

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held Monday, March 2, 2015 at Nonnewaug High School, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Board members George Bauer, Carol Ann Brown, 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 Instruction Sue Domanico; Leadership Team members Alice Jones, Eric Bergeron, MaryLou Torre, Andrew O'Brien, Susan Ruddock, Kim Culkin, Bill Nemec, Jeff Turner, and William Leete; Board Clerk Deb Carlton; about seven members of the community and two members of the press.

Absent: John Chapman

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. Student Representatives

No report.

4. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 18, 2015*. Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 5-0-2**, with Ms. Brown and Mr. Cosgriff abstaining.

5. Information and Proposals

A. Committee Reports

Ms. Van Aken reported for the Public/Community Relations Committee, which met on 2/18 and discussed methods of communication.

Ms. Morgan reported that her committee met about transportation, specifically the bus contract, on 2/26.

Mr. Devine reported meeting on that night, as well, to review financial reports and to approve quarterly transfers.

Mr. Van Aken also reported that the Ad hoc Safety Committee met to hear about new company involved in data collection. She talked about progress with camera installation, and the status of background checks.

B. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard her 2015-2016 Budget Proposal, describing it as a means to our goals, and in service to our mission. She thanked the leadership team, and stressed that the children of Region 14 is who this budget is for.

She offered much evidence of the district's reasons to celebrate and highlighted accomplishments of our students, and staff, as well as positive parent feedback. She reviewed improvements of the past year, referring to them as returns on investment.

She gave an historical perspective of budget increases over the past 10 years, and noted that, beginning in 2009-2010, the district's budget increases were less than the rate of inflation and that, since then, we have lost ground on teaching and learning. Her multi-year budget planning, she said, will mirror the school/district improvement plans.

She described the budget process leading to the 2.12% increase she is seeking, and identified main budget drivers, a comparison by object, and a visual representation of where budget dollars go. She outlined main budget investment areas: literacy support and elementary reading intervention resources; instrumental music and block scheduling at NHS; bringing the age 18-21 program into the district; and continuing with improvements in the area of technology. She intends to reorganize central office to provide more teacher support and development; develop and provide consistency and fidelity to curriculum, and lay groundwork for a 7 year revision cycle; continue with security and safety improvements by installing cameras in all schools; and committing to maintenance needs long deferred.

Mr. McAllister provided board members with binders with all budget detail, and walked them through the notebook.

Mr. Bauer asked for and received confirmation that the updated Prowda numbers were used when predicting needs based on enrollment.

He asked for and received confirmation that the latest information on utilization from our broker was used to estimate insurance costs.

He also asked for and received confirmation that initiatives were all identified in appropriate categories.

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard requested that any questions be submitted prior to Monday so that answers could be prepared.

C. Board Members' Comment

Mr. Bauer noted that he had attended the Robotics competition, and also mentioned that for those trying unsuccessfully to view board meetings on NEAT TV – due to problems with Charter Communications – the meetings can also be viewed via the district website.

6. Privilege of the Floor

None.

7. New Business requiring Board action

Ms. Van Aken entered the following motion: *that the Board of Education adopt as amended Policy 4010 Personnel – Recruitment and Employment.* Second by Mr. Cosgriff. Ms. Zmek noted that community members were another group to be included in the policy as one to be involved in the process. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Ms. Van Aken entered the following motion: *that the Board of Education delete Policy 2151 – Recruitment and Selection of Administrative Employees in light of amendments to Policy 4010.* Seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 7-0.**

8. Future Meetings

Mr. Bauer reviewed upcoming meetings:

Wednesday, March 4, 2015, Budget Presentation, BES, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, March 9, 2015, Budget Workshop with Leadership Team, 7:30 pm, NHS

Tuesday, March 10, 2015, Budget Presentation, MES, 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, March 10, 2015, Budget Presentation, MES, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 11, 2015, Budget Workshop, NHS, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, March 16, 2015, Budget Presentation, Boards of Selectmen/Finance, 7:30 p.m., NHS LMC

10. Adjournment

Ms. Van Aken entered a *motion to adjourn.*

Seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 7-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 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, 3/4/2015