

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held Monday, October 5, 2015 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, Maryanne Van Aken, and Pamela Zmek; Superintendent Anna Cutaia-Leonard, Ed.D., Director of Finance and Operations Wayne McAllister, Director of Special Services Christina Fensore, Director of Teaching and Learning Michael Rafferty, Director of Human Resources Kimberly Culkin, NHS Principal Alice Jones, NHS School Counselors Wendy Yatsenick and Susan Rossner, Board Clerk Deb Carlton, six community members and 1 member of the press.

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 September 21, 2015.*

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

5. Presentation

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard asked NHS students Adella Carlson and Jennie Wingard to join her at the podium while she reported to the Board on the students' academic accomplishment: Both Adella and Jennie were named Commended Students in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program. Commended Students are those who placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2016 competition by taking the 2014 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). "The young men and women being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success," commented a spokesperson for NMSC. "These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success."

The students received enthusiastic applause from the board and audience.

6. Information and Proposals

A. Committee reports

For the Bylaws/Policy/Ethics Committee, Mr. Chapman reported that the committee will move a set of policies forward to the Board later in the evening. The committee's next meeting is on 10/26.

For Public/Community Relations, Ms. Zmek reported her committee had just met and discussed ways to survey parents and what information is desired. Formats for public mailings, possibly in January and April were also discussed. Next meeting will be 11/2 at 6:30 pm.

B. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard invited Ms. Culkin to provide a Human Resources update. Ms. Culkin said she has been working on additions to the website, specifically staff information pages, to help staff be knowledgeable about things like policy revisions, legal updates, and information they may be unaware of regarding health care programs, FMLA, non-discrimination and Title IX training. She reviewed new hires this school year, and noted she is now doing exit interviews with departing staff. She spoke

of her participation, along with statewide representation, in the SIIP program. The focus this year is “developing human capital,” clearly a topic of interest to her. She also noted the onset of teacher negotiations.

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard reviewed a tentative budget calendar with the Board. She would like to finalize it at the next meeting, on October 19th, and will check with the towns to see if the March 21st date is good for the budget presentation to the Boards of Selectmen and Finance.

C. Board Chair's Comments

Mr. Bauer thanked the Policy committee for their work on updating the district's policies. He also thanked Dr. Cutaia-Leonard for following up with Board members' questions.

7. Privilege of the Floor

None.

8. Business Requiring Board Action

Ms. Van Aken entered the following: *Move that the Region 14 Board of Education approve the NHS World Language department trip to Firenze, Italy, Sunday, June 26 – Monday, July 4, 2016 for 13 students and 2 faculty chaperones, via school bus (to JFK Intl. Airport), air transportation, and coach bus tours in Italy, and financed by students' families (approx. \$3500 based on 13 paying travelers).* Second by Mr. Cosgriff. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Ms. Van Aken entered the following: *Move that the Region 14 Board of Education approve the WMS student trip to Washington, D.C., Wednesday, May 4 – Friday, May 6, 2016 for up to 103 students, 10 faculty chaperones, 1 administrator, and 1 nurse, via coach bus, and financed by students' families (approx. \$575 ea).* Second by Mr. Cosgriff. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Ms. Van Aken entered the following: *Move that the Region 14 Board of Education approve the WMS student trip to Quebec City, Canada, **Sunday, October 25-Tuesday, October 27** for approximately 60 students and 6 faculty chaperones via coach bus and financed by students' families (approximately \$500/ea).* Second by Mr. Cosgriff. It was explained that this motion was regarding a previously approved trip. Due to higher than expected interest on the part of students and their families, the trip was rescheduled in order to accommodate more students. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Mr. Chapman explained the list of policies for approval are those in the first packet received from CAFE Policy Services, and are mandated policies absent from Region 14's policy manual. He entered the following:

Move that the Region 14 Board of Education approve the first packet of mandated policies supplied and revised by CAFE Policy Services, having been reviewed and recommended by the Bylaws/Policy/Ethics Committee:

- a. *Policy 0200 Mission-Goals-Objectives: Goals and Objectives*
- b. *Policy 0521(a)(b) w/accompanying form: Mission-Goals-Objectives, Nondiscrimination*
- c. *Policy 4117.3 Personnel – Certified: Reduction in Teaching Staff*
- d. *Policy 4212.42 Personnel – Non Certified: Drug & Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers*
- e. *Policy 5125.11(a)(b) and accompanying form: Students, Health/Medical Records*
- f. *Policy 5145.4(a)(b) with accompanying administrative regulations and forms: Students, Nondiscrimination/discrimination complaints*
- g. *Policy 6141.312 (a)(b) and accompanying form: Instruction, Migrant Students*
- h. *Policy 6164.12 Instruction: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)*
- i. *Policy 6171.2 (a)(b)(c) Instruction: Special Education, Preschool Special Education*
- j. *Policy 5144.4 (a)(b) Students: Discipline, Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students*
- k. *Policy 6142.10 (a)(b) Instruction: Health Education Program*

Second by Ms. Zmek.

Mr. Bauer did a walk-through of each policy. The text box at the bottom of 6142.10(a) will be removed, and the HIPPA Privacy Officer listed in 5125.11(a) will be changed from the Director of Human Resources to the Director of Special Services. With these changes noted, the **motion carried 8-0**.

Ms. Van Aken entered the following: *Move that the Board of Education approve the 2015-2016 Regional School District 14 Board of Education Goals as presented.* Seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 8-0**.

9. Announcement of Future Meetings

Mr. Bauer reviewed upcoming meetings:

Monday, October 19, 2015, BoE Regular Meeting, 7:30 pm, BES

Monday, November 2, 2015, BoE Regular Meeting, 7:30 pm, NHS

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

10. Executive Session

Ms. Van Aken made a *motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of a. Discuss status regarding pending Elections Commission complaint; and b. Discussion of written opinion from Board legal counsel (protected by attorney client privilege)*, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. **Motion carried 8-0**. The Board entered Executive Session at 8:25 pm. Dr. Cutaia-Leonard and Mr. McAllister were invited to join.

11. Adjournment

Following Executive Session, Ms. Van Aken entered a *motion to adjourn*, second by Mr. Cosgriff. **Motion carried 8-0**. The meeting adjourned at 10:10 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, 10/14/2015