

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held May 19, 2020 via Zoom Meeting.

Present: Pam Zmek, George Bauer, Carol Ann Brown, Jim Crocker, Michael Devine, Wayne McAllister and Joseph Olzacki. Also in attendance were, Pam Sordi, Jason Bouchard, Wendy Nelson Kauffman, Wendy Yatsenick, approximately 20 residents and BOE clerk, Karen Daley.

Absent: Janet Morgan, Ed Decortin

1. Call to Order

Pam Zmek called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

2. Introductions

The Board of Education members introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Bauer **moved** to approve the minutes from the following meetings:

Regular Meeting of May 4, 2020. Seconded by Ms. Van Aken. **Motion carried 6-0-0.**

Special Meeting of May 14, 2020, District Nomination Meeting of May 14, 2020. Seconded by Ms. Van Aken.
Motion carried 5-0-1.

4. Superintendent Report

- a. Distance Learning Update – Wendy Nelson Kauffman is thankful for the teachers and the many hours they are putting in and that they are treating this as the emergency this is. Teachers are creating new lessons and materials through distance learning. Fridays have been designated as a catch up day for teachers and students. Teachers are working with each other on Fridays to discuss what is or isn't working and to collaborate on the curriculum. Ms. Van Aken is astounded by what the work day looks like for teachers right now and thinks that it might be good to post these documents on the website so those who do not have children in the school system can have an idea of what is going on right now. Dr. Olzacki reports that the administrators are working with the teachers and also reaching out to families and students who may be struggling with the distance learning. Dr. Olzacki proposed scheduling the last day of school for students on either June 12th or June 15th. Staff will work through June 22nd. Dr. Olzacki and Wendy Nelson Kauffman discussed what types of programs would be run for staff between the students last day and theirs. Mr. Bauer **moved** that the Region 14 Board of Education propose Friday the 12th of June for the last day of classes for students with teachers and staff continuing until June 22nd upon further review by the districts legal counsel. **Seconded** by Ms. Van Aken. **Motion carried 6-0-0.**
- b. BES Principal Update – Ms. Wendy Yatsenick will be the new Principal at BES. Dr. Olzacki was pleased to hear that the interview committee recommended her for the position. She has many years in Region 14 Schools and brings a great deal of experience to the position. Ms. Yatsenick thanked the committee and Dr. Olzacki for giving her the honor of being the next principal at BES.
- c. Graduation – Pam Sordi provided the Board her plan for graduation for the NHS Class of 2020. There will be a parade style procession that will proceed from WMS to NHS. Each student will get out of their car to receive their diploma and have a photo taken. The family will be in the car so they can view their student receive their diploma. This event will be live streamed. After the ceremony speeches and music will be added in to create a video for all of the students. The goal is to keep it festive and safe. Ms. Sordi will notify the families of seniors and then the community of all of the details.

5. **Board Chair Comments**

Ms. Morgan was unable to attend the meeting. No board chair comments were provided.

6. **Old Business** – none

7. **New Business**

- a. Discussion/Possible Action on the renovation bid for the upgrades of the Mitchell Elementary School Stage. Mr. Bauer **moved** to award the renovation of the Mitchell Elementary Stage to ALSS Advanced Lighting & Sound Solutions of 7 Sanrico Dr., Manchester, CT 06405 in the amount of \$87,607.40. Funding provided by the DeSomma Family Grant. **Seconded** by Ms. Van Aken. **Motion carried 6-0-0.** Mr. McAllister explained that the DeSomma Family is very happy to have their donation being used for these renovations at MES.

- b. Discussion/Possible Action negotiated amendment of the 2019-2020 Student Transportation Contract with All-Star Transportation as per Executive Order 7R. Mr. Bauer **moved** to amend the 2019-2020 Student Transportation with All-Star Transportation pursuant to Executive Order 7R to reflect the negotiated savings of \$207,397.89 in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. **Seconded** by Mr. Crocker. Mr. McAllister explained the executive order and what was left of our contract for this school year. He has been negotiating with the bus company to bring the number lower and has been discussing with the Regions legal counsel if we had to pay any portion of this bill. The amount requested is 45% of what was owed for the duration of the school year. The Board discussed on whether or not this needs to be done now. Mr. McAllister stressed the importance of adhering to the Governors order to be sure that our funding from the State doesn't become jeopardized. Also, the concern is that the busing contract is up for renewal and the district does not want to risk losing the bus company or possibly having to pay more for transportation. This payment is a result of the Governors order and not by way of a stipulation in the districts contract with the bus company directly. Mr. Devine has been exploring with the Office of Policy and Management and the State Department of Education of getting these funds reimbursed through the FEMA Grant but at this time only towns with local school districts can expense these payments. Regional school districts are excluded from this program at this time. This is an unfunded mandate issued by the Governor for Regional school districts. **Motion carried 4-2-0.**

8. **Other Business** - none

9. **Adjournment**

Mr. Bauer moved to adjourn and seconded by Ms. Brown. **Motion carried 6-0-0.**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen Daley, BOE Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Karen Daley, Board Clerk, 5/26/2020