

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held Monday, March 21, 2016 at Bethlehem Elementary School, 92 East Street, Bethlehem, Connecticut.

Present: Board members George Bauer, Carol Ann Brown, John Chapman, 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, Susan Ruddock, Pamela Sordi and Holly Wrenn; faculty members Donna Marcinek, Will Michael and Kate Von Duntz; student representatives Michael Huhn, Casey Watson, Xavier Leone, Jack Rubacha and Max Wolff; Board Clerk Deb Carlton, one member of the press and, initially, about 20 community members.

### **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. Reports from Student Representatives**

Casey and Xavier updated the Board on activities at BES, including spirit day, fundraising, Hour of Code, tablets for K-1 students, gardening, and a St. Patrick's Day parade.

Jack and Max updated the Board on activities at MES, including student council fundraisers, 100<sup>th</sup> day of school challenge food bank collection, Valentines for residents of Spruce Bank, efforts in recycling, Hearts for Cora, and interactive website.

### **4. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 7, 2016*

Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 7-0-1** with Mr. Chapman abstaining.

### **5. Presentations**

Both Ms. Wrenn and Mr. Bergeron honored Region 14's Finest for their schools.

Mr. Bergeron recognized Pam Amabile, Lucinda Hart, Melissa Colby, Elaine Peck and, in his absence, Adam Brutting for their leadership and commitment as team leaders at Woodbury Middle School.

Ms. Wrenn recognized a number of faculty members who she termed "Mitchell Mentors" for their efforts above and beyond the workday to help students in a variety of ways. She honored Christie Koukoupolos, Jodie Roden, Diane Baker, Vinita Chapman, Sarah Bates and, in his absence, Henry Koziol for their commitment to students.

### **6. Information and Proposals**

#### **A. Committee reports**

For the ad hoc Safety Committee, Ms. Van Aken reported having met on 3/18/16. Topics included lock down drills, NIMS and ALICE training, and camera installation.

For the Building Committee, Mr. Chapman reported the committee is hard at work, meets every other week, has the architect in place, will have OPM finalized soon, and will next consider firms for construction manager.

#### **B. Superintendent's Report**

By way of introduction, Ms. Fensore explained that Michael Huhn had prepared a short video to illustrate what the Region 14 Transition Academy (RTA) means to him and his fellow students. For students requiring continued special education services after high school, the RTA provides transition programs for students 18-21 years old. Michael, she said, is particularly gifted in

the area of technology, and has even done trainings with Region 14 teachers. With some assistance from Ms. Marcinek, he provided an informative video, and a brochure, that gave an overview of the program, explained the components of the program, and highlighted many of the activities and projects the students are involved in.

C. Board Chair's Comments

Mr. Bauer invited the public to participate in any of the budget related activities planned during the coming days and weeks.

**7. Privilege of the Floor**

None.

**8. Business Requiring Board Action**

Mr. Bauer requested the following:

*Move that the Board of Education approve lease/purchase of audio-visual equipment compatible with Charter Communications for live broadcast of events and meetings and for communications among the four schools, at a cost not to exceed \$45,000, payable to Telvue, 1600 Horizon Way, Suite 500, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054.*

Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff.

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard acknowledged Mr. Michael for his work with the issues related to NEAT TV and asked him to speak to the merits of the motion.

Mr. Michael explained the system as one that would include a hypercaster server that would be the "brains" of the operation/system and would eliminate the problems experienced with the current server, which, as with much of our equipment, has outlived its natural life. He explained that the other schools would be able to contribute, upload and share videos because the system allows for users, with permissions, at all locations. There would be no need to physically come to NHS or send material to him directly; they could log in and upload files from their school. He described an emergency component allowing emergency personnel in town to post messages directly to NEAT TV. Also, TVs would operate independently at each school; there would be no cable involved but rather logging into the network.

Mr. Michael highlighted the trcaster portable studio which can be plugged in at any school or location for meetings, games, plays or other events and would allow live broadcast or live to tape broadcast that plays back directly from the unit. He stressed that the system does not require the users, the Region 14 personnel, to also serve a technicians, and he noted the lessening of wear on the equipment because it will not have to be continuously hooked up and unhooked to move from place to place. He answered questions from the Board regarding service, which is provided remotely 24/7 365, amount of storage, effect on bandwidth, modular updates (included), and HD readiness. He credited Mr. McAllister with the "negotiating muscle" to get the best price; Mr. McAllister explained the funding would come from the tech lease line, which can accommodate this expenditure. **The motion carried 8-0.**

Mr. Chapman requested the following:

*Move that the Board of Education approve the following policies as revised:*

- i. Policy 3517 Business/Non-Instructional Operations – Security of Buildings and Grounds*
- ii. Policy 5121 Students – Examination/Grading/Rating*
- iii. Policy 5131.911 Students – Safe School Climate*
- iv. Policy 6146.2 Instruction – Statewide Proficiency/Mastery Examinations*
- v. Policy 6171 Instruction – Special Education*

Entered by Ms. Morgan and seconded by Ms. Zmek, **the motion carried 8-0.**

During discussion of the Superintendent's proposed budget for 2016-2017, board members asked questions and received answers on a number of topics, such as:

Object codes in tab #2; clarification on the offsets of literacy tutors and specialists; object code for district wide tech support; numbers of students in CAD classes; increases in purchased services; variances in SPED tuition (decreases); options for the bond payment reserve and how to designate that as for the NHS project only; professional development and curriculum director lines; increases in transportation for athletics, vocational travel and field trips; increases in repairs; the inherent uncertainly related to special education when new students could enroll; and square footage per custodian.

**9. Announcement of Future Meetings**

Mr. Bauer reviewed upcoming meetings:

- A. Monday, March 28, 2016, Board of Education Budget Presentation, 7:30 pm, NHS LMC
- B. Tuesday, March 29, 2016, Building Committee, 6:30 pm, NHS LMC
- C. Monday, April 4, 2016, Board of Education Budget Workshop/Meeting, 7:30 pm, NHS LMC
- D. Monday, April 11, 2016, Public Hearing on the Budget, 7:00 pm, WMS Gymnasium
- E. Tuesday, April 12, 2016, Special Board of Education, 7:30 pm, NHS LMC

Ms. Van Aken entered a *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Ms. Zmek. **Motion carried 8-0.**  
The meeting adjourned at 9:34 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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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, 3/28/2016