

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, September 19, 2011, in the Nonnewaug High School Library, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Superintendent Jody Ian Goeler; Board members Sophiezane Bartlett, George Bauer, John Chapman, Charles Cosgriff, Gary Suslavich, John Swendsen, Maryanne Van Aken and Pamela Zmek; Director of Finance/Operations James Reese; WBC Music Foundation representatives Marc Kroll and David Jaffin; and Board Clerk Debra Carlton

Audience members included: approximately 4 members of the community and three members of the press

I. Call to Order

Mr. Cosgriff called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Cosgriff led the Pledge of Allegiance

III. Presentation

Mr. Goeler thanked Mr. Kroll and Mr. Jaffin for their efforts regarding the elementary strings program funded by the music foundation. He recognizes that music education is critical for a great school system.

Mr. Kroll and Mr. Jaffin presented the district with the first installment of this year's grant, a check in the amount of \$9,000, to fund the salary and supply needs of the strings instructor. Mr. Kroll explained that this is the second year of the strings program and approximately 60 elementary students participate in it. The plan is to expand to the middle school and to eventually develop a high school orchestral program.

IV. Review of the Minutes

Mr. Bauer entered a *motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 6, 2011*. Second by Ms. Van Aken. Corrected to show motion to accept the minutes of August 15th was made by Mr. Bauer and seconded by Mr. Suslavich. *Motion to accept the amended minutes of September 6, 2011* by Ms. Van Aken, seconded by Mr. Suslavich. **Motion carried 8-0.**

V. Correspondence

Mr. Cosgriff called to the attention of the Board a flyer received from CAFE regarding an upcoming seminar on legal responsibilities of board members. The event will be facilitated by R14 parent/resident and CT Department of Education Attorney Daniel Murphy. Mr. Goeler intends to be there, and board members are invited to attend, as well.

VI. Report from the Chairman

Mr. Cosgriff noted that the Nonnewaug Teachers' Association will enter into negotiations with the Board soon, and he urged the Negotiations Committee to have their calendars at the ready.

He also spoke of the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on our country, and how we all honor and commemorate those lost in our own way and in our own time; and that a number of people in our community have ties to those terrible events that stay with them always.

VII. Report from the Superintendent

Mr. Goeler offered thanks to a number of individuals and groups:

To faculty, staff, and his leadership team for a great opening of school. There was a sense of order and purpose, speaking to the quality of those we have hired.

To the parents, for sending their children ready to learn.

To the Board of Education for its participation in Saturday's retreat, which was important for establishing working relationships and goal setting. The group understands that if its work is not about raising the level of student achievement, then it is about nothing.

To Jim Reese for participating in the retreat, as well. He has been a champion for teaching and learning as the focus of budget expenditures.

Nick Caruso, from CABE, will plan another three hour session for the board, and had offered the evenings of 10/12 or 10/11 if committee meetings could be moved, or during the day on Saturday, 10/24.

At the last meeting, the topic of lost days was discussed and how that affected the orientation of students to their new schools. Mr. Goeler highlighted the various actions taken in each school to compensate for the loss of orientation days.

He also spoke of "lessons learned" from the recent storms and their aftermath. Better communication methods are needed. Closing announcements are being fine-tuned. More radios with better range are needed at NHS, and ways for the schools and towns to communicate with each other is necessary. Generators were discussed, as was an off-site payroll back-up. He also spoke of his concern when we call a weather related delay, but sending towns do not. He is concerned about out-of-district buses traveling our roads at a time when we have deemed them to be unsafe.

As for time lost on the school calendar, the leadership team identified two full PD days which could be changed to modified days in order for students to make up 2 school days. Mr. Goeler will ask the board to approve 11/1/11 and 3/19/11 as modified days, and the third lost day will, for now, be added to the end of the school year.

Lastly, Mr. Goeler thanked Ms. Van Aken for taking time to speak with him about the Naugatuck Valley Regional Action Council and her work with that group. NVRAC director, Jennifer DeWitt, will plan to meet with the leadership team in order to develop PD and Mr. Goeler will serve on the group's steering committee.

VIII. Privilege of the Floor
None.

IX. Report from the Director of Finance/Operations

Mr. Reese referenced a letter recently received regarding overlapping boundary lines on land owned by the district and another landowner. Roy Cheney, representing DDS Properties, explained the situation with the boundary line. A legal agreement will be drawn up to assign the 840 sq. feet of disputed property to Region 14, and this will be approved at a future meeting.

Also, he will meet with the bureau of school facilities, along with Mike Molzon and Bill Davenport, to seek approval of the educational specifications developed at the last meeting.

Mr. Reese also reported riding the buses in order to assess some of the stops and potential safety issues.

X. Committee Reports

Reporting for the Building Committee, Mr. Bauer spoke of an update meeting with Mr. Goeler and members of his team to identify and amend educational specifications. Since a new team is in place, it was important to get them up to speed.

For the Finance Committee, Mr. Suslavich said they met on 9/12, reviewed the budget and transfers, will move \$35,000 surplus to the non-recurring capital account, discussed information to be shared at future meetings, and increasing information on the website.

For Facilities, Mr. Bauer also reported meeting on 9/12 and receiving an update on savings from Energy Education. Upgrades to motors and equipment at NHS, which drain power, were discussed; also, conditions of fields for fall sports and the recommendation that the CIAC visit to assess suitability of play prior to playoff time. There was also discussion of concerns related to parent drop off areas at NHS.

Ms. Van Aken, for the Personnel Committee, noted meeting on 9/14 with Mr. Goeler to plan for the interview process for the high school principal.

XI. Old Business
None

XII. New Business

Mr. Goeler requested that the following resolution be entered by the Board: *that the Board of Education of Regional School District 14 designate Jody Goeler and James Reese as the two District representatives authorized to sign claim forms for reimbursements in the School Lunch Program.* Entered by Mr. Suslavich, seconded by Mr. Bauer, the motion carried 8-0.

XIII. Board Announcements

Mr. Suslavich noted that Agriscience Director Bill Davenport has once again been appointed to a position at the state level, this time to an Educational Cost Sharing Task Force. He offered his congratulations, as did the others.

XIV. Privilege of the Floor

Carolyn Michener, of Team Beta Robotics, Nonnewaug High School, invited the Board and audience to attend a pasta dinner sponsored by her group and the Electrathon Team, to be held from 5-7:30 pm on 9/24/11 at the Woodbury Senior/Community Center.

Mr. Chapman wondered if the event is all-you-can-eat and was told that it is.

XV. Future Business

The following topics were discussed:

A second, three hour session of the Board retreat will be planned.

An interview committee comprised of staff, parents and community members will interview 10 potential candidates for the principal position, to be narrowed to 5-6 to be seen by the leadership team, to be narrowed to 2-3 to be seen by Mr. Goeler, to be narrowed to one to be brought to the board.

Ms. Van Aken wants to pursue the school security issue, and believes the towns will want to partner with the schools to fund it. She also raised the subject of a safety panel with town officials participating.

In October, Mr. Fenelon will have a group attend a Board meeting to explain the NEASC accreditation process.

CMT results will be presented in October, as well. It was discussed that the 10/17 agenda could be amended to include just those two topics: NEASC and test results.

Mr. Suslavich would be interested in discussion of the changing graduation requirements.

Ms. Van Aken is also interested in a public reception for Mr. Goeler in the near future.

XVI. Adjournment

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

The Board of Education meeting concluded at 8:44 p.m.

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, 9/23/11