

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held December 18, 2017 at the Board of Education Central Office, 67 Washington Avenue, Woodbury, CT, 06798.

Present: Maryanne Van Aken, Mike Devine, John Chapman, David Lampart, Pamela Zmek, Carol Ann Brown, Dave Lampart, Also in attendance were Dr. Anna Cutaia-Leonard, Chrissy Fensore, Kim Culkin Mike Rafferty, NHS student reps, Dean Jones, Isabella Mancini , community member Jim Crocker, Voices reporter Mike Preato, and BOE Clerk, Natascha Schwartz.

Missing:

1. Call to Order
Ms. Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
Ms. Morgan led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Student Rep Report – Dean Jones and Isabella Mancini gave the NHS update. The high school has been extremely busy with events such as: the Chamber Choir, chorus, orchestra, and band holiday concert which was a huge success, the Spirit Club is hosting annual holiday “Ugly sweater” contest and asking those students participating to bring in two non-perishable food items, casting callbacks are currently underway for *Footloose* which will take place in Spring of 2018. The CCRC is diligently working with students for college applications and 65% of seniors have already submitted their applications. The Athletic update: NHS won the Class M State Girls championship in cross country, Volleyball were co-champions in the Berkshire league, 13 athletes that were recognized as all league athletes, 6 students received all state recognition, 84 Berkshire/Pequot league scholar athletes who earned both a varsity letter and maintained an 88% or better unweighted average throughout the sports season. Agriscience update: the meats judging, floriculture, and horse judging teams all placed first place in the state at Nationals this past fall. The livestock, forestry, and poultry teams all placed second place in the state. Landscaping judging placed third in the state. Holiday plant sales are over \$8000 this. SAE work component: total of 46,330 hours of work documented, total of \$214,637.00 earned. Lastly, school store run by DECA club is having its holiday sale. They both thanked the BOE for all of their time and effort.
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes
Ms. Morgan requested a motion to approve the minutes of Regular Meeting of December 4, 2017, Ms. Van Aken *moved* and seconded by Mr. Bauer. Ms. Brown commented that she would like to have the last names of the student reps recorded in the minutes. The **motion carried 7-0-1, with Mr, Chapman abstaining.**

Ms. Morgan requested a motion to approve the special minutes of December 11, 2017, Ms. Van Aken *moved* and seconded by Mr. Bauer, the **motion carried 4-0-4, with Ms. Zmek, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Bauer and Ms. Morgan abstaining.**
5. Superintendent’s report
Chromebook Update – Mr. Rafferty gave an update on Chromebooks. He advised that the Region is collaborating more with parents as partners and also using a systemic approach with teachers. The teachers engaged in EdCamp which was an exploratory look into using Chromebooks and out of that experience, they surveyed teachers to see what their thoughts were on using the Chromebook. Mr. Rafferty and Mrs. Culkin then formed a PDAC group of teachers to enable them to find out what other training they felt was needed to feel comfortable with the Chromebooks. He went on to say that the Region’s next platform is to engage parents more. There are a lot of resources that parents are not

aware of which will benefit both the parents and students. We have started using the three tools at WMS to enhance math and reading experience. *Ten Marks* is a math tool which is a beneficial supplement to the curriculum. Students can go home and practice on areas where they may have had difficulties and for those that are more advanced, it can challenge them more. There are videos to help a child review something again to help them understand more clearly. *24/7 Reading* is a reading tool whereby a student can read eBooks, textbooks, they can write reviews collaboratively, or even read articles on different topics they're interested in. Lastly there is *24/7 World* which is much more interesting than the old style encyclopedia. Students can search current events, do comparison studies and research on other parts of the world. Mr. Rafferty thanked Abby Waldron who has been instrumental in getting a lot of this set up and she will have this available virtually on the Region website in the near future.

Superintendent's Corner- Dr. Anna gave a brief update on what's been going on in the district. The winter concert was incredible and that thanks to the community and their continued support, the Region has been able to grow the strings program from 3 to 17 students. She went on to mention that our unified sports teams had the opportunity to join together in Hartford with other team at a summit and it was a wonderful bonding experience and they are receiving great support. This is the fourth year for Hour of Code and was a huge success as per usual. Dr. Anna gave a sneak preview that the celebration of the arts program will be happening in the spring and will cover March and April for both Music and Art. The Senior citizens art classes will be back by popular demand and the Boards of Selectmen and Finance will hold an art contest for our budding artists to showcase their talent in the annual town reports. Lastly, in addition to the Chromebook presentation given by Mr. Rafferty, Dr. Anna highlighted that technology is taking our students to all parts of the world; they are learning about careers, getting virtual experience with people from around the state and the world. WMS students have had the opportunity to have face-to-face interviews with authors, and at BES, second graders were able to interact and ask questions to student about the school system in Missouri.

6. Board Committee Reports

Building Committee – Mr. Chapman was happy to let the Board know that the NHS building phase 2 and 3 bid opening happened today and that the building committee will be reading the bids during tomorrow's meeting.

Community Relations - Ms. Zmek advised that the committee is finalizing details for the upcoming community forum to be held January 11, 2018. Invitations have been sent out and news release is coming. She went on to give the schedule of the upcoming forum. She also provided an open invitation to anyone who would like to attend and advised that interested citizens should contact either her or Ms. Schwartz to put his/her name on the invitation list.

7. Board Chair Comments – Ms. Morgan wished everyone a Happy Holiday season. She was very happy to report that on Friday, December 15, every school in Region 14 participated in the fire prevention art contest and mentioned that we have great talent in our community.

8. Public Comment - none

9. Old Business - none

10. New Business

- A. First read: Discussion/review of 2018-19 School Calendar was tabled to the next BOE meeting to be held on January 16, 2018. This will give time for the Building Committee to meet with Dr. Anna and the administration regarding the renovation timeline.

- B. Ms. Van Aken *moved* that the Region 14 Board of Education authorize and solicit qualifications and proposals from qualified firms for conducting a facilities condition and demographic assessment of the District and its school (RFQ#2018-205), as presented. Seconded by Mr. Lampart.

Discussion: Mr. Chapman would like to clarify the requirements, including having a web interface database rather than a spreadsheet for asset management. Ms. Morgan commented that the District Advisory Committee did discuss that it would like common software and nothing proprietary. Mr. Chapman had further questions: What the recommendations would be as a fall out of the demographic analysis and what kind of structural changes recommendations? He commented that there is a lot of emphasis on the physical plant but less on planning /vision side. Mr. Chapman recommended to conduct an FF&E as part of the assessment but that it would change scope and Dr. Anna agreed. Mr. Bauer also commented that he would like to see more emphasis on the safety and security of the buildings. The Board agreed to table the discussion to bring these concerns back to the District advisory committee for further discussion in the New Year.

- C. Ms. Van Aken *moved* that the Region 14 Board of Education will establish an ad hoc/special committee as the building committee with regard to the Nonnewaug High School – Vo Ag renovation projects (State Projects #214-0094 VA/EA and #214-0095 VE), with John Chapman serving as its Chairperson, with said committee consisting of not less than 6 members and not more than 12 members, with the members to be appointed by the Chairperson of the Board of Education, and with each member to serve until such member's successor is appointed and qualified or the committee is disbanded. Seconded by Mr. Bauer. **The motion carried unanimously 8-0-0.**
- D. Ms. Van Aken *moved* that the Region 14 Board of Education approve a five year lease agreement for photocopiers, as presented, and seconded by Mr. Lampart. **The motion carried unanimously 8-0-0.**

11. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Natascha Schwartz, BOE Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Natascha Z. Schwartz, Board Clerk, 12/20/2017