

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, October 17, 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; Administrators Alice Jones, Melinda McKenna, MaryLou Torre, Kimberly Culkin, Eric Bergeron, Jose Martinez and Len Fenelon; and Board Clerk Debra Carlton  
Audience members included: approximately 6 members of the community and one member 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. New Business

Mr. Cosgriff requested a *motion to accept the following Board of Education goal: Regional School District 14 will provide a culture of academic excellence through leadership and adherence to systemic, cohesive PreK – 12 curriculum and instruction.*

Mr. Suslavich entered the motion, second by Mr. Bauer. **Motion carried 8-0.**

IV. Presentations

Standardized Assessments

CMT: Ms. McKenna, Ms. Torre and Ms. Jones presented information on elementary and middle school student performance on CMT. Ms. Torre explained that the schools are amping up for changes in the testing format coming in 2015. She emphasized that data is used to guide instructional decisions and to establish goals, but is also a snapshot of performance on a given day. Ms. Jones explained performance levels, emphasizing that attention is paid to students' movement upward in levels over time. Percentages of students at or above goal was shown, and in relation to other schools is DRG C. Ms. Torre noted that elementary writing scores are somewhat disappointing and attention is being paid to "unlocking this mystery." The Columbia Writing Project has been a source of valuable PD for staff, as well as helping students with writing skills, and the district's partnership with Columbia is continuing this year. Ms. Torre noted that DRP testing shows a difficulty among our students, as is the case statewide, with reader/text connections. Grade three students, who were the first of the full-day Kindergarten program, showed gains in total math, reading and writing. Grade four students showed a dip in total writing, and scale scores will show richer data as to why that may have been. Elementary reading scores by gender showed results which are not typical in that, over time, male students outperformed their female peers. Ms. Jones noted lower writing scores for males in grades 6-8, saying we need to find ways to help them express themselves. In the area of strand comparison, of note was the consistent problem our students have with estimating solutions to a problem. AYP was also discussed and not met in 3 subgroups at the elementary level. At the middle school, one subgroup made "safe harbor" status. Cohort scores often showed progress over time, and middle school scores are "holding their own," but the data shows areas where attention will be placed. Reading scores improved when reading goals were put in place, and now the same emphasis will be put on improvement in writing.

CAPT/AP/SAT: Mr. Martinez gave an overview of CAPT scores, as well as 3 year trends and comparison to other DRG C schools. He also reported on results and trends in AP and SAT results. For CAPT, good strides were made in advanced reading and writing, though math scores declined and are disappointing, he said. An increasing number of students are taking an increasing number of AP exams and, in 2011, 86% of test takers earned a 3, 4, or 5 on the

exam. NHS currently offers 13 AP courses. Mr. Martinez outlined next steps for the board, including earlier identification of at-risk students entering the school and implementing a CAPT simulation test for 9<sup>th</sup> graders to provide cohort knowledge related to students' strengths and weaknesses.

NEASC: Mr. Fenelon provided a comprehensive explanation of the NEASC process, including mission statement, core values, responsibilities of member schools, the meaning and value of accreditation, areas on which the school will be assessed in March of 2013, and the status of NHS's preparation for that visit. He assured the board that the school is "right on time, right on track." He noted the various committees at the school and thanked Mr. Martinez and Lori Ferreira for their leadership.

V. Adjournment

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Ms. Van Aken. **Motion carried 8-0.**

The Board of Education meeting concluded at 9:55 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, 10/18/11