

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on April 9, 2018 at the Board of Education Central Office, 67 Washington Avenue, Woodbury, CT, 06798.

Present: Janet Morgan, Maryanne Van Aken, Mike Devine, John Chapman, George Bauer, Carol Ann Brown and Pam Zmek. Also in attendance were: Dr. Anna Cutaia, Kim Culkin, Suzi Greene, Bill Nemec, Susan Ruddock, Jodie Roden, Pam Sordi, Pam Lazaroski, Julie Luby, 3 members of the media, approximately 6 community members and BOE Clerk, Natascha Schwartz.

1. **Call to Order** - Ms. Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Ms. Morgan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Morgan requested a motion to approve the minutes of Regular Meeting of April 9, 2018, Ms. Van Aken *moved* and seconded by Mr. Bauer. The **motion carried 6-0-2, with Ms. Zmek & Mr. Lampart.**

Ms. Morgan requested a motion to approve the minutes of Special Meeting of April 7, 2018, Ms. Van Aken *moved* and seconded by Mr. Bauer. The **motion carried 7-0-1, with Mr. Lampart abstaining.**

Ms. Morgan requested a motion to approve the minutes of Special Joint BOE/DAC Meeting of April 3, 2018, Ms. Van Aken *moved* and seconded by Mr. Bauer. The **motion carried 4-0-4, with Mr. Lampart, Mr. Bauer, Mr. Chapman, & Mr. Devine abstaining.**

Ms. Morgan requested a motion to approve the minutes of Special Meeting #1 of April 2, 2018, Ms. Van Aken *moved* and seconded by Mr. Bauer. The **motion carried 7-0-1, with Mr. Lampart abstaining.**

Ms. Morgan requested a motion to approve the minutes of Special Meeting #2 of April 2, 2018, Ms. Van Aken *moved* and seconded by Mr. Bauer. The **motion carried 7-0-1, with Mr. Lampart abstaining.**

Ms. Morgan requested a motion to approve the minutes of Public Hearing Meeting of March 27, 2018, Ms. Van Aken *moved* and seconded by Mr. Bauer. The **motion carried 5-0-3, with Ms. Zmek, Mr. Lampart, & Mr. Bauer abstaining.**

Ms. Morgan requested a motion to approve the minutes of the Special BOE/BOS/BOF Meeting of March 26, 2018, Ms. Van Aken *moved* and seconded by Mr. Bauer. The **motion carried 6-0-2, with Mr. Chapman, & Mr. Lampart abstaining.**

Ms. Morgan requested a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 24 2018, Ms. Van Aken *moved* and seconded by Mr. Bauer. The **motion carried 7-0-1, with Mr. Lampart abstaining.**

4. **Superintendent's report**

Dr. Anna congratulated Conor Hanjji, Tess Pollins, Owen Hale, & Eva Dos Santos on receiving the CAFE Student Leadership awards. The students each received an award certificate which was presented to them by Ms. Morgan and Ms. Van Aken.

Dr. Anna surprised the BOE members by having the Tennis team come in to thank the BOE for approving their training camp trip to Hilton Head, SC. Each of the captains gave a brief overview to the BOE of what the week was like and how incredibly thankful they were to the Board for having given them this opportunity and how much they had grown in the week they were there. Dr. Anna went on to thank the tennis team for coming to share their experience.

**Pk-8 Science Curriculum:** Mr. Rafferty & Mr. Nobili presented the PK-8 Science curriculum which was well received by the BOE. Mr. Rafferty & Mr. Nobile presented the PK-8 Science curriculum. Mr. Rafferty went over the grade level expectations and the 5 highlighted areas of focus (Phenomena, Community Connections/Experiences, Focus on Engineering and Technology, Connecting More Content and Practices (multilayered), Focus on Practice and Performance). Mr. Nobili advised that this is much more active for the students. Mr. Rafferty went on to state that the students will be making community connections, and that he met with the Audubon Society as well as Flanders and asked them to become part of the curriculum and help students engage in deep investigation. The students will be able to define a problem and associated constraints, build prototypes, and come up with definite solution. Dr. Anna added that the proposed budget has a lot of pieces connecting to this curriculum (i.e. science kits which supports practice and performance). Students will have consistent experiences and will work in partnership for assured experiences. This will be a substantial shift in approaching science instruction and it will need to be implemented quickly at the beginning of the new school year.

**Superintendent report:**

Dr. Anna advised that a parent meeting was held at WMS to introduce the parents to the new and improved schedule. Class schedules will be going from 40 to 50 mins of instruction for core areas and they will be continuing to add electives.

Mr. Agostine and Dr. Anna met with Silver Petrucelli to discuss the facilities and demographics assessment they will be conducting. There will be a series of meetings with them starting off with the staff to find out what they would consider their ideal educational space to look like going forward and then opening the meetings up to parents starting in June. They would like to get parent input on what they would like to see for facilities going forward as well.

Dr. Anna went on to mention that NHS hosted their Top 10 banquet which was a great evening where teacher honored the students by telling stories of each of the recipients.

The region held an instructor leadership summit to revisit how we intervene with student. We are starting to calibrate and roll out common practices to be in place for the 2018-19 school year.

Outgoing elementary school students were warmly greeted during a visit to WMS and there was a buzz of excitement in the air.

WMS held a virtual visit with virtual game designer. The students engaged in a Q & A session and enjoyed it thoroughly.

Lastly, WMS went on their annual Washington D.C. trip and had a fantastic time.

**5. Board Committee Reports**

**Building:** Mr. Chapman advised that there is a lot of work going on and that the summer will be extremely busy. The Board and Superintendent will receive an executive summary and monthly reports going forward.

**Wellness:** The Wellness committee held their last meeting of the 2017-18 school year and reviewed the success of celebration snack process. She mentioned that the feedback from parents has been great and that they really like the new format. The committee also discussed the possibility of offering ice cream for kindergartners all year and not just at the end of the year. The students wrote very compelling essays as to why Kindergartners should be allowed to enjoy ice cream once weekly as the rest of the school does. Wellness questions will be part of the end of year survey this year.

**Safe Schools:** Ms. Van Aken advised that the committee met on April 27 and highlighted that Sgt. Roden and Dr. Anna were interviewed by Channel 8 news on what Region 14 is doing in our schools to protect our children. She went on to say that the classroom numbering is complete inside and out for MES, BES, & WMS and that NHS will be done once the renovations are complete. Lastly, the committee will be setting up a date with Newtown dispatch to view a new safety app that may be beneficial in Region 14 schools.

**Finance:** Mr. Bauer mentioned that the committee has met a few times since the last BOE meeting to collect information on continued financing of the NHS renovation project. The committee met with financial advisor Barry Bernabe to go over multiple options on financing and the committee is much closer to coming to concrete plan to put forth to the BOE in the near future.

**District Advisory:** – Ms. Morgan stated that the DAC meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month and that they are looking at the region's facilities. The committee had a brainstorming session and came up with multiple configuration option which will be brought to parents during the June meeting. She also mentioned that there will be more parent meetings to come.

6. **Board Chair Comments** – Ms. Morgan read a statement to the public in attendance (See attached) The Region will also be holding a parent workshop on bullying and harassment, to be facilitated by Ms. Freiberg and she will also be invited to a BOE meeting in June or July.

7. **Public Comment** –

Sarah Smith of Bethlehem stated that she was not happy with the Region. She believes she sees patterns that the Region is maligned, complicit, that citizens' concerns are not being reviewed and that she would like to expose this conduct.

Christine de Cicco of Woodbury stated that we teach our children to be respectful and kind, and in turn we as citizens should behave in the same manner and be the example for our children. She went on to state that she has had a very positive experience with her children in the region.

Jim Crocker of Woodbury said that although things are a whole lot better than the region used to be, there is so much social media lynching going on in the community and it is extremely dysfunctional and it needs to stop. He encouraged the BOE to speak up and put things straight to end the misinformation that is being propagated throughout the region.

8. **Old Business**

- A. Mr. Bauer moved that the Region 14 BOE approve the music curriculum as presented and was seconded by Ms. Van Aken. **The motion carried unanimously 8-0-0.**

9. **New Business**

- A. Mr. Bauer have a brief overview of the NHS construction BOND & BAN issuance coming due in July. The committee will be collecting more information prior to bringing their recommendation to the BOE.
- B. Ms. Van Aken moved that the Region 14 BOE approve the NHS Cheerleading out-of-state tri to Honesdale, PA as presented and was seconded by Mr. Lampart. **The motion carried unanimously 8-0-0.**
- C. The Healthy Foods Certification was tabled to the next BOE meeting.

- D. Mr. Bauer moved that the Region 14 BOE accept the Agriscience Equipment Grant #214-0091VA/VE in the amount of \$246,101 as complete. Seconded by Mr. Lampart. **The motion carried unanimously 8-0-0.**

**10. Adjournment**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "N. Schwartz". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully Submitted,".

Natascha Schwartz, BOE Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Natascha Z. Schwartz, Board Clerk, 5/14/2018



## **Board of Education**

**67 Washington Avenue ~ Woodbury, CT 06798**

[www.ctreg14.org](http://www.ctreg14.org)

**Mission:** The Region 14 community ensures an engaging and positive learning environment where every student is valued as a respected contributing member of society, who graduates prepared to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

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Our goal is to serve all students in Bethlehem and Woodbury and it is our hope that the majority who support education will see the good things that are happening in our schools. We have so many incredible students who make us unbelievably proud - and want to serve them with the energy and respect they deserve

Dr. Anna has the full support of this Board. She has invigorated teaching and learning, made courageous decisions to effect change, and lead the effort to introduce BOE approved curriculum and gone from zero to nearly 80% of all curriculum areas in R14. Recognizing that this is still a work in process, Dr. Anna has done more for all students in Region 14 in her short time here than any superintendent in recent memory.

As the Operational leader of Region 14, Dr. Anna is accountable to the Board and as such, she must balance the time and energy spent in the District for each and every student, with equal vigor and attention. The diversion of Dr. Anna's time and energies away from the greater student body reduces the effectiveness of the superintendent and administration team to undertake the myriad of teaching and learning initiatives underway.

While the recent press and social media may be creating a challenging environment, it will not dissuade this Board or the Administration from carrying out the daily work that is needed to be done for all Region 14 students.

The Board recognizes the rights of each and every student, and take seriously any claims of harassment or bullying in Region 14. We will cooperate and comply with any state review or audit of our processes. While the results of each investigation may not align with the expectations of all parties involved, we will not re-litigate the process and must move forward with the serious business of teaching and learning for all students in Region 14.

Respectfully,

The Board of Education

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