

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held February 5, 2018 at the Board of Education Central Office, 67 Washington Avenue, Woodbury, CT, 06798.

Present: Maryanne Van Aken, Mike Devine, John Chapman, Carol Ann Brown, George Bauer arrived at 7:10pm. Also in attendance were: Dr. Anna Cutaia-Leonard, Chrissy Fensore, Mike Rafferty, WMS student reps, Emma Primini, Leo Fiore, their parents, Wendy Yatsenick, Leeza Desjardins, Genna Riggi, Michele Roe, and approximately 4 community members and BOE Clerk, Natascha Schwartz.

Missing: Dave Lampart, John Chapman

1. Call to Order

Ms. Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Morgan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Student Rep Report – Emma Primini and Leo Fiore gave an update as to what they love about WMS. They also gave an in depth view as to what the Wingman Project is all about.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ms. Morgan requested a motion to approve the minutes of Regular Meeting of January 16, 2018, Ms. Van Aken *moved* and seconded by Mr. Bauer. The **motion carried 5-0-1, with Pam Zmek abstaining.**

5. Superintendent's report

Region 14's Finest– Principal Bergeron nominated Joy Geraci as Region 14's finest for WMS for her outstanding contribution. She was not able to attend due to illness.

American Legion Award Recipient- Jillian Roden – to be tabled until the next meeting.

Scholastic Art Awards – Dr. Anna congratulated Leeza Desjardins and her students, all of whom won awards at the Scholastic Art Show; honorable mention (5), silver key (9), gold key (9), silver portfolio (1), gold portfolio (8), and only 5 American Visions awards are nominated from Connecticut to move on to Nationals and two of our students claimed spots out of the 5 available. The students will be invited to the March meeting to congratulate them as well as to display their artwork. Ms. Desjardins thanked Dr. Anna, the BOE, as well as her colleagues Ms. Riggi and Ms. Roe for all of their support and encouragement.

AP Capstone Update – Dr. Anna gave an update on the AP Capstone Course. Ms. Yatsenick and Mr. Rafferty answered questions about the new course. Dr. Anna advised that NHS is 1 out of only 12 schools in Connecticut to participate. She went on to mention that AP Capstone is a two part course; AP Seminar and AP Research. In the 1<sup>st</sup> year NHS offered AP seminar, and is so popular, they had to waitlist students. There are currently 42 students enrolled in the AP Seminar course and this gives them the opportunity to have exposure to and experiences of a larger scale to ensure preparation for worldwide opportunities and to ensure that they will be college ready. Students were able to choose their own topics of interest which included such deep topics as: justice for human trafficking victims, reduced phone use while driving, vigilante killings, Washington D.C. gun laws, to name a few. Students are coming back with rave reviews of the course. We are moving into year two of Capstone and anticipate that the 42 students will go on to

AP Research next year and re-enrolling into seminar as well. The AP Capstone is a special designation that will benefit students from an admissions perspective, for those who are applying to Colleges. Mr. Rafferty advised that the course affords students who are passionate about something to delve right in. It's a gateway for any kids to get AP experience and hopefully in the near future that AP Capstone will be available to all students. NHS Senior Dean Jones, who is currently enrolled in the course explained what the AP Capstone process is and how wonderful it is.

Ms. Morgan asked how many students were wait listed and how can the region accommodate the rest of the students so that they don't miss out. Wendy Yatsenick advised that 7-8 students were waitlisted and the only way to do that is to add FTEs.

Superintendent's Corner- Dr. Anna was pleased to give some highlights as to what has been going on in the district since the last meeting. NHS and WMS to host the 8<sup>th</sup> grade electives fair and it is a great was for the students to interact with teachers. They also had a vendor fair and offered a scholarship pizza party which is a great opportunity to motivate kids to apply for scholarships. BES & MES held their winter concerts with a chorus consisting of 75 students combined from both schools. It was a huge success and a wonderfully fulfilling moment and is proving results. Dr. Anna thanked the BOE for their continued support and trust in the arts. The region also hosted the Unified Basketball Game with Oxford and Region 12. The NHS National honor society inducted 42 more members, and lastly, Ms. Fensore held a 2 part parent workshop which was well attended.

### Board Committee Reports

Building Committee – as Mr. Chapman was not present, he will give his updated at the meeting

Community Relations - Ms. Zmek advised that the committee met tonight and began going over evaluations following the community forum and are digesting comments and concerns and common ground from each table. She also mentioned that the committee discussed giving out decals to business who support region 14 by hiring our students.

Safe Schools – Ms. Van Aken reported that the committee met on January 26 and discussed topics such as: SRO vacancy. She mentioned that they will be starting to look for candidates in the spring. They also discussed numbering of classrooms, budget items for the 2018-19 year, the possibility of putting social media monitoring back on table, NARCAN training for staff in schools, mental health 1<sup>st</sup> aid training, and finding a proper communication app between staff and students for better communication.

6. Board Chair Comments – Ms. Morgan advised due to medical circumstances, Mr. Lampart will be calling into the next meeting.
7. Public Comment - Stephanie Chapman, Woodbury Resident, spoke to the effect that she would like to see the possibility of having a Para available at the Kindergarten level again. Her son went from being in a small classroom with only 12-13 children to 20 children and she feels there is a need to have a Para available.
8. Old Business

Ms. Van Aken *moved* that the Region 14 Board of Education approve version 2 of the 2018-19 school calendar, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Bauer. **The motion carried 6-0-0.**

9. New Business

Ms. Morgan requested a motion to add an out of state Tennis field trip request, Ms. Van Aken moved and seconded by Mr. Bauer, **The motion carried unanimously 6-0-0.** Ms. Morgan requested to amend the motion item from Tennis to Cheerleading, and was seconded by Mr. Bauer. **The motion carried unanimously 6-0-0.**

- A. Mr. Rafferty presented the 1<sup>st</sup> read of the Social Studies Curriculum highlighting the 5 areas: Our Community, Inquiry as a focus, Historical Societies/Libraries Connection, Access to AP Classes, more focus on government, and more choices to new courses. Teachers from all 3 levels were involved in building the curriculum which should be on line in the next few days for viewing. Pre-K curriculum: understanding foundations of classrooms, developing emergents.
- B. Ms. Van Aken *moved* that the Region 14 Board of Education approve NHS Agriscience Horticulture trip to the U.S. Botanical Gardens in Washington, DC, from April 5, 2018 to April 7, 2018, as presented, and seconded by Mr. Bauer. **The motion carried unanimously 6-0-0.**
- C. Ms. Van Aken *moved* that the Region 14 Board of Education approve the NHS cheerleading trip to the Cheerleading National Competition in Virginia Beach, VA, from March 9, 2018 to March 12, 2018, as presented, and seconded by Mr. Bauer. **The motion carried unanimously 6-0-0.**
- D. Ms. Van Aken *moved* that the Region 14 Board of Education go into executive session for the purpose of the superintendent's goal setting and evaluation, and seconded by Mr. Bauer. **The motion carried unanimously 6-0-0.** Dr. Anna was invited to join.

The BOE moved into executive session at 8:08pm. Dr. Anna was invited to join in.

The BOE moved out of executive session at 9:59pm.

10. Adjournment

Ms. Van Aken *moved* to adjourn and seconded by Mr. Bauer. **The motion carried unanimously 6-0-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:59pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Natascha Schwartz, BOE Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Natascha Z. Schwartz, Board Clerk, 2/9/2018