

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held Monday, May 2, 2016 at Nonnewaug High School, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Board members George Bauer, Charles Cosgriff, Michael Devine, Janet Morgan, Maryanne Van Aken and Pamela Zmek; Superintendent Anna Cutaia-Leonard, Ed.D., Director of Finance and Operations Wayne McAllister, Administrators Eric Bergeron, Kimberly Culkin, Christina Fensore, Michael Rafferty; faculty members Jodie D'Alexander, Jane Martellino, Abbe Waldren, Jane Caruso and Todd Gorski; student representative Chris Velleca; Board Clerk Deb Carlton, and three community members.

Absent: Carol Ann Brown, John Chapman

1. Call to Order

Mr. Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Bauer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Reports from Student Representatives

Chris reported on his experiences as a 7th grade Woodbury Middle School student. He managed the school's basketball team, and he plays on the baseball team. He is active on Warrior Council and enjoyed the three-on-three March Madness tournament. His favorite subjects are Math, Science and ELA, and he enjoys being able to use Google Classroom on his Chromebook in school. He is also looking forward to the Lake Compounce trip.

4. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 21, 2016.*

Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the special meeting minutes of April 5, 2016.*

Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. Mr. Devine asked that the description of the expenditures for gym mats and musical instruments include the time frame of 5 years for that replacement/acquisition plan. With that addition, the **motion carried 4-0-2** with Ms. Van Aken and Ms. Zmek abstaining.

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the special meeting minutes of April 12, 2016.*

Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 5-0-1** with Ms. Zmek abstaining.

5. Presentations

None.

6. Information and Proposals

A. Committee reports

For the Building Committee, Mr. Bauer indicated minutes are provided in board packets and on the website.

For Facilities/Enrollment/Transportation, Ms. Morgan reviewed that Mike Molzon had given a thorough explanation of custodial staffing at the last meeting.

B. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard reminded the Board of the goal to redefine the roles and responsibilities of the Library Media Specialists. She described the 4 as great faculty members who have made improvements in their centers in leaps and bounds. It has been a process of changing mindsets for teaching and learning, and recognizing that the LMC is much more than a room.

Mr. Rafferty began his update by introducing/recognizing the four LMS faculty present: Jodie D'Alexander, MES; Jane Martellino, BES; Abbe Waldron, WMS; and Todd Gorski, NHS. He agreed that the LMC work has been a transformation. At all schools, they have become places for all sorts of learning: collaboration, research, creativity at the elementary schools, and problem solving, measuring, discussion, building at the middle school. For high school students, it has become a hands-on, helpful, inviting and alive environment, as depicted in the power point slides he offered. All content areas are represented in the LMC, and the 4 faculty members, he said, are the essence of inspiring excellence. Board members offered kudos and gratitude and asked if cross training among the four schools was being considered. Ms. Waldron indicated they see and/or talk with each other daily, have not visited each other's schools this year, by will. Dr. Cutaia-Leonard spoke about the BoE goal of attracting, developing and retaining the best staff. She described the four faculty members as examples of this, and reminded the board that every vote they take matters.

C. Board Chair's Comments

Mr. Bauer encouraged all citizens to vote in tomorrow's referendum. He also noted, in this season of celebration of student achievement, the benefit of BoE participation/attendance at these events, so members can see the fruits of our labors highlighted in this way.

7. Privilege of the Floor

None.

8. Business Requiring Board Action

Mr. Bauer requested the following: *Move that the Region 14 Board of Education approve Nonnewaug High School students to Spain, planned for July 2017, for 5-6 students with 1 faculty chaperone, via bus, train, and air transportation and costing approximately \$3,400 per student, funded by students' families.* Entered by Ms. Van Aken; seconded by Mr. Cosgriff.

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard provided updated numbers for the potential cost of this trip. She recognizes it as a great opportunity yet a sensitive subject. In responses to CAPSS, it's about a 50/50 split of school district currently permitting overseas travel. It is a discussion for this board, she said. The Board discussed from whom the district receives information on threat level, how far in advance cancellations must be made to receive refunds, insurance and travel protections, and other possible non-European destinations. Board members expressed their comfort level with the idea.

Ms. Van Aken is not comfortable deciding tonight; wants more information from the State Dept.

Mr. Devine wants a more firm last date to book, and wondered in parent payments could be held aside and returned if the trip did not take place.

Ms. Morgan wondered if parents could be surveyed to see if there is sufficient interest to even consider the trip.

Mr. Bauer would want a more strongly worded motion to express the Board reserving the right to pull the plug if threat levels change.

The motion was tabled.

Mr. Devine asked for the possibility of a workshop to address safety concerns.

Mr. Bauer requested the following: *Move that the Region 14 Board of Education approve the explanatory text for the 2016-2017 budget referendum, scheduled for Tuesday, May 3, 2016, as presented and reviewed by district legal counsel, and that the Board via its administration and Secretary is authorized to prepare and distribute said text in accordance with the law.*

Entered by Ms. Van Aken; seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. Dr. Cutaia-Leonard explained this is in response to a new regulation.

Motion carried 6-0.

9. Announcement of Future Meetings

Mr. Bauer reviewed upcoming meetings, adding BoE elections on June 2, 2016:

- A. Tuesday, May 10, 2016, Building Committee, 6:30 pm, NHS LMC
- B. Thursday, May 12, 2016, District Meeting – BoE Nominations, 6:00 pm, NHS LMC
- C. **Tuesday**, May 17, 2016, Regular Board of Education, 7:30 pm, NHS LMC
- D. Tuesday, May 24, 2016, Building Committee, 6:30 pm, NHS LMC

- E. Friday, May 27, 2016, ad hoc Safety Committee, 12:00 noon, COCR
- F. Monday, June 6, 2016, Regular Board of Education, 7:30 pm, NHS LMC
- G. Tuesday, June 7, 2016, Building Committee, 6:30 pm, NHS LMC
- H. Friday, June 17, 2016, ad hoc Safety Committee, 12:00 noon, COCR
- I. Monday, June 20, 2016, Regular Board of Education, 7:30 pm, NHS LMC
- J. Tuesday, June 21, 2016, Building Committee, 6:30 pm, NHS LMC

Mr. Bauer also noted an upcoming BoE retreat, asking Board members to indicate to the Superintendent's office their availability during the evening of June 8,9,13,14,15,or 16.

Ms. Van Aken entered a *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. **Motion carried 6-0.**
The meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles Cosgriff, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
Regional School District 14 Board of Education

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Debra W. Carlton, Board Clerk, 5/9/2016