

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, June 18, 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, Gary Suslavich, John Swendsen, Maryanne Van Aken and Pamela Zmek; Assistant to the Director of Finance/Operations Helen Stewart; and Board Clerk Debra Carlton
Audience members included: Region 14 faculty/staff John Dominello and Steve Mulhall; two members of the press and about eight additional members of the community

I. Call to Order

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

II. Review of the Minutes

Mr. Bauer entered a *motion to accept the minutes of the District Meeting of June 5, 2012 as written*. Seconded by Mr. Swendsen, the **motion carried 7-0-1** with Mr. Suslavich abstaining.

Ms. Van Aken entered a *motion to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 5, 2012 as written*. Seconded by Mr. Bauer, the **motion carried 6-0-2** with Ms. Bartlett and Mr. Suslavich abstaining.

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 12, 2012 as written*. Seconded by Mr. Swendsen, the **motion carried 5-0-3** with Ms. Bartlett, Ms. Zmek and Mr. Cosgriff abstaining.

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 14, 2012 as written*. Seconded by Mr. Swendsen, the **motion carried 5-0-3** with Ms. Bartlett, Mr. Bauer and Mr. Cosgriff abstaining.

III. Correspondence

None.

IV. Report from the Chairman

Mr. Cosgriff acknowledged three students for outstanding service in filming Board of Education meetings throughout the year. Brandon Simmons has dedicated more than 400 hours to this effort, David Cauli has spent more than 145 hours filming, and Max Tracy has logged more than 100 hours. Mr. Cosgriff considered this "beyond marvelous" and the board and audience responded with applause for these students.

Mr. Cosgriff also commented on a fast year, where much was accomplished by this board which worked together with one goal in mind, that of a successful school system. He noted that this same group will be together again next year, and he looks forward to that.

V. Report from the Superintendent

Mr. Goeler reported having attended the 5th grade moving up ceremony, and DARE graduations, and will attend middle school graduation this week as well as the high school graduation on Saturday. At this very special time of year, he said, one cannot help but to look back as well as forward.

He commented that he had thought a lot about the last special meeting of the board, and felt that if Congress worked the way this Board does, we would not have the gridlock in the federal government that we have today. We are moving forward, he said, and strategic planning will begin this summer for the next 5 years. He said it's been a great year professionally and personally. He echoed Mr. Cosgriff's thoughts that this Board has kept its eye on the ball, which has not been easy but which is moving the district forward, with student performance always the focus.

Prior to Privilege of the Floor, Mr. Suslavich asked to add a number of items to the agenda. He entered a *motion to add, under new business, discussion and possible action on allocating part of the 2011-12 surplus to remove and replace the asbestos floor tiles at Mitchell Elementary School*. Seconded by Mr. Bauer, the **motion carried 8-0**.

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to add an executive session to the agenda for the purpose of discussing the superintendent's review*. Seconded by Mr. Swendsen, the **motion carried 8-0**.

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Next, Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to add to the agenda, under New Business, a discussion with possible action regarding the Public Act 12-179 which statutorily defined the number of students at WMS to reduce the penalty for the middle school building project.* Seconded by Mr. Bauer, the **motion carried 8-0.**

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to add to the agenda, under New Business, discussion of moving election of board officers to this evening due to the large number of members away during July.* Seconded by Mr. Bauer, the **motion carried 8-0.**

And, finally, Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to add, under New Business, discussion of the out-of-district enrollment and to cap at the trailing 3 year average as defined in State Statute.* Mr. Bauer seconded the motion. Ms. Van Aken reminded Mr. Suslavich that a committee will be formed to study the program in depth, including enrollment, and she prefers not to act on a motion such as this prior to allowing that committee to complete its charge. Ms. Zmek felt action this evening would not be wise, as students have already been accepted for next year.

The motion failed 2-6 with Mr. Suslavich and Mr. Bauer voting yes.

VI. Privilege of the Floor

None.

VII. Report from the Director of Finance/Operations

Sitting in for Mr. Reese, business office assistant Helen Stewart noted that the revised budget information will be published on the district website and delivered to town offices.

VIII. Committee Reports

Mr. Bauer reported for the Facilities Committee, which met and discussed the burner conversion, including contracts and engineering; agriscience projects such as building improvements; and educational specifications/enrollment based on Prowda's projections through 2021 as relates to building projects.

Mr. Suslavich's Finance Committee meeting lacked a quorum but included lively discussion of the budget to date, burner conversion, and the idea of an independent source writing educational specifications.

Mr. Cosgriff restated that para and secretarial negotiations are in progress.

IX. Old Business

None.

X. New Business

On the topic of the added agenda item related to surplus, Mr. Suslavich predicts approximately \$183,000 in surplus (after the approximate \$200,000 is subtracted for the burner conversion) and, therefore, entered a *motion to earmark \$100,000 of this for continued asbestos abatement at Mitchell Elementary.* Mr. Bauer seconded the motion.

Mr. Chapman recalled discussion of bringing the surplus forward into next year's budget. Mr. Suslavich noted that this would reduce the amount brought forward, but will have no impact on next year's budget. To Mr. Swendsen's question about a priority list, and concerns about fire panels at BES in need of replacement, Mr. Suslavich noted that the fire panels pass fire marshal's inspections, and asbestos is always high on the priority list.

The motion carried 8-0.

Regarding the added agenda item having to do the special legislation and reimbursement for the middle school building project, Mr. Suslavich requested that if the amount the district receives is not known in time to affect the budget, that the board act on a *motion to send the appropriate proportional amount to the towns.* The motion was seconded by Mr. Chapman. Ms. Stewart commented that this would be done automatically. Ms. Van Aken questioned, then, why a motion would be required. Mr. Suslavich wanted this action reaffirmed by the board.

The motion carried 8-0.

On the topic of moving election of officers to tonight, several members commented that they had given election of officers little thought at this time and would not be prepared to act. Mr. Suslavich was under the impression that a

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number of members would be unavailable in July. It was noted that the July meeting is scheduled for July 16th. Polling the board, it was found that only Mr. Suslavich will be unavailable on that date; therefore, no action was taken on moving elections to a different date.

XI. Board Announcements

Ms. Van Aken reported having attended a ceremony today dedicating the Memorial Garden at NHS, a place where those who passed away while in service to the district are honored. She thanked Andy O'Brien, NHS Principal, and all who helped to put this together. It is a very peaceful and lovely place and she urged visiting it. She also put in a plug for GradNite, scheduled for this Saturday night. There is an open house time period between about 8-9 pm and she encouraged checking it out, all are welcome.

XII. Privilege of the Floor

Tom Arras, Woodbury, asked about the Prowda projections mentioned during Mr. Bauer's report. Mr. Bauer stated that the projections for the next 10 years, through 2021, show enrollment decreasing as much as 23%, to about 1580 total students. Mr. Arras found this startling, and asked if it is typical of this area, or of the country.

Deb DeSorbo, Woodbury, asked the status of both the agriscience committee and strategic planning, wondering when each would begin and if funds are needed.

Mr. Goeler said funds are in place and work would begin this summer.

Ms. DeSorbo commented that there has been quite the margin of error with Mr. Prowda's projections.

XIII. Executive Session

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to go to Executive Session to discuss the superintendent's review. Seconded by Ms. Van Aken, the motion carried 8-0.* The board went into executive session at 8:30 pm

XIV. Adjournment

Mr. Bauer entered a *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Ms. Van Aken. The **motion carried 8-0.** The meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 10:39 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, 6/22/12