

The rescheduled Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, April 8, 2013 at Mitchell Elementary School, 14 School Street, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Superintendent Jody Ian Goeler; Interim Director of Operations John Turk; Board members Sophieane Bartlett, George Bauer, John Chapman, Charles Cosgriff, John Swendsen, Maryanne Van Aken and Pamela Zmek; Administrators MaryLou Torre, Eric Bergeron and Kim Culkin; and Board Clerk Debra Carlton

Absent: Board member Gary Suslavich

Audience members included: Region 14 faculty and staff members Katie Yocis, Sharon Gomes and Doriene Wester; three members of the press; and about 5 additional members of the community

I. Call to Order

Mr. Bauer called the meeting to order at 9:26 p.m.

II. Region 14's Finest – Nonnewaug High School

Postponed until April 22, 2013

III. Review of the Minutes

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of March 18, 2013*. Entered by Mr. Chapman and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 4-0-3** with Mr. Bauer, Ms. Bartlett and Mr. Swendsen abstaining.

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to accept the minutes of the special meeting of March 28, 2013*. Entered by Mr. Chapman and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 3-0-4** with Mr. Bauer, Ms. Bartlett, Ms. Zmek and Mr. Swendsen abstaining.

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to accept the minutes of the special meeting of April 1, 2013*. Entered by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Mr. Chapman, the **motion carried 6-0-1** with Mr. Swendsen abstaining.

IV. Correspondence

None.

V. Report from the Chairman

Mr. Bauer read a prepared statement about the budget process as a journey and, for the purposes of discussion among board members, requested a *motion to accept the proposed 2013-14 budget*, which was entered by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Ms. Zmek. Considerable discussion followed.

Ms. Van Aken suggested reinstating the 4 school social workers to full time, an additional 0.75 FTE, which she estimated would cost \$63,000. Ms. Bartlett agreed, not realizing they had not already been added back to the budget. Ms. Van Aken noted the first \$134,000 payment to the State for the Special Education placement error is not due until 7/2015, so the necessary funds could be had. Mr. Bauer indicated that amount had been allocated in the current budget and so that first payment could be taken off the table. Mr. Turk indicated a current surplus of approximately \$375,000.

Mr. Chapman calculated a 4.89% overall increase by subtracting the \$134,000 and adding back \$63,750 for a net drop of \$70,250.

Mr. Bauer asked for other concerns or suggestions.

Mr. Chapman expressed commitment to continued asbestos abatement at MES; last year's method was not perfect, he said, and continuing with \$80,000 in work this year is needed.

Ms. Zmek favors full time social workers and likes the scenario that brings the budget in under 5%.

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Mr. Chapman commented that this solution addresses the push/pull between SROs and social workers. Mr. Bauer was comfortable with it, too. He had initially wanted to wait to hear the findings of the special ed consultants' study but realizes the need for mental health support is immediate. Ms. Zmek further pointed out that 4 SROs was the recommendation of the safety committee.

The initial motion to approve the budget was withdrawn.

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the budget for 2013-14 as presented by the superintendent, with the modification of increasing all school social workers to full-time status, with the addition of \$63,750 to the budget, and reducing the special services repayment to the State by \$134,000 by making that payment in the current fiscal year, for a grand total of \$32,055,781, representing a 4.9% increase.* Entered by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Ms. Zmek, the **motion carried 7-0.**

VI. Report from the Superintendent

Mr. Goeler gave an extensive background and description of the teacher evaluation document to be submitted to the State by 4/15/13. The plan Region 14 will follow, because the State initially allows for partial implementation, will be to put the plan in place for all classroom teachers, but to delay evaluations for staff with caseloads, such as social workers, OT/PT, psychologists, etc.

Mr. Bauer entered a *motion to approve sending the evaluation document to the State for review and comments, and to approve the implementation plan agreed upon by the committee.* Seconded by Ms. Zmek, the **motion carried 7-0.**

VII. Privilege of the Floor

None.

VIII. Report from the Director of Finance and Operations

None.

IX. Committee Reports

Bylaws: no report

Public Relations: Ms. Zmek's committee had a wonderful meeting tonight. Minutes will be posted.

Facilities: no report

Finance: no report

Personnel: no report

Planning: no report

Negotiations: ongoing with secretaries and paraprofessionals.

Building: the committee has been meeting weekly; progress has been made with plans; look for updates on the website.

X. Old Business

None.

XI. Board Announcements

Ms. Van Aken asked that the minutes reflect that Mr. Turk is a "rock star."

XII. Privilege of the Floor
None.

XIII. New Business

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to move to Executive Session for the purpose of a personnel issue, request for leave of absence, and the Superintendent's contract/evaluation*. Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 7-0**.

The Board went into executive session at 10:05 pm.

XIV. Adjournment

Ms. Van Aken entered the *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. The **motion carried 7-0**.
The meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 10:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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, 4/11/13