

A Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, March 21, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. in the Nonnewaug High School Library, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Board Chair Stephen Sordi, Board members Scott Baider, George Bauer, Deborah Corsico, Charles Cosgriff, Gary Suslavich, and Pamela Zmek; also, Interim Director of Finance/Operations Ed Arum

Absent: Board member Linda Bulvanoski

Audience members included: Region 14 Administrators Alice Jones, Melinda McKenna, MaryLou Torre, Kim Culkin, Lori Ferreira, and Jose Martinez; Buildings/Grounds Director Mike Molzon; faculty members Melissa Colby, Joyce Brazauskas, Vinita Chapman, Katie Yocis and John Dominello; two members of the press and approximately thirty five members of the community.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Sordi called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m., apologizing for the delayed start of the meeting.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Sordi led the Pledge of Allegiance

III. Presentation

Nathan Levenson, from District and Community Partners, gave a detailed presentation to the board on services offered by his company. Based on best practice research, his company seeks to provide strategies to raise student achievement while helping districts do more with less. He described the type of review he would do of the district's special education department, associated costs, told of other CT school districts using his services, and took a variety of questions from the board.

IV. Review of the Minutes

Mr. Baider entered a *motion to accept as presented the minutes of the special meeting of November 23, 2010*, seconded by Mr. Bauer, and amended to reflect Mr. Baider's presence at that meeting. The amended motion was entered by Mr. Baider, second by Mr. Cosgriff. **Motion carried 6-0-1.** Mr. Suslavich abstained.

Minutes of the regular meeting of February 7, 2011 continued to be tabled.

Minutes for the special meeting of February 16, 2011 were not available.

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to accept as presented the minutes of the regular meeting of March 7, 2011*, second by Mr. Bauer. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Baider entered a *motion to accept as presented the minutes of the special meeting of March 14, 2011*, second by Mr. Bauer. **Motion carried 7-0.**

V. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Mr. Sordi requested a *motion to add to the agenda, under New Business, the appointment of Kathie Welch, Speech and Language Pathologist, for the 2011-12 school year.* Motion entered by Mr. Baider, second by Ms. Zmek. **Motion carried 7-0.**

VI. Report from Chairman

There was no report from the Chairman.

VII. Privilege of the Floor

Jim Uberti, Woodbury, asked for de-configuration costs; criticized referendum results as not reflective of the will of the majority; asked if the Board represents all citizens of the region.

Vinita Chapman, Woodbury, asked for a de-configuration timeline, explanation of variance requests and how this will be handled, and percentage of budget dedicated to special education.

Jeanne Ross, Woodbury, implored the board to inform families of 100+ children where they will attend elementary school next year; asked if special education review was initiated by the board or the special education director.

Paula Paolino, Woodbury, asked whether the board had received her email. Mr. Sordi said they had, and it was sent to counsel for review.

Eileen Budrewicz, Woodbury, asked for details about the variance request form and how hardship would be determined; asked for information on the financial impact of de-configuration.

VIII. Report from (Interim) Director of Finance and Operations

Mr. Arum reminded everyone of the meeting with boards of selectmen and finance on Wednesday at 6:00 pm

IX. Committee Reports

For Facilities, Mr. Bauer stated that the North Woodbury line would identified at that committee's next meeting.

For Planning, Mr. Baider said that committee had just met; discussed the open campus idea for NHS seniors; planning time at NHS and WMS; heard a presentation regarding Team Beta; and discussed curriculum issues resulting in his request for the following motion: *That the Board of Education approves a 0.5 science credit for full year agriscience courses; 0.5 fine arts credit for full year floriculture course; 1.0 credit for algebra and world language courses completed in grade 8.* Entered by Ms. Zmek, second by Mr. Cosgriff. Motion withdrawn and amended by Ms. Zmek to *include a 1.0 credit for veterinary science course.* Second by Mr. Suslavich. Ms. Corsico's only concern was that the high school be certain that each science course complies with district requirements and alignment, and Mr. Bauer agreed with that concern. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Baider further reported plans for an ice hockey co-op with Region 12 – a pay for play program which R12 will host and for which Region 14 will accept no liability but only confirm the academic eligibility of our players. Mr. Baider entered the following motion: *That Region 14 join an ice hockey co-op with Region 12 subject to review of an acceptable contract document.* Second by Mr. Sordi. **Motion carried 7-0.**

X. Old Business

Discussion of the administrators' contract was moved to executive session.

Mr. Arum thanked Ms. McKenna and Ms. Torre for their assistance with updating the de-configuration timetable which he distributed to board members. On Monday, 3/28, after the budget workshop, the Facilities committee will meet to go over information pertaining to the maps, he said.

XI. New Business

Ms. Corsico entered a *motion to approve the appointment of Angelo Casagrande, assistant softball coach NHS*, second by Mr. Baider. **Motion carried 7-0**

Mr. Cosgriff entered a *motion to approve the appointment of Kathie Welch, 0.7 Speech/Language Pathologist, WMS and NHS for the 2011-12 school year*, second by Mr. Suslavich. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Bauer entered a *motion to approve the Orlando field trip for the NHS music department, 4/15-21, by bus and including 55 students with 8 chaperones*, second by Ms. Zmek. Mr. Suslavich asked about background checks for chaperones. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Baider entered a *motion to approve the overnight Hartford field trip for NHS music student, 4/7-9, including 3 students and one chaperone*, second by Mr. Bauer. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Baider entered a *motion to approve NEASC professional development days for NHS: 10/7/11, 2/17/12, and 4/13/12*, second by Mr. Cosgriff. **Motion carried 7-0.**

XII. Announcements

Ms. Zmek reminded the audience of the FFA public speaking competition scheduled for tomorrow. She will serve as a judge.

XV. Privilege of the Floor

John Dominello, Woodbury, Gridiron Club member, noted the financial contributions by that group to all sports; expressed support of all sports, including ice hockey, but questioned the barriers faced when a football co-op was attempted, while the hockey co-op seemed to have been fast-tracked through.

XVI. Executive Session

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to move to executive session for the purpose of: discussion/possible action on administrators' contract; approval of appointment of interim superintendent; approval of contract for interim superintendent; approval of appointment of business manager; approval of contract for business manager; and, discussion of pending litigation*. Second by Mr. Baider. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Following the session, these motions were entered:

1. *To approve the appointment of James Reese as Business Manager*, entered by Mr. Suslavich, second by Mr. Baider. **Motion carried 7-0.**
2. *To approve the contract for the business manager*, entered by Mr. Suslavich, second by Mr. Baider. **Motion carried 7-0.**

XVII. Adjournment

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to adjourn*, second by Mr. Bauer. **Motion carried 7-0.**
The meeting adjourned at 10:20 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, 3/28/11