

Minutes of the Planning/Personnel Committee of the Board of Education
Regional School District 14 www.ctreg.org
May 5, 2014

A meeting of the Planning/Personnel Committee of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, May 5, 2014 in the Central Office Conference Room, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present were Committee Chair Maryanne Van Aken, Janet Morgan, Carol Ann Brown (5:25 pm), Charles Cosgriff (5:25 pm), Superintendent Jody Goeler (5:15 pm), NHS Principal Andrew O'Brien, community member Deb DeSorbo (5:25 pm), and BoE clerk Deb Carlton.

The meeting came to order at 5:00 pm and concluded at 5:55 pm.
The committee discussed the following:

Changes to the NHS Student Handbook

Mr. O'Brien was on hand to describe changes and updates to the NHS Student Handbook. He distributed copies highlighting the changes and explained the rationale committee members used to arrive at them.

He called attention to a behavior mission statement tied to the SPDG grant which is new. A campaign to call students' attention to it will begin next week. Three pillars: Respect, Honesty, and Perseverance will be a goal for all students and the school community. Much like the middle school's effort with "warrior bucks," the high school will begin looking to catch students doing the right thing and will reward positive behaviors with "chief checks" redeemable in the café or at the school store. Ms. Morgan hoped this effort could extend to the community, as there are many examples of NHS students doing random acts of kindness and a great way to show students that the community also values them.

Mr. O'Brien also noted changes in the handbook related to dates, graduation requirements, learning expectations, rankings and honor roll. He was reminded by committee members of the importance of adding language that makes explicit the use of unweighted averages, such as on p12. The committee looked at changes to athletic requirements, on p30, requiring parent attendance at parent meetings. If not, the parent would need to sign off saying they did not attend but understand the rules.

He reviewed changes to school policy on electronic devices, on p35, that mirrors Board policy. Student parking rate changes were also discussed. Timing for signing up and raising rates was reviewed, with the goal of giving students time to raise the extra money in order to park.

As a district meeting was to begin, Mr. Goeler only distributed information from Ms. Domanico about revisions to elementary report cards. The committee will review and revisit at another time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryanne Van Aken

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Chair, Planning/Personnel Committee
Regional School District 14 Board of Education