

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, November 7, 2011, 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, Gary Suslavich, John Swendsen, Maryanne Van Aken and Pamela Zmek; Director of Finance/Operations James Reese; Director of Buildings/Grounds Michael Molzon; Principal Alice Jones and Assistant Principal Jose Martinez; Energy Education Specialist Maryanne Kaminski; and Board Clerk Debra Carlton
Audience members included: 2 members of the community and three members of the press

I. Call to Order

Mr. Cosgriff called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Cosgriff led the Pledge of Allegiance

III. Presentation – Energy Education

Mr. Reese prefaced the award presentation by Energy Education by explaining that the program was introduced in 2010 as a proactive step toward energy conservation by his predecessor, Jay Hubelbank. The program, he said, has been very successful and does not affect the comfort of school occupants, as most of the savings are realized after hours when the buildings are empty. Over \$400,000 has been saved compared to the baseline year in cost avoidance, he said. He called on Energy Education representative Jim Galletly.

Mr. Galletly reported \$414,500 in cost avoidance savings for Region 14, and a 35% reduction in energy use, making it the leading district in the state of Connecticut at this time. He reported current percentage savings at the four schools: WMS 38%, MES 37%, NHS 34% and BES 29%. Most impressive of these is at NHS, the largest building and the one with the most after-hours activity. He called on Ms. Kaminski who recognized those who have helped create success with the program in district.

Ms. Kaminski recognized the efforts of Mr. Martinez, instrumental to its success at NHS. She called on Ms. Jones, who she described as leading the WMS team and energizing it. She thanked her partner, Mr. Molzon, who has educated her in all things mechanical, and then turned to him to recognize his custodial staff, who are key to the success of the program within the schools. From NHS, Valdir Nascimento, Evaldo DeMelo, Eric Beardsley, Richard Mosman, Steve Mulhall and Tom Elliott were thanked. From WMS, David Haversat, Jim LaBoudy, Jim Hallaway, Don Jimmo and Mike Bonetti were recognized. From MES, Dennis Powell, Jim Fraser, Stewart Clarke and Scott Polek were acknowledged, as were Walter Carey, Bruce Beeman, and Hank Chabot from BES.

Lastly, Paul Ciotti was thanked for his efforts and knowledge related to servers and other computer related energy issues, and for his occasional but good natured response to Ms. Kaminski that, "no, you can't unplug that!"

IV. Review of the Minutes

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 3, 2011*. Seconded by Mr. Bauer, the **motion carried 7-0-1** with Ms. Zmek abstaining, not having been in attendance.

Mr. Bauer entered a *motion to accept the minutes from the Regular Meeting of October 17, 2011*. Seconded by Ms. Van Aken, the **motion carried 8-0**.

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to add to the agenda the approval of the minutes of the special meeting of October 26, 2011*. Seconded by Mr. Swendsen, the **motion carried 8-0**.

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to accept the minutes of the special meeting of October 26, 2011*. Seconded by Ms. Van Aken, the **motion carried 6-0-2**, with Mr. Chapman and Mr. Bauer abstaining, not having been in attendance.

V. Correspondence
None.

VI. Report from the Chairman

Mr. Cosgriff described the past week as one to remember and hoped everyone did as well as could be expected under difficult circumstances. He hoped it was an opportunity, or adventure, where life skills were honed, helping others was possible and problems were able to be solved.

He also noted the excellence of the students at the Agriscience Legislative Open House, which was also attended by members of the state legislature and board of education. Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman, he said, urged our students to keep doing what they're doing, and everyone was very impressed by our program.

He also acknowledged the Nonnewaug Teachers' Association for the successful negotiation of their contract for next year as an example of putting forth effort and working together. He sees it as building on trust and improving our educational system and opportunities for students to learn. These are good signs, he said, and he sees positive results coming from it.

VII. Report from the Superintendent

Mr. Goeler recapped highlights from the past month, including his attendance – along with Mr. Cosgriff and community member Monica Gati – at an educational foundations meeting which was a good opportunity for networking with foundation contacts, to build resources in the schools. He met with the WMS faculty and visited MES. He met both the Women's and Junior Women's Clubs at their meetings. He echoed Mr. Cosgriff's comments about the Agriscience open house, and updated the board on the principal search. The finalist will be brought before the board for appointment in the near future. He concurred with Mr. Cosgriff's comments about teachers' contract negotiations and will work to move forward with the teachers. He praised the efforts of Mike Murphy and Melissa Yard in their preparations for last Saturday's tech fest. He had never seen such an elaborate presentation and marveled at the intensity and intellectual curiosity of all those participating. He thanked the maintenance and custodial staff for their efforts after the storm. When thinking about building maintenance, it usually doesn't involve such things as chain saws and tree clearing and he appreciated the extra efforts required to get the schools ready to open today. Likewise, the work of the town and public works staff was much appreciated.

VIII. Privilege of the Floor
None.

IX. Report from the Director of Finance/Operations

Mr. Reese thanked Mr. Molzon for putting in a tremendous amount of work last week. He was well organized in getting the buildings back in shape to open. Paul Ciotti, too, was back here as soon as power was on working to restore computer/electronic capability. Town officials were in good contact with him on road conditions, too. Losses experienced by the region were minimal, but included loss of parking lot lights at NHS, a couple of fans and fan motors on compressors. There was no food lost because at least one school had power.

Mr. Goeler was asked about lost days, and responded that no waiver from the state is expected. The board, he said, will need to act on that, and he will hope to have his plan to them at the December meeting of the board.

X. Committee Reports

Mr. Bauer entered a *motion to add reports from the Policy, Finance, Facilities, Planning and Public Relations Committees to the agenda under this category*. Seconded by Ms. Van Aken, the **motion carried 8-0**.

For Policy, Mr. Chapman having met with his committee to establish priorities for the year – first up being the Bullying Policy which will be highly prescriptive per state statute. Busing policy and bylaws of the board will also be addressed, including review of the meeting agenda.

For Planning, Ms. Van Aken reported having met to review educational specifications and the process for moving forward on a building project. The position of Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum will be on hold until next year due to lack of funds. The topic of a resource officer was also briefly discussed, as was a safety summit.

For Facilities, Mr. Bauer reporting meeting regarding safety concerns at a bus stop and children walking distances to bus stops, as well as requests to bus across boundary lines for activities.

Mr. Suslavich reported for the Finance Committee, which met and reviewed the budget, learning that virtually all funds are encumbered and there are no extra funds. Special Education outplacements were reviewed and no surprises were seen. Budgeting for next year will start soon, he said.

For Public Relations, Ms. Zmek noted that the 2 planned receptions for Mr. Goeler did not occur due to the storm and one will be rescheduled at NHS between Thanksgiving and Christmas. The work of the NHS culinary students will be highlighted.

XI. Old Business

Ms. Van Aken urged all committee chairs to submit minutes in a timely fashion to be published on the website on time. It affects the full board, she said, when some members do not fulfill their commitment.

XII. New Business
None.

XIII. Board Announcements

Ms. Van Aken commented that the legislative dinner was fantastic. She realizes that many of our graduates are now small business owners – we have graduates who are hiring people – and this is the backbone of this country.

Mr. Goeler repeated what was said that night, that this is not a jobs program, but rather a careers program.

Ms. Zmek remarked on how well spoken the agriscience students are, and Mr. Swendsen noted the shift from just farming to agriscience.

Mr. Bauer agreed with Mr. Swendsen, and also enjoyed the enthusiasm to share knowledge that he saw at the tech fest. Mr. Suslavich thanked the teachers for stepping up this year and taking essentially a hard zero next year. They understand the tough economic times and unanimously agreed to the zero increase.

Mr. Chapman acknowledged the work of Ms. Kaminski and that this one position has leveraged so much for the district and created a culture within it.

XIV. Privilege of the Floor
None.

XV. Executive Session

Ms. Van Aken entered a *motion to adjourn to executive session for the purpose of attorney/client privileged information regarding special education*. Seconded by Mr. Swendsen, the **motion carried 8-0**. Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to invite Mr. Goeler, Kim Culkin, and Mr. Reese into the session*. Seconded by Mr. Bauer, that **motion carried 8-0**. The Board moved to executive session at 8:30 pm. and returned at 9:35 pm.

XVI. Adjournment

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Mr. Swendsen. **Motion carried 8-0.**
The Board of Education meeting concluded at 9:42 p.m.

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, 11/9/11