

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held Monday, June 15, 2015 at Nonnewaug High School, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Board members George Bauer, Carol Ann Brown, John Chapman, 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, Ed.D.; WMS Principal Eric Bergeron; NHS Physic Teacher Michael Murphy, Director of Special Services (beginning 7/1) Christina Fensore; Student Representative Stephanie Lewis; Board Clerk Deb Carlton and, during the presentation portion of the meeting, at least 50 additional members of the community.

Absent: Charles Cosgriff

### **1. Call to Order**

Mr. Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

### **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Bauer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **3. Student Representatives**

Ms. Lewis gave a report on recent activities in all four schools, including concerts, field days, DARE and moving up ceremonies at the elementary schools, and dances, class trips, concerts, art shows, spring sports updates, and graduation details for the middle and high school.

### **4. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 1, 2015*. Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Devine, the **motion carried 6-0-1** with Mr. Chapman abstaining.

### **5. Presentations**

Mr. Bauer began the presentation portion of the evening by recognizing the contributions of senior student representative to the BoE, Stephanie Lewis. He presented her with a gift from the board, and she thanked the board for a very valuable experience.

Mr. Bergeron recognized the WMS Warrior Council as Region 14's Finest. The twenty-eight students, representing grades 6-8, along with their 3 faculty advisors, were praised for their leadership skills in planning, organizing, collaborating and carrying out beneficial activities at their school. The students and faculty members accepted certificates as well as hearty applause from the audience.

Mr. Murphy next introduces members of Team Beta and their mentors, and thanked the board for allowing them the opportunity to provide an update on the team's recent accomplishments. Those present included: Philip Michener, Courtney Gibson, Alex Williams, Molly Humphreys, Braeden Mathieson, Nick Monteiro, Ben Haggard, Mr. David Nichols, Kate Rugar, Ron East, Max Bourgeois, Megan Belval, Matt Ross, Josh Goldwag, and Charlie Doback. Many of the team members and mentors spoke about their experiences. In addition, graduates James Whyte and Chris Keane communicated through videos and explained how their participation in Team Beta helped them in college and beyond. The team demonstrated this year's robot to the board, as well.

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard emphasized the importance of Mr. Murphy's leadership, which initiated a standing ovation for him.

## **6. Information and Proposals**

### A. Board Committee Reports

**Ad hoc Safety:** Ms. Van Aken reported the committee met today and saw a demonstration of the external camera system, for which she thanked Mr. Paul Ciotti. The committee also had an update regarding Social Sentinel, and heard that 350 volunteers have been background checked.

### B. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard introduced Christina Fensore, who will assume her role as Director of Special Services on July 1. Ms. Fensore expressed how pleased she is to be joining the Region 14 leadership team.

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard offered an update on the results of her entry plan meetings. She thanked the upwards of 250 school and community members for the open and honest communication about what is working well in the district, and what is not, and what needs to be done moving forward. She reviewed the four board goals, stressed that baseline data is needed, and highlighted four areas consistently mentioned as Region 14's strengths: the students, staff, supportive school environment, and the Agriscience program. She heard areas to work on, and they were: communication, consistent leadership, community unity, curriculum/programming, district goals, educational values, and the extent to which Region 14 is valued. Her next steps will include a theory of action, district improvement plan, and enhanced communication.

### C. Board chair's comments

Mr. Bauer noted the next board workshop, a follow up meeting, on Monday, 6/22, at 6 pm.

## **7. Privilege of the Floor**

Bob Kolesnik, Woodbury, reiterated his desire to serve as the board's legal counsel. He can deliver the things in Dr. Cutaia-Leonard's presentation, in terms of buy-in and trust. He is passionate about wanting to be the board's attorney, not because he needs the work but because he wants it. He feels the board needs to analyze how much legal work it has – if it has more than his firm can handle, then too much in the way of legal services are being used, he thinks. He understands it would be difficult to change from the lawyer who has competently served us to date.

## **8. New Business Requiring Board Action**

Mr. Chapman entered a *motion that the Region 14 Board of Education approve the Educator Evaluation Program as presented*. Seconded by Ms. Van Aken, the **motion carried 7-0**.

Mr. Chapman entered a *motion that the Region 14 Board of Education approve the Administrator Evaluation and Support Plan as presented*. Seconded by Ms. Van Aken, the **motion carried 7-0**.

## **9. Future Meetings**

Mr. Bauer reviewed upcoming meetings:

- A. Monday, July 6, 2015, BoE Reorganizational Meeting, 7:30 pm, BES
- B. Monday, August 17, 2015, BoE Regular Meeting, 7:30 pm, NHS LMC

## **10. Executive Session**

Ms. Van Aken entered a *motion that the Board of Education enter Executive Session for the purpose of a personnel matter; specifically, the Superintendent's evaluation*. Seconded by Mr. Chapman, the **motion carried 7-0**.

Mr. Bauer called the session to order at 9:10 pm. Also present were Ms. Brown, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Devine, Ms. Morgan and Ms. Van Aken. Mr. Cosgriff and Ms. Zmek were absent.

Executive session concluded at 10:28 pm.

In open session, Ms. Van Aken entered the following motion: *I hereby move that the Board of Education elect Dr. Anna Cutaia-Leonard to a new, three-year term as Superintendent of Schools for Regional School District No. 14, with her new term commencing on July 1, 2015, and ending on June 30, 2018*

Seconded by Mr. Devine, the **motion carried 6-0.**

Ms. Van Aken entered the following motion: *I hereby move that the Board authorize the Board Chair to execute a contract with the Superintendent on behalf of the Board, based upon the terms discussed in executive session and pending further legal review.*

Seconded by Mr. Chapman, the **motion carried 6-0.**

#### **11. Adjournment**

Ms. Van Aken entered a *motion to adjourn*, second by Mr. Devine. **Motion carried 6-0.** The meeting adjourned at 10:31 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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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, 6/23/2015