

A Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, June 20, 2011, in the Nonnewaug High School Library, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Board Chair Stephen Sordi, Board members Scott Baider, George Bauer, Linda Bulvanoski, Deborah Corsico, Charles Cosgriff, Gary Suslavich and Pamela Zmek; also, Interim Superintendent Greg Little, Interim Director of Finance/Operations Ed Arum, administrators Alice Jones, Eric Bergeron, Melinda McKenna, MaryLou Torre, Kimberly Culkin, Lori Ferreira and Jose Martinez; Director of Buildings/Grounds Michael Molzon; faculty and staff members Michael Murphy, Nancy Ayre, Alice Pistritto and Maryanne Kaminski

Audience members included: incoming Board of Education members Sophieane Bartlett, John Swendsen and Maryanne VanAken; Paul Hamman from Energy Education; three members of the press, and about 20 members of the community.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Sordi called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. Executive Session

Ms. Corsico entered a motion to go into executive session for the following purpose:

Permitted by Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-225(a) for the following purpose as allowed by Section 1-2000(6), that is:

- a. Discussion regarding attorney-client privileged written communication
- b. Discussion regarding status of Superintendent search and appointment of Superintendent of Schools

Attendance to be limited to members of the Board of Education and other persons as invited by the Board of Education

Mr. Suslavich seconded the motion, and the **motion carried 8-0**.

The Board returned from executive session at 7:40 pm and the regular meeting was resumed at that time.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Sordi led the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Report from Chairperson

Mr. Sordi read a press release regarding the impending appointment of Jody Goeler as Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Goeler offered brief remarks, expressing his gratitude to the board and his anticipation of working in the district for the benefit of students.

Mr. Sordi requested the following motion: Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 10-157, I hereby move to elect Jody Goeler to the position of Superintendent of Schools for Regional School District 14, with his initial term of employment commencing on August 15, 2011, entered by Ms. Bulvanoski, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. The **motion carried 8-0**.

Mr. Sordi requested the following motion: I hereby authorize the chairperson of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education to enter into negotiations with Jody Goeler for a contract to service at the district's Superintendent of Schools, entered by Mr. Bauer, seconded by Mr. Baider. The **motion carried 8-0**.

There was then a brief recess (7:50-8:10 pm) in order to give the press and audience members an opportunity to meet and talk briefly with Mr. Goeler.

V. Recognition of Board Members Completing Terms

Dr. Little acknowledged the thankless nature of Board service, the countless hours and angry emails, noting that board service is a very special function of the community. He asked building administrators to speak individually. Ms. McKenna and Ms. Torre thanked the outgoing board members for their service and offered large potted plants to each, explaining that each stripe on the rims of the pots had been painted by a different child at their schools. Ms. Jones and Mr. Bergeron also thanked the retiring board members, having witnessed an evolution in learning in Region 14 over the years, expressing gratitude, and offering gifts prepared at their school. Ms. Ferreira expressed gratitude that the board members value the futures of her students and presented each outgoing member with a gift from her school, as well. Mr. Bauer then spoke on behalf of the board and community, thanking Ms. Bulvanoski, Mr. Baider and Mr. Sordi for their 3 year terms of service, and Ms. Corsico for her 9 consecutive years on the board.

VI. Presentation – Energy Education

Ms. Kaminski offered a power point presentation summarizing energy savings being realized in district through the Energy Education program; explaining our Energy Star status; and informed the audience of the environmental benefits of our efforts in the schools. She thanked the administrators, faculty and staff, and particularly Mr. Molzon, for his assistance in implementing the program. Mr. Molzon, in turn, expressed appreciation for Ms. Kaminski and her willing mess to be in the buildings at all hours of the day and night to be sure the measures in place are implemented consistently and correctly.

VII. Review of Minutes

Mr. Sordi requested a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting of April 15, 2011, entered by Mr. Cosgriff, seconded by Mr. Suslavich. **Motion carried 6-0-2** with Ms. Corsico and Ms. Zmek abstaining. Mr. Sordi requested a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 6, 2011, entered by Mr. Suslavich, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. **Motion carried 7-0-1** with Ms. Corsico abstaining.

VIII. Correspondence

Dr. Little noted correspondence from Atty. Roseann Padula regarding the initiation of teachers' negotiations in October, 2011, and the need to communicate with the towns about this in order to receive pertinent information from them.

IX. Report from the Interim Superintendent

None.

X. Privilege of the Floor

Susan Scherf, Bethlehem, noted the dedication of outgoing board members; said board membership is not political; urged not letting apathy win.

XI. Report from Interim Business Manager

Mr. Arum reported dissatisfaction with bids received for track and drainage work as they were too high; he will negotiate with contractors. He also reported that he is looking at ways to earn reimbursement for energy savings from the energy efficiency fund through the use of variable frequency drive motors. Also, a total of \$711,000 is expected from the state for the 3 agriscience grants – 2 equipment and 1 facilities. He has opened bids for a 3 year contract for special education transportation and anticipates a \$21,671 savings. He also spoke of changes in food prices in the consortium which may affect school lunch prices for next year.

XII. Committee Reports

Mr. Suslavich reported that the Finance committee met, reviewed year to date expenditures, and recommends using the approximate \$70,000 leftover funds be used toward window repairs and asbestos removal at MES.

Mr. Bauer reported that the Facilities committee met, discussed items out to bid, heard a report from the bus company regarding inspections, got a status report on the irrigation project, NHS field work, energy savings projects and MES projects.

For the Building committee, he reported that this committee met, reviewed scope of work, enrollment, existing contracts and schedule of events.

XIII. Old Business

None.

XIV. New Business

1. Acceptance of Resignations/Retirement/Leave of Absence/Appointment to Teaching Position

- a. Thomas Hahn, English Teacher, Nonnewaug High School, effective August 31, 2011. Motion to accept: Ms. Corsico Second: Ms. Bulvanoski **Motion carried 8-0**
- b. Jessica McLean, Social Studies Teacher, Nonnewaug High School, effective June 24, 2011. Motion to accept: Ms. Corsico Second: Mr. Baider **Motion carried 8-0**
- c. Cynthia Gajewski, Library Media Specialist, Nonnewaug High School, effective June 30, 2011 and after 24 years of service. Motion to accept: Ms. Bulvanoski Second: Mr. Cosgriff. **Motion carried 8-0.**
- d. Sandra Guay, grade 3 teacher, family medical leave, for the 2011-12 school year. Motion to accept: Mr. Baider Second: Mr. Suslavich **Motion carried 8-0.**
- e. Sandra Eberts, Math Specialist, retiring after 19 years' service, effective on a date to be determined. Motion to accept: Ms. Corsico Second: Mr. Cosgriff. **Motion carried 8-0**
- f. Kristen Vazquez, 1.0 Spanish Teacher, Nonnewaug High School Motion to appoint: Mr. Baider Second: Ms. Bulvanoski. **Motion carried 8-0.**

2. Appointment of Legal Counsel

Ms. Bulvanoski entered a motion to appoint the law firm Shipman and Goodwin, to serve as legal counsel for Special Education matters, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. **Motion carried 8-0.**

3. Authorize Shipman & Goodwin to engage services of outside consultant(s) for Special Education matters

Ms. Corsico entered a motion to authorize the law firm Shipman and Goodwin to engage services of outside consultant(s) to investigate Special Education expenditures, second by Mr. Cosgriff. **Motion carried 8-0.**

4. CT Healthy Foods Program 2011-2012

Ms. Corsico entered a motion that Region 14 not participate in the CT Healthy Foods Program for the 2011-12 school year, second by Mr. Baider. **Motion carried 8-0.**

5. Amendment to Region 14's Non-certified Employee Pension Plan

Mr. Arum requested the following motion:

I hereby move that the Regional School District 14 Non-certified employee pension plan be amended as follows, which incorporates certain changes enacted by the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008, namely:

- (1) The Reservist Additional Death Benefit – for deaths occurring on or after January 1, 2007, a participant who dies while performing qualified military service must be treated as if he or she had died while actively employed by the employer.
and
- (2) The Reservist Differential Wage Payments – The Plan's definition of compensation incorporates the definition of compensation used for purposes of Federal Income Tax withholding (this compensation was excluded from The Plan's definition of compensation).

Motion entered by Mr. Suslavich, second by Mr. Cosgriff. **Motion carried 8-0.**

6. Agriscience Equipment Grant

Mr. Arum requested the following motions:

Resolution 1

Be and it is hereby resolved that Region 14 authorize the superintendent to apply for the agriscience equipment grant, entitled, "Proposed vocational agriculture grant # TMP-214-DCLF" Motion entered by Mr. Baider, second by Mr. Cosgriff. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Resolution 2

Be and it is hereby resolved that Region 14 authorize the chairman of the Board of Education to form a building committee for this purpose. Said committee is authorized to engage in an architect, engineer or other specialists for the purpose of providing architectural, engineering or technical services, including outline specifications and preparation of schematics. Motion entered by Ms. Corsico, second by Mr. Suslavich. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Resolution 3

Be and it is hereby resolved that the Region 14 Board of Education approve the attached education specifications as presented. Motion entered by Mr. Suslavich, second by Mr. Baider. **Motion carried 8-0.**

XV. Board Announcements

Mr. Suslavich thanked the retiring board members for their work for the benefit of the education of students.

Dr. Little asked the departing board members if they'd like to say anything.

Ms. Bulvanoski's primary concern when she took office was to improve curriculum and instruction, and feels progress has been made in that area. Strong administrators have bought into the instructional model that was adopted by the district and have done a great job implementing it.

Ms. Corsico simply thanked the community members who gave her the opportunity to serve for 9 years.

Mr. Baider thanked everyone who works in the region, and Dr. Little and Mr. Arum for stepping in at a critical time.

The district is now poised to improve going forward, he said, and hopes the community supports the region and its new superintendent.

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Mr. Sordi thanked all the folks of Woodbury and Bethlehem for the privilege of serving; he also thanked his wife and kids for putting up with his board service. He thanked Dr. Little and Mr. Arum who came in at a difficult time. The region is in a good place, the tough issues are behind us, and the new board is in a position to make positive change.

XVI. Privilege of the Floor

Jeanne Ross, Woodbury, thanked all departing board members for their service to the children of the region and appreciates their effort and commitment. She particularly recognized and thanked Ms. Corsico for 9 continuous years of service on the board. The longevity of her service speaks volumes, she said, and her experience will be missed as she often brought historical knowledge and perspective that would otherwise have been absent. She asks for little and gives much more, she said.

XVII. Executive Session

Mr. Baider entered the following motion:

Permitted by Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-225(a) for the following purpose as allowed by Section 1-2000(6), that is:

1. Discussion of Performance/Evaluation of Interim Superintendent of Schools
2. Discussion of possible action of extension of contract for Interim Superintendent of Schools

Attendance to be limited to members of the Board of Education, Dr. Little and Mr. Arum

The motion was seconded by Mr. Suslavich and the **motion carried 8-0**. The board moved to executive session at 9:12 pm.

XVIII. Extension of Contract of Interim Superintendent

Returning at 9:32 pm, Ms. Corsico entered the following motion: To continue the contract of interim superintendent of schools, Dr. Gregory Little, under the same terms and conditions as his current contract. Said contract will be extended as is through August 15, 2011, second by Mr. Bauer. **Motion carried 8-0**.

XIX. Adjournment

Ms. Corsico entered a *motion to adjourn*, second by Mr. Suslavich. **Motion carried 8-0**.
The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Zmek, Secretary
Regional School District #14 Board of Education

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Debra W. Carlton, Board Clerk, 6/7/11