

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.

Missing: Dave Lampart,

1. Call to Order - Ms. Van Aken called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.
2. Pledge of Allegiance - Ms. Van Aken led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ms. Morgan requested a motion to approve the minutes of Regular Meeting of March 19, 2018, Ms. Van Aken *moved* and seconded by Mr. Bauer. The **motion carried 6-0-1, with Ms. Morgan abstaining.**

4. Superintendent's report

Dr. Anna asked Amy Perras to present the new Music Curriculum. Ms. Perras presented the music curriculum. She was excited to announce that this will be the 1st time that preschoolers will start in music. Ms. Perras went on to state that there is a common focus over time and that although the units all look the same and are ongoing, they progress in difficulty. Once students enter K-5, they'll already know the music basics such as how to identify notes, so when they receive their instruments, they'll already know what the sound of a particular note is. The region will now offer a new digital music class where students will learn the basics of music composition with their peers and will be able to write collaborative songs. The addition of world drumming and more advanced ukulele classes will be challenging and exciting for the students which will take them to another level. Ms. Perras also mentioned that we have adopted the new national core art standards which allows for rigor and artistic literacy. It is her hope that the 11 anchor standards will spill over into art. Since the standards are so new, Region 14 are one of the 1st districts to have a written curriculum of new standards. Lastly she gave an update on what has been going on in the district in regards to region wide concerts taking place in the NHS Auditorium.

Superintendent's corner:

Dr. Anna gave a little more information on the region wide concerts which were done in partnership with ASAP and the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra. The region held a side-by-side Symphony with Waterbury Symphony Orchestra in which the students performed 4 concerts. Students were able to perform on Thursday with the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra. There were 20 students who performed with the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra, of which 8 were Region 14's students. Dr. Anna thanked the Bethlehem Woodbury music grant, and ASAP. She also thanked Ms. Perras on the coordination of this multi-level project.

She went on to address that WMS held a bookmaking session, and had Mr. John Marshall, a professional drummer come to perform for the 7th graders.

Dr. Anna encouraged parents to sit in on the Parent Support group that meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month in the WMS Library Media center and they will be covering many all types of issues.

Lastly the Preschool screening day was held today and the region is already look into next year.

5. **Board Committee Reports**

Finance Committee – Mr. Bauer advised that the committee met just before the BOE meeting and went over the year-to-date NHS renovation financials and the regular year-to-date financials. He advised that they discussed the repayment options of the region's debt service. The total revenue to date is \$24,976,657 and expenditures are \$22,797,557.

6. **Board Chair Comments** – none

7. **Public Comment** –

Paula Paolino of Woodbury talked about negative climate, her dismay with the BOE and citizens' right to petition. She went on to mention that she believes that the Board is misleading the public into thinking that the Director of HR position is not a new one. Ms. Paolino stated that she will continue to go to the State Board of Education to raise her concerns to them.

Mrs. Bullock of Woodbury told the BOE that she received a call from one of the highest members of the State Department of Education telling her that they are opening a formal investigation against Region 14 based on a situation that she had with 2 of her children. Mrs. Bullock asked that the Superintendent retract her statement that was quoted in the media saying that the region has the support from the state.

Marisa van Galen of Bethlehem read a statement from Cristina Godfrey also of Bethlehem concerning her daughter who requested to receive Special Education accommodations for her daughter who suffers from a condition. She stated that she feels that she has not had a good experience so far in the short time she's been in the region.

Theresa Mieczkowski of Woodbury read CAGE code of Ethics to the Board of Education and wanted to remind them of their duties. She also advised the Board that there is another petition being circulated for the removal of all BOE members.

Dawn Cipriano of Woodbury stated to the Board that her 2nd grader has been subjected to sexual harassment, sexual assault and was touched inappropriately on many occasions. She believes that there has been unacceptable behavior by the administration and the Superintendent. She went on to say that the harassment and assault were reported on many occasions and feels that she was not being listened to.

Dawn Richter from Woodbury stated that her son attended school in Region 14 and was removed in December to be home tutored and believes that the region has done nothing for her child. She did not report this to the Board of Education but instead filed a complaint with the State and feels that the school is accountable for what they've done to him.

8. **Old Business**

Mr. Bauer moved that the Region 14 BOE approve the policy revisions as presented and was seconded by Ms. Van Aken. The motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.

9. **New Business**

Ms. Morgan requested a motion to add agenda items under new business.

- A. Ms. Van Aken moved to add the following item to the agenda: Contingent upon advancing, move that the Region 14 BOE approve the NHS Robotics team out-of-state trip to Detroit, MI and seconded by Mr. Bauer. The motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.

- B. Mr. Bauer moved to add the following item to the agenda: Move that the Region 14 BOE award the bid in the amount \$77,150 to Silver Petrucelli located at 3190 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518, to conduct a demographics and feasibility assessment. Seconded by Ms. Van Aken. The motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.
- C. Ms. Van Aken move to add the following item to the agenda: Move that the Region 14 BOE go into executive session to ratify the proposed collective bargaining agreement between the BOE and the Nonnewaug Secretarial Association covering the period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021, and seconded by Mr. Bauer. The motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.
- D. Ms. Van Aken move to add the following item to the agenda: Move that the Region 14 Board of Education enter executive session for the discussion/strategy/response of parent complaints against the Superintendent, Board of Education and School District. Seconded by Mr. Bauer. The motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.
- E. Mr. Bauer moved that the R14 BOE name Saturday, June 23, 2018 as the Graduation date for the NHS Class of 2018. Seconded by Ms. Van Aken. The motion carried 7-0-0.
- F. Ms. Bauer moved that the R14 BOE authorize the use and expenditure from the BOE's Capital/Non-recurring Expenditure Reserve fund in the amount of \$244K as presented. Seconded by Ms. Van Aken. Motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.
- G. Ms. Van Aken moved that the R14 BOE authorize the use and expenditure from the BOE's Capital/Non-recurring Expenditure Reserve fund in the amount of \$77,150 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Bauer. Motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.
- H. Ms. Van Aken moved that the Region 14 BOE award the bid in the amount \$77,150 to Silver Petrucelli & Associates, 3190 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518, to conduct a feasibility and demographics assessment as presented. Seconded by Ms. Zmek. The motion carried 6-0-1, with Mr. Devine abstaining.
- I. Ms. Van Aken moved that the R14 BOE approve and adopt the superintendent's proposed budget for the fiscal year 2018-19 in the amount of \$34,137,402 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Bauer. Motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.
- J. Ms. Van Aken moved that the R14 BOE schedule and warn the Annual District Meeting for Monday, May 7, 2018 at 7:00pm in the BOE Room, located at 67 Washington Avenue, Woodbury, CT concerning the 2018-19 budget with said meeting to be adjourned to a referendum on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 from 6:00am to 8:00pm in the Towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury CT, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Bauer. Motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.
- K. Mr. Bauer moved that the secretary of the BOE is authorized, to prepare and cause to be printed and distributed explanatory text regarding the 2018-19 budget referendum, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Van Aken. Motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.
- L. Ms. Van Aken moved that contingent upon advancing, the Region 14 BOE approve the NHS Robotics team out-of-state trip to Detroit, MI and seconded by Mr. Bauer. The motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.

Ms.Morgan requested that the BOE go into executive session to ratify the proposed collective bargaining agreement between the BOE and the Nonnewaug Secretarial Association covering the period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021, and also moved that the Region 14 Board of Education enter executive session for the discussion/strategy/response of parent complaints against the Superintendent, Board of Education and School District.

The BOE moved into executive session for discussion on the ratification of the Nonnewaug Secretarial Association contract at 7:57pm. Ms. Morgan invited Dr. Anna, Mr. Arum and Ms. Culkin.

The BOE moved out of executive session at 8:25pm.

Mr. Devine moved that the BOE approve the Nonnewaug Secretarial Association contract covering the period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021, as presented. Ms. Van Aken seconded and the motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.

The BOE moved into the second executive session at 8:25pm for the discussion/strategy/response of parent complaints against the Superintendent, Board of Education and School District. Ms. Morgan invited Dr. Anna in to the executive session.

The BOE came out of executive session at 10:00pm with no action being taken.

Dr. Anna spoke to the media to answer questions and to give a statement.

10. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "N. Schwartz".

Natascha Schwartz, BOE Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Natascha Z. Schwartz, Board Clerk, 4/17/2018