

Minutes of the Board of Education
Regional School District 14 www.ctreg14.org
March 25, 2011

A Special Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Friday, March 25, 2011 at 3:30 p.m. in the Nonnewaug High School Library, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Board Chair Stephen Sordi, Board members: George Bauer, Gary Suslavich, Charles Cosgriff, Deborah Corsico and interim Director of Finance and Operations Ed Arum. Arriving late was Pamela Zmek

Also present: Jerry Stomski, First Selectman of Woodbury; Ed Roden; Selectman of Bethlehem; Richard Famiglietti, Woodbury Board of Finance; Richard Anderson, Woodbury Board of Finance; Barbara Perkinson, Selectman of Woodbury; Mike Divine, Bethlehem Board of Finance; Dave Deakin, Bethlehem Board of Finance

Absent: Board members Scott Baider and Linda Bulvanoski

The purpose of this meeting is a combined session of the Board of Education and the Boards of Selectmen and Finance from Woodbury and Bethlehem on the 2011-2012 school budget.

Interim Director of Finance and Operations, Ed Arum, began by overviewing the major categories of the 2011-2012 school budget.

Mr. Anderson expressed wishes to reach a 0% increase over last year's budget for this upcoming budget. He raised concerns regarding Woodbury townspeople and seniors not receiving pay and social security increases in the last three years. He also stated Woodbury civil servants are receiving 0% upcoming pay increases and why are the teachers receiving pay increases.

Mr. Stomski stated his appreciation for all the teachers, administration, and board members' work for making the region an excellent school system with high performing students. He mentioned the municipalities are seeing the same challenges the school board sees with limited budget for performance. He expressed wishes to the board to review all savings opportunities including working with the gas company for energy savings, consortiums, and students for field maintenance. Mr. Arum noted we are currently in consortiums for fuel oil, supplies, electricity, and plans for special education transportation.

Mr. Famiglietti recognizes the commitment of quality education to the town's children however, considering the taxpayers lack of pay increase and recent economic hard times, expressed wishes to get to a zero % increase.

Mr. Devine asked for clarification on a few budget items, AP credits fulfilled with the proposed budget, and requested the board and administration look into concessions with the current teachers' contract. He also suggested looking into virtual classes and offsite classrooms with other districts to fulfill class needs.

Mrs. Perkinson requested the board and administration start thinking "outside the box" for budget cuts and shared services. She asked to continue discussion with the municipalities for budget cuts.

Mr. Deakin expressed a primary concern for the towns is to educate the children and the budget is set accordingly. He emphasized the commitment to the children of the town when thinking about the budget.

Mrs. Corsico left at 5:20 pm

At 5:20 pm a motion to enter executive session to discuss the administrators' contract as well as the appointment and contract of the interim superintendent was made by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Mr. Suslavich. Mr. Arum was invited into discussions. The motion carried 5-0.

At 5:30 pm executive session was concluded.

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A motion to accept the administrators' contract as presented with an additional correction made by Mr. Martinez was made by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Mr. Suslavich. The motion carried 5-0.

A motion to appoint interim superintendent Dr. Greg Little and to appoint the Board Chairman to execute the contract was made by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Mr. Suslavich. The motion carried 5-0.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Bauer and seconded by Mr. Suslavich. The motion carried 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

George Bauer

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
Region 14 Board of Education