

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held Monday, December 21, 2015 at Nonnewaug High School 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Board members George Bauer, Carol Ann Brown, John Chapman, Charles Cosgriff, Michael Devine, Janet Morgan, Maryanne Van Aken and Pamela Zmek; Superintendent Anna Cutaia-Leonard, Ed.D., Director of Finance and Operations Wayne McAllister, Director of Special Services Christina Fensore, Director of Human Resources Kimberly Culkin, NHS Principal Alice Jones; Board Clerk Deb Carlton, and, initially, about 50 community members.

1. Call to Order

Mr. Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Bauer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Report from Student Representative

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 7, 2015.*

Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 5-0-3** with Mr. Cosgriff, Ms. Morgan and Ms. Zmek abstaining.

5. Presentations

Ms. Jones recognized four students as Region 14's Finest. Hailey Bond and Jonathon Peters, students at NHS, and Emily Vail and Patrick Boylan, students at WMS, had recently been honored at the Litchfield County Superintendents' Award dinner for their achievements and contributions at school and in their community. Ms. Jones said the four have distinguished themselves as Region 14's Finest and presented them with certificates along with Mr. Bauer.

NHS Agriscience teacher, John Farrell, introduced student who recently competed at the FFA Nationals in Louisville. Seven teams were sent from NHS, a record number that no other chapter in the nation has ever sent, he said.

He called on student chapter president, Sarah Negron, to introduce the following teams:

Food Science: Emily Zmek, Devin Crane, Sarah Negron, Ian Ray

Dairy Judging: Molly Henion, Sonja Codeghini, Sam Sestilli, Hannah Garceau

Meats Evaluation: Mykayla Jaye, Erin Korowotny, Sam Ismail, Joey Kimberly

Ag Sales: Allison Brannen, Liam O'Brien, Zachary Duda, Erin Reich

Livestock Judging: Cheyenne Martin, Amanda Pelosi, Myranda Dudley, Jesse Hungerford

Agronomy Team: Eric Dipplehofer, Ben Weed, Ryan Biscow, Eric Mockovak

Job Interview CDE: Leanne Golembeski

Student Robert Losee was also recognized for honors won in Nursery Operations

Mr. Farrell returned to note the accomplishment of Agriscience Director, Bill Davenport, who was made an honorary member of the FFA, being awarded his American Degree, the highest degree one can earn in the FFA.

6. Information and Proposals

A. Committee reports

For the Building Committee, Mr. Chapman reported that the committee will meet tomorrow, and is moving along with architect selection.

For Policy, Mr. Chapman noted policies for first read are in board members' packets tonight.

Ms. Van Aken reported for ad hoc Safety. Her committee met on 12/18 and covered a wide variety of topics, including camera installation, incident response training for administrators, DCF access to buildings, cell phone boosters, and protocols for background checks for after school groups.

B. Superintendent's Report

Mr. McAllister reiterated some of what was reported for ad hoc Safety, and gave an update on interior camera installation at the schools, incident response training for administrators, and updated the board on the number of background checks (253) completed on volunteers this school year. He spoke about the possibility of utilizing a femtocell in Bethlehem to boost cell service because the cell tower being installed there is for data only.

Dr. Cutaiia-Leonard gave an update on Social Sentinel. The district has piloted that service this year and she reviewed how administrators receive alerts and follow up on those as needed. She has asked for a quote for next year to be used in budget preparation.

C. Board Chair's Comments

Based upon their qualifications and recommendation by Mr. Chapman, the following Building Committee members were appointed by Mr. Bauer: John Chapman, Chair, JP Fernandes, Vice Chair, George Bauer, Janet Morgan, Matt Cleary, Robert Piazza, Alan Rubacha, Kurt Lavaway, Gary Michell, Brian Peterson, Don Fiftal, Andie Greene, Tom Hecht, Robert Halgreen, and Pat DiSarro.

Mr. Bauer also noted the generous support of Joyce Drakeley in funding a student trip to the Met to see the opera through a program called Educate at the Met. Ms. Drakeley described Region 14's students as prepared and well behaved.

7. Privilege of the Floor

Julie Piscioniere, Seymour and NHS student, offered the board details about how much work the FFA chapter does, including the recent Farm to Table event, citrus sale, 8th grade open house, plant sale/pet adoption, and the upcoming Cocoa and Cram sessions to help student study for exams. She is proud of all the students do here at NHS.

8. Business Requiring Board Action

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the following policies as revised:*

1120 Community Relations – Public Participation at BoE Meetings

4118.11/4218.11 Personnel – Non-discrimination

4118.14/4218.14 Personnel – Non-discrimination on basis of disabilities

5141.3 (a-c) Students – Health Assessments and Immunizations

Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Bauer. These first read policies were straightforward and, in the case of the fourth one, very prescriptive, aligned with our practice, and largely legislatively dictated. The board was comfortable acting on them. The **motion carried 8-0.**

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to rescind Board policy 4131.5 Personnel – CEUs.* Entered by Mr. Cosgriff, seconded by Ms. Van Aken. The state no longer issues CEUs for teacher professional development. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Discussion and possible action on the paraprofessional collective bargaining agreement was postponed for further refinement.

9. Announcement of Future Meetings

Mr. Bauer reviewed upcoming meetings:

Tuesday, December 22, 2015, Building Committee, 6:30 pm, NHS LMC

Monday, January 4, 2016, Building Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm, NHS LMC

Tuesday, January 5, 2016, Building Committee, 6:30 pm, NHS LMC

Monday, January 11, 2016, Bylaws/Policy/Ethics Committee, 6:30 pm, COCR

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Tuesday, January 19, 2016, Building Committee, 6:30 pm, Bethlehem Elementary
Tuesday, January 19, 2016, BoE Regular Meeting, 7:30 pm, Bethlehem Elementary
Monday, January 25, 2016, Bylaws/Policy/Ethics Committee, 6:30 pm, COCR

10. Adjournment

Mr. Chapman entered a *motion to adjourn*, second by Ms. Van Aken. **Motion carried 8-0.**
The meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Ann Brown, Secretary
Regional School District #14 Board of Education

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Debra W. Carlton, Board Clerk, 1/4/2016