

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, June 17, 2013 at Nonnewaug High School, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Superintendent Jody Ian Goeler; Board members George Bauer, John Chapman, Charles Cosgriff, John Swendsen, Maryanne Van Aken and Pamela Zmek; Interim Director of Finance Helen Stewart; student representatives Jake Dominello and Vincent Pistrutto; and Board Clerk Debra Carlton

Absent: Board members Gary Suslavich and Sophiezane Bartlett

Audience members included: Woodbury First Selectman Jerry Stomski; Bethlehem Board of Finance Chair Mike Devine; Sgt. Joe Roden; Bethlehem Elementary School Principal Susan Ruddock and her husband, Ted, and son, Blake; Director of Finance/Operations Wayne McAllister; newly elected Board of Education member Carol Ann Brown; NHS teacher Sarah LaRose and her students; and about eight additional members of the community

#### I. Call to Order

Mr. Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He requested everyone remain standing for a moment of silence for David Metcalf and Nicholas Aleia, the two former students recently lost in a car accident.

#### II. Presentation

The Board and audience were treated to a demonstration by the award winning Parliamentary Procedure Team. The team competed recently at UCONN in a CDE contest designed to show how to effectively run a meeting using Roberts Rules of Order. The students demonstrated how to enter motions as well as additional abilities. The team of Jake Vollmer, Jenny Miller, Desiree LaFontaine, Hannah LaFontaine, Leanne Golembeski, and Patrick Dunham spoke to the pros/cons of selling basil at the fair either as pesto or tomato sauce. Afterward, they gifted the board and audience with hydroponic basil and yearbooks.

#### III. Review of the Minutes

The minutes of May 13, 2013 continued to be tabled.

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of May 16, 2013*. Entered by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Ms. Van Aken, the **motion carried 4-0-2** with Ms. Van Aken and Mr. Swendsen abstaining.

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 3, 2013*. Entered by Mr. Swendsen and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 4-0-2** with Mr. Bauer and Mr. Chapman abstaining.

#### IV. Correspondence

Mr. Bauer referenced correspondence from NTA President Angelo Casagrande. The Board will follow up on his concerns.

#### V. Report from the Chairman

Mr. Bauer reminded everyone of tomorrow's vote on the NHS building project. He offered thanks to all administrators, teachers and staff for all they do toward the mission of educating our students. He offered congratulations to all BoE candidates who ran for office and congratulated the winners, one of whom was present and recognized, Ms. Carol Ann Brown. He offered tokens of the district's thanks, engraved pewter bowls from Woodbury Pewter, to Mr. Suslavich, in his absence, and to Ms. Zmek personally. He thanked her for countless hours of service.

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Ms. Zmek expressed that she's miss everyone, it was an honor to serve, and that she'd be back but in the audience. Ms. Van Aken said it had been a pleasure to have served with Ms. Zmek, hoped she would enjoying reconnecting with her family, and hoped she would consider serving again as she was a great board member.

Mr. Swendsen also thanked her for her contributions to the board.

Mr. Bauer also noted that people do watch the meetings on NEAT TV and this is good community outreach and a service to the community. He recognized the efforts of Paul Ciotti, and students David Cawley and Brandon Simmons.

In his capacity as the chair, Mr. Bauer thanked all involved in the board's work, expressed that he has enjoyed working with Mr. Goeler, felt the board works well together, and he looks forward to the board's continued work.

#### **VI. Report from the Superintendent**

Mr. Goeler allowed the student representatives to begin with their report.

Jake Dominello reminded all of NHS graduation on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30 am. He thanked the board for welcoming him, and Vincent, saying he had gotten a lot out of the experience.

Vincent Pistrutto, likewise, thanked the board for the opportunity. He reported on recent events at BES and MES.

Mr. Bauer thanked both students for their contributions, and Mr. Goeler thanked them for taking the task seriously and for doing it so well. Mr. Chapman also thanked them for stepping up and accepting the assignment.

Mr. Goeler spoke of rolling out the teacher evaluation plan; on Monday, all teachers will receive a binder containing the plan, as well as the accompanying rubric and the 2013-17 strategic plan.

He reported on last night's vandalism of NHS and how unsettling it was to students and staff. There is commitment to cleaning it up promptly and catching those who did it.

Final touches on the MoU for the SRO program were done today.

Many applications have been received for Director of Instruction; he will soon form a committee for that.

Mr. Goeler also commented that the art show was amazing; the FFA awards banquet spectacular; and the recent annual meeting of the CNVRAC informative in terms of projects and initiatives. He is writing his speech for graduation, and he thanked the board for a great year and for their support.

#### **VII. Privilege of the Floor**

First Selectman Jerry Stomski, Woodbury, thanked the Ad hoc Safety Committee for its work and for enlightening and interesting discussions. The proposal is a first phase effort to keep the kids safe. He also urged voting the (town) budget.

#### **VIII. Report from the Director of Finance and Operations**

Ms. Stewart provided current year to date financial information to the board, including expenditures and encumbrances. She indicated an approximate \$50,000 remaining, typically authorized for transfer into capital reserve.

Mr. Chapman requested year-end financial information by school, which Ms. Stewart agreed to provide.

#### **IX. Committee Reports**

**Bylaws:** a meeting will be noticed between now and Monday

**Public Relations:** no report

**Facilities:** no report

**Finance:** no report

**Personnel:** no report

**Planning:** no report

**Negotiations:** secretary negotiations have been completed. Also a pre-meeting was held today around several ongoing negotiations and one upcoming, to set ground rules.

**Building:** no report

**Ad hoc Safety:** will meet next Tuesday at 6:00 pm

X. Old Business

None.

XI. New Business

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the appointment of Susan Ruddock as Principal of Bethlehem Elementary School*. Mr. Cosgriff entered the motion, seconded by Ms. Van Aken.

Mr. Goeler described the interview/hiring process, praised the work of the committee, and commented on the very positive references received about Ms. Ruddock. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to appoint Wayne McAllister as Director of Finance and Operations*. Mr. Swendsen entered the motion, seconded by Ms. Van Aken.

Mr. Goeler reviewed the repeated searches for this position, described the make-up of the committee, and spoke about the very positive references received on Mr. McAllister. **The motion carried 6-0.** Mr. Bauer welcomed him, seeing this as a great fit, that he brings much experience and that he looks forward to working with him.

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the technology lease agreement with Municipal Asset Management, Inc.*, entered by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Ms. Van Aken. The district is in the second year of a 5 year lease agreement requiring board approval annually. In response to their questions, the board received details from Mr. Ciotti about laptop iPad carts, full wireless capabilities at WMS and NHS as well as in designated areas at MES and BES, number of systems replaced throughout this year (about 125), and boosters to improve cell service at all schools. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the School Resource Officer Program in Region 14*. Entered by Ms. Van Aken, seconded by Mr. Swendsen, discussion followed. Mr. Goeler commented that the agreement was crafted by representatives who had a stake in it; it is an outstanding agreement that supports our needs. Mr. Bauer described it as phase one of a safe school plan, and an agreement for one year in order to initiate it and see how it goes and to see how to improve upon it in the future.

Ms. Van Aken thanked all those who had met today to finalize this; it's been a long time coming and is near and dear to her heart; it is spelled out clearly and needs to be clear for people who will be interacting with students. She is excited to be kicking this off and moving forward and believes it will help with climate.

Mr. Goeler thanked Sgt. Roden and Mr. Devine, both present, for their participation and for their wise and balanced approach. Mr. Chapman added that this is a great thing, he's glad to be moving forward, and noted that the policy regarding SROs should be addressed. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to modify the agenda to add an item: authorizing moving uncommitted budget funds to capital reserve*, entered by Ms. Van Aken, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to transfer uncommitted budget funds at the end of the 2012-13 school year to the capital reserve fund*, entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 6-0.**

Ms. Stewart noted the cap of 1%, which led to a *motion to amend the previous motion to include "not to exceed 1%,"* entered by Ms. Van Aken, seconded by Mr. Swendsen, the **motion carried 6-0.**

**The amended motion: to authorize transfer of uncommitted budget funds, not to exceed 1%, at the end of the 2012-13 school year to the capital reserve fund, carried 6-0.**

**XII. Board Announcements**

Mr. Swendsen offered thanks to Ms. Stewart for her efforts in the absence of a DF/O, saying she's done a terrific job. Mr. Cosgriff asked about retreat dates. Mr. Bauer indicated he's working on that, as well as a new board member orientation which is a good refresher for all.

Mr. Chapman thanked Ms. Zmek for her service, and expressed his regret over her leaving but understanding her other commitments. He said she had been fun to work with, offered good dialog and feedback without public sparring, and sent a positive message of working together. He realized that sometimes you think you know who a person is, and then they turn out to be not that, and this was the case for him with Ms. Zmek.

**XIII. Privilege of the Floor**

**Jim Crocker**, Woodbury, spoke at length about the quest for educational excellence and his disagreement with eliminating teachers at MES. He asked whether we are chartered for academic excellence, a question he does not believe has been answered, and who is accountable. He wants to know what we see as a target for academic achievement in the district and whether it is mediocrity or excellence.

**XIV. Adjournment**

Ms. Van Aken entered the *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Mr. Swendsen. The **motion carried 6-0**. The meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 9:17 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Maryanne Van Aken, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer  
Regional School District #14 Board of Education

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Debra W. Carlton, Board Clerk, 6/21/13