms. Morgan also mentioned that she received an email from Janice Scruggs who would like to help organize Woodbury's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Ms. Morgan stated that she would pass this on to the Community Relations subcommittee to reach out to her and to start planning.

Ms. Morgan advised that there will be a dedication of the corn field in memory of Dany Logue on Saturday, October 13, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. It will be a nice commemoration and the Logue family will be handing out their 1<sup>st</sup> scholarship to a lucky NHS student that day.

Lastly, she thanked Interim Superintendent Christine Syriac for the wonderful work she has done and for stepping up during the Superintendent search.

### **Public comment**

Bethlehem residents Kyle Krantz and Mr. Biron along with Watertown resident Mr. Leclerc expressed their disappointment that Region 14 and Team Beta have not be able to come to a mutual agreement on the Team Beta name and becoming a 4H team. They stated that since they cannot keep the name of Team Beta and would like to branch out to a 4H team, and are asking that NHS release the former robotics team name of Nonnabots to the new 4H robotics team. Mr. Biron has asked Mr. McAllister for an update on accounting withdrawals for the past 24 months in the student activity account. Mr. McAllister is working on getting him the information. Mr. Leclerc handed the BOE a letter which came to Team Beta from Mr. Pease that he wanted the Board members to read. Mrs. Krantz asked the BOE to take into consideration releasing the old robotics team name of Nonnabots to the 4H team and that it would be nice to bring history with the new 4H team to hold on to.

### **Old business**

Ms. Van Aken *moved* that the Region 14 Board of Education approve the Science 9-12 Curriculum as presented, and seconded by Mr. Bauer. Mr. Bauer commended Mr. Rafferty and his team for the new curriculum. He is curious as to what an implementation guide look like. Mr. Rafferty gave an overview of the process of how his office and the Instructional Leaders are compiling the implementation guides by reviewing NGSS aligned resources to bring appropriate learning activities for students. The resources will be organized and vetted across the year. The **motion carried 7-0-0.**

### **New business**

Mr. Bauer *moved* that the Region 14 BOE approve NHS World Language students for an Educational trip to Quebec City, Canada from December 1 through December 3, 2018, for 30-40 students and 3-4 background checked chaperones via coach bus and funded by students. Seconded by Mr. Chapman. World Language teacher Kate Peterson explained that this would be the 6<sup>th</sup> trip in 11 years and a first time at the high school level. The students will be busy learning cross functionally in all aspects of subjects from early morning until late at night. They will be fully immersed in the experience and it is a wonderful opportunity for them. **Motion carried 7-0-0.**

Mr. Bauer *moved* that the Region 14 BOE authorize Superintendent Joseph Olzacki (in lieu to Interim Superintendent Syriac) to sign on its behalf CSDE ED-099 (agreement for Child Nutrition Programs), along with any other forms, statements, and certifications required under said programs, including but not limited to claims for reimbursement. Seconded by Ms. Van Aken. **Motion carried 7-0-0.**

The Board discussed the 2019-2020 school calendar and the possibility of school starting after Labor Day once again due to the construction. They also touched on having December 23<sup>rd</sup> as a possible full day off and having students in school on Veteran's day with full activities with Veterans for educational purposes. They also touched on the subject of snow days. The members will look over the calendar and bring their suggestions/comments back to the next BOE meeting on October 22, 2018. No action was taken.

The Board members discussed the date for their retreat to set goals for the 2018-19 school year. They agreed that November 3, 2018 would be the best date. Ms. Van Aken moved that the Region 14 Board of Education hold their Board of Education retreat on Saturday, November 3, 2018 in the BOE room. Seconded by Mr. Bauer. **The motion carried 7-0-0.**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "N. Schwartz".

Natascha Schwartz, BOE Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Natascha Z. Schwartz, Board Clerk, 10/12/2018