

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, July 16, 2012 in the Nonnewaug High School Library, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Superintendent Jody Ian Goeler; Board members Sophieazane Bartlett, John Chapman, Charles Cosgriff, Gary Suslavich, John Swendsen, Maryanne Van Aken and Pamela Zmek; Director of Finance/Operation Jim Reese; and Board Clerk Debra Carlton

Absent: Board member George Bauer

Audience members included: two members of the press and about five members of the community

I. Call to Order

Mr. Goeler called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

Prior to leading the Pledge of Allegiance, he acknowledged Mr. Cosgriff as having been a great Chairman and very helpful to him as he transitioned into the district. He praised Mr. Cosgriff for his honesty and integrity.

II. Presentations

Mr. Reese welcomed MaryAnne Kaminski, Region 14's Energy Education specialist, Mike Molzon, Director of Buildings/Grounds, and Jim Galliety, representing Energy Education and the EPA. He reviewed that the district entered the Energy Education program in 2010 and that it has been a great success. He personally thanked Ms. Kaminski and Mr. Molzon, as well as all the administrators and staff, for the savings and cost avoidance realized through their efforts. Ms. Kaminski showed a visual representation of the \$706,000 saved to date and answered questions from the Board. Mr. Galliety presented Mr. Goeler with an Energy Star award, noting that all four of Region 14's schools are certified as Energy Star buildings.

Mr. Molzon introduced Matt Guiffre who completed a HVAC project in the district for his Eagle Scout project. Matt provided visual examples of the work he did in cataloging all of the districts HVAC equipment. He took questions from the board, as well.

III. Election of Board Chairperson

Mr. Goeler requested nominations for **Chairperson** of the Board for 2012-13.

Ms. Van Aken nominated **George Bauer**. Mr. Suslavich seconded the motion. Hearing no further nominations, the nomination on the floor was put to a vote, and **Mr. Bauer was elected by a vote of 7-0**.

IV. Election of Board Officers

Mr. Goeler requested nominations for **Vice Chairperson**. Mr. Suslavich nominated **John Chapman**. Ms. Van Aken seconded the motion. Hearing no further nominations, the nomination on the floor was put to a vote, and **Mr. Chapman was elected by a vote of 7-0**. In the absence of Mr. Bauer, he presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Mr. Chapman requested nominations for **Secretary**. Ms. Zmek nominated **Sophieazane Bartlett**. Ms. Van Aken seconded the motion. Hearing no further nominations, the nomination on the floor was put to a vote, and **Ms. Bartlett was elected by a vote of 7-0**.

Mr. Chapman requested nominations for **Treasurer**. Ms. Zmek nominated **Gary Suslavich**. Mr. Swendsen seconded the motion. Hearing no further nominations, the nomination on the floor was put to a vote, and **Mr. Suslavich was elected by a vote of 7-0**.

Mr. Chapman requested nominations for **Assistant Secretary/Treasurer**. Mr. Suslavich nominated **Maryanne Van Aken**. Ms. Bartlett seconded the motion. Hearing no further nominations, the nomination on the floor was put to a vote, and **Ms. Van Aken** was elected by a vote of 7-0.

**V. Board Appointments**

**a. Legal Counsel**

Sullivan, Schoen, Campana and Connon, LLC

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to approve the appointment of legal counsel*, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. Discussion followed regarding the use of other law firms and occasions when different counsel might be utilized.

**The motion carried 7-0.**

**b. Auditor**

Charles Heaven and Company

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to approve the appointment of the auditor*. Seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, **the motion carried 7-0.**

**c. Board Clerk – Debra Carlton**

Mr. Swendsen entered a *motion to approve the appointment of the clerk*. Seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, **the motion carried 7-0.**

**d. School Physicians**

- a. Andrea Needleman, M.D., Health Director, MES, WMS
- b. Charles McNair, M.D., NHS
- c. Andrew Wells, M.D., BES

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to approve the appointments of the school physicians*. Seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, **the motion carried 7-0.**

**e. School Dentist – James Bauer, D.M.D.**

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to approve the appointment of the school dentist*. Seconded by Ms. Van Aken, **the motion carried 7-0.**

**VI. Review of the Minutes**

A change to the minutes of June 18, 2012 had been requested by Ms. Zmek. At the top of page 2, during discussion of adding an agenda item regarding the agriscience program, in place of "Ms. Zmek felt that action this evening would not be wise, as students have already been accepted for next year" she had asked for the following accounting of what she had said: "Mrs. Zmek also stated that making a decision tonight would be premature in light of the fact that the VoAg Committee had not yet given a report to the Board, or even had the opportunity to meet yet. Mrs. Zmek did not want to consider freezing enrollment without having the opportunity to review in detail the VoAg regulations and State statutes referenced by Mr. Suslavich. She asked that copies of both be provided prior to any such discussion so the Board can make a properly informed decision. In addition, students had already been accepted into the 2012/2013 program and applications for next year would not be reviewed until January or February of 2013, long after the VoAg Committee would have presented its findings with the Board."

Mr. Cosgriff entered a *motion to approve the minutes of June 18, 2012 as amended*. Ms. Van Aken seconded the motion. **The motion carried 7-0.**

**VII. Correspondence**

None.

**VIII. Report from the Superintendent**

Mr. Goeler began his report by thanking the community for its support in passing the budget, for which he is grateful. He reported having attended a TedEx conference at which Jonathan Costa spoke on technology. He gave a status update on the agriscience ad hoc committee, spoke of a recent ASAP meeting he attended, and told of the 3 day administrators' retreat currently in progress.

With sadness, he reported having received a letter of resignation from Mr. Reese, effective 8/24/12. Jim, he said, has been a trusted colleague who worked tirelessly for the district and he wished him the best in the future.

Mr. Cosgriff commented that it was always a pleasure to come in and talk with Jim, he has a lot to offer, and he feels the sorrow that we're losing a lot. Ms. Bartlett, Ms. Van Aken and Mr. Swendsen, likewise expressed appreciation and well wishes to Mr. Reese.

**IX. Privilege of the Floor**

None.

**X. Report from the Director of Finance/Operations**

Mr. Reese indicated that he would ask that the approval to increase school lunch prices be tabled for the time being. He did offer handouts on the topic and explained each.

He also reported having met with Jerry Stomski to consider how we might coordinate engineering services with the town for the burner conversion.

Considerable discussion followed around the need for a swift action and Mr. Reese was directed to discuss with the architects the idea of an RFP for a design and build.

**XI. Committee Reports**

None. Ms. Van Aken suggested sending requests for committee assignments to Mr. Bauer. Mr. Chapman urged continuity in assignments for the sake of forward momentum.

**XII. Old Business**

Ms. Van Aken asked for a status update on the building committee, ed specs, and the hope of having something going by November. Mr. Goeler updated her on his meeting with Mr. Bauer and the architects this past Friday. At this point, he hopes to have resolution in early August and, realistically, believes a January/February referendum is likely.

**XIII. New Business**

1. Approval of out of state/overnight field trip - **Tabled**
2. Approval of technology lease/purchase agreement

Mr. Suslavich entered the following *motion*: Resolved, that the Board of Education of Regional School District 14 enter into a lease/purchase agreement for technology equipment and infrastructure purchases, in the amount of \$240,350, and authorize the Director of Finance and Operations to sign the agreement. Seconded by Mr. Swendsen, the **motion carried 7-0**.

3. Approval to increase school lunch prices - **Tabled**
4. Approval of Yankee Gas contract

Mr. Suslavich entered the following *motion*: Resolved, that the Board of Education of Regional School District 14 approve the Agreements, between Regional School District 14 and Yankee Gas Services Company, to provide natural gas transmission services to NHS, the Vo-Ag Building, WMS and MES and authorize the Superintendent and

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*Director of Finance/Operations to execute the agreement.* Ms. Van Aken seconded the motion. Discussion followed regarding this 10 year commitment, fuel usage, and the desire to see the contract in its final form, having reviewed it in draft. The following amendment/addition was added to Mr. Suslavich's motion: *The Board will be given until Thursday, July 19, 2012, to review the final contract. If more than three board members have concerns with it, a special meeting will be called; otherwise, the agreement to enter into the contract is approved.* Seconded by Ms. Van Aken, the **amended motion carried 7-0.**

**XIV. Privilege of the Floor**

None.

**XV. Executive Session**

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to go to Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining issues related to secretary and paraprofessional contracts, and for discussion and possible action on the Board's legal options regarding pending claim for reimbursement and potential legal action by the Board, and to invite Mr. Goeler, Mr. Reese, Kim Culkin, and Attorneys Rueckert and Santiago to join.* Seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the motion carried 7-0.

The board went into executive session at 9:23 pm.

**XVI. Adjournment**

Ms. Van Aken entered a *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. The **motion carried 7-0.**  
The meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 11:21 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Sophiezone Bartlett, Secretary  
Regional School District #14 Board of Education

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Debra W. Carlton, Board Clerk, 7/17/12