

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, April 22, 2013 at Nonnewaug High School, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Superintendent Jody Ian Goeler; Interim Director of Operations John Turk; Board members George Bauer, Charles Cosgriff, John Swendsen, Maryanne Van Aken and Pamela Zmek; NHS Principal Andrew O'Brien; and Board Clerk Debra Carlton

Absent: Board member Sophieazane Bartlett, John Chapman, and Gary Suslavich

Audience members included: Region 14 faculty members Mary Ann Martins, Lynne Forte, John Lawless and Melissa Colby; Resident CT State Trooper Sgt. Joe Roden; one member of the press; and about 3 additional members of the community

I. Call to Order

Mr. Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:46 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Region 14's Finest – Nonnewaug High School

Mr. Bauer asked Mr. O'Brien to conduct the awarding of Region 14's Finest certificates.

Mr. O'Brien asked Sgt. Roden to come and receive one for his work in making it his "personal mission" to connect with Region 14 and to take our safety to the level it needs to be. He said we are fortunate to have such a fine officer, who is also a graduate, on site, and he thanked him for his continued service.

Ms. Van Aken presented Sgt. Roden with his certificate, adding that, on behalf of the local prevention council, she thanks him for helping to revitalize that group, too. This recognition, she said, is long overdue and she thanked him for his service.

Mr. O'Brien explained the importance of the recent NEASC kick off panel presentation and that someone to "wow" the committee was needed. His clear choice was Ms. Martins, who he called to the podium to assist him in recognizing those who contributed to that event. Honored were: faculty members Leigh Ann Coles, Alicia Laurenzi, John Lawless, Katie Yocis, and Lynne Forte, in addition to Ms. Martins. Students recognized for their contributions were: Jonas Berry, Rob Peterson, Courtney Nastri, Meg Williams, Jordan Zitnay, Taylor Duplissie, Jake Vollmer, Maia Dobbs, Colin Smith, Matt Maciejko, Max Tracy and John Lucera.

III. Review of the Minutes

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to accept the minutes of the special meeting of April 1, 2013*. Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 4-0-1** with Mr. Swendsen abstaining.

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of April 8, 2013*, entered by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Mr. Swendsen. Mr. Goeler had one correction: in section VI, line 3 replace "...but to delay evaluations for staff with caseloads..." with "...but to delay *the new evaluation system* for staff with caseloads..." With that correction, the **motion carried 5-0**.

IV. Correspondence

None.

V. Report from the Chairman

Mr. Bauer welcomed everyone back from spring break and wished everyone a happy Earth Day. He reviewed a timeline of key dates related to upcoming events, including the budget referendum, building referendum and BoE elections.

VI. Report from the Superintendent

Mr. Goeler gave an extensive background and description of the Strategic Plan, which has been published in draft form and which he hoped to receive Board approval on tonight. The plan, he said, outlines responsibilities and

insures that everyone is working together to get the work done. It demonstrates how we do our work in the district. He took comments/questions from the board.

Ms. Zmek offered thanks to all committee members who worked on this plan. Mr. Cosgriff asked if former plans were used to inform this one. Mr. Goeler indicated that they were, and that elements such as the 5 Lesson Components are embedded in this plan, but that the committee was interested in identifying only a few major goals on which to focus. Prior plans, though of great value, seemed like expressions of everything the district hoped to accomplish instead of identifying a vital few goals to focus complete attention on.

Mr. Bauer also thought it is a great document and appreciates all that needs to be done to get the work accomplished. He asked how the group identified what is needed and what is in the budget to accomplish the work. Mr. Goeler indicated this work was done by sub-groups; for example, needs that are teaching based were done by teachers. Cross sections of groups developed lists and areas of need. Mr. Bauer also liked the goal setting sections and the indicators of success. Asked for his comments, Mr. Turk noted that the group came together well and that it was truly a group effort.

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to accept the Strategic Plan for Regional School District 14*, entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. Mr. Goeler also noted that everything requested in the budget is connected to, and in concert with, this plan. The **motion carried 5-0**.

VII. Privilege of the Floor

None.

VIII. Report from the Director of Finance and Operations

Mr. Turk offered year-to-date financial data to the board, and also indicated that he is working on electronic versions of a number of reports to be made available to them in the future. He has received 13 resumes for his position, has review 5 and has 8 more to review, and will provide feedback on them. Also, Helen Stewart returns on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

IX. Committee Reports

**Bylaws:** no report; will schedule a meeting next month to request funding for the attorneys to revise the critical policies previously identified.

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

**Facilities:** no report

**Finance:** no report; Mr. Turk stressed that there are 19 copies of the auditor's report waiting for review by the Finance Committee. A meeting is needed. Mr. Bauer will check on this.

**Personnel:** no report; BES Principal interviews are tomorrow

**Planning:** no report; will meet on 5/6 at 6:30 pm

**Negotiations:** ongoing with secretaries and paraprofessionals.

**Building:** the committee has been very busy and meeting weekly; public presentations are upcoming and a referendum is anticipated for 6/18. Tour dates are 4/30 and 5/2 at 6:30 pm and 5/4 at 2 pm.

Ms. Van Aken asked if a meeting of the ad hoc Security Committee will be scheduled. Mr. Bauer will check on this.

X. Old Business

None.

XI. New Business

Ms. Van Aken entered a *motion to approve the NHS Wrestling Team trip to competition in Florida, 12/26/13-12/30/13 for approximately 20 students, 4 faculty chaperones, via bus and air transportation, funded through fundraising and students' families' funds*. Seconded by Mr. Swendsen, the **motion carried 5-0**.

Mr. Bauer explained the need for board action in the form of a resolution to set notice of public hearing for the building referendum.

He requested the following motion: *I hereby move to schedule, call and conduct, in accordance with the law, a public hearing on May 14, 2013 at Nonnewaug High School in Woodbury at 7:00 pm concerning the proposed building project involving certain renovations, additions and improvements to Nonnewaug High School.*  
Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 5-0.**

**XII. Board Announcements**

Ms. Van Aken announced a collection of unused medications to be held on Saturday, 4/27 from 10 am until 2 pm at the Woodbury PD. This will be a no-questions-asked drive-through event.

**XIII. Privilege of the Floor**  
None.

**XIV. Adjournment**

Ms. Van Aken entered the *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Mr. Swendsen. The **motion carried 5-0.**  
The meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 9:28 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, 4/25/13