

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, December 3, 2012 at Nonnewaug High School, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Superintendent Jody Ian Goeler; Board members Sophieazane Bartlett, George Bauer, John Chapman, Charles Cosgriff, Gary Suslavich, John Swendsen, and Maryanne Van Aken; NHS student representatives Jake Dominello and Vincent Pistrutto; and Board Clerk Debra Carlton

Absent: Board member Pamela Zmek

Audience members included: NHS Principal Andrew O'Brien, Director of Buildings/Grounds Michael Molzon, NHS faculty members Taryn Fernandez, Roger Parkhouse and John Dominello, NHS Head Custodian Steve Mulhall, FFA Reporter Madison Crane, *Voices* reporter Meg Spicer, and one additional member 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. Presentation – Region 14's Finest – Nonnewaug High School

Mr. Goeler called on Mr. Parkhouse and Ms. Van Aken to award a Region 14's Finest certificate to student Brandon Simmons. Mr. Parkhouse described Brandon as a student who, similar to fine silver or gold, stands out because of his brilliance in everything he undertakes. He shared comments he had received from Brandon's teachers, spoke of his academic accomplishments, and highlighted Brandon's extensive contributions to both the video production department at NHS and to his other commitments in the community. Ms. Van Aken congratulated Brandon, too, and presented him with a certificate.

Mr. O'Brien honored Taryn Fernandez for her many contributions as a faculty member at NHS, as well as for her willingness to step up to lead the NEASC steering committee. He summarized the many activities in which she has been involved for the benefit of students. She received a certificate from Ms. Van Aken, as well.

Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Molzon both shared their respect and praise for NHS Head Custodian Steve Mulhall, who goes above and beyond on a daily basis for his school. Mr. Mulhall shared his award with his colleagues, who he said make him look good every day, and Ms. Van Aken added her thanks to Mr. Mulhall, who she recalled was always kind and helpful to her as a parent and GradNite volunteer.

III. Review of the Minutes

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 19, 2012*. Entered by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Ms. Van Aken, the **motion carried 7-0**.

IV. Correspondence

None.

V. Report from the Chairman

Mr. Bauer reported having attended the senior citizens' luncheon at NHS which was well attended and included music by the clarinet quartet and chorus. He thanked John Dominello for his efforts.

He reminded the board of the 12/8 retreat, from 9 am til noon. Though he has confirmation that all can attend, he asked that anyone who finds that he/she cannot please be in touch with him.

VI. Report from the Superintendent

Mr. Goeler also offered congratulations to Mr. Dominello for a successful holiday luncheon, and noted local businesses that supported the event, too.

He introduced student representatives to the BoE. Jake Dominello, a senior, will serve this year and represent NHS and WMS, bringing information back to the board about those schools. Vincent Pistritto, a junior, will serve for 2 years and, this year, will report to the board on happenings at MES and BES. Mr. Goeler said he looks forward to having these students engaged in the work of the board.

Jake introduced himself as president of his class as well as FBLA president and VP of the CT FBLA. He is active in Unified Sports, Special Olympics, tennis and lacrosse and will attend college next year. He thanked the board and Mr. Goeler for the opportunity to serve as a student liaison to the board.

Vincent echoed Jake's sentiments and told the board a bit about himself. He is active in music, class council, the local Tri-M, boy scouts, and he also serves at his church. He looks forward to this experience, and hopes to convey the perspective of all his fellow students.

Mr. Goeler also called upon FFA reporter, Madison Crane, to update the board on recent events.

Madison gave detail on the Woodbury chapter's success at nationals and named the various teams and team members' names and how they placed, as well as upcoming events for the FFA.

Mr. Goeler also spoke of having met with the principals and literacy specialists and next steps for the district-wide data team. Work continues on strategic planning, in areas of goals for learning, instructional and assessment practices, and gap analysis, which will be the topic of a full day session on 12/14.

He hopes Mr. Turk will return soon, having been out on a medical leave, and we have reposted the position for a permanent replacement. He has also begun reviewing application packets for BES principal. A committee has been formed to work on the professional evaluation process to be aligned with the State model. He recently visited MES and BES and thanked the staff for accommodating that. He also participated in last week's agriscience program review, and noted that the Columbia writing project continues and will be at MES on Friday.

VII. Privilege of the Floor (agenda specific)

None.

VIII. Report from the Director of Finance and Operations

None.

IX. Committee Reports

Bylaws: will meet soon and has much work ahead.

Public Relations: no report

Facilities: will next meet on Tuesday, 12/11, at 7 pm. Mr. Chapman indicated that much of the pipeline for the gas conversion is done at MES; we are in receipt of all burners except for 2 for NHS; ground will be broken at NHS by Friday or the following Monday; and all appears to be on schedule.

Finance: has not met

Personnel: no report

Planning: will meet with Futures Education related to special education consulting on 12/17. Ms. Van Aken distributed compiled survey questions and asked that they be reviewed.

Negotiations: has met several times so far for teacher negotiations. Mr. Cosgriff noted a meeting on 12/5 where he hopes for a resolution; if not, mediation will occur the following Monday.

Building: meets tomorrow and plan to include updated information on the website.

X. Old Business

Mr. Suslavich reviewed the idea of having each principal return to upcoming board meetings to provide more in depth review of test scores and other educational matters, asking that this happen sooner than later.

Mr. Goeler noted an updated school calendar included in Board members' packets. The calendar shows the 4 storm days missed so far this year added to the end of the school year.

XI. New Business

Mr. Bauer requested a motion to approve the 2013 BoE meeting list. Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to approve the meeting list as presented*, and Mr. Cosgriff seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Ms. Bartlett urged the board to hold more than just a couple of meetings in Bethlehem. It was recalled that 2 dates had already been determined to be held there, 1/21/13 and 3/4/13, and that more could be added.

Ms. Van Aken expressed concern over changing dates due to Woodbury town meetings. She reminded the board that its meetings are held in public, but are not public meetings. If dates are changed for Woodbury town meetings, this would open the door to further date changes to avoid conflict with various meetings in the two member towns.

Mr. Chapman agreed to the extent that the same accommodation was not being made for Bethlehem, and thought perhaps a change in bylaws should precede action by the board to change meeting dates set by policy.

Ms. Van Aken suggested the original motion be withdrawn; however, Mr. Suslavich declined to do so.

Mr. Cosgriff withdrew his second in order for a new motion to be made.

Ms. Van Aken entered a *motion to approve the 2013 BoE meeting date schedule, with meetings dates of 5/21/13 changed back to 5/20/13 and 11/19/13 changed back to 11/18/13, and with meeting location for 1/22/13, 3/4/13, 5/20/13, 7/15/13, 9/16/13 and 11/4/13 listed as being held at Bethlehem Elementary School.*

Seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 6-0-1** with Mr. Suslavich voting no.

XII. Board Announcements

None.

XIII. Privilege of the Floor

Pam Gengenbach, Woodbury, advocated for the courtesy to the townspeople of not holding meetings when a town meeting is scheduled. She said she was not sure why there was conflict over 2 meeting dates, and also noted that those with DirectTV can't watch televised board meetings when they are rebroadcast.

XIV. Adjournment

Ms. Van Aken entered a *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. The **motion carried 7-0**. The meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 8:46 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, 12/5/12