

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held Monday, January 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, Maryann Van Aken, and Pamela Zmek; Superintendent Anna Cutaia-Leonard, Ed.D., Director of Finance and Operations Wayne McAllister; Director of Instruction Sue Domanico; Principals Alice Jones and MaryLou Torre and Vice Principal Eric Bergeron; Board Clerk Deb Carlton; about ten members of the community and one member of the press.

1. **Call to Order**

Mr. Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Bauer led the Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard introduced Officer Bobby Dickens, newly appointed School Resource Officer for Mitchell Elementary School. Ms. Torre spoke about how excited the students are to have him at school, and how warmly he has been received.

3. **Student Representative**

No report.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Bauer requested *a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 15, 2014*. Entered by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Mr. Devine, the **motion carried 7-0-1** with Ms. Van Aken abstaining.

5. **Presentations**

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard welcomed Ms. Jones and Mr. Bergeron to speak about teaming at Woodbury Middle School.

Ms. Jones explained that teaming has been at that school for 20 years, in different variations, and that it is integral to providing instruction to young adolescents. Teaming integrates content areas, and also addresses social and emotional well-being. She explained the various considerations for teaming; provided sample schedules for each grade, and noted the "block schedule" in grade 6 that helps ease elementary students into the multi-teacher learning environment. Those students have an aclub incorporated into their daily schedule, for an "extra hit" in each content area. Grades 7-8 have aclub, too, to include world language. She stressed the importance of the literacy component and the grade 6 transition.

Ms. Morgan understood the 6 teachers needed in grade 6; she asked how many 7-8 grade teachers Ms. Jones anticipates for the coming year. Ms. Jones predicts 6 in grade 7 and 7 in grade 8.

Mr. Cosgriff understood the limitations of teacher certifications in middle school staffing. Ms. Jones confirmed that grade 6 teachers generally hold K-6 certs; teachers in grades 7-8 generally hold 7-12 certs, making it more difficult to move staff, and sometime leading to the middle school moving grade 6 teachers down to the elementary level.

Mr. Chapman commented that the grade 6 teachers might be able to offer insight to the high school faculty on how to utilize larger blocks of time, since that school goes to a block schedule next year.

6. **Information and Proposals**

A. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard reported on modifications to the MAP testing schedule – calling it a full leadership team effort that will lead to recommendations for next year. Information will go out to parents on Friday.

She noted she is knee deep in budget development; has received the first round of input from departments; and the process involved many moving pieces.

She noted a personnel change at NHS: Robyn Apicella will be leaving for medical reasons and William Leete will step in as interim assistant principal beginning Monday and continuing until the end of June.

Lastly, she mentioned the cones blocking the drop off circle at NHS during school hours. This is being done for reasons of safety and security and was implemented at the recommendation of the Ad hoc Safety Committee.

B. Board Members' Comments

Mr. Bauer welcomed everyone back after the holiday break. He noted that correspondence was sent to the state legislators as described in last month's board meeting, and he and Dr. Cutaia-Leonard will follow up with those legislators in a meeting which has been scheduled. He paraphrased a letter sent by Ms. Morgan and the WFD in praise of the agriscience students' presentation at the last board meeting, describing their poise, achievement, and how well they and their teacher represent the school district.

Ms. Brown noted the Nonnewaug Athletic Club event and a good newspaper article about how well our college freshmen are doing. She noted the next meeting of the Public Relations committee is 1/20 at 6:30 pm. The school PTO leaders have been invited to attend.

7. Privilege of the Floor

Tom Arras, Woodbury, read a prepared statement outlining a timeline of events following the 2013 building referendum. He noted that he and others have appealed the most recent court ruling in favor of the district, pledging to keep going until they can find a judge who will rule in their favor.

8. New Business requiring Board action

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard provided the board with materials to consider as the 2015-16 district calendar is developed. Education Connection has provided recommendations for a regional calendar, along with guidelines explaining what the school calendar should include. She provided the Ed Connection sample calendar, the rationale, and a draft version of the Region 14 calendar, asking for any input the board might have on first glance.

Mr. Cosgriff prefers the 7 day calendar used by Ed Connection.

Ms. Morgan preferred the format of the Ed Connection calendar, feeling it was much easier to read and understand.

Mr. Bauer liked the idea of PD on 2/16. This was explained as a change from prior years when 5/27 would have been utilized, but that date was deemed too late in the year to be of much use.

Ms. Zmek wondered why there are "regional PD day" and Dr. Cutaia-Leonard replied it is intended for common practices and collaboration, as well as the possibility of contracting for shared PD services among districts.

She asked the board to forward questions/concerns about the calendar prior to the next meeting, as she will hope to have approval of it then. A draft version will be available on the website when it is completed.

9. Future Meetings

Mr. Bauer reviewed upcoming meetings:

Tuesday, January 20, 2015, BoE Meeting, BES, 7:30 pm

Monday, January 26, 2015, BoE Bylaws Workshop, NHS LMC, 6:30 pm

10. Adjournment

Mr. Devine entered a *motion to adjourn*.

Seconded by Ms. Van Aken the **motion carried 8-0**.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 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, 1/9/2015