

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held Monday, June 16, 2014 at Nonnewaug High School, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Superintendent Jody Goeler; Board members Georg Bauer, Carol Ann Brown, John Chapman, Charles Cosgriff, Janet Morgan, John Swendsen, and Maryanne Van Aken; Director of Finance and Operations Wayne McAllister; Director of Instruction Sue Domanico; Student representative Vincent Pistritto; NHS Administrators Andrew O'Brien and Jose Martinez; NHS Science teacher Katie Yocis; Technology Director Paul Ciotti; Board Clerk Deb Carlton; one member of the press and approximately 8 community members

Absent: Sophieazane Bartlett

I. Call to Order

Mr. Chapman called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. and led the Pledge of Allegiance

II. Review of the Minutes

Mr. Chapman requested a *motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 2, 2014.*

Entered by Mr. Cosgriff, and seconded by Mr. Swendsen, the **motion carried 5-0-2** with Mr. Chapman and Mr. Bauer abstaining.

III. Presentation(s)/Reports to the Board

Mr. Chapman called upon Mr. Bauer to recognize departing Board members John Swendsen and Sophieazane Bartlett (in her absence), as well as Mr. Goeler as he leaves the district. All were presented with engraved pewter bowls from Woodbury Pewter to commemorate their service to the district.

Next, Mr. Chapman called upon Mr. O'Brien and Ms. Yocis to provide rationale for the purchase of new textbooks for AP Biology. Ms. Yocis explained changes to the College Board's curriculum for the AP Biology exam and the benefits for students to have a text which streamlines the material they will be expected to master – less breadth and more depth. She spoke of the online assessment and tutorial program that comes with this text, at no additional cost; gave number of books needed (32) and total cost (approx.. \$4554). The used texts will be kept in class as reference, and students will keep the new text at home. She took questions from the Board. Mr. Cosgriff hoped the publisher would stand by these texts and replace if needed. Ms. Yocis will check on what guarantee is provided. Mr. Swendsen wanted to know if students are responsible for damaging books and was told they are. Ms. Morgan wanted to know if the cost for these books was budgeted for and was told it was. Mr. Swendsen asked if this is a standard text. Ms. Yocis said it is one of the standard texts for this course, and said Nadine Pratt did her research and determined this was the best one for us.

Mr. Chapman requested a *motion to approve the textbook, "Biology in Focus, AP Edition, 2014, Pearson Publishing, for use in AP Biology classes at Nonnewaug High School.*

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

Finally, Vincent was given the opportunity to give his final report to the board as student representative. He thanked the board for the opportunity to serve for the past 2 years and for creating the job. He updated the board on events at WMS, including the 8th grade Washington, D.C. trip, book fair, Warrior Council leadership training, and boys/girls track team success. Graduation at WMS will be on Friday, 6/20. For NHS, Vincent reported on the art show and concert, creative writing awards, Berkshire League All Star Banquet, sports awards, and charity fundraisers such as Bald & Beautiful and Gladiators. Finals are this week, graduation is this Saturday, and successful track and tennis seasons were highlighted. Several members of the board thanked Vincent for his service, both as a representative to the board and as a highly successful and contributing member of his class. They wished him well and continued success as he heads off to UCONN.

IV. Strategic Plan Status and Update

Ms. Domanico reviewed the summer retreat agenda and highlighted topics to be covered, including the district strategic plan, professional learning map for 2014-15, the recommendations of the DMC, coordination of school events on the district calendar, district data warehouse, comprehensive district assessment plan, and powerschool upgrade and potential new features.

V. Privilege of the Floor

Art McNally, Woodbury, has sent several emails to the board which have not been answered. He wondered if anyone has investigated to see if problems exist in the new science textbook and was sorry the board didn't go into more detail about what is in the new text. He supplied a copy of an email that he asked be included in the meeting minutes. It is attached.

Andrew Lampart, Woodbury, read from a prepared statement (attached) regarding websites blocked and not blocked by the firewall. He asked the board to review the internet policy.

Mr. Chapman will investigate the filter used in the schools; the Board of Education supports fair and balanced coverage and will look to see if bias exists. He asked Mr. Ciotti if he had anything to add. He noted that websites with an "ad" appended to them will always be blocked; it is more efficient to go directly to the site using the address bar.

VI. Facilities, Finance and Operations Update

Ms. Morgan noted her FET committee met last week and, among other business, heard of repairs needed to the NHS boilers for drum replacement which will cost about \$100,000.

Mr. Bauer's Finance committee also met and, among other business, reviewed a year's worth of budget transfers. The estimated end of year balance is \$84,900. Mr. McAllister noted that, going forward, transfer requests will be reviewed prior to approval, not after.

Mr. Chapman reported that our attorney has filed a motion for summary judgment to try to extinguish what remains of the Arras, Miller, Miller, Murphy and Suslavich lawsuit in Waterbury Court. We await the response.

Mr. Cosgriff reported that negotiations with cafeteria workers has begun.

Ms. Brown spoke about good press for R14 in the papers. She asked about the wellness policy and had been told it is not on the website (find it under board policies, #6143. What is not on the website is the wellness brochure developed by the committee. This is not yet posted because it contains a list of board approved foods which have not yet been board approved). Ms. Brown commented on additional NEAT TV programming, felt we need more from the elementary schools, and thanked Alice Jones for providing photos of the Warrior Council honored at the last meeting. Her committee will work on a brochure for realtors, and wants to revive use of the NHS sign at Rt. 6 and Middle Road Turnpike.

VII. Safety Update

Ms. Van Aken noted her committee will meet on Friday at noon.

VIII. Other Business

a. Capital Reserve

Ms. Van Aken entered *a motion to transfer uncommitted budget funds at the end of the 2013-14 school year from the general fund approved budget to the capital reserve fund, not to exceed 1.00%.*

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

b. Healthy Food Certification

tabled

c. Out of State Field Trip Approval

Mr. Chapman added a third field trip to the list of those to be approved. He requested a *motion to add to the agenda approval of an out-of-state/overnight field trip: Agriscience students to the World Dairy Expo, Madison, Wisconsin, 9/27/14-10/1/14, for 4 students and 1 faculty chaperone, via air transportation, funded by students and Ag Production activity account.* Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Bauer, the **motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Chapman requested a *motion to approve all three trips:*

Agriscience students to Texas Agricultural Tour, Stephenville, TX, 8/6/14-8/11/14, for 10 students and one faculty chaperone, via air transportation, funded by students

Agriscience students to All American Dairy Judging Contest, Harrisburg, PA, 9/14/14-9/16/14, for 4 students and one faculty chaperone, via ground transportation (Ag truck), funded by Ag Production activity account, and

Agriscience students to the World Dairy Expo, Madison, Wisconsin, 9/27/14-10/1/14, for 4 students and 1 faculty chaperone, via air transportation, funded by students and Ag Production activity account.

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

Mr. Chapman entered a *motion to add Executive Session to the agenda, for the purposes of discussion a personnel issue related to the high school administration, as well as an issue with a member of the custodial staff.* Seconded by Ms. Van Aken the **motion carried 7-0.**

IX. Executive Session

Mr. Chapman entered a motion to go into Executive Session for the above stated purposes, seconded by Ms. Van Aken. **Motion carried 7-0.** Time: 8:34 pm

X. Adjournment

Mr. Chapman requested a *motion to adjourn.*

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 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, 6/23/14