

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, August 20, 2012 in the Nonnewaug High School Library, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Superintendent Jody Ian Goeler; Board members Sophiezane Bartlett, George Bauer, Charles Cosgriff, John Swendsen, Gary Suslavich, Maryanne Van Aken and Pamela Zmek; Interim Director of Operations John Turk; and Board Clerk Debra Carlton

Absent: Board member John Chapman

Audience members included: NHS faculty member Katie Yocis, one member of the press and five members of the community

I. Call to Order

Mr. Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Review of the Minutes

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of September 4, 2012*. Entered by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Ms. Van Aken, the **motion carried 6-0-1**, with Ms. Bartlett abstaining.

III. Correspondence

None.

IV. Report from the Chairman

Mr. Bauer referenced the recent and unfortunate motor vehicle accident involving Nonnewaug High School student Eric Marshall. On behalf of the Board, he wished the student a speedy recovery.

V. Report from the Superintendent

Mr. Goeler reported having met with Jose Martinez regarding his curriculum work, which will largely focus on math and language arts. Both he and Mr. Martinez will attend meetings and professional development seminars around curriculum.

Mr. Goeler noted revisions to the Pop Warner agreement made after having met with representatives from that group. The standard facilities use fee will be charged and the group will also pay 1/3 of the costs for repair and maintenance of the field.

The subcommittee charged with communicating the findings of the agriscience committee met and are formulating plans.

Mr. Goeler has been meeting with candidates for the Director of Finance/Operations position and a committee should be ready to start interviews by late September or early October.

Mr. Goeler will participate in the road race to benefit Woodbury Scholarship Fund, as well.

VI. Privilege of the Floor (agenda specific)

None.

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

Mr. Bauer requested the following motion on behalf of Mr. Turk:

*Be it resolved that the funds required for the asbestos removal and associated work (\$45,499.00) at Mitchell Elementary School be charged to the Non-recurring Capital Reserve account. Entered by Mr. Suslavich and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the motion carried 7-0.*

Mr. Bauer requested the following motion, as well:

*Be it resolved that the funds required for the burner conversion project at Nonnewaug High School, Woodbury Middle School and Mitchell Elementary School be charged to the Non-recurring Capital Reserve account. Mr. Cosgriff entered the motion and Ms. Zmek seconded it. Mr. Suslavich was troubled by the lack of a dollar amount.*

Mr. Cosgriff's motion was withdrawn and he entered the amended motion:

*Be it resolved that the funds required for the burner conversion project at Nonnewaug High School, Woodbury Middle School and Mitchell Elementary School be charged to the Non-recurring Capital Reserve account, for an amount not to exceed \$267,000. Seconded by Mr. Suslavich, the motion carried 7-0.*

Mr. Turk also reported the following:

He is working to resolve the Civil Rights Compliance Review of NHS; several updates need to be included in it. RFPs have been sent out for auditor, transportation, and custodial supplies

The district has a repayment schedule for the special education obligation; at the same time, the State owes the district for the WMS project. He had hoped the two could offset each other, but the State responded that these are separate accounts and this is not possible.

Mr. Turk was also visited by Mr. Drakeley of the Woodbury BoF. He requests a meeting with the BoS and BoF to discuss how the \$268,000 will be funded and how the issue occurred. A meeting date of 9/27 at 6 pm was planned. Also, Mr. Turk learned that the town's auditor has been asked to look at the agriscience committee's calculations. A meeting on Friday at 9 am has been planned around this issue.

**VIII. Committee Reports**

For Public/Community Relations, Ms. Zmek reported that the committee met tonight. The Join Us Back to School program is thriving, and Ms. Van Aken and Ms. Bartlett will bring applications to the senior centers in each town. Increasing communication with the community was raised and ideas of quarterly roundtable discussions, bringing back a student rep, and a superintendent's advisory council were considered.

For Finance, Mr. Suslavich reported this committee met on 9/10 and reviewed surplus, what information to include on the website, and information to be reported to the board regularly, including budget, enrollment and head count by school, expenses and POs over \$10,000.

Ms. Van Aken will hold a Planning Committee meeting soon, and wants to begin to vet special ed auditors.

Mr. Cosgriff said that negotiations, and one mediation, are ongoing with paras and clerical, and teacher negotiations will begin soon.

Mr. Bauer anticipates a Building Committee meeting on 10/9 at 6 pm. Mr. Swendsen's Policy Committee will meet tomorrow.

**IX. Old Business**

Ms. Van Aken entered a *motion to approve the educational specifications for Nonnewaug High School*, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. Considerable discussion followed.

Mr. Suslavich had concerns about café size, parking spaces, graduation requirements, lack of detail and specifics, and agriscience enrollment predictions.

Ms. Van Aken did not want to get bogged down with issues she felt the architects would clarify with staff and wanted to move this on to the building committee.

Mr. Goeler expressed concern with process and had asked for edits to be emailed to him. Mr. Suslavich may have inadvertently not sent his as attachments. Mr. Goeler stressed that the process needs to work to move this project forward.

Ms. Zmek added that parking spaces should be considered both for students and faculty, and also for community events.

It was decided to **table the motion** until the October 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

**X. New Business**

Ms. Van Aken entered a *motion to add to the agenda discussion of moving some BoE meetings to Bethlehem*. Seconded by Ms. Zmek, the **motion carried 7-0**.

Ms. Bartlett entered a *motion to change the venue of the regular board meetings of 11/5/12, 1/21/13 and 3/4/13 to a location in Bethlehem*. Seconded by Ms. Zmek, the **motion carried 7-0**.

Ms. Van Aken entered a *motion to add to the agenda approval of an out of state/overnight field trip for Woodbury Middle School*. Seconded by Mr. Suslavich, the **motion carried 7-0**.

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to approve an out of state/overnight field trip for Woodbury Middle School World Language students to Quebec City, Canada, for approximately 40 grade 8 students and 4 faculty chaperones, via chartered tour bus, November 9-11, 2012*. Seconded by Mr. Swendsen, the **motion carried 7-0**.

**XI. Board Announcements**

Ms. Van Aken mentioned two upcoming events: a substance abuse forum to be held on 9/24, and a prescription drug give back on 9/29 at the WPD from 10 am- 2pm. She will distribute flyers about both events.

**XII. Privilege of the Floor**

Pat DiSarro, Woodbury, clarified that the name of the upcoming road race is Go the Distance for Scholars.

**XIII. Adjournment**

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Ms. Van Aken. The **motion carried 7-0**.  
The meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 8:36 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, 9/19/12