

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, February 6, 2012 in the Nonnewaug High School Library, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

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

Absent: Board members John Swendsen and Pamela Zmek

I. Call to Order

Mr. Cosgriff called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He noted the passing of and observed a moment of silence for retired Region 14 teacher Charles "Chip" Planz, who served his entire career as a math teacher at Nonnewaug High School.

II. Presentation – Region 14's Finest

Mitchell Elementary School Principal MaryLou Torre was on hand to assist in honoring her school's Student Council Officers and their faculty advisor. She spoke of how that group had come together this year at MES and accomplished a great deal, including collecting more than 50 boxes of food items for the Woodbury Food Bank; promoting "No Name Calling Week" which included a poster contest; initiating the writing of kind acts/deeds on paper hearts displayed in the school; raising money through Valentine grams to be used to purchase both books and flower bulbs that students will plant on school grounds; creating Valentine cards for seniors at a Woodbury senior housing complex; planning a teachers versus students basketball game; and being instrumental in shaping a positive environment at Mitchell Elementary School. Joined by Board member John Chapman, she presented certificates to officers Malia Piscitelli, Lydia Davidowitz, Angela Groody, and Lindsey Ross. Also receiving a Region 14's Finest faculty award was the group's advisor, Beth Orwick.

III. Review of the Minutes

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of January 3, 2012 as written.*

Seconded by Mr. Bauer, the **motion carried 6-0.**

Ms. VanAken entered a *motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of January 17, 2012 as written.*

Seconded by Mr. Suslavich, the **motion carried 6-0.**

IV. Correspondence

None.

V. Report from the Chairman

None.

VI. Report from the Superintendent

Mr. Goeler directed the Board's attention to the reports in their packets, and recognized the extraordinary efforts of the leadership team in preparing them. Reports from each school principal, as well as from the Department of Special Services and the Technology Department, will be provided on a monthly basis to the Board. The reports, he said, have common themes of acknowledging the value of common planning time in developing common formative and summative assessments; curriculum work, including revision and adding of resources; the significant achievements of our students; and opportunities provided by teachers through clubs and other extra activities.

He continues to be pleased that the 2 elementary principals work together for a common elementary school experience for our young students. He is also happy with the support of the parents and community members who work together with the faculty.

Mr. Goeler also summarized his activities in recent weeks, including conferences/workshops/meetings, visits to schools and athletic events, and mentioned a series of upcoming staff coffees which have been scheduled.

**VII. Privilege of the Floor**

None.

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

Mr. Reese prefaced approval of the audit report by expressing his thanks to his business office staff, particularly Helen Stewart and Don Marsh, for their work and assistance to the audit firm, and for their work all year long. He explained that Charles Heaven had met with the members of the Finance Committee and gave an in-depth review of the 2010-11 audit and that he had issued an unqualified opinion. Mr. Reese requested a motion to approve the audit. Mr. Suslavich entered the following motion: *Resolved, that the Board of Education of Regional School District 14 accept the Independent Audit Report, produced by Charles Heaven & Co., for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011.* Seconded by Mr. Bauer, the **motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Reese also reviewed information related to a grant application submitted to the State for alteration of existing facilities at NHS in the agriscience department. He sought a resolution regarding the bid award and prefaced that with explanation of what work would be done, and what would not, based on the grant amount and bids received. Mr. Bauer entered the following motion: *Resolved, that the Board of Education of Regional School District 14 award the Project #214-0090 base bid and bid alternates for improving the Food Science Lab floor and drains and painting the interior walls and ceiling in the Ag Shop to Stewart Mechanical, Inc., as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, with a total bid price of \$174,349, and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute a contract with Stewart Mechanical, Inc.* Seconded by Mr. Suslavich, the **motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Reese also noted the cooperation of Bill Davenport and the agriscience staff who will be relocating students, animals and equipment to facilitate this work.

**IX. Committee Reports**

Mr. Chapman reported for the Bylaws/Policy/Ethics Committee which met on 1/31 on topics such as transportation and the safe school climate policy. He will submit the final version of that policy for approval at the next meeting. There was discussion regarding bullying that occurs between adults and children, the applicable CT Code of Professional Responsibility, and the need for a culture change in the schools around safe school climate. The process for reporting adult to student bullying needs to be in place and free of fear of retribution, and the chain of command within the schools must be known.

Mr. Bauer reported for the Facilities Committee and spoke of topics covered at his 1/30 meeting, including an update on the blower motor and upgrades of parking lot lights at NHS, a potential maintenance capital referendum, and an update on Yankee Gas.

Mr. Suslavich reported for the Finance Committee, which met on 1/30 and received insurance information from Paul Lewis, an audit summary from Charles Heaven, an update of special education expenditures, and news regarding budget development.

Ms. VanAken reported for the Planning Committee, which had just met and heard a staffing proposal from NHS for next year. She will ask Mr. O'Brien to attend the next meeting of her committee to explain that request in further detail. Also, the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum position was discussed, as were capital improvements and a building project.

X. Old Business

None.

XI. New Business

Mr. Goeler reviewed a proposed, three year school calendar and highlighted key dates as well as his idea for a longer new teacher orientation session. He requested a motion to approve the calendar.

Ms. VanAken entered a *motion to approve the 3 year calendar for the 2012-13 through 2014-15 school years.*

Mr. Bauer seconded the motion. Mr. Suslavich noted that some districts build snow days into their calendars and wondered if that should be considered. Discussion followed and concluded with the suggestion that the footnote on the calendar make explicit that no snow days are built in to the calendars and, therefore, last days of school are contingent upon number of days cancelled during the year. The **motion carried 6-0.**

XII. Board Announcements

None.

XIII. Privilege of the Floor

None.

XIV. Future Business

Information about Student Success Plans will be presented at the next meeting, and Team Beta will give an update in March.

XV. Executive Session

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to go to Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter, and to include Mr. Goeler and Mr. Reese.* Seconded by Mr. Bauer, the **motion carried 6-0.**

XVI. Adjournment

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to adjourn,* seconded by Ms. VanAken. The **motion carried 6-0.**  
The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm

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, 2/8/12