

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at Nonnewaug High School, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Board members George Bauer, John Chapman, 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 Instruction Sue Domanico; Leadership Team members Alice Jones, Eric Bergeron, MaryLou Torre, Andrew O'Brien, Susan Ruddock, Kim Culkin, Jeff Turner, and William Leete; faculty/staff members Paul Ciotti, Lucinda Hart, Shelly Rinaldi and Marianne Dwan; Board Clerk Deb Carlton; and about 4 members of the community.

Absent: Charles Cosgriff and Carol Ann Brown

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

Mr. Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm.

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

Mr. Bauer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **3. Student Representatives**

Mr. Bauer introduced a new student representative to the Board, Ricky Robinson, a Junior at NHS who will join Stephanie Lewis as the second student rep. Ricky said he was approached at class council about taking on the role and, after meeting with the Superintendent, he accepted the post. He will continue as a senior next year, and a new junior will be brought on.

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

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 20, 2015*. Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Devine, the **motion carried 5-0-1**, with Ms. Morgan abstaining.

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the special meeting minutes of February 3, 2015*. Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Devine, the **motion carried 3-0-3** with Mr. Bauer, Mr. Chapman and Ms. Zmek abstaining.

#### **5. Presentation**

Ms. Torre was invited to the podium to introduce Region 14's Finest for Mitchell Elementary School. She spoke of her school's recipient, Marianne Dwan, R.N., who she said goes above and beyond in her role as school nurse, and advocates for both students and staff in areas of health and wellness. On behalf of the Board, Ms. Morgan presented a certificate and thanks to Ms. Dwan.

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

##### **A. Committee Reports**

Ms. Van Aken reported that the Ad hoc Safety Committee had met on January 23, 2015 and reviewed numbers of volunteers having been background checked (216), discussed camera installation, long term budget planning, and an anonymous alert system that was brought to the committee's attention.

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

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard began by introducing the Leadership Team, and specifically Bill Leete, whom the Board had not officially met and who is finishing out the year as Assistant Principal at NHS. She thanked him for his service to the district.

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard presented a powerpoint on Program Improvement Initiatives for 2015-2016, as a prelude to the budget proposal. She spoke of big picture planning and budgeting geared toward continuous improvement, and began by highlighting upcoming dates for the board and community to come out and learn more about her budget and priorities. She spoke about Region 14's hopes and dreams, and the BoE's goals. She asked what the district has been aiming for, and urged aiming for excellence. She talked about a multi-year strategy not based on enrollment, but rather district improvement and student needs. She highlighted the investment needed to support multi-year program improvement initiatives, and reviewed items which we invest in every year: curriculum, technology, safety and security, and maintenance.

In the coming budget year, she intends to invest in literacy supports by clarifying the roles of literacy leaders, providing more support in the form of tutors, and including elementary school reading intervention resources. She will invest in instrumental music at NHS, to grow this program for students and provide continuity of instruction. She will implement block scheduling at NHS, and provide all sophomores the opportunity to take the PSAT. She intends to bring programming for student with IEPs post grade 12 back to the district by providing local transition services. In the area of technology, she will clarify roles and responsibilities of library media specialists, implement a 1-to-1 program, provide professional learning opportunities, provide district-wide technical support to staff, and continue with the computer replacement plan (funded through a lease purchase program). She plans to reorganize central office in the area of technology, and will identify a Director of Human Resources position by restructuring existing staff. Curriculum will be developed, security cameras will be installed at the schools, and ongoing maintenance projects will go forward. In aiming for excellence, she concluded by asking what we will invest in to get there.

Board members had no questions following the presentation, but several commended Dr. Cutaia-Leonard on a plan that shows a great deal of forethought about what can be achieved with long term planning and goals.

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard thanked her leadership team for their input and hard work on developing goals and budget priorities.

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

None.

#### **8. New Business requiring Board action**

Mr. Devine entered the following motion: *Move to waive the purchasing procedure in accordance with Regional School District 14 Board Policy 3320(b)(2), and to award the contract for the installation of exterior cameras and fiber infrastructure in compliance with the State of Connecticut Contract Award #09PSX0292 to:*

*Tyco Integrated Security, 10 Research Pkwy, Wallingford, CT as follows:*

NHS \$146,821

WMS \$98,145

BES \$76,688

MES \$93,880

*For a total of \$415,534*

Seconded by Ms. Van Aken, the **motion carried 6-0.**

#### **9. Future Meetings**

Mr. Bauer reviewed upcoming meetings:

Monday, March 2, 2015 Regular Board of Education, 7:30 pm, NHS LMC (2015-2016 Superintendent's Budget)

Monday, March 16, 2016 Budget Presentation to Selectmen and Boards of Finance, 6:00 pm, NHS LMC

The Board also arrived upon a suitable date for a reschedule of the policy workshop, to be held Thursday, 2/26, at 6:30 pm.

**10. Executive Session**

Ms. Van Aken made a motion to enter executive session for a personnel issue; specifically, evaluation of the Superintendent, and to invite Dr. Cutaia-Leonard to join. Second by Mr. Devine. **Motion carried 6-0.**

The Board moved to Executive Session at 8:27 pm. No action taken.

**10. Adjournment**

Mr. Devine entered a *motion to adjourn*.

Seconded by Mr. Chapman, the **motion carried 6-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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George Bauer, Chairman  
Regional School District #14 Board of Education

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Debra W. Carlton, Board Clerk, 2/25/2015