

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held Monday, March 17, 2014 at Nonnewaug High School, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Superintendent Jody Ian Goeler; Board members George 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; MES Principal MaryLou, student representative Stephanie Lewis, and Board Clerk Deb Carlton

Absent: Sophiezane Bartlett

Audience members included: NHS faculty members Carol Tomkalski and Katie Yocis, *Voices* reporter Mike Preato and about 35 additional members of the public (decreasing to 7 following Region 14's Finest).

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 March 3, 2014*.

Entered by Mr. Cosgriff, and seconded by Mr. Bauer, the **motion carried 7-0**.

III. Presentation(s)/Reports to the Board

Region 14's Finest – Mitchell Elementary School

Mr. Chapman called on Ms. Torre to describe the achievements of her recipients. She recognized:
Dylan Chung for 550 consecutive long rope jumps, and the 3rd grade boys Progressive Aerobic Cardiovascular Endurance Run (PACER) record of 93 laps

Rowan Cusack for 500 consecutive long rope jumps, and girls PACER record of 98 laps

Riley Cusack for an overall school PACER record of 108 laps

John Khazzaka for an overall boys PACER record of 107 laps

Ryan Tomkalski for an overall fall PACER record of 102 laps

Ian Fernandes for an overall 4th grade boys PACER record of 98 laps

Ms. Torre also honored the students' PE teacher, Henry Koziol, in recognition of his advocacy for physical fitness for all students at Mitchell Elementary School. She said he truly puts his heart and soul into his work both in class and as a student council advisor.

Finally, Ms. Torre honored student Louis Bullock for his effort, originality and community spirit in creating a Citizenship Poster that earned First Place in the 5th Congressional District.

Mr. Chapman presented each student with his or her certificate(s) and the group posed for photos and received hearty applause from the audience.

IV. Strategic Plan Status and Update

Mr. Goeler gave an update on the Strategic Plan. He described the monitoring of the plan as a team effort and thanked Ms. Domanico, Mr. McAllister and the leadership team for their efforts. In each goal category, he read the progress comments and then took questions from the board.

Mr. Bauer asked if there is a game plan for summer curriculum work. Ms. Domanico replied that the curriculum council has developed a process for review/revision as well as a schedule to guide the budget process based on priorities, which she listed.

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Mr. Chapman thought it was good to review the strategic plan to see what opportunities there would be to integrate the DMC recommendations into the plan. He also commented on the number of grants there are out there and how he is often struck by how many communities go after those. He wonders if we pursue them enough.

Mr. Goeler wants to show the board what grants we have already received, as a starting point.

Mr. Chapman knows we need to balance resources with needs as the budget is moved forward and to prioritize goals within the strategic plan. He commented that perceptions related to the Common Core State Standards are that we have binders filled with curriculum; we need to message correctly, he said, that the standards are more about implementing curriculum.

V. Privilege of the Floor
None.

VI. Facilities, Finance and Operations Update

Ms. Morgan reported that her committee discussed enrollment at its last meeting and that class sizes were the major topic. Also discussed was the possibilities for cameras on buses. It was a good meeting with much parent participation, she said.

Mr. Bauer's committee reviewed budget numbers, and discussed a timeline for budget workshops leading up to the public hearing. Mr. Swendsen asked if dates are set for community outreach and was told they are not as yet.

VII. Safety Update

Ms. Van Aken reported that the safety budget has been finalized and it is a short but significant list including interior and exterior cameras, district wide, utilizing a grant of \$144,000 for a portion of the work. Most all of the safety enhancements needed will come from next year's budget; after that, only minor items will be left.

VIII. Other Business

Mr. Swendsen entered a *motion to adopt the revision of Policy 2140 as proposed*. Mr. Bauer seconded the motion. Mr. Chapman noted language on p.2, #8, regarding the need to bring all courses of study, curriculum guides and textbooks to the board for approval. He wondered if, in this modern age, when many types of sources are used, whether it makes sense to seek board approval for every curriculum guide utilized in the schools. Mr. Goeler agreed to consult counsel again about this policy; therefore, the **motion was withdrawn**.

Mr. Swendsen entered a motion to adopt the revision of Policy 2141 as proposed, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Swendsen entered a *motion to adopt the revision of Policy 2300 as proposed*. Mr. Cosgriff seconded the motion. Following discussion on comparisons with the previous version, the **motion carried 7-0**.

Mr. Swendsen entered a *motion to adopt the revision of Policy 2400 as proposed*, seconded by Ms. Van Aken.

Mr. Bauer felt the new version is more concise, with some information appropriately moved to Policy 2140. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Goeler reviewed a summary of flexibilities now being allowed regarding educator evaluations. He needs board approval of changes to the educator evaluation plan in light of these flexibilities. Discussion centered around number of formal and informal evaluations of faculty, compliance with requirements, and teachers in need of intense supervision (we have very few). Mr. Chapman thought it would be helpful for the board to see an example of an SLO and what a formal assessment looks like, to prepare them for questions/comments from the public. Ms. Van Aken was also interested to know what an administrator evaluation looks like.

Mr. Bauer entered a *motion to accept changes to the educator evaluation plan as noted and discussed*. Seconded by Mr. Swendsen, the **motion carried 7-0**.

IX. Executive Session

Mr. Chapmen entered a *motion to go to executive session for the purpose of review/possible action on the Instructional Support Assistants' Negotiated Contract for 7/1/2013-6/30/2016*. Second by Mr. Cosgriff.

Motion carried 7-0.

The board went to executive session at 8:50 pm and returned at 9:10 pm.

Mr. Bauer entered a motion to accept the agreement between the Regional School District 14 Board of Education and the Nonnewaug Instructional Support Union Local 1303-443 of Council 4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, for 7/1/2013-6/30/2016. Ms. Van Aken seconded the motion and the **motion carried 7-0.**

X. Adjournment

Ms. Van Aken entered a *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Mr. Bauer. The **motion carried 7-0.**

The meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 9:15 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, 3/19/14