

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, October 3, 2011, in the Nonnewaug High School Library, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Superintendent Jody Ian Goeler; Board members George Bauer, John Chapman, Charles Cosgriff, Gary Suslavich, John Swendsen, and Maryanne Van Aken; Director of Finance/Operations James Reese; and Board Clerk Debra Carlton

Absent: Board members Sophiezane Bartlett and Pamela Zmek

Audience members included: approximately 5 members of the community and two members of the press

I. Call to Order

Mr. Cosgriff called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Cosgriff led the Pledge of Allegiance

III. Review of the Minutes

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 19, 2011 as written.* Second by Mr. Chapman. **Motion carried 6-0.**

IV. Correspondence

None.

V. Report from the Chairman

Mr. Cosgriff noted that things are going well and on schedule; teacher negotiations will commence soon and towns have been notified of information needed from them.

VI. Report from the Superintendent

Mr. Goeler offered congratulations to all those involved with the Go the Distance event on Saturday. The rain, he said, could not dampen the spirits of the participants and he hoped a lot of money was raised. He reported that he, Mr. Cosgriff, and Monica Gati will attend a CT Education Foundation's seminar tomorrow to hear from school districts which have educational foundations. Mr. Goeler is interested in this type of non-traditional funding source for educational causes, which could allow for programs not fundable through the district's operating budget. He also hopes it could be a way for the two towns to work together for a common cause. Mr. Goeler reported having met with the Women's Club today at their luncheon meeting. He discussed with them the many changes in education and the necessity to reach all students and prepare them for college and careers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

He also mentioned the return of Nick Caruso, from CABE, who will meet with the board on 10/11 for the second half of the board's workshop/retreat.

He also spoke of having attended a CAPSS policy meeting, at which superintendents discussed what stand they will take statewide to insure they are preparing students for the future. The CSDE websites shows many areas to be addressed in the education of students; for instance, by 2012, student success plans need to be in place. Once the high school principal is hired, Mr. Goeler will ask the board to give thought to how best to achieve the variety of state initiatives being put in place. Whether it be an Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, or some other position, these initiatives will need to be addressed.

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Principal interviews, he said, will be conducted on 10/5 and 10/12, after which about 5 will move on to interviews with the leadership team; after which 2-3 will be interviewed again by Mr. Goeler, who will then bring a finalist to the board. Interim Principal Len Fenelon has agreed to stay on through mid/late November if need be, based on how much notice the new principal would need to give.

**VII. Privilege of the Floor**

None.

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

Mr. Reese reminded the board of the common boundary line issue at the last board meeting. An agreement was written by counsel and the board will be asked to take action on that later in the meeting. He also reported having attended the vo-ag building project meeting. He has received notification of acceptance of the plans and specifications. Once final approval is given, the bid process can begin.

**IX. Committee Reports**

Mr. Cosgriff, reporting for Negotiations, reiterated that teachers' negotiations will begin soon and dates are being set. Also, nurses' negotiations are ongoing since April.

**X. Old Business**

Regarding the need to make up school days lost at the beginning of the year:

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to approve a change to the 2011-2012 school calendar to reflect November 1, 2011 and March 19, 2012 as modified days for students*. Second by Mr. Chapman. Mr. Goeler assured the board that CEU hours can still be met by teachers with this modification. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Regarding the common boundary line issue:

Mr. Suslavich entered this *motion: Resolved, that Regional School District 14 be authorized to enter into a boundary line agreement with DDS Properties for the purpose of establishing a common boundary line between the adjacent properties of the District's Nonnewaug High School and DDS Properties, based upon and described in the August 11, 2011 request from DDS, subject to any necessary legal review*. Second by Mr. Bauer. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Suslavich entered a second *motion: Resolved, that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to execute said boundary line agreement with DDS Properties on behalf of the District, following any necessary legal review*. Second by Mr. Swendsen. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Regarding the need to modify the agenda format for the next meeting:

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to add to tonight's agenda the modification of the agenda for the next board meeting*. Second by Mr. Bauer. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to modify the agenda for the next business meeting of the Board of Education, on October 17, 2011, to include only presentations on NEASC and CMT results, as well as any other business the Superintendent and Board Chair deem necessary*. Second by Mr. Bauer. **Motion carried 6-0.**

**XI. New Business**

Mr. Chapman voiced his concern that several busing issues, including the busing of Girl Scouts between elementary schools, be brought to the committee level, for which there was agreement. He also noted the anticipated input of the Policy Committee, which plans an initial meeting on 10/25.

XII. Board Announcements

Mr. Suslavich noted that the monthly meetings of Finance and Facilities committees will be postponed in order to allow for the second Board workshop on 10/11.

XIII. Privilege of the Floor

None.

XIV. Future Business

Ms. Van Aken emphasized her desire that the school security issue be included on a future agenda, for which there was some agreement. Mr. Suslavich felt that issue should be addressed in Executive Session. Mr. Goeler suggested discussing how this issue will be pursued during the retreat.

XV. Adjournment

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Ms. Van Aken. **Motion carried 6-0.**

The Board of Education meeting concluded at 8:10 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, 10/4/11