

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held Monday, March 7, 2016 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, administrators Eric Bergeron, Kimberly Culkin, Christina Fensore, Susan Greene, Alice Jones, Bill Nemec, Michael Rafferty, Susan Ruddock, Pamela Sordi and Holly Wrenn; faculty and staff members Maria Duncan, Doriene Wester, Wendy Yatsenick and Katie Yocis; student representatives Molly Humphreys and Maria Longo; Board Clerk Deb Carlton, one member of the press and approximately 15 community members.

Absent: John Chapman

1. Call to Order

Mr. Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Bauer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Report from Student Representative

Molly updated the Board on recent happenings at NHS, including an athletic teams' update; a trip for 30 seniors to NVCC to learn about courses of study there; a counseling department sponsored pizza party with assistance offered in filling out scholarship applications; a "farmtastic" breakfast served by the FFA Alumni and Parent Support Group including the school's own maple syrup; last week's spirit club hosted pep rally; Team Beta's quarter final finish at its first competition; a student internship orientation at Yale U., and news that, for the first time, all junior class students took the SAT together on March 2nd.

Maria reported on her experience as a grade 6 student at WMS. She spoke about getting used changing classes, connecting BES and MES students together at the same school and the opportunity to make new friends, and the variety of extracurricular clubs and sports available to students.

4. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 1, 2016*

Entered by Ms. Morgan and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 5-0-2** with Ms. Van Aken and Ms. Zmek abstaining.

5. Presentation

Mr. Bauer introduced Amy Samuelson, AIA, LEED AP, and Glenn Gollenberg, AIA of the S/L/A/M Collaborative, Inc., whose firm was selected as architects for the NHS building project.

Ms. Samuelson will serve as the architect project manager; Mr. Gollenberg is the Principal-in-Charge. The two spoke about their 20 years working together at a firm numbering 180 employees – the largest in CT. They are thankful for the opportunity to work on this project. Ms. Samuelson met with administrators last week to plan the kick-off phase. She will be gathering information about existing conditions for the creation of a Building Information Model (BIM) and will begin documentation.

Mr. Gollenberg mentioned 2 of S/L/A/M's projects, Kaynor Tech and East Hampton High, were toured by Region 14 staff.

6. Information and Proposals

A. Committee reports

For the ad hoc Safety Committee, Ms. Van Aken reported having met on 2/25/16. Topics included the scheduling of NIMS and active shooter training, upcoming D.A.R.E. program in the elementary schools, a report on ALICE training, and updates on emergency operation planning, emergency "to go" kits for field trips, and background checks. She urged parents in the audience who might be planning to volunteer for spring events to get a background check now to avoid the rush.

For the Facilities/Enrollment/Transportation Committee, Ms. Morgan reported having had a productive meeting on 2/22/16 with Mike Molzon, who gave an update on projects. She is pleased with evidence that the staff is keeping the “bones of the buildings” in good shape. The committee also discussed proposed reductions in FTEs.

For Building and Policy committee reports, Mr. Bauer referred those interested to check minutes on the website for details.

B. Superintendent's Report

(this report was given, chronologically, after agenda item 9 and before agenda item 10)

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard presented a power point illustrating the progress made in the district this year and her program improvement initiatives for the coming year. Slides highlighted accomplishments in all schools and departments for this year. She emphasized that the 3 BoE goals, 4 district strategic priorities, and student achievement – all create continuous improvement planning that necessitates the budgeting process. She reminded the board of the bucket method of prioritizing needs over the course of years – not all needs were budgeted for last year, and some were identified as on hold until the coming year, or years following. She spoke of messages she receives from the public, with the most bothersome being the idea that pretty good is good enough in Region 14. She believes only excellence is good enough for our students. She outlined her specific program improvements for 2016-2017 with rationale, and also identified cost neutral improvements. She explained that at next week's meeting, corresponding costs will be shown for the improvements she plans. She invited those in the audience to return next week for that, and to bring a friend.

C. Board Chair's Comments

Mr. Bauer requested members stay after the meeting to coordinate calendars for upcoming events. He reviewed that this is a board election year; therefore, nominations will be held on 5/12/16 and elections on 6/2/16. Anyone interested in running for one of the 4 seats available this year was invited to contact him for information on the role of a board member.

7. Privilege of the Floor

None.

8. Business Requiring Board Action

Mr. Bauer requested the following:

Move that the Board of Education approve the ELA Curriculum as presented.

Entered by Ms. Van Aken; second by Mr. Cosgriff. Mr. Bauer noted the curriculum is concise, coherent and that there is the ability to delve into detail about it on the website. Clearly a great deal of time was spent on the development of it, he said.

Ms. Van Aken thanked Mr. Rafferty, the teachers, and the leadership team and appreciates all the hard work that went into this. It is the first time she has ever seen something like this in R14; it is clear, consistent and amazing, she said.

Ms. Morgan predicts we will be pushing students to their (educational) limits if the other curricula are this good.

Mr. Cosgriff said it is the first solid curriculum he has had in his hand. He enjoyed it, and thanked Mr. Rafferty for it.

Mr. Rafferty commented that he is very proud of it, and thanked the Board for its support.

The motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Bauer requested the following:

Move that the Board of Education approve the 2016-2017 Regional School District 14 School Calendar as presented.

Entered by Ms. Van Aken; second by Mr. Cosgriff. Dr. Cutaia-Leonard reminded the Board this calendar includes one additional student day. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Bauer requested the following:

Move that the Board of Education approve NHS Cheerleaders to Cheerleading National Championship, Myrtle Beach, SC, March 17-21, 2016, for 11 students and 5-7 staff and background checked chaperones, via coach bus, and funded by fundraising and students' families (\$400/student)

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

Mr. Bauer requested the following:

Move that the Board of Education approve NHS Agriscience students to New York Spring Carousel National Dairy Show, Syracuse, NY, April 8-9, 2016, for 5 students and 1 faculty chaperone, via Agriscience bus, and funded by Agriscience Production Account (students pay for their own meals).

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

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard noted the first of the policies up for a first read was mis-printed on the agenda and should be listed as Policy 3517. These are all mandated policies with highlighted areas reflecting CABE recommendations due to legislation. Mr. Bauer thanked Dr. Cutaia-Leonard and her team for their input on these policies. The five policies will be on the next agenda for approval.

9. Announcement of Future Meetings

Mr. Bauer reviewed upcoming meetings:

Monday, March 14, 2016, Board of Education Budget Presentation, 7:30 pm, NHS LMC

Tuesday, March 15, 2016, Building Committee, 6:30 pm, NHS LMC

Monday, March 21, 2016, Board of Education Meeting/Budget Workshop, 7:30 pm, BES

Monday, March 28, 2016, Board of Education Budget Presentation, 7:30 pm, NHS LMC

Tuesday, March 29, 2016, Building Committee, 6:30 pm, NHS LMC

10. Executive Session

Mr. Bauer requested a motion that the Board of Education enter Executive Session for the following purposes:

- A. *To discuss a proposed early retirement incentive plan for teachers and, accordingly, discuss records concerning collective bargaining, and*
- B. *A personnel issue; specifically, the Superintendent's Evaluation*

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

Invited to join in the session were Dr. Cutaia-Leonard and Ms. Culkin.

The Board moved to executive session at 8:47 pm and returned at 10:13 pm.

Ms. Van Aken entered the following: *Move that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent of Schools to offer an early retirement incentive plan to the membership of the Nonnewaug Teachers' Association, based upon the terms presented to the Board of Education, subject to any necessary further legal review.*

Seconded by Ms. Zmek, the **motion carried 7-0.**

Ms. Van Aken entered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. **Motion carried 7-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:17 pm.

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, 3/9/2016