

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, December 5, 2011, in the Nonnewaug High School Library, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Superintendent Jody Ian Goeler; Board members Sophiezane Bartlett, George Bauer, John Chapman, Charles Cosgriff, Gary Suslavich, John Swendsen, Maryanne Van Aken, and Pamela Zmek; Director of Finance/Operations James Reese; Nonnewaug High School Principal Andrew O'Brien and Assistant Principal Jose Martinez; NHS Teachers Michael Murphy and Melissa Yard; Director of Buildings/Grounds Michael Molzon; and Board Clerk Debra Carlton

Audience members included: approximately 20 members of the community and two members of the press

I. Call to Order

Mr. Cosgriff called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Presentation – 14's Finest – Nonnewaug High School

Mr. Goeler described this new program as one aimed at recognizing exceptional students and adults from the Region 14 community. At subsequent meetings, certificates will be awarded to recipients from the other three schools. He called on Mr. Martinez, who spoke of the accomplishments and character of student Carolyn Michener, who was chosen by her school for her contributions to the Robotics Team, unified sports teams and for representing NHS with grace, compassion, and maturity. Mr. Cosgriff presented a certificate to Carolyn.

Mr. O'Brien, new to the district as of 11/28, spoke of his numerous positive encounters with faculty member John Dominello, the second recipient of a 14's Finest award. Mr. Dominello, a culinary arts teacher, was recognized by his school for dedication to students, efforts for school and community, and support of the district. Ms. Van Aken presented a certificate to him, noting his contributions to Gradnite, an event in which she is involved.

III. Review of the Minutes

Mr. Bauer entered a *motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 7, 2011*. Seconded by Ms. Van Aken, the **motion carried 8-0**.

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting of November 14, 2011*. Seconded by Ms. Van Aken, the **motion carried 7-0-1**, with Ms. Zmek abstaining.

Ms. Van Aken entered a *motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 21, 2011*. Seconded by Mr. Bauer, the **motion carried 7-0-1** with Mr. Swendsen abstaining.

IV. Correspondence

None.

V. Report from the Chairman

Mr. Cosgriff noted that a resolution to the transportation issue involving Quanapaug Trail was expected later in the evening under committee reports, as well as the need for bus transportation for Girl Scouts.

VI. Report from the Superintendent

Mr. Goeler spoke of some of his activities since the last meeting. He met with representatives involved in Woodbury Historical Day, a springtime event involving grade 4 students. The intention is to combine the 4th graders from both schools for this event. He presented awards at the LCSA Student Banquet to NHS students Michelle Cawley and Taylor Losure, and WMS students Emmalee Levesque and Bret Stokes. He and his leadership team have been

involved in professional development with a professor from CCSU and focused on effective instruction and best practices. He attended the CABE/CAPSS conference and looks forward to Mr. Bauer's report on that event. He met with School Counselors Carol Tomkalski and Pam Sordi around student success plans. These counselors will present at the state level and Mr. Goeler is interested in having them present to the Board, too. Mr. Goeler spoke of the arrival of Mr. O'Brien to NHS. Andy has been visible in the school and we are happy to have him. Mr. Goeler attended the unveiling of the mural at MES and urged everyone to see it. He met with Jen DeWitt from the Central Naugatuck Valley Regional Action Council and will join that steering committee. He also attended the NHS culinary department's holiday meal for seniors, as well as First Thursday at the Woodall School. Lastly, he spoke of a meeting with his elementary principals regarding preliminary budget work. He commented that it is extraordinary to have two principals who are at the same time protective of their schools, but also extremely cooperative in their working relationship.

VII. Privilege of the Floor

None.

VIII. Report from the Director of Finance/Operations

Mr. Reese reported that in his efforts to secure state assistance for damage from the October storm, he learned that a check is forthcoming for a January 2011 storm. He was able to attend a FEMA meeting regarding filing claims for the October storm. Among other damage, the district lost a pickup truck due to a fallen tree.

IX. Committee Reports

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to add reports from the Public Relations, Policy, and Facilities Committees to the agenda, seconded by Mr. Bauer, the motion carried 8-0.*

Mr. Bauer, for Facilities/Transportation, thanked Mr. Reese and the committee for tackling the Quanaaug Trail concern. The route has been adjusted to have a bus travel that road, past Cowles and to Flanders. Woodbury's First Selectman assures the district that the road can accommodate a bus. He requested a *motion to add, under New Business, bus authorization for 2011-12 to transport Girl Scouts at BES to MES across the attendance zone.* Entered by Ms. Zmek, and seconded by Ms. Bartlett, the **motion carried 8-0.**

Mr. Chapman reported for the Bylaws/Policy/Ethics Committee, which is wrestling with the bullying policy to be in place by 1/2012; however, this date is a recommendation only. The committee seeks to modify existing policy to put it in line with regulations and will develop a plan – policy and regulation – to be modified by administration without the need for board approval with each incidence. The committee does not seek to tie the policy to regulation so that, as regulations change, the board does not need to be continuously consulted for updates/changes. That committee will meet tomorrow, 12/6.

Ms. Zmek's Public Relations Committee met tonight to put final touches on Thursday's reception for Mr. Goeler and Mr. O'Brien, to be held from 5-6:30 pm on Thursday in the NHS LMC. Hopefully, those attending the reception will stay on for the NHS holiday concert to follow. The committee also explored the idea of free passes for senior citizens to attend sporting events and theater productions.

X. Old Business

None.

XI. New Business

A. Approval of Proposed Changes to 2011-12 School Calendar

Ms. Van Aken entered a *motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for changes to the 2011-12 school calendar*, seconded by Ms. Bartlett. Considerable discussion followed, including pros and cons of preserving April break, polling parents of seniors for their preferences, consideration of having school on Federal holidays, number of times the calendar can be revised, issue of flexibility for graduation to be held on a day other than Saturday, and the inability to know how many more snow days there will be. The **motion previously entered and seconded carried 7-1**, with Mr. Suslavich voting no.

B. Approval of 2012 Board Meeting Dates

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to accept the list of Board meeting dates for 2012*, seconded by Mr. Bauer. Discussion followed regarding one meeting per month during the summer. Mr. Suslavich withdrew his previous motion. Ms. Van Aken entered a *motion to accept the calendar dates proposed with the exception of July 2, 2012 and August 6, 2012*. Seconded by Mr. Chapman, the **motion carried 8-0**.

C. Revision of Policy 5131.911

Tabled.

D. Approval of WAN connectivity and Internet Service Contract

Mr. Bauer entered the following motion: *Resolved, that the Regional School District 14 enter into three year contracts between the Regional School District 14 and Charter Fiberlink CT-CCO, LLC ("Charter Business"), at a total monthly rate of \$3,682.00 to provide WAN connectivity amongst our schools and internet services on a district wide basis and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the contracts*. Seconded by Ms. Zmek. Discussion followed and clarification was received from Paul Ciotti. The **motion made and seconded carried 8-0**.

E. Approval of Nurses Contract

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to add to the agenda and Executive Session to discuss the nurses' contract*, seconded by Mr. Bauer. **Motion carried 8-0**.

F. Approval of Grade 8 Washington, D.C. trip

Mr. Bauer entered a *motion to approve the Grade 8 Washington, DC trip, via coach bus, May 31-June 1, 2012*. Seconded by Mr. Swendsen. Mr. Suslavich renewed his concern that parent chaperones be vetted in some way to ensure that no restraining orders, convictions, etc. show up on their records before allowing them to serve as chaperones on overnight trips. The **motion made and seconded carried 8-0**.

G. Bus Authorization

Mr. Bauer entered a *motion to approve transportation for Bethlehem Elementary Students to Mitchell Elementary School for the purpose of attending Girl Scout meetings by utilizing existing approved bus runs across attendance zones at no additional cost for the 2011-2012 school year*. Seconded by Ms. Van Aken, the **motion carried 8-0**.

XII. Board Announcements

None.

XIII. Privilege of the Floor

Jeanne Hawley, Woodbury, expressed concern over polling families about their preferences regarding graduation dates (Saturday vs. week night). She urged making sure they understand that a mid-week graduation would most likely mean that Gradnite would not happen.

XIV. Executive Session

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the nurses' contract and to include Mr. Goeler and Mr. Reese*. Seconded by Mr. Bauer, the **motion carried 8-0**. Time: 9:25 pm.

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Following Executive Session, Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to accept the Nurses' Contract for 7/1/2011-6/30/2014*, seconded by Mr. Bauer. The **motion carried 8-0**.

XV. Adjournment

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Ms. Bartlett. The **motion carried 8-0**.
The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:50 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

John Chapman, Secretary
Regional School District #14 Board of Education

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Debra W. Carlton, Board Clerk, 12/7/11