

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held Monday, August 18, 2014 at Nonnewaug High School, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Interim Superintendent Frank Sippy, Ph.D.; Board members George Bauer, Carol Ann Brown, Charles Cosgriff, Michael Devine, Janet Morgan, Maryanne Van Aken and Pamela Zmek; Director of Finance and Operations Wayne McAllister; Director of Instruction Sue Domanico; Principals Alice Jones, Andrew O'Brien, MaryLou Torre and Susan Ruddock; Technology Director Paul Ciotti; Board Clerk Deb Carlton; one member of the press and approximately 10 community members and guests

Absent: John Chapman

#### I. Call to Order

Mr. Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm. and led the Pledge of Allegiance

#### II. Review of the Minutes

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 7, 2014.*

Entered by Mr. Cosgriff, and seconded by Ms. Van Aken, the **motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve minutes of the Special Meeting of July 16, 2014.* Entered by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Ms. Van Aken, the **motion carried 5-0-2**, with Mr. Bauer and Ms. Zmek abstaining.

#### III. Presentation(s)/Reports to the Board

Dr. Sippy introduced Greg Dandio of the Triflection Group to present findings to the Board regarding the district's firewall and internet filtering.

Mr. Dandio expressed gratitude to the staff for being helpful and forthcoming as he analyzed the firewall set up. He stressed that R14's network is secure. He presented a brief powerpoint and then followed with comments and took questions from the Board. He offered a list of 8 website categories he would recommend unblocking.

Ms. Morgan asked whether all the recommendations can be implemented, and Dr. Sippy replied that they all have to varying degrees. The recommendations will be teased out with administrators on 8/20 and he stressed that communication needs to be focused.

Mr. Devine expressed concern about unblocking email sites, for fear of viruses. He asked whether the CSDE offers guidance.

Mr. Dandio said they do, through CEN, and all districts are connected in some way with CEN.

Mr. Bauer wondered if the Acceptable Use Policy needs updating. Mr. Dandio imagined the technology committee would take care of that, but nothing major is needed in terms of revision.

Mr. Bauer recognized State Senator Rob Kane and State Representative Craig Minor, who were both in attendance. He invited them to say a few words as this topic had been of interest to them.

Mr. Kane acknowledged that student access to the internet at school is an issue around the state, and he gave the district credit for tackling it head on. He feels these decisions should be made at the local level and said he was simply here to listen. He felt the district has this under control.

Mr. Minor thought it was significant to examine under whose authority these decisions are being made. If the technology committee does not include BoE representation, when these questions come up, will Board policy be followed or will it be handled internally. He believes legislation on this issue will come up this year.

Dr. Sippy reminded Representative Minor that the BoE are policy makers; it is the responsibility of administrators to carry out policy and to make instructional recommendations.

#### IV. Strategic Plan Status and Update

Ms. Domanico indicated that the Strategic Plan was a topic of the recent administrators' retreat. It will be bumped out to a 3-4 year plan, and a meeting will be convened to address that after school reopens.

**V. Privilege of the Floor**

Dave Lampart, Woodbury, thanked the BoE for its quick action on the internet filtering issue.

**VI. Facilities, Finance and Operations Update**

Mr. McAllister gave a brief update on facilities projects: the asbestos work at MES was successfully completed; the partial roof replacement at WMS is 99% done; the high school awaits parts so the boiler project can be started.

**VII. Safety Update**

Ms. Van Aken reported that her committee met on Friday and we are on track with the safety report and will submit it on time to the state. She thanked Mr. McAllister for his efforts to make that happen, as well as Ms. Morgan and the administrators. Also, we are waiting to hear back from Atlanta regarding our application for background check services. Dr. Sippy will include a letter on the website explaining new requirements for volunteers.

**VIII. Other Business**

Mr. Bauer requested motions to add several items to the agenda:

He requested a *motion to add to the agenda discussion/possible action on the Region 14 Board of Education's appointment of a Superintendent of Schools*. Entered by Mr. Devine and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 7-0**.

He requested a *motion to add authorizing the BoE Chairman to enter into negotiations with the new superintendent*. Entered by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Mr. Devine, the **motion carried 7-0**.

He requested a *motion to add discussion/possible action on an amendment to Board Policy 1212*. Entered by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Ms. Van Aken, the **motion carried 7-0**.

Mr. Bauer asked that the following motion be entered: *That the Regional School District 14 Board of Education, on the recommendation of its Search Committee and pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §10-157, hereby elects Anna Cutaia-Leonard as its Superintendent of Schools with her initial term commencing on or about October 20, 2014, in accordance with the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Regional School District 14 Board of Education and Anna Cutaia-Leonard dated August 18, 2014, and subject to the execution of a contract between the parties.*

Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. Discussion followed.

Mr. Bauer expressed appreciation to all members of the search teams and committees, particularly the Personnel Committee.

Ms. Van Aken thanked CES, Tom Jokubaitis and Sal Corda, who were present, appreciated their hard work toward this very exciting conclusion. She was pleased that complete consensus was reached on the choice of superintendent.

Mr. Cosgriff looks forward to welcoming Dr. Cutaia-Leonard, values her enthusiasm and knowledge, and looks forward to seeing signs of progress.

Ms. Zmek was wowed by the interview process and welcomed Dr. Cutaia-Leonard as well.

Ms. Brown looks forward to commitment for the long haul, looks forward to her energy, sizzle, was very pleased the board and committees all felt the same way.

Mr. Devine welcomed her aboard, noted her energy, enthusiasm, and her desire to be here.

Ms. Morgan looks forward to seeing her pink hard hat, and welcomed her as well.

**The motion previously made and seconded carried 7-0.**

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard was asked to say a few words. She expressed how humbled and overwhelmed she is by the comments and affirmations. She, too, was wowed by the interview process and could see that everyone here has their eyes on the prize and knows it's all for the kids. She hopes to build on the great things already happening here, can't wait to see what we hope and dream for our kids and what we accomplish together.

Mr. Bauer asked that the following motion be entered: *That the Chairman of the Board of Education is hereby authorized to execute said Memorandum of Understanding and enter into further negotiations for a contract with Anna Cutaia-Leonard to serve as Superintendent of Schools, with said contract subject to approval by the Board and necessary legal review.* Entered by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Ms. Van Aken, the **motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion for discussion and possible action on amending Board Policy 1212 to exclude (2) references to felony convictions*, entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. Ms. Van Aken explained that the safety committee was interested in removing references to felony convictions as the only type of conviction disqualifying volunteer service. The committee is interested in giving the district more flexibility in disallowing volunteers who may have non-felony or misdemeanor records for offenses that could put children at risk. Ms. Zmek asked how often volunteers would be re-checked and Dr. Sippy presumed annually. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the field trip for Agriscience Students to Royal Winter Fair, Toronto, Canada, November 13-16, 2014, for 40 students and 8 chaperones, via coach bus, funded by students' families.* Entered by Ms. Zmek and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the field trip for NHS Music students to Music Fest, Orlando, FL, April 9-15, 2015, for approximately 55 students and 5 chaperones, via coach bus, funded by students' families.* Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the edited Teacher Evaluation Document*, entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Ms. Zmek. Ms. Domanico explained the minor changes to the document which had previously been shared with the Board and which the Board had received electronically. The state has already issued its approval of the plan and it simply needs BoE approval to be finalized. **The motion carried 4-0-3** with Ms. Morgan, Mr. Devine and Mr. Cosgriff abstaining, not having had a chance to review the changes.

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the Cafeteria Workers' Association Negotiated Contract for the period 7/1/2014-6/30/2015*, entered by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Ms. Van Aken. Mr. McAllister explained this is a one year agreement due to ongoing discussions about utilizing food service companies in the future. A decision on that will come by January. Net savings on the agreement is \$11,548.26 and fiscal impact is a savings of \$3,739.76. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of a master agreement, equipment schedule no. 03, an escrow agreement, and related instruments.* Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Ms. Morgan. Mr. McAllister explained this is for phase 3 of a 5 year technology lease agreement, at \$250,000 per year and with no financial impact to the 2014-15 budget. Mr. Bauer asked if equipment has been identified for the 2014-15 year and was told it has, with payments similar to current ones. Mr. Bauer then modified the *motion: To approve the resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of a master lease agreement, equipment schedule No. 03, an escrow agreement, and related instruments, and determining other matters in connection therewith.* Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Ms. Morgan, the amended **motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Bauer requested a motion to approve the appointment of Hooker & Holcombe, Inc., 65 LaSalle Road, West Hartford, CT 06107 as Pension Actuaries, entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Devine. Mr. McAllister explained that John Mansur had retired after 30 years. H&H are competitive in both scope and cost.

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the preparation of an irrevocable OPEB Trust Agreement by Marie Phelan and Pullman and Comley, and to establish the irrevocable OPEB Trust Account with Fiduciary Investment Advisors, LLC, 100 Northfield Drive, Windsor, CT 06095.* Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Ms. Zmek. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to opt out of the CT Healthy Foods Program for 2014-15*. Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 7-0**.

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to close out the 2013-14 fiscal year budget and approve the projected encumbrances as presented*. Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 7-0**.

IX. **Adjournment**

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to adjourn*.

Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Ms. Morgan, the **motion carried 7-0**.

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 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, 8/22/14