

A Special Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held Monday, March 14, 2016, in the NHS Library Media Center, 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. Also, Superintendent Anna Cutaia-Leonard, Wayne McAllister, Alice Jones, Eric Bergeron, Susan Ruddock, Holly Wrenn, Bill Nemec, Suzi Greene, Pam Sordi, and Kim Culkin; also, faculty and staff members Katie Yocis, Shelley Stone, Jean McDevitt, and Maria Duncan; one member of the press, clerk Deb Carlton, and about 30 additional members of the community.

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm by Mr. Bauer, who then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Bauer invited Dr. Cutaia-Leonard to present her proposed budget.

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard began by acknowledging March as Board of Education Appreciation Month. The Agriscience department generously provided a bottle of their own, freshly bottled, maple syrup for each board member, and the audience offered a round of applause to the Board for their service.

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard presented a power point description of the 2016-17 budget, first highlighting accomplishments this past year made possible through the budget. The amount proposed for next year's budget is \$33,154,406 representing a 1.28% increase. She gave a historical perspective of budget increases in Region 14, with a 10 year average of 2.29%. She explained that the leadership team had already taken 4 reviews of an original 4.7% increase. She reviewed a comparison by object in major line items; discussed debt service; and provided a pie chart illustration of how a full $\frac{3}{4}$ of the budget is comprised of salaries and benefits. She included elementary enrollment projections, and changes in FTEs planned at all grade levels. She outlined investments needed to support improvement initiatives in the schools for next year, including Literacy and Math Specialists in the elementary and middle schools in response to the DMC's finding that greater support by those most qualified to deliver it is needed earlier in students' educations for those who struggle. Improvements at NHS included new text for ELA classes, PSAT for all freshmen, and a better designed freshman orientation to improve the transition from middle school. She provided detail on improvements in high school athletics and music district wide, as well as in areas of technology and curriculum. There is also funding in the budget for safety/security enhancements, health and wellness initiatives, and maintenance needs.

Mr. Bauer suggested to the board that it take time to review the information provided in detail in notebooks prepared by Mr. McAllister. Before next week's meeting, board members were urged to send questions to him or Dr. Cutaia-Leonard so that complete answers can be given then.

He reviewed upcoming dates/times for budget related meetings and events.

Ms. Van Aken entered a *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. The **motion carried 8-0**. The special meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at approximately 8:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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