

A Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, April 4, 2011, following the public hearing 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, and Gary Suslavich; also, Interim Superintendent Greg Little, Interim Director of Finance/Operations Ed Arum, administrators Kim Culkin, Melinda McKenna, Alice Jones, MaryLou Torre and Lori Ferreira; and Mike Molzon
Absent: Board members Linda Bulvanoski and Pamela Zmek
Audience members included: Faculty members Vinita Chapman, Katie Yocis and Jodie D'Alexander; three members of the press and approximately twenty members of the community.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Sordi called the meeting to order at 8:44 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Sordi led the Pledge of Allegiance

III. Review of the Minutes

Mr. Baider entered a motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of February 7, 2011 but with the following change: under privilege of the floor, "Paula Paolino was not permitted to speak" to "Paula Paolino was not permitted to speak about reconfiguration issues, under advice of counsel," second by Mr. Bauer. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Suslavich entered a motion to accept the minutes of the special meeting of February 16, 2011, second by Mr. Baider. **Motion carried 5-0-1** with Mr. Bauer abstaining.

Mr. Suslavich entered a motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of March 21, 2011, second by Mr. Baider. **Motion carried 6-0.**

As they are not yet available, the minutes for 3/25/11 were tabled.

IV. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

V. Report from Chairman

Mr. Sordi reported that the superintendent search committee had met with Jackie Jacoby and heard that the process is running smoothly. Focus groups identified traits sought in the next superintendent and the April 30th deadline for candidates to apply has been extended. He will continue to keep everyone informed moving forward.

Mr. Baider entered a motion to add to the agenda, under old business, adoption of the 2011-2012 budget, second by Mr. Bauer. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Baider entered a motion to add to the agenda, under old business, expansion of the superintendent search committee, with possible action, second by Mr. Suslavich. **Motion carried 6-0.**

VI. Report from the Interim Superintendent

Dr. Little reviewed potential reductions and additions to the budget with the board, providing handouts to show where those could be. Additions had been based on both administration and parent input. Budgets for the past three years,

he said, were very fiscally responsible and this year's tells that story. Overall FTE increase is 2.6 certified and 0.5 non certified employees for a net of 1.6 certified and 0.5 non-certified. Ms. Ferreira reviewed her requests, including a 1.0 science teacher, relief for overcrowded world language classes, addition of probability and statistics to the math offerings, and AP psychology in the history/social studies department. Dr. Little agreed that we need to keep up, as best we can, with our students' requests for classes.

He also addressed that idea of the special education consultant and again urged waiting on that for now.

Mr. Arum reviewed the changes to the school start/stop times; essentially, the "4s" are now "5s" resulting in 15 additional minutes at the middle/high level and 20 minutes added to the elementary school schedule.

Mr. Baider entered a motion that the board accept the start/end times for the 2011-2012 school year consistent with Plan A as provided, second by Mr. Bauer. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Regarding the North Woodbury boundary line, Mr. Arum explained he had taken projections into consideration, leaving room for growth, and placed the line where it appears in the 1047c report.

Mr. Baider entered a motion that the board accept the North Woodbury line determining which streets attend Mitchell Elementary and which streets attend Bethlehem Elementary, with proposal attached, which was made available and discussed at the facilities meeting, second by Mr. Bauer.

Mr. Cosgriff commented that, although he applauds the additions at the high school, he has a hard time accepting that the ultimate question, that of K-2/3-5, was not well resolved. Though she agreed with Mr. Cosgriff, Ms. Corsico accepted that this is the best option for kids, given that it looks as though we must have K-5s. **Motion carried 5-1** with Mr. Cosgriff voting no.

Ms. Corsico entered a motion to add discussion of the variance form, under Dr. Little's report, second by Mr. Cosgriff. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Dr. Little explained that the form was intended to give parents a way to voice their concerns over which elementary school their child would attend. His recommendation, due to the difficulty in determining hardship, would be to not grant any variances. All of the requests he has received have merit, he said, but since no process currently exists, it would be difficult to be fair.

Dr. Little explained that, in order to move the district forward, it is necessary for teachers to have common planning time (CPT). He referenced the Japanese model which suggests more time should be spent with the teachers than the students. Ms. Ferreira described how she would implement 45 minutes of CPT per week, each Wednesday morning, for curriculum planning and revision, and creating common summative assessments. This uses 23 hours/year but, with 33 hours gained with the new start/end times, she nets a 10 hour gain.

Ms. Jones explained that her school already incorporates grade level CPT. Her intention will be to piggyback on the high school NEASC days for CPT on assessments as well as vertical alignment, and to meet with the high school concerning the world language credit, continue with advisory, and the tie in of the student consultation team to SRBI. Both elementary principals intend to tie in with the NEASC days, as well, for curriculum discussions and grade level collaboration.

Mr. Baider entered a motion that the board accept the common planning time for the four schools consistent with the recommendation of the superintendent at the planning committee meeting, second by Ms. Corsico.

Motion carried 6-0.

VII. Privilege of the Floor

Christopher Laux, Woodbury, requested consideration for changing the names of the schools and renaming both Bethlehem Elementary School, since Woodbury students attend there, and Woodbury Middle School, since all students attend that school.

Erica Hale, Woodbury, recalled that special education for elementary students used to be housed at MES and that a plan had been to move it to BES, asking if services would be provided at both schools. Ms. Culkin replied that they would. Ms. Hale asked if the reduction of 3 additional teachers to 1 was due to inaccurate enrollment projections, and was told by Mr. Sordi that with specific numbers and the identification of the boundary line, it was possible to equalize class sizes and reduce the number of teachers needed.

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

Mr. Arum reported on roof and elevator damage at NHS, about which the insurance company has been notified and which will be covered. He also filed forms with FEMA for the big January 11-12 storm, and thanked Mike Devine for sending him the forms.

IX. Committee Reports

Reporting for the Facilities Committee, Mr. Bauer reported having met on 3/28 and discussed start/end times, transportation, the boundary line, bus contract, and the building committee.

For Finance, Mr. Suslavich reporting having met on 3/25 and reviewed expenditures. We are in good shape, he said, and he thanked Mr. Arum for that. Money will be moved to cover textbooks and re-roofing.

Mr. Baider reported for Planning, who met tonight and discussed start/end times, the North Woodbury line, and common planning time.

Mr. Suslavich entered a motion to add to the agenda, under old business, appointment of a chairman for the building committee, second by Mr. Baider. **Motion carried 6-0.**

X. Old Business

Mr. Sordi appointed Mr. Bauer as head of the Building Committee and thanked him for his willingness to take on that role.

Mr. Baider entered a motion that the Board adopt the 2011-2012 budget as presented by the superintendent in the amount of \$30,670,780 and a 3.18% increase, second by Bauer.

Mr. Suslavich appreciated the administration's effort but felt the budget is too high. Ms. Corsico felt lowering it now would be a mistake and urged allowing parents to vote first. Mr. Cosgriff approved the funding going to NHS and would like to see more; he feels the K-2/3-5 model is a better educational and business model. Mr. Bauer is encouraged by a budget that will allow for more positive work with students. Mr. Baider also supports the current proposal with additional capabilities and services. He noted the pressure on the budget comes from contractual obligations. Mr. Sordi thanked all administrators for their work, as well as Dr. Little and Mr. Arum, and he will support it. **Motion carried 4-2** with Mr. Cosgriff and Mr. Suslavich voting no.

Mr. Suslavich entered a motion to expand the superintendent search committee to include an administrator, teacher, two community members (one from each town), two parents (one from each town), and two elected officials (one from each town, either from BoS or BoF), second by Mr. Bauer. **Motion carried 6-0.**

XI. New Business

Ms. Corsico entered a motion to accept the resignation of Evva Anderson, second by Mr. Cosgriff.

Motion carried 6-0.

Ms. Corsico entered a motion to approve Saturday, June 25, 2011 as Nonnewaug High School graduation date, second by Mr. Baider. **Motion carried 6-0.**

XII. Announcements

Ms. Corsico noted that four NHS music students had earned All-State status and commended them for that achievement.

Dr. Little noted the incredible level of support shown for Erik Kastner which he found to be amazing and like nothing he had ever seen.

XV. Privilege of the Floor

None.

XVI. Executive Session

None.

XVII. Adjournment

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to adjourn*, second by Mr. Baider. **Motion carried 6-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:04 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, 4/8/11