

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held Monday, June 6, 2016 at Nonnewaug High School, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Board members George Bauer, Carol Ann Brown, John Chapman, Charles Cosgriff, Michael Devine, Janet Morgan, and Maryanne Van Aken; Superintendent Anna Cutaia-Leonard, Ed.D., Director of Finance and Operations Wayne McAllister, Administrators Alice Jones, Jodie Roden, Kimberly Culkin, Christina Fensore, Michael Rafferty, Susan Ruddock, Suzi Greene, Eric Bergeron, and Holly Wrenn; about fifteen faculty and staff members, about ten additional community members, one member of the press, and BoE clerk Deb Carlton.

Absent: Pamela Zmek

1. Call to Order

Mr. Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:50 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Bauer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 17, 2016.*

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

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the special meeting minutes of May 23, 2016.*

Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 6-0-1** with Mr. Chapman abstaining.

4. Presentations

Ms. Jones was proud to celebrate student achievement at Nonnewaug High School. She recognized Film Festival Award winners Jake Sumple and Raphael Lassuaze, who won Best Animation for their film "The Empathetic Fisherman," and Michael Classey, Dean Jones, Peter Lucera, Brian Viveros, Joe Wall and Ben Haggard, who won the Audience Choice Award for their fictional short film, "Pizza Again." Their teacher, Will Michael, also commended the students for their talent and effort, noting this was only their 3rd year competing. He explained that the audience choice award was significant because students who voted for our entry were essentially voting for it over the entry from their own school.

Ms. Jones called on Todd Gorski to speak about Nonnewaug's Halo Award. Mr. Gorski, the school's library medial specialist, was grateful to also have the opportunity to participate in the area of music, which was what he used to teach prior to coming here. Nonnewaug won Best Pit Orchestra this year, and Mr. Gorski noted that this was a great achievement for a young group of students, many of whom had never played in a pit orchestra before. Those musicians are: Jasmine Julian and Shannon Rugar on Brass; Rebecca Hibbard, Lindsey Ross, Ava Cawley, and Ms. Megan Robison on Strings; Adella Carlson, Grace Cuccia, Phoebe Hale, Kaitlyn Spencer, Javas Berry, Ed Boisits, and Mrs. Amy Perras on Woodwinds; and Emily Kern, Matt Ross, David Schmaller, and John Schmaller on Percussion.

Athletic Director Suzi Greene reported on Nonnewaug High School's Ted Alex Award, the school's fifth award in seven years, and awarded for best overall record in all sports in the Berkshire League, along with displaying the best sportsmanship – athletes, coaches and fans.

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard remarked that these types of achievements don't happen accidentally but are the result of courageous decision making on the part of the board and leadership, empowering students to advocate for themselves, and attracting and retaining high quality staff.

Ms. Culkin celebrated the contributions of retiring faculty and staff, reminding them that being a teacher is not what they do, but rather what they are, and that they will continue to teach even after they retire. She acknowledged:

Mary Ann Martins – 42 years of service (unable to attend)

John Lawless – 41 years of service

Terri Grabowski – 37 years of service

Phyllis Story – 36 years of service
Barbara Losee – 30 years of service
Sue Butkus – 30 years of service (unable to attend)
Linda Pfenninger – over 24 years of service
Arlene Campbell – 22 years of service
Laura Lasker – 20 years of service (unable to attend)
Eileen Carey – 8 years of service (unable to attend)

Each received a gift from the district, and enthusiastic standing ovation from the Board and audience.
Mr. Bauer added his thanks on behalf of the Board of Education.

5. Information and Proposals

A. Committee reports

For the Building Committee, Mr. Chapman reported the committee is moving along at a good pace, and will be meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday for selection of construction manager. A programming presentation to the board will be scheduled soon, he said.

For Finance, Mr. Devine noted the committee had met on 5/23 and heard year to date numbers as well as estimated surplus from Mr. McAllister, and discussed possible budget reductions.

B. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard recognized outgoing interim MES principal Holly Wrenn, commenting that sometimes people come into our lives for a short time but for an important purpose. Ms. Wrenn came when we needed her, made a difference for the year she was here, gave at least 100%, and jumped in fully to the position.

C. Board Chair's Comments

Mr. Bauer urged everyone to vote on the budget tomorrow. He also recognized Mr. Rafferty for having his book, *30 Big-Idea Lessons for Small Groups*, published.

6. Privilege of the Floor

Jim Crocker, Woodbury, noted that Region 14 has come a long way and recommended voting the current budget proposal in. He sees no reason not to give our kids a chance, urged not taking disagreements out on the kids, but rather coming in to the office and deal with problems directly.

7. Business Requiring Board Action

No action taken.

8. Announcement of Future Meetings

Mr. Bauer reviewed upcoming meetings:

- A. Tuesday, June 7, 2016, Building Committee, 6:00 pm, NHS LMC
- B. Wednesday, June 8, 2016, Building Committee, 6:00 pm, NHS LMC
- C. Thursday, June 9, 2016, Board of Education Retreat, 6:00 pm, NHS LMC
- D. Monday, June 20, 2016, Regular Board of Education, 7:30 pm, NHS LMC
- E. Tuesday, June 21, 2016, Building Committee, 6:30 pm, NHS LMC

9. Executive Session

Mr. Bauer requested the following: *Move that the Board of Education enter Executive Session for the purpose of a personnel matter; specifically, the Superintendent's evaluation.* Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 7-0**. The Board entered Executive Session at 8:37 pm. Dr. Cutaia-Leonard was invited to join.

Following the session, Mr. Bauer entered the following: *I hereby move that the Board of Education elect Dr. Anna Cutaia-Leonard to a new, three-year term as Superintendent of Schools for Regional School District No. 14, with her new term commencing on July 1, 2016, and ending on June 30, 2019.* Seconded by Ms. Van Aken, the **motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Bauer entered the following: *I hereby move that the Board authorize the Board Chair to execute a contract with the Superintendent on behalf of the Board, based upon the terms discussed in executive session and pending further legal review.* Seconded by Ms. Van Aken, 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 9:45 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, 6/14/2016