

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, March 19, 2012 in the Nonnewaug High School Library, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Superintendent Jody Ian Goeler; Board members Sophieazane Bartlett, George Bauer, John Chapman, Charles Cosgriff, Maryanne Van Aken and Pamela Zmek; Director of Finance and Operations James Reese; and Board Clerk Debra Carlton

Absent: Board members Gary Suslavich and John Swendsen

Audience members included: NHS teacher Katie Yocis, about 12 members of the community, and one member of the press

I. Call to Order

Mr. Cosgriff called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Presentation – Nonnewaug High School’s Team Beta

Nonnewaug High School’s Team Beta provided a one hour, comprehensive presentation on the group’s purpose, activities, successes and future. Sporting their distinctive blue and black tied dyed shirts, twenty-four speakers, led by the team’s senior and President, Carolyn Michener, covered topics such as the growth of the program; the value of mentoring and outreach opportunities; the “culture of science” at Nonnewaug High School; the preparation for college students gain through the experience, and the direction for future career paths it unlocks; the spirit of “coopertition” displayed by all robotics teams; the passion for what they do; the development of self-confidence, communication and leadership skills the experience affords them; and the genuine value placed on the team, teamwork, and the contributions each member makes to the team’s success.

Board members were given packets of information that included a brochure explaining FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), the organization that provides mentor-based programs such as robotics; a two-year accounting of the group’s activities; a copy of their Chairman’s 2012 award submission; an invitation to the CT regional competition on March 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> at the CT Convention Center; an invitation to attend the CT Electrathon Challenge/Electric car racing completion on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Lime Rock Park in Lakeville; information on their next technology fair (10/13/12); and a collector’s button with the team’s logo and axiom, “we’re working on it.”

Both students and their adult mentors spoke of the rewards of the program and what it has meant to them and their families. Gratitude was expressed to the district – the Board, their Principal, the middle school for providing workspace during build season; corporate sponsors, including ebmpapst, United Technologies, and Glen Magnetics, Inc.; and their very dedicated teacher advisors, Mike Murphy and Melissa Yard. Speaking during the course of the evening were:

Students Carolyn Michener, Patrick Dunham, Jonas McGowan-Martin, Max Bourgeois, Jon Day, Matt Monteiro, Matt Pivarnik, Matt Nichols, Ron East III, Kelly Laurentus, Becca DiSarro, Grace Giordano, Peche Sophon, Katie Shusdock, and Alex Williams.

Adult mentors who spoke were: Hogan Eng, Marc Polansky, Greg Nichols, Cecilia Page, Giovanna Whyte, Melissa Yard, Mike Murphy, Rose East and David Nichols.

Other Team Beta members present who did not speak but came to support their team were: Megan Belval, Jack Peters, Ed Moore, Evin Tyler, Victoria Allen, and Ryan Jasensky. Mentors present, but not speaking, were Doug Whyte, Ron East, Jr., Kumar Jonnalagadda and Pat DiSarro.

At the conclusion of the program, Mr. Cosgriff commended the group for its passion and Ms. Michener particularly for her leadership. If she, and they, are examples of what we are doing in Region 14, he said, then we are doing something right.

III. Chairman's Report

None.

IV. Executive Session

Mr. Cosgriff requested a motion to adjourn to executive session for the purpose of the Superintendent's evaluation, and to include Mr. Goeler in that session. The motion was entered by Mr. Chapman, seconded by Ms. Van Aken. **Motion carried 6-0.** The Board moved to executive session at 9:08 pm.

V. Adjournment

Mr. Cosgriff entered a *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Ms. Van Aken. The **motion carried 6-0.** The meeting adjourned at 10:29 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

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John Chapman, Secretary  
Regional School District 14 Board of Education

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval: Debra W. Carlton, Board Clerk, 3/26/12