

Minutes of the FFA Advisory of the Board of Education  
Regional School District 14 www.ctreg.org  
Wednesday, January 24, 2018

Start: 7:06 pm End: 8:50 pm

In attendance were: Karen Kalenauskas, George Lyman, Bill Davenport, Marisa Bedron, Liz Webb, Tom DiMarco, Ed Belinsky, Al Avitabile, Bob Grosf, Sharon Knies, Hailey Bond, Jen Kern, Mike Halas, Katie Lewis, Richard Lewis, Jenn Ayers, Tyler Cremeans, Alice Wilkinson, David Carey, Angela Reich, Ira Stone, Susan Bedron, John Farrell, Eric Birkenberger, Emily Atwood, Emily Kern, Austin Bedard. Also in attendance were BOE members Pam Zmek, Carol Ann Brown, George Bauer, and BOE Clerk, Natascha Schwartz.

Karen Kalenauskas called the meeting to order 7:06pm and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Emily Kern; gave an update on what the chapter has been up to since November 2017. chapter held creed contest where Hannah Pryor and Chelsea Flower will be moving onto Districts, Forestry CDE competed and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at States, Sent 20 students to the IMAGE workshop, AgSales CDE competed and placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at States, fruit fundraiser, annual holiday plant sale and pet adoption, tractor recertification for members, students attended PA Farm Show.

She also went on to mention what the FFA Officers have been up to since November 2017: Held AET workshop, hosted a resume workshop, put on a cocoa and cram for NHS students to study for exams,

The chapter and officers are currently creating program for FFA week, organizing the Underclassmen awards and SAE night, crafting a letter for freshmen to attend the Junior Leadership Conference (JLC), volunteer at Woodbury indoor mini golf event at the community center, arranging display table to showcase FFA program at Newtown Tractor Supply store, planning state degree workshop, holding District 1 dance, preparing teams for District public speaking CDEs, Quiz bowl, Conduct Chapter Meeting LDE and Parliamentary Procedure LDE Competitions.

Mr. Birkenberger congratulated Emily Kern on being 1 of 3 students to receive a \$1000 SAE Grant.

Mrs. Kalenauskas asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 14, 2017. Alice Wilkinson motioned to approve the minutes, and seconded by David Carey. The Motion carried unanimously.

SAE Presentation: Austin Bedard presented his SAE: Dietter's Water Garden. Austin gave a very comprehensive presentation on what he does at Dietter's Water Garden including, growing various water plants, making pottery and water displays, raising different types of fish (koi, goldfish, channel catfish), keeping tabs of the on-line store, face-to-face sales, packaging and booking of pumps, making sure the store is running smoothly while the boss is out on different job sites. He mentioned that they also have on hand various other animals such as turtles, snails, tadpoles, and crayfish which clients may want to have in their water displays. Lastly he mentioned that as part of his job he tends to the poultry and mows the lawn of his boss's wifes farm which he enjoys tremendously, especially being able to see and interact with the various animals she keeps.

NHS Building Committee presentation: BOE finance chair, Mr. Bauer, gave a brief project overview of the NHS renovation project. He advised that Phase I of the project was prep work including the addition of temporary swing space for the High School office as well as temporary classrooms which are ready to go. He added that Phase 2 will begin in mid to late February 2018 which is the full renovation.

Some questions came up by the FFA Advisory committee members from the presentation, of which:

- Will there be more classrooms which could potentially add more Agriscience students to the program once the renovation is complete? Mr. Bauer advised that the District Advisory and Building Committees would be working on verifying that during the demographics assessment that will be conducted.
- What is the status concerning the talk of building an enclosure at the egress between the Agriscience and main buildings and when will it be built? Mr. Bauer advised that this too is in the hands of the Building Committee.

- Will Central Office remain at WMS after the renovation is complete? There has always been a shortage of classrooms/space and WMS can accommodate the Central Office permanently. Mr. Bauer advised that at the moment the plan is still in place for Central Office to move back to NHS, but that nothing is off of the table.

Adult Education: John Farrell advised that Adult Education classes are up and that there are two new classes: Lamb carcass cutting and Turf Management. Emily Kern and her grandmother will also be offering a goat's milk soap production class.

Committee Work: The committee broke out into 3 groups to do committee work: SAE Placement, Membership, and Graduate Outreach/Alumni committees. The groups to report their findings at the next committee meeting in April 2018.

Hearing no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Natascha Z. Schwartz

Regional School District 14 Board Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Natascha Z. Schwartz, Board Clerk, 1/25/2017