

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held Monday, October 19, 2015 at Bethlehem Elementary School, 92 East Street, Bethlehem, Connecticut.

Present: Board members George Bauer, Carol Ann Brown, 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, BES Principal Susan Ruddock, NHS Student Representative Ricky Robinson; Board Clerk Deb Carlton, about four community members and 2 members of the press.

Absent: John Chapman

### **1. Call to Order**

Mr. Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm.

### **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Bauer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **3. Report from Student Representative**

Ricky gave an update of recent activities at Woodbury Middle School and Nonnewaug High School. He spoke about Make a Splash Day at WMS, and the Warrior Council's cheering support for the MES walk-a-thon. Students at WMS are also selling pink socks to support breast cancer awareness. At NHS, peer tutoring has begun, which Ricky participates in as president of the National Honor Society; sophomores and juniors took PSATs; and freshman have begun utilizing chromebooks.

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

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 5, 2015.*

Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 7-0.**

### **5. Presentation**

Ms. Ruddock recognized a group of parents who were instrumental in creating the Bulldog community garden at BES. Christina Bernardi, Nancy Crawford, Alissa Henderson, Sabrina Searles and Christine Shupenis were honored, along with Tai Kern and Nancy Stein, who were present to receive their certificates from Mr. Bauer.

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

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

For the Facilities/Enrollment/Transportation Committee, Ms. Morgan reported this committee had just met and heard an update from Mike Molzon on all he and his staff have been able to accomplish with the maintenance budget this year. The committee also heard an enrollment update from Dr. Cutaia-Leonard as well as a transportation update. This committee will meet quarterly.

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

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard invited Ms. Fensore and Mr. McAllister to give an update on Special Education.

Mr. McAllister reported that he and Ms. Fensore meet weekly each Friday to ensure cost containment and compliance. He referred to a handout showing the special education budget, salaries, benefits, supplies, capital outlay, insurance, funds expended and encumbered. As of 10/16/15, the department has a balance \$5,405 to the good.

Ms. Fensore referenced areas of unanticipated need, such as paras on buses, reported several unfilled vacancies - she is analyzing how to fill student need without hiring if possible.

Mr. McAllister referenced tuition, expenditures and balances. A surplus balance of \$50,939 is expected as of 10/16/15.

Ms. Fensore noted a change to the number of outplaced students since reporting to the board in September. At that time, the district outplaced 12 students, or 6.85%, and currently 10 are outplaced, or 5.7%.

Mr. McAllister spoke of the transition program, currently serving 3 students. Costs to the district for this program are currently \$219,450 and 2 of the students served are ones returned to district. This creates a cost avoidance of \$73,713 over what it would cost to outplace these students; however, the program may continue to run in the red for several years.

Ms. Fensore reiterated that, currently, 3 students are served in the transition program. She anticipates possibly 5 in 2016-17, then 9 in 2017-18, and 6 in 2018-19. Mr. McAllister added that the source of funding will outweigh expenses over time because the infrastructure is already in place.

Mr. Devine asked whether the unfilled positions are ones that were encumbered, and was told they were.

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard reviewed with the board a budget timeline calendar showing a number of key dates and activities. The "quiet period" was discussed. She also offered a "plan B" with alternate dates and asked the board to think about their preferences for the next meeting.

She also presented a tentative meeting schedule for 2016, and asked the board to consider it as well, realizing that the budget calendar could impact the final list of meetings.

#### C. Board Chair's Comments

Mr. Bauer expressed that he is pleased to be moving forward with the NHS building project. This third ruling from the State Supreme Court puts to rest the question of the validity of the referendum. A building committee will be assembled very soon to begin the work.

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

None.

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

None.

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

Mr. Bauer reviewed upcoming meetings:

Monday, November 2, 2015, BoE Regular Meeting, 7:30 pm, NHS

**Tuesday**, November 17, 2015, BoE Regular Meeting, NHS

Monday, December 7, 2015, BoE Regular Meeting, NHS

Monday, December 21, 2015, BoE Regular Meeting, NHS

#### **10. Executive Session**

Ms. Van Aken entered the following: *Move that the Board of Education enter Executive Session for the purpose of*

*a. A personnel matter; specifically, the Superintendent's evaluation, and*

*b. Discussion of written opinions from Board legal counsel (protected by attorney client privilege)*

**Motion carried 7-0.** The Board entered Executive Session at 8:14 pm. Dr. Cutaia-Leonard was invited to join.

Mr. Chapman joined the session via cell phone.

#### **11. Adjournment**

Following Executive Session, Ms. Van Aken entered a *motion to adjourn*, second by Mr. Cosgriff. **Motion carried 8-0.** The meeting adjourned at 10:15 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, 10/29/2015