

Minutes of the Planning/Personnel Committee of the Board of Education  
Regional School District 14 [www.ctreg.org](http://www.ctreg.org)  
March 3, 2014

A meeting of the Planning/Personnel Committee of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, March 3, 2014 in the Central Office Conference Room, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present were Committee Chair Maryanne Van Aken, Janet Morgan, Charles Cosgriff, Superintendent Jody Goeler, Director of Finance/Operations Wayne McAllister, NHS Principal Andrew O'Brien, Dean of Students/Athletic Director Bill Nemec, Agriscience Director Bill Davenport, Director of Instruction Sue Domanico, and BoE clerk Deb Carlton.

The meeting came to order at 6:02 pm and concluded at 7:15 pm

The committee discussed the following:

**Agriscience Grant Expenditure:**

Mr. Davenport explained the need to spend the Agricultural Science and Technology Education Operating Cost Grant, a "funded mandate," by July 1, 2014 and to respond to the state by June 1<sup>st</sup> with the spending plan. He also reviewed documentation from his program's compliance review, the recommendations that came out of that review, and the district's response to how it planned to address areas cited as needs. Primary among those is the continuing lack of compliance to the student/teacher ratio, and Mr. Davenport proposes to add a faculty member. He provided a position description for the committee's review. He also provided other areas of need where the grant would be utilized, including equipment replacement, irrigation, convention travel expenses, fencing and pens, and other upgrades which would supplant local funding for educational purposes.

The committee fully supported these plans. Mr. McAllister offered praise to Mr. Davenport for securing these funds from the state. The added faculty member will put the program in compliance, at long last.

**Lacrosse Update**

Mr. O'Brien reported that a student survey was offered today, to assess interest in lacrosse and guide next steps, and results should be available within 2 weeks. If interest is there, he said, we would need to build up to a varsity team rather than try to start there. If lacrosse is to remain a club sport, it would be better to just maintain that through Park and Rec. The benefit to students is to have the sport at least at a JV level. Mr. Goeler added that the impact to existing teams will need to be determined, and Mr. O'Brien noted the survey asks whether students currently participate in a spring sport. Mr. Nemec feels any new sport will impact existing ones and he feels an obligation to the Berkshire League in this. As a club or Park and Rec sport, students could do both although this would be discouraged. If lacrosse was a NHS team, students would need to make a choice. From a financial standpoint, he also noted next year will be the first year the district will be fully funding football. As for a coach, even if lacrosse starts at JV, any coach working to build a program would need to be compensated at the varsity pay level, not that the pay difference is significant. He further cautioned about hidden fees, such as reconditioning equipment.

**Course Overview Plan:**

Ms. Domanico shared her plans to develop course overviews in a common format for all grade level and subject area classes. Once completed, and she hopes to be able to do this within the next month, she will plan to have them all on the website by the end of the school year to serve as a useful resource for parents. The course overviews will include course title (or grade), description, major units of study or topics, overarching understandings, major resources, and (for NHS only) learner expectations addressed in the course.

Ms. Van Aken noted that she had spoken with two representatives from the Music Foundation regarding grant money that is available to the district if it would be requested. Mr. Goeler offered to reach out to the foundation to see what next steps are needed.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Maryanne Van Aken*

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