

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held Monday, April 20, 2015 at Bethlehem Elementary School, 92 East Street, Bethlehem, 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 Finance/Operations Wayne McAllister, Director of Instruction Sue Domanico; Board Clerk Deb Carlton; and (for Region 14's Finest) about 25 members of the community.

1. Call to Order

Mr. Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Bauer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Student Representatives

Tabled.

4. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 6, 2015*. Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **Motion carried 8-0**.

5. Presentation – Region 14's Finest

Susan Ruddock, Principal of Bethlehem Elementary School, honored her school secretary, Linda Butkus, as Region 14's Finest. She highlighted the many contributions Ms. Butkus makes to her school and spoke of how much she means to students, parents and staff. The many friends and family in attendance, along with the Board and other staff present, offered long and enthusiastic applause for Ms. Butkus.

6. Information and Proposals

A. Board Committee Reports

Facilities: Ms. Morgan reported having reviewed with her committee bids for the transportation contract, and will need to add an agenda item with action anticipated.

Mr. Bauer entered a *motion to add discussion/possible action on the bus contract to the agenda*. Second by Ms. Morgan.

Motion carried 8-0.

Ms. Morgan entered a *motion to approve a transportation contract with All-Star for five (5) years*. Second by Mr. Chapman. Ms. Morgan discussed the reasons her committee recommends All-Star, including the company's use of routing software, GPS, and cameras, and that the bid included all new buses and offers savings to the district of \$198,000.

Ms. Van Aken added that a plus was that the buses would be housed in both towns – those doing Woodbury runs housed in Woodbury, and Bethlehem buses in Bethlehem.

Mr. Chapman asked Mr. McAllister to review the details of the bid process, which he did, adding that All-Star's bid is within the budget and meets all bid specs.

Mr. Chapman confirmed that All-Star's was the lowest responsible bid. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Finance: Mr. Devine reported having met on 4/13 and reviewing monthly financial statements. Also, the committee discussed comments made at the public hearing related to financial matters.

Policy: Mr. Chapman reported having reviewed with his committee the report received from the CABE Policy Revision Service. CABE will be revising the Board policies within a 24 month period, and in a sequential manner. A strategy will be mapped out

with assistance from CABE. The finding showed that the Board's policies were satisfactory, so not as bad as was feared, but are in need of updating/revising and, in some cases, policies need to be added.

Mr. Chapman also addressed the revised 9000 Series (BoE Bylaws). He entered a *motion to approve the 9000 series as written*. Second by Ms. Van Aken. Discussion followed. Mr. Cosgriff asked questions related to the 2/3 rule for voting and overturning decisions. Mr. Chapman directed him to p26 where it is noted 2/3 present.

Mr. Bauer noted 9012 was removed, and was concerned that 9400, Self-Evaluation, was also lost. He wondered if it should be there. Mr. Chapman will ask Atty. Sommaruga and, if it should be, it can be added later.

Ms. Zmek asked about duties of the Treasurer, on p11, asking whether bonding is needed. Mr. Chapman indicated it is not, as the Treasurer does not sign checks. Hearing no further questions or comments, the **motion carried 7-1**, with Mr. Devine voting no.

B. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard responded to comments at the public hearing having to do with Special Education and health insurance. Regarding what the district spends on Special Education, she reviewed that costs are not associated with the number of students served, but rather with the specific need of those students. Therefore, numbers of students cannot be directly correlated with dollars spent. The identification rate in the state of Connecticut is 11.9% and the average in DRG C, where Region 14 is categorized, is 11.1%. Region 14 identifies Special Education students at a rate of 10.4%, so below both the DRG and state average. She concluded that we are not over-identifying students needing special education supports. She reviewed that health insurance costs were last visited in 11/2013 when the district issued an RFQ for insurance broker of record. In January of 2014, companies were interviewed and in 2/2014, Lockton was chosen to work with the district. Mr. Chapman added that it is not generally accepted as good practice to be constantly going out to market for insurance; this is a red flag to companies. The district should not go out every year, he said.

C. Board members' comments

Mr. Bauer expressed that he is excited for the budget vote. He reminded Board members that this is the "quiet time" and budget questions should be referred to the central office.

Ms. Zmek noted that absentee ballots are available.

Ms. Brown noted that the Gradnite committee is hard at work, will be accepting household items this weekend, and will sponsor a Color Run fundraiser on 5/17.

7. Privilege of the Floor

None.

8. New Business Requiring Board Action

None.

9. Future Meetings

Mr. Bauer reviewed upcoming meetings:

- A. Monday, May 4, 2015, District Budget Meeting, 7:00 pm, NHS LMC*
- B. Monday, May 4, 2015, Regular BoE Meeting, 7:30 pm, NHS LMC
- C. **Tuesday**, May 19, 2015, Regular BoE Meeting, 7:30 pm , NHS LMC
- D. Monday, June 1, 2015, Regular BoE Meeting, 7:30 pm, NHS LMC
- E. Monday, June 15, 2015, Regular BoE Meeting, 7:30 pm, NHS LMC

*Recessed to Budget Referendum, Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at Bethlehem Town Hall and Woodbury Senior/Community Center, 6:00 am-8:00 pm, to be adjourned after polls are closed, votes have been counted, and result is announced

10. Executive Session

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to enter Executive Session for a) discussion/possible action on a draft proposal in school security/safety services; and, b) personnel issue(s)*. Entered by Ms. Van Aken, with the request to invite Dennis Collins to join, and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the motion carried 8-0. The board went to executive session at 8:27 pm.

Following executive session, the following actions were taken:

Ms. Zmek entered the following motion: *I hereby move to approve a Memorandum of Agreement (as presented to the Board) between the Board and Nonnewaug Teachers Association to resolve a grievance concerning the assignment of advisory periods to department chairs. I further move to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign said Memorandum of Agreement on behalf of the Board.* Second by Ms. Van Aken. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Ms. Zmek entered the following motion: *I hereby move to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Board and the Nonnewaug Administrators' Group with regard to reimbursement of tuition, as presented to the Board and subject to any necessary further legal review. I further move to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign said Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Board, following any necessary further legal review.* Second by Ms. Van Aken.

Motion carried 8-0.

Mr. Chapman entered a *motion to adjourn*. Second by Ms. Van Aken. **Motion carried 8-0.**

The meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 10:31 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, 4/22/2015