

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, March 18, 2013 at Nonnewaug High School, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Superintendent Jody Ian Goeler; Board members John Chapman, Charles Cosgriff, Gary Suslavich, Maryanne Van Aken and Pamela Zmek; Interim Director of Finance/Operations John Turk; student representatives Jake Dominello and Vincent Pistritto; and Board Clerk Debra Carlton

Absent: Board members Sophiezane Bartlett, George Bauer, and John Swendsen

Audience members included: Region 14 faculty members Katie Yocis and John Dominello, *Voices* reporter Mike Preato, and 5 additional members of the community

I. Call to Order

Mr. Chapman called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Review of the Minutes

Mr. Chapman requested a *motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 4, 2013*, entered by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Ms. Van Aken. The **motion carried 4-0-1** with Mr. Suslavich abstaining.

III. Correspondence

None.

IV. Report from the Chairman

Mr. Chapman, sitting in for Mr. Bauer, had no formal report. He mentioned having had the privilege of attending the NEASC presentation yesterday; was pleased at the number of participants; felt it was a time for honest self-appraisal and a positive experience.

V. Report from the Superintendent

Mr. Goeler thanked Paul Ciotti for filming the evening's meeting in the absence of the student crew, who went home this evening due to the inclement weather.

He called on NHS faculty member, Mike Murphy, and members of Team Beta for a brief report.

Student Becca DiSarro thanked the Board for its support of the team; reported 30 members this year who have just completed a 6 week build season, having spent 3100 hours and working as a team. Chris Roos described the build season and construction of a robot that fires Frisbees at a target which the team competed with at the Suffield Shakedown. Phil Michener informed the Board of this year's Tech Fest, to be held on June 1, 2013. Mike Brennan also invited the Board to the CT Regionals at the CT Convention Center March 29-30, 2013.

Mr. Goeler asked Jake Dominello and Vincent Pistritto to give brief reports, as well.

Jake told of the Mr. Nonnewaug competition, the NEASC visit in progress at his school, *Guys and Dolls* production, and winter sports season. Vincent spoke about elementary school happenings, including a jazz performance, student v staff basketball game, Read across America, CMTs, Travelling Thursdays, and African-American history month.

Mr. Goeler reported he has assembled an interview committee for the BES principal; Director of Finance/Operations has been reposted with minor changes; the teacher evaluation committee continues to work on preparing its document for the State; the climate survey is ready for data collection; and the NEASC visit is underway and the high

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school is very well prepared for this. He said the presentation he attended was the most creative he had ever seen and he anticipates valuable feedback from the committee.

He will attend a legal issues forum on Wednesday of this week, an assessment workshop on Thursday, and an LCSEA retreat on Friday. Follow-up safety meetings are scheduled and budget workshops are in progress. He informed the Board that an employee who was terminated has grieved that decision and this matter may come before the Board.

Ms. Van Aken asked if students, too, could participate in the climate survey and was told they could.

**VI. Privilege of the Floor (agenda specific)**

John Dominello, Woodbury, completed the budget survey and was disappointed to see football singled out. Why not ask whether or not people support gymnastics, or tennis, he asked. He reminded the Board that sports are co-curricular, not extra-curricular, and felt football got sandbagged on that survey. He urged the Board, before deciding what to cut, to sit in on some of these activities to see what the students do.

**VII. Report from the Director of Finance and Operations**

Mr. Turk's report was submitted in writing, in the interest of keeping the meeting short. He distributed a report on the budget status to date and indicated the bus contract is ready to sign.

He reported in writing that the audit RFP was filed in the Republican American last Friday and Sunday; contract negotiations commenced with secretaries last week and a benefits consultant will speak to him this week; notice has been received that GAF received our package of defective materials; we are moving forward with phase 1 of the new phone system which will significantly improve communication and security in all buildings. Implementation will begin in July. Finally, negotiations with Teamsters are expected to begin in mid to late April, and with Instructional Assistants later this year.

**VIII. Committee Reports**

**Bylaws:** none

**Public Relations:** Budget survey will be on the website until 3/31; the idea was to have everything on the table and the committee had not intended to target football. The survey will be one tool used to determine cuts and the process of deciding on survey questions was done in a public meeting. Ms. Zmek reminded the public of the back to school free passes for seniors which can be used for the drama production.

**Facilities:** met last week

**Finance:** will meet next week

**Personnel:** no report

**Planning:** no report

**Negotiations:** two negotiations are ongoing; paras are in arbitration and secretaries have just started, have met once and will meet again tomorrow.

**Building:** meets tomorrow

**IX. Old Business**

Mr. Chapman requested a *motion to approve both policies: 6165 Acceptable Use and 6166 Bring Your Own Device*. Mr. Cosgriff entered the motion and Ms. Van Aken seconded. The **motion carried 4-0-1** with Mr. Suslavich abstaining, not having had the opportunity to review the policies before this meeting.

X. New Business

Mr. Chapman requested a *motion to approve the NHS Business Students trip to the DECA International Career Development Conference, Anaheim CA to include 3 students and one faculty chaperone, via air transportation and funded by students and NHS DECA funds, April 23-28, 2013.* Mr. Suslavich entered the motion, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. It was noted that these dates are school days, and that students would be charged field trip absences. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Goeler spoke about the need to make up snow days and how that might be done. Since it was currently snowing and more snow days might be ahead, he suggested making decisions at the 4/1 meeting, which is also the date on which graduation can be scheduled. He offered one option of having students complete 180 instead of 181 school days. Mr. Suslavich wondered whether this would be permissible, since Region 14 files with the State for 181 student days.

The topic of parent conferences was tabled.

XI. Board Announcements

None.

XII. Privilege of the Floor

None.

XIII. Adjournment

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. **The motion carried 5-0.**  
The meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 8:12 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, 3/21/13