

A Special Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held Monday, March 28, 2016 in the Nonnewaug High School Library Media Center, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Board members George Bauer, Carol Ann Brown, Michael Devine, Janet Morgan, and Pamela Zmek. Also, Superintendent Anna Cutaia-Leonard and Director of Finance/Operations Wayne McAllister; Selectmen Leonard Assard, David Butkus, William Butterly, David Deakin, Michael Gransky and Barbara Perkinson; Board of Finance members Alexander DeSorbo, Nancy Grasing, Richard Mastroianni, William Monti, Michael O'Neil, Stephen Sordi, Steven Tranguch, Christine Vogel; Region 14 Administrators Kimberly Culkin, Christina Fensore and Michael Rafferty; BoE Clerk Debra Carlton, one member of the press, and two additional members of the community.

Absent: John Chapman, Charles Cosgriff, and Maryanne Van Aken

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm. Mr. Bauer led the Pledge of Allegiance, and asked all elected officials to introduce themselves.

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard provided a summary of the program initiatives and improvements she hopes to be able to accomplish with the budget, commenting that she is grateful for the practice of presenting to the elected officials and hearing their feedback.

Following her presentation, Dr. Cutaia-Leonard and the Board heard comments and answered questions from the officials on line items and topics, such as:

- Background on using Kelly services for substitutes
- Pool location and any insurance increases involved in starting a swim team; also, concerns about number of swimmers and supporting existing teams
- Grade levels taking chromebooks home and costs for damage/replacement, and who incurs the cost
- Level to which staff are fluent in use of the chromebooks, and how they affect education
- Evidence that 9th graders taking PSAT improves their performance in subsequent year's testing
- Reasons for having the same number of literacy specialists at elementary schools of different sizes; likewise, math specialist, OT/PT
- Agriscience costs and revenue; what "regular" tuition means; and grant amounts
- Benefits of ranking students' performance against other schools; how student success is measured
- Effects of changes in staffing in IT
- Debt service for the NHS building project and when that begins
- Questions concerning code 112 and costs associated with security cameras
- Energy costs and questions about whether we can do better
- Suggestion that policy limit class size
- The need to support the Agriscience program while finding ways to bring in more money from the state/sending towns
- Questions on what may be driving the decline in enrollment
- Detail on total number of reductions in FTE.

The special meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 9:34 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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