

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, January 7, 2013 at Nonnewaug High School, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Superintendent Jody Ian Goeler; Board members Sophiezane Bartlett, George Bauer, Charles Cosgriff, Gary Suslavich, Maryanne Van Aken and Pamela Zmek; Interim Director of Operations John Turk; Interim Director of Finance Helen Stewart; NHS student representative Vincent Pistritto; and Board Clerk Debra Carlton

Absent: Board members John Chapman and John Swendsen

Audience members included: WMS Principal Alice Jones and interim Assistant Principal Carol Tomkalski, Region 14 faculty and staff members, including Katie Yocis, Elaine Peck, Bill Davenport, Alice Pistritto and Barbara Losee; approximately 30 agriscience students and their families; *Voices* reporter Meg Spicer, and 2 additional members of the community

### I. Call to Order

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

### II. Presentations

#### A. Region 14's Finest – Woodbury Middle School

Mr. Goeler called on Ms. Jones to present a Region 14's Finest Award.

Ms. Jones named retiring band director, Bill Langellotti, as the recipient, saying that he will be sorely missed, having brought music to the middle school for many years. She thanked him and let the board know what a great person he is. Mr. Suslavich presented Mr. Langellotti with his certificate, which read: "For dedicating your career to the students of Woodbury and Bethlehem, and for nurturing in them the same love and appreciation for the beauty, value and magic of music as you so clearly possess and demonstrate in all you do as a Teacher of Music."

Mr. Langellotti, visibly moved by the honor, said that the challenge of teaching is in finding different ways to reach students, and the satisfaction is in seeing them respond. He has been blessed throughout his career, he said, and the experience will stay with him always. He thanked the Board and Ms. Jones for the honor and received a rousing applause and standing ovation from all in attendance.

#### B. Agriscience Students' Report on National Competition

Agriscience Teacher, Sara LaRose, introduced the various team representatives present who stated their names and home towns, detailed their competition area, and reported the outcomes and medals won.

#### C. Report from NHS Student Representative

NHS student representative, Vincent Pistritto, reported on a variety of events and news from all four schools.

### III. Review of the Minutes

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 17, 2012.*

Entered by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Mr. Suslavich, the **motion carried 6-0.**

### IV. Correspondence

Mr. Bauer indicated that he had received a letter from the Woodbury Selectmen's Office regarding the BoE meeting schedule. This matter will be addressed under new business at a later time.

V. Report from the Chairman

Mr. Bauer hoped everyone enjoyed a peaceful break and wished a happy new year to all. He reported having met with town officials to plan town meetings around school security. The meetings will occur 1/14/13 – 1/17/13 and parents will be notified. He also attended a security symposium today, along with Mr. Goeler, Mr. Turk, Ms. Van Aken and others, at which experts offered insight and suggestions for safety preparedness which were valuable. We are currently reviewing our own practices, he said.

VI. Report from the Superintendent

Mr. Goeler expressed appreciation to the town for the vigil for the victims of Sandy Hook; he attended and thought it was a moving show of support by the community. Likewise, the memorial for Ms. Hochsprung was a very moving show of support. He appreciates the police presence provided by the town, as well, and he recognizes a sense of cooperation between the town and school district regarding security. He has been communicating regularly with the public and is working to keep matters of security in perspective along with other budget concerns. He also continues to meet regularly with literacy specialists; he met today with the teacher evaluation committee; work on strategic planning continues and will affect next year's budget in areas of PD and evaluation.

VII. Privilege of the Floor (agenda specific)  
None.

VIII. Report from the Director of Finance and Operations

Mr. Turk awaits word from the Finance committee regarding which reports it wants to see on a regular basis and which it would like displayed on the website. He suggested shorter contract negotiations periods in the future, as some contract negotiations have dragged on for many months. He has prepared the audit RFP as well as transportation (waiting for word on where to house buses), food service management, and insurance if desired. Work on the budget is behind schedule, though a preliminary bottom line should be available mid-week. He has received word from the State that we are certified in the school lunch program, and added his praise for today's security symposium.

Ms. Stewart delivered copies of the financial report.

IX. Committee Reports

**Bylaws:** plans a meeting in February

**Public Relations:** will meet on 1/22/13

**Facilities:** no report

**Finance:** has not met; will meet this month

**Personnel:** no report

**Planning:** met tonight and heard from Andy O'Brien regarding electives at NHS

**Negotiations:** mediation is scheduled for this Wednesday with the paraprofessionals

**Building:** will meet tomorrow at 6 pm.

X. Old Business  
None.

XI. New Business  
None.

XII. Board Announcements

Ms. Zmek expressed her thanks to all the students and community members who served, for hours, bringing coffee and other refreshments to all those waiting in line to pay respects at Ms. Hochsprung's memorial services. She thought their efforts were very impressive and wanted to thank everyone for all they did.

XIII. Privilege of the Floor  
None.

XIV. Adjournment

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Ms. Van Aken. The **motion carried 6-0**.  
The meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 8:36 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, 1/11/13