

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held Monday, April 6, 2015 at Woodbury Middle School, 67 Washington Avenue, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Board members George Bauer, Carol Ann Brown, John Chapman, Charles Cosgriff, Michael Devine, Janet Morgan, Maryanne Van Aken, and Pamela Zmek; Superintendent Anna Cutaia-Leonard, Ed.D., Director of Instruction Sue Domanico; Leadership Team members Alice Jones, Eric Bergeron, MaryLou Torre, Andrew O'Brien, Susan Ruddock, Kim Culkin; Board Clerk Deb Carlton; and two additional members of the community.

1. Call to Order

Mr. Bauer called the meeting to order at 9:45 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 March 2, 2015. Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the motion carried 7-0-1 with Mr. Chapman abstaining.

5. Information and Proposals

A. Superintendent's Report - None

B. Board Members' Comment

Mr. Bauer noted many student activities going on in the schools, and urged everyone to get out and see as many as possible.

C. Privilege of the Floor

Tom Arras, Woodbury, requested an answer from the district to his question(s) during the public hearing regarding special education. Also, regarding the bond issue, he wants to know steps that have been taken, or policies created, to ensure an oversight can't happen again. The process wasn't followed, he said.

Mr. Chapman responded that the board is reviewing all policies and procedures.

D. New Business requiring Board action

Mr. Chapman entered the following: *Move that the Board of Education adopt the Superintendent's 2105-2016 Budget in the amount of \$32,736,726.* Second by Ms. Van Aken. Discussion followed.

Mr. Bauer thanked the community for questions, and Dr. Cutaia-Leonard and her leadership team for assembling a budget that supports a vision of excellence and board goals. He supports the budget, noting it comes in lower than other in DRG-C. Mr. Cosgriff also supports the budget, and appreciates the idea of career readiness, and work experiences prior to graduation. Ms. Van Aken supports the budget and thanked Dr. Cutaia-Leonard and her team.

Mr. Chapman echoed previous comments, urged looking at the last 10 years' worth of budgets and realizing enrollment is not a stagnant metric. 1.8 – 1.1% is the rolling average which means we have been running lean and not making needed investment in areas such as curriculum. He also supports the best use of staff in place now.

Ms. Zmek also supports the budget and putting it out to the community as it is.

Ms. Morgan asked that the questions from the hearing regarding special education be addressed, and she, too, supports the budget.

Mr. Devine felt the questions asked at the hearing were on topics covered in the budget workshops. He is satisfied with the information given, was particularly impressed with the student who spoke, and commended Dr. Cutaia-Leonard and Mr. McAllister on a great job with the budget.

The motion previously entered and seconded carried 8-0.

Mr. Bauer entered a motion to add the following to the agenda: *Motion to call the Annual District Meeting on Monday, May 4, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Nonnewaug High School concerning the 2015-2016 budget, with said Meeting to be adjourned to a referendum on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury, Connecticut.* Second by Ms. Van Aken. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Mr. Chapman entered the following: *Move that the Board of Education name Saturday, June 27, 2015 as NHS Graduation Date.* Second by Ms. Van Aken. Discussion followed regarding various options for a graduation date other than 6/27; however, in order to maintain 181 student days and graduate the seniors on a Saturday, the date of 6/27 was the best option. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Mr. Chapman entered the following: *Move that the Board of Education approve the NHS DECA International Career Development Conference, Orlando, FL, April 24-29, 2015, for two (2) students and one (1) faculty chaperone, via air transportation, and funded by DECA and students (\$1250 per person/ \$500 paid by students).* Seconded by Ms. Van Aken, **the motion carried 8-0.**

Mr. Chapman entered the following: *Move that the Board of Education approve the NHS Team Beta field trip to the FIRST Robotics New England District Championships at WPI, Worcester, MA, April 9-11, 2015, for twenty (20) students and five (5) chaperones, transportation provided by parents, funded by Team Student Activity Account and students (approx. \$150 paid by student).* Seconded by Ms. Van Aken, **the motion carried 8-0.**

Mr. Chapman entered the following: *Move that the Board of Education approve the NHS Team Beta field trip to the FIRST Robotics World Championship Competition, St. Louis, MO, April 22-25, 2015, for twenty (20) students and five (5) chaperones, via air transportation, funded by Team Student Activity Account and students (approx. \$500 paid by student).* Seconded by Ms. Van Aken, **the motion carried 8-0.**

Mr. Bauer requested the following: *Motion to call the Annual District Meeting on Monday, May 4, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Nonnewaug High School concerning the 2015-2016 budget, with said Meeting to be adjourned to a referendum on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury, Connecticut.* Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, **the motion carried 8-0.**

E. Future Meetings

Mr. Bauer reviewed upcoming meetings:

Monday, April 20, 2015, Regular BoE, **Bethlehem Elementary School**, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, May 4, 2015, Annual District Meeting, NHS, 7:30 pm (date corrected from one listed on agenda)

Tuesday, May 5, 2015, Budget Referendum, Bethlehem Town Hall and Woodbury Senior/Community Center, 6:00 am – 8:00 pm (date corrected from one listed on agenda)

Tuesday, May 19, 2015, Regular BoE, NHS, 7:30 pm

It was further noted that the District Meeting on May 4, 2015 will be followed by a regular BoE meeting.

Mr. Chapman indicated his intention to hold a Policy subcommittee meeting on April 13th. Ms. Morgan and Mr. Devine will also have committee meetings that evening, so the following schedule was proposed: Facilities/Enrollment/Transportation at 6:00 pm on 4/13; Finance at 6:30 pm; and Bylaws/Policy/Ethics at 7:00 pm. Meeting agendas will be posted.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Chapman entered a *motion to adjourn*.
Seconded by Ms. Van Aken the **motion carried 8-0**.
The meeting adjourned at 10:22 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, 4/10/2015