

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held Monday, February 1, 2016 at Nonnewaug High School, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Board members George Bauer, Carol Ann Brown, John Chapman, Charles Cosgriff, Michael Devine and Janet Morgan; Superintendent Anna Cutaia-Leonard, Ed.D., Director of Finance and Operations Wayne McAllister, Director of Teaching and Learning Michael Rafferty, Director of Special Services Christina Fensore, Director of Human Resources Kimberly Culkin, Principals Eric Bergeron, Susan Ruddock and Holly Wrenn; faculty members Katy Aseltine, Peni Clark, Rita Cole, Carol Gonthier, Jessica Piel, Brenda Cleary-Williams, Joann Wright and Wendy Yatsenick; student representative Molly Humphreys; Board Clerk Deb Carlton, and 2 additional community members.

Absent: Maryanne Van Aken and Pamela Zmek

#### **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**

Molly updated the Board on recent happenings at NHS, including ideas for the science fair, beginning of the Team Beta build season, college fair for juniors, post season tournament play for sports teams, upcoming unified sports game, dressage for kids, and National FFA Week to include breakfast and a ski trip to Mt. Snow.

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard hopes Molly will join in on meetings regularly, as the idea is to have a junior and senior rep. Additionally, reps from the other 3 schools will rotate through board meetings, giving more leadership opportunities for students.

#### **4. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 19, 2016* (the year was misprinted on the agenda, and corrected).

Entered by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Mr. Chapman, the **motion carried 5-0-1** with Ms. Morgan abstaining.

#### **5. Presentations**

None.

#### **6. Information and Proposals**

##### **A. Committee reports**

For the Policy Committee, Mr. Chapman noted the committee is moving along nicely on the policy revision project, and will bring one policy tonight for approval. About 30 more policies are upcoming; he thanked administrators for their work on them; these will be reviewed and a pace at which to move those to the board will be determined.

##### **B. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard welcomed Mr. Rafferty to present the Pre K-12 ELA Curriculum. She spoke about the incredible level of enthusiasm experienced since he joined the district, and the amount of work that's been done to define what students will be expected to know and to do in the area of ELA.

Mr. Bauer reminded the board of its role in approving curriculum. He defined curriculum and highlighted the areas of

instruction and assessment. He noted that, although it might be tempting to want to be involved in the instruction piece, the board's purview and focus should be only on curriculum. The board, he said, will look to approve the curriculum at the 2/17 meeting, and he suggested taking guidance from board policy 6140.

Mr. Rafferty began by expressing gratitude to the team of faculty members assembled in the audience, and asked that they introduce themselves.

He provided the board with materials explaining the process for developing curriculum, and the four stages to that process. He showed them the four distinct parts they would see when reviewing curriculum documents. He provided guiding questions for them to refer to when reviewing the curriculum documents, and then allowed board members to provide the same type of feedback he received from parent groups earlier by using chromebooks that he provided to them. He demonstrated how the pattern remains the same in each grade level in terms of the course or grade level format of the curriculum. He sent them off with all 13 grades worth of curriculum documents to review in advance of approval at the next meeting.

In discussion with the board, topics such as process, new course offerings at NHS, mentor texts, and text options in the implementation guides were also reviewed.

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard also presented a draft of next year's school calendar for a first read. It is based largely on Education Connection's regional calendar, and also reflects one additional student day. This creates a 3 day weekend in October where previously it was a 4 day weekend around Columbus Day.

#### C. Board Chair's Comments

Mr. Bauer spoke of plans to meet monthly with the First Selectmen, informally, along with Ms. Van Aken, in an effort to assess how they feel things are going and to open lines of communication.

He also noted that a UCONN videographer was recently sent highlight our superintendent, one of six chosen for a promotional video.

#### **7. Privilege of the Floor**

None.

#### **8. Business Requiring Board Action**

Items A. and B. were moved to the end of the agenda.

Mr. Bauer requested the following: *Move that the Board of Education approve as presented Board Policy 3260.*

Entered by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Ms. Morgan.

Mr. Chapman explained that the current policy is cumbersome, and this is a concise revision that includes checks and balances, a process, and several signatures before any Region 14 property is discarded or sold. He noted the final policy will have the topic line "Disposition of Outdated Books" omitted, as the header indicates the policy covers sale and disposal of books, equipment and supplies. The accompanying form will also include "cost of disposal" (if any).

The motion carried 6-0.

#### **9. Announcement of Future Meetings**

Mr. Bauer reviewed upcoming meetings:

Tuesday, February 2, 2016, Building Committee, 6:30 pm, NHS LMC

Tuesday, February 16, 2016, Building Committee, 6:30 pm, NHS LMC

Wednesday, February 17, 2016, Regular Board of Education, 7:30 pm NHS LMC

Friday, February 26, 2016, Ad hoc Safety Committee, 12:00 noon, COCR

#### **10. Completion of Board of Education Self-Reflection**

Board members completed a self-reflection exercise.

**11. Executive Session**

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussion and possible action on ratification of the collective bargaining agreement between the Board of Education and the Nonnewaug Teachers' Association, and discussion and possible action on ratification of the collective bargaining agreement between the Board of Education and the Paraprofessionals Union.* Entered by Ms. Morgan and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 6-0.**

Invited to join in the session were Dr. Cutaia-Leonard, Ms. Culkin, and Mr. McAllister.

Mr. Chapman recused himself from the session because his wife is part of the teachers' bargaining unit.

The Board moved to executive session at 8:40 pm and returned at 9:30 pm.

Mr. Cosgriff entered the following: *Move that the Board of Education ratify the proposed collective bargaining agreement between the Board and the Nonnewaug Teachers' Association covering the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019.* Seconded by Ms. Morgan, the **motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Cosgriff entered the following: *Move that the Board of Education authorize the Chairman to sign said agreement subject to any further necessary legal review.* Seconded by Ms. Morgan, the **motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Cosgriff entered the following: *Move that the Board of Education ratify the proposed collective bargaining agreement between the Board and the Paraprofessionals' Union covering the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018.* Seconded by Ms. Morgan, the **motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Cosgriff entered the following: *Move that the Board of Education authorize the Chairman to sign said agreement subject to any further necessary legal review.* Seconded by Ms. Morgan, the **motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Cosgriff entered a *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Ms. Morgan. **Motion carried 5-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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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, 2/11/2016