

The Special Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held May 9, 2017 at Nonnewaug High School, 5 Minortown Rd, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Board members: Michael Devine, David Lampart, Maryanne Van Aken, Janet Morgan, Pam Zmek, John Chapman, Carol Ann Brown and BOE clerk, Natascha Schwartz. Also in attendance were Dr. Anna Cutaia-Leonard, Michael Rafferty, Wayne McAllister, Kim Culkin, Chrissy Fensore, and 3 members of the community  
Missing: George Bauer

Ms. Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

Ms. Morgan asked if there were any comments on why the budget failed. She mentioned that the total turnout of voters for this 1<sup>st</sup> vote were 1891, which is the lowest voter turnout since 2010. She asked the members how they could arrive at an amount that would be feasible to the community. Ms. Brown suggested by bringing the budget number to 0.9% or 1%.

Dr. Anna gave 5 recommendations based on hard work and discussions within the central office on lowering the budget and not impacting the students in the region.

1. The region is switching to a new medical insurance carrier which represents a savings of \$34,365 that came in after the referendum by moving from Anthem to Connecticutare.
2. The region is also switching to a new Dental carrier which represents a savings of \$17,326 that also came in after the referendum by moving to Delta Dental.
3. The region will consider moving away from Social Sentinel for the 2017-18 school year which will give Dr. Anna time to research a new provider that will better suit the region's needs. This would represent a cost savings of \$6,000.
4. The region would delay the replacement of the middle school winch for the gymnasium curtain for another year, which would represent a cost savings of \$5,000.
5. The region would revisit phase 2 of the Bethlehem flooring replacement in 2018-19 which would account for \$30,000 savings.

Dr. Anna's recommendations would represent a total savings of \$92,691 which will decrease the budget to 0.96%.

Mr. Devine asked if the region could use the \$52,000 from the debt service fund which does not impact the students. The board members discussed it and decided it was not in the community's best interest. Mr. Devine also asked if the region could lower the NHS postage amounts account which was moved to musical instrument replacement this year. Dr. Anna explained that the postage is carry over postage which is on a physical machine and is being spent down, which would not be possible.

The new budget amount on the table to adopt would be \$33,345,780.

- A. Ms. Van Aken moved that the Region 14 Board of Education approve and adopt the Board of Education's revised budget for the fiscal year 2017-2018 in the amount of \$33,345,780 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Lampart. The motion carried 6-1-0, with Mr. Devine voting Nay.
- B. Ms. Van Aken moved that the Board of Education schedule and warn the Annual District Meeting for Tuesday, May 16, 2017, at 7 PM at NHS in Woodbury, CT concerning the 2017-2018 budget with said meeting to be adjourned to a referendum on Wednesday, May 17, 2017, from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM in the Towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury, CT. Seconded by Mr. Lampart. The motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.

- C. Ms. Van Aken moved that the Secretary of the Board of Education is authorized, in such official's discretion, to prepare and cause to be printed and distributed explanatory text regarding the 2017-2018 budget referendum scheduled for May 17, 2017, with such explanatory text subject to the review and approval of the District's legal counsel and to be prepared and distributed in accordance with Section 9-369b of the Connecticut General Statutes. Seconded by Mr. Lampart. The motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.

Ms. Morgan requested a motion to adjourn. *Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Chapman, the motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.*

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Natascha Z. Schwartz  
Regional School District 14 Board Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Natascha Z. Schwartz, Board Clerk, 5/10/2017