

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, October 1, 2012 in the Nonnewaug High School Library, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Superintendent Jody Ian Goeler; Board members Sophiezzane Bartlett, George Bauer, John Chapman, Charles Cosgriff, Gary Suslavich, John Swendsen, and Maryanne Van Aken; Interim Director of Operations John Turk; Interim Director of Finance Helen Stewart; Board Clerk Debra Carlton

Absent: Board member Pamela Zmek

Audience members included: two members of the public and two members of the press

I. Call to Order

Mr. Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Presentation

Mr. Goeler called Mitchell Elementary School Principal MaryLou Torre to present Region 14's Finest Awards. Ms. Torre recognized her PTO Executive Board as a dedicated group who provide a vital connection between the MES school and parent community. She noted that these four women balance their personal work with the responsibilities of leading a dynamic PTO in her school. With assistance from Mr. Chapman, she presented awards to Deb Sapack, Lori Grant, Deb DeSorbo and Ericka Hale.

III. Review of the Minutes

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 17, 2012*, entered by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Mr. Swendsen. Mr. Turk requested a change, on page 2 under his report. He had said that RFPs were being developed, but not yet sent out, for auditor, transportation and custodial supplies. The **motion carried 6-0-1**, with Mr. Chapman abstaining.

IV. Correspondence

None.

V. Report from the Chairman

Mr. Bauer reported on the 9/24/12 kick off meeting of the strategic planning team; the 9/27/12 meeting with the Woodbury BoS and BoF at which the repayment plan for the special education reimbursement was discussed; an upcoming BoE retreat for which a suitable date will be found and suggested agenda items may be sent to him; and the upcoming interviews for director of finance and operation for which the town officials will be offered a chance to participate.

VI. Report from the Superintendent

Mr. Goeler reported, as well, on the strategic planning process to be facilitated by Jonathan Costa; reports from the school principals that board members will receive monthly; Jose Martinez's progress in assembling a district wide team to work on curriculum; school improvement plans being developed by principals; presentation by the principals of test scores at the next board meeting; Kim Culkin's efforts in planning for a program review of her department by an outside group; and progress being made by the agriscience subcommittee. He noted his and Mr. Bauer's participation in the Go the Distance event this past weekend, and thanked PTOs for 2 great hot dog roasts at MES and BES. Also, he distributed a handout on graduation rates by district prepared by the CSDE.

VII. Privilege of the Floor (agenda specific)

Taylor Duplissie, FFA Sentinel, reported on events at the Nonnewaug High School chapter, including the Big E competitions; 11 NHS teams heading to Nationals; the recent Hunter Pace, cheese festival and annual college/career fair; upcoming elementary open house on 10/12; upcoming 8th grade open house and legislative dinner on 10/18 and district social on 10/19. She named the 11 teams to compete at Nationals, eligible because they were all 1st place finishers in CT. She thanked the board for allowing her to speak and expressed that she is happy to know that they want to know what is going on with the agriscience program.

VIII. Report from the Director of Finance and Operations

Ms. Stewart provided the board with a 10/1/12 expense report, noting that we are in good order at this point and approximately 91% spent or encumbered.

Mr. Turk updated the board on a number of projects he has been involved with, including:

- Mock-ups of reports for Finance – FTE by school, staff changes, enrollment by school by grade, vendor purchases over \$10,000, financial summaries by school, district financial summary and special education report.
- A draft of the bus contract RFP to include a bus housing stipulation and increase in insurance. He also met with John DuFour and will meet with Michelle Pennella this week.
- Second review of the auditor RFP
- Comparing three bids for custodial supplies
- Met with Environmental Systems Corp. to investigate possible cost savings.
- Completed the Civil Rights Compliance Review and mailed it off to the State.
- Met with town auditor relative to the review of agriscience costs.
- Yankee Gas visited WMS, MES and NHS and he is pushing them for a completion date.
- He filed a claim relative to the special education issue but was informed no coverage is available for this type of claim.
- Met with an insurance group to investigate savings on disability and life insurance.

Responding to a question by Ms. Van Aken, he also noted that he is investigating possibilities for the district with a food service management company.

IX. Committee Reports

Mr. Swendsen, for Policy, noted that he has attempted 2 meetings but had a quorum for neither. His next meeting will be on 10/15 at 6 pm.

For Negotiations, Mr. Cosgriff noted a meet and confer with the towns, prior to teacher negotiations, to be held on 10/9 at 5:30 pm.

Both Facilities and Finance planned to meet that evening, so times will need to be determined.

Mr. Bauer reported that the Building committee will be reactivated and will review ed specs on 10/16 at 6:00 pm.

X. Old Business

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the educational specifications for Nonnewaug High School*, entered by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Ms. Van Aken. Mr. Cosgriff referred to p4, noting that air conditioning in more areas of the building, in his opinion, needs to be addressed. Ms. Van Aken added that, in the absence of that, at least better ventilation is needed. The **motion carried 7-0**.

XI. New Business

None.

XII. Board Announcements

Mr. Chapman questioned Mr. Bauer about the reinvigorating of the building committee, asking if any changes to its composition are planned. Mr. Bauer said that all previous members would be asked to rejoin and new members might be sought if needed.

Ms. Van Aken reminded the board of tomorrow night's Secret Lives of Middle Schoolers event at WMS at 7 pm. Mr. Swendsen also noted the success of the drug take back event that Ms. Van Aken had spoken of at the last meeting.

XIII. Privilege of the Floor

None.

XIV. Adjournment

Mr. Chapman entered a *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Mr. Swendsen. The **motion carried 7-0**. The meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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, 10/2/12