

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held Monday, November 2, 2015 at Nonnewaug High School, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Board members George Bauer, Carol Ann Brown, 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, Director of Teaching and Learning Michael Rafferty, Director of Special Services Christina Fensore, Director of Human Resources Kimberly Culkin, Principals Alice Jones, Susan Ruddock, and Holly Wrenn; Board Clerk Deb Carlton, and about five community members.

Absent: John Chapman

1. Call to Order

Mr. Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Bauer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Report from Student Representative

Tabled.

4. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 19, 2015.*

Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 7-0.**

5. Presentation

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard prefaced Mr. Rafferty's report on student achievement by asking the board and audience to see how the district is growing through two lenses – input and output. She asked them to consider what we are surrounding our students with in the effort to see them bloom and cited three areas where the district, as a system, can influence student achievement: the capacity of our teachers, the opportunities and experiences we offer students in class, and the use of the right curriculum for assured experiences for all. Areas of human resources, curriculum, facilities, technology, instructional supports, professional learning, safety and security, and student programming, she said, are all investments in student achievement. As the district focuses on output goals, she asked that we also assess how we invest into the system.

Mr. Rafferty spoke about two types of assessments: assessments of learning and assessments for teaching. He shared scores from different assessments used by the schools and the state, as well as some national scores at the high school level, in the areas of reading and math. In the area of reading, he recommends a revision process and possible realignment of assessments used. Like most districts, we succeed in getting most readers to mastery; however, the challenges remain with the challenging students.

In the area of math, he will be asking whether the right assessments are being used. Transition across levels is an area of concern. He provided mean SAT scores for the past 3 years, average ACT scores, and AP scores showing percentage of students scoring 3 and above. This number has dropped during the recent push for more AP courses and more students taking them, and raises the question of whether supports are provided to students attempting this more rigorous path. In general for the high school, he noted while the numbers are relatively stable, the questions are: why are we getting the same results over multiple years, and can we find out how to address critical reading and math practices.

He provided comparison between MAP predictions and SBAC test scores in grades 3-8 in both reading and math.

He cited next steps to be an Assessment Summit with Region 14 staff, looking at the data warehousing system that helps inform teaching, and forming school/district data teams.

6. Information and Proposals

A. Committee reports

Ms. Van Aken reported on the most recent meeting of the Ad hoc Safety Committee, on 10/23, at which members discussed the camera installation progress, plans for Incidence Response training, and heard about National Crime Prevention Coalition training.

Ms. Zmek's Public/Community Relations Committee met prior to the BoE meeting, and discussed community surveys and newsletters planned for January. They will meet again prior to the second January BoE meeting.

B. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard asked Board members to weigh in on next steps, and to help her prioritize needs for budget planning.

Mr. Bauer cited curriculum, professional learning, and teaching/learning as district priorities. Appropriate assessments and getting the educators what they need is important to him.

Ms. Van Aken identified curriculum, specifically math, as a priority, along with teaching/learning and getting the biggest bang for the buck for students.

Mr. Cosgriff agreed that the math curriculum is a priority, adding that business partnerships will make math more relevant to students.

Ms. Morgan added ongoing maintenance of the buildings in order to maintain them at their current level and to avoid major projects coming about due to deferred maintenance. Moving technology forward, she said, goes hand in hand with curriculum. She stressed watching the dollars and cents in light of the upcoming building project.

Ms. Brown urged using what we've got and using those things well. She urged keeping what is good in the current curriculum and using resources as efficiently as possible.

Mr. Devine wants to understand the utilization of chromebooks in classrooms and how much they are being used. He urged showing how well tools are used and telling about plans for continued use.

Ms. Van Aken added that communicating the budget process as a whole, telling the story as was done so well last year, will be important. Telling the people what we did with what they gave us is very helpful.

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard also provided a finalized budget calendar for board members' review. She walked them through dates from 2/29/16 on, as these had changes from the calendar previously seen. She confirmed that all board members were in agreement with this schedule. It will be published and shared out to the towns.

C. Board Chair's Comments

None, though Mr. Bauer said he had looked forward to Mr. Rafferty's presentation and found it valuable.

7. Privilege of the Floor

None.

Ms. Brown commented on audience member Pat DiSarro's French horn playing daughter and the wonderful contributions of the Music Foundation.

Ms. Morgan asked if Trick or Treat Street would return to the high school next year and was told that is not yet known.

8. Business Requiring Board Action

None.

9. Announcement of Future Meetings

Mr. Bauer reviewed upcoming meetings:

Tuesday, November 17, 2015, BoE Regular Meeting, NHS

Monday, December 7, 2015, BoE Regular Meeting, NHS

Monday, December 21, 2015, BoE Regular Meeting, NHS

10. Adjournment

Ms. Van Aken entered a *motion to adjourn*, second by Mr. Cosgriff. **Motion carried 7-0.**
The meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Board members completed and submitted self-reflection questionnaires prior to leaving for the night.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Ann Brown, Secretary
Regional School District #14 Board of Education

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Debra W. Carlton, Board Clerk, 11/5/2015