

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, November 21, 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, Maryanne Van Aken and Pamela Zmek; Director of Finance/Operations James Reese; Director of Buildings/Grounds Michael Molzon; Faculty and Staff members Bill Davenport, Ericka Giampolo, Renee Eriksen, Erica Foster, and Maryanne Kaminski; newly appointed NHS Principal Andrew O'Brien; and Board Clerk Debra Carlton

Absent: Board member John Swendsen

Audience members included: approximately 50 Agriscience students, their parents and other members of the community, and two members of the press

I. Call to Order

Mr. Cosgriff called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Cosgriff led the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Cosgriff introduced Andrew O'Brien, who will begin service as Nonnewaug High School Principal next week.

III. Presentation – Agriscience Program

Mr. Davenport delivered an informative and engaging 60 minute presentation of the NHS Agriscience Program, featuring reports from students, testimonials from graduates and parents, and recommendations for the future of the program. Students competing nationally in areas of Food Science, Nursery/Landscaping, Floriculture, Farm Business Management, Forestry, Job Interviewing, Meat Judging, Mechanics, Livestock Evaluation, Poultry Evaluation, and Communications told of their performances and placement in competition. Parent/Community advisors Ed Bartolotta, Alice Wilkerson and Dan Caron spoke of the value of the program; and graduates Colin Sieracki, Tom DeMarco, Erica Foster and Mike Schneider explained the benefits they gained from having attended the program. In his closing, Mr. Davenport thanked the board and community for continued support of the program and suggested perhaps monthly reports from students and/or parents, during privilege of the floor, to enhance the level of communication and awareness between the school and community.

IV. Review of the Minutes

Tabled

V. Correspondence

None.

VI. Report from the Chairman

Mr. Cosgriff wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving holiday.

VII. Report from the Superintendent

None

**VIII. Privilege of the Floor**

Julie Haggard, Woodbury, supports a remedy to the bus stop issue on Quanapaug Trail; appreciates the administration's help and hopes to resolve this issue in a timely fashion – hopefully within the next few weeks. She wondered what the process involves, and was told by Mr. Bauer that Mr. Reese will interface with the Transportation Committee and the bus company to resolve the issue. He appreciates Ms. Haggard's patience. Ms. Van Aken was surprised to hear of a policy stating 45 minutes as a maximum bus ride. She urged resolving this issue soon and is baffled as to why it is taking so long.

Jeanne Hawley, Woodbury, asked for resolution in the matter of accommodating Girl Scouts who wish to ride a bus from BES to MES for troop meetings. She suggested that only 35 students ride the dedicated bus to the 3 licensed day care providers and so perhaps that bus could be utilized for the scouts. She asked when a decision is anticipated, since the year is almost half over. Mr. Goeler replied that he would speak with Mr. Reese in the morning.

**IX. Report from the Director of Finance/Operations**

None.

**X. Committee Reports**

For Policy, Mr. Chapman reported having met to review new school climate legislation. His committee will meet again tomorrow and will look to make a recommendation to the board to adopt a new policy prior to the 1/2012 deadline. The policy wording will be very prescriptive/specific. Bus policy and bylaws related to meeting agendas will be addressed next, he said.

For Facilities/Transportation, Mr. Bauer reported having met regarding an energy conservation initiative and fan blowers at NHS, and the committee rehashed the Yankee Gas topic. Traffic flow at NHS was discussed, as was emergency preparedness, the bus stop at Quanapaug Trail, and the Girl Scout transportation issue.

Mr. Suslavich reported for the Finance Committee. He told of a 2009-10, 2010-11 funding error affecting the towns which will be resolved. His committee reviewed budget transfers and heard that the district budget is almost 99% spent or encumbered for this year.

**XI. Old Business**

None

**XII. New Business**

None

**XIII. Board Announcements**

Ms. Van Aken visited the Artists in Residency project at MES, placed a tile and got her hands dirty. She said it was really very cool, a great project, and she can't wait to see the finished product.

Mr. Bauer reported attending the CABA convention. He plans to put together information for the Board about it.

**XIV. Privilege of the Floor**

None.

**XV. Executive Session**

At 8:50 pm, Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to move to Executive Session for attorney/client privileged information regarding special education, and to invite Mr. Goeler and Mr. Reese to attend, as well.* Seconded by Mr. Bauer, the **motion carried 7-0.**

Following the Executive Session, which concluded at 9:30 p.m., the board entertained a motion from Mr. Bauer *to add to the agenda discussion regarding authorization to proceed with the NHS Energy Efficiency Proposal, dated November 14, 2011.* Mr. Suslavich seconded, and the **motion carried 7-0.** Discussion ensued. Reasoning behind moving forward with the proposal quickly was due to time period of acceptance in order to facilitate some of the work to get started during the holiday school recess.

Mr. Bauer *motioned to accept the NHS Energy Efficiency Proposal dated 11/14/2011.* Seconded by Mr. Suslavich, the **motion carried 7-0.**

**XVI. Adjournment**

Ms. Van Aken entered a *motion to adjourn,* seconded by Mr. Suslavich. **Motion carried 7-0.**  
The Board of Education meeting concluded at 9:40 p.m.

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 by: Debra W. Carlton, Board Clerk, 11/22/11