

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, October 15, 2012 in the Nonnewaug High School Library, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Superintendent Jody Ian Goeler; Board members Sophiezane Bartlett, George Bauer, John Chapman, Charles Cosgriff, John Swendsen, Gary Suslavich, Maryanne Van Aken and Pamela Zmek; Interim Director of Operations John Turk; Administrators Alice Jones, MaryLou Torre, Jose Martinez, Andrew O'Brien, Eric Bergeron and Jeff Turner; and Board Clerk Debra Carlton

Audience members included: NHS faculty member Katie Yocis, one member of the press and three 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.

II. Presentation – Standardized Test Results

Mr. Bauer read the Board goal and then called on Mr. Goeler to introduce the evening's presentation. Mr. Goeler was asked by Mr. Chapman to give a superintendent's overview of this year's test data prior to turning the program over to the administrators. Mr. Goeler indicated that results showed some gains in writing, likely due to the commitment to the Columbia writing program at the elementary level. He predicted that test results in the future, using the new testing format, will give more accurate assessments of what students can do, but warned that preparation for that new test format will be critical to prevent the performance drop predicted if no preparation at all is done prior to that change.

Ms. Torre and Mr. Bergeron presented CMT results at the elementary level. They provided narrative reports and copies of their power point to the board. They reported steady growth in math and reading and evidenced improvement in writing with grade 4 results showing 89% of students scoring at goal or above on the Direct Assessment of Writing (DAW). Estimating solutions and approximating measures continue to be strand areas in need of improvement. Next steps were discussed, and Ms. Torre stressed the need to look at K-2 curriculum. She also celebrated the steady incline demonstrated by cohorts.

Ms. Jones felt that CMT scores at WMS show that focused planning, in reading and literacy, with an action plan yield results, and that leadership creates vision. It takes time to get the work done, but she sees a culture being created at her school and that patience and focused hard work by teachers is showing results. She also provided both narratives and power point to the board, and commended Ms. Torre for developing the template used by all principals tonight. She reported that, at WMS, the number of students scoring in the advanced (5) level increased in all areas, and more students are moving toward proficient and goal. The planning and work in literacy over the last 4 years has resulted in more students reading for pleasure as well as information, and Ms. Jones sees reading as the students' "ticket" to success in school. She presented data on percentages of students at or above goal in math, reading and writing in all three grade levels served; did strand comparisons by grade of students achieving mastery in reading comprehension and math; and discussed next steps.

Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Martinez, in a format similar to information presented by the other schools, compared CAPT scores to the State numbers; reported 4 year trends at NHS in reading, writing, science and math; noted concerns and highlights; and showed data for actual numbers of students scoring at each level. Mr. O'Brien noted that by actually identifying who the 15-20 students are who score at basic/below basic, specific action steps can be taken to bring them up to a proficient level. NHS scores were compared to other District Reference Group (DRG)-C schools. The number of AP offerings at NHS was shown, as well as other potential AP classes to be considered. The

October 15, 2012

popularity of AP Psychology was reported, and the number of tests and test takers for AP was given. Five year trends for SAT scores were discussed, and mean scores were compared to CT and the country. Next steps were covered, including efforts to reduce gaps between WMS and NHS and, regarding the new generation of State tests, the need for students to be familiar with the use of tablets and how to write with a stylus to show their work in math, for instance, was discussed

All administrators answered questions posed by the Board around scores, comparisons to other districts, and what is needed to improve overall performance.

**III. Review of the Minutes**

Mr. Bauer requested *a motion to approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting of October 1, 2012*. Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 7-0-1** with Ms. Zmek abstaining.

**IV. Correspondence**

None.

**V. Report from the Chairman**

Mr. Bauer noted the upcoming strategic planning session on 10/22 from noon until 6 pm; reminded the audience that the next Board meeting will be held at Bethlehem Elementary School on 11/5; and offered congratulations to former NHS student Katherine Pannill, a national FFA finalist.

**VI. Report from the Superintendent**

Mr. Goeler thanked the principals for their outstanding work and presentation this evening; updated the board on the interview process for Director of Finance/Operations; reported that Ms. Torre will serve as the district's safe school climate coordinator; and noted that Nate Levinson will be available to meet with the Planning Committee on 11/19. Mr. Goeler is finishing up with goal meetings with each principal and director; and the State has agreed to move the 2 repayment dates for the special education reimbursement error to not later than 7/15/13 and 7/15/14.

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

None.

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

Mr. Turk reported on his progress with the transportation RFP as well as his meeting with the Town of Woodbury's Auditor regarding the agriscience calculations.

**IX. Committee Reports**

For Policy, Mr. Swendsen reported having met this evening regarding a comprehensive policy review, goals for the committee and working with counsel to update all policies.  
For Public Relations, Ms. Zmek also met this evening regarding a superintendent's advisory council, televised panel discussions, student representatives from the high school, and regular meetings with the BoS/BoF of each town.  
For Facilities, Mr. Chapman reported having met on 10/9 to discuss an environmental systems presentation and incentives, the gas conversion project which is on schedule, the recently adopted ed specs, and the busing contract.  
For Personnel, Ms. Bartlett will be involved in the upcoming interview process.  
For Planning, Ms. Van Aken will have the 11/19 meeting with Mr. Levinson posted.  
For Negotiations, Mr. Cosgriff indicated that the first meeting for teacher negotiations will be on 10/30 at 4:30 pm. Also, the secretaries agreement is in the hands of counsel.

X. Old Business

None.

XI. New Business

Mr. Chapman entered a *motion to add an Executive Session to the agenda for the purpose of discussion the superintendent's evaluation*. Mr. Cosgriff seconded the motion. Mr. Suslavich, noting the late hour, suggested this be postponed until the 11/5 meeting. The **motion carried 7-1**, with Mr. Suslavich voting no.

XII. Board Announcements

Mr. Suslavich wished good luck to the FFA students heading to Indianapolis for Nationals.

XIII. Privilege of the Floor

None.

XIV. Executive Session

Ms. Van Aken entered the *motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the administrator performance evaluation*. Seconded by Ms. Bartlett, the **motion carried 7-1**, with Mr. Suslavich voting no.

XV. Adjournment

Mr. Chapman entered a *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Mr. Bauer. The **motion carried 7-0**. The meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 10:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Debra W. Carlton, Board Clerk, 10/17/12