

Minutes of the Personnel Committee of the Board of Education
Regional School District 14 www.ctreg.org
December 20, 2012

A meeting of the Planning Committee of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday December 17, 2012 in the Conference Room of the Central Office, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present were Superintendent Jody Ian Goeler, Dir. Of Spec. Service Kim Culkin, Principal Andy O'Brien, Committee Chair Maryanne Van Aken, and Committee Members Pam Zmek, John Chapman, George Bauer, Gary Suslavich, Sophiezane Bartlett, Community Member Alex DeSorbo, Futures Education representatives Michael Diamond and Dave Larson.

The meeting was called to order by M. Van Aken at 5:30PM.

The committee discussed the following:

1. Special Education Consultants Futures Education:

Michael Diamond and Dave Larson from Futures Education presented the process by which they would conduct a comprehensive review of our Special Education program. The review would encompass interviews with parents, staff and administration and would take between 6 – 8 weeks from start to finish. Their goal is to develop 4 – 5 very specific recommendations that should complement our Strategic Planning. The cost for these services is \$25,000.with an expected savings to the Dist. of between \$100,000.- \$200,000. Futures Education is available to do follow up work with parents and students at an additional cost.

2. Program of Studies at NHS:

Andy O'Brien discussed the plans to change all Level 3 Electives to Level 2, in the hopes of encouraging students in the AP and Level 1 classes to take more electives. In the past students with higher GPAs would not take a Level 3 class for fear of being less attractive to colleges. P. Zmek raised concerns that the level of rigor is commiserate with a Level 2 curriculum and not remain as it was in Level 3. Mr. O'Brien assured the group that teachers were not just going to increase the amount of work, but expect students to be doing more critical thinking and higher level work. M. Van Aken asked if Doc. Prep. is still a relevant class as most students come out of middle school with many of the skills offered in this class. It was suggested that Personal Finance should perhaps be a required class for all students. Mr. O'Brien indicated he would speak with Mrs. Losee regarding our concerns. He also presented the group with a list of new electives from the Social Studies Department.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryanne Van Aken

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Chair, Planning Committee
Regional School District 14 Board of Education