

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Board of Education
Regional School District 14 www.ctreg14.org
November 23, 2010

A Special Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Tuesday, November 23, at 6:30 in the Nonnewaug High School Library, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Board Chairman Stephen Sordi; Board members Scott Baider, George Bauer, Linda Bulvanoski, Deborah Corsico, Charles Cosgriff, and Pamela Zmek

Audience members included: Region 14 employees Alice Jones and Kimberly Culkin; approximately 10 members of the community; and two members of the press.

Absent: Board member Gary Suslavich

Chairman Sordi called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

The Chairman explained that he called the special meeting for the purpose of discussing the question to be presented at referendum. Mr. Sordi explained that he had recently had a conversation with Dr. Cronin regarding the advantages and disadvantages of both the K-2/3-5 and K-5 configurations. During the discussion, Mr. Sordi stated that Dr. Cronin brought up the notion of a K-4/5-8 configuration, which they then discussed. He stated that their discussion centered on space needs and other considerations. During their discussion, Mr. Sordi asked Dr. Cronin whether a K-4/5-8 configuration is educationally sound. Mr. Sordi said Dr. Cronin assured him that he felt all the configurations being considered (K-2/3-5; K-5; and K-4/5-8) were all educationally sound. He explained, however, that he has supported, and continues to support, the K-2/3-5 model. Mr. Sordi stated the need to explore all options.

Following Mr. Sordi's introduction, discussion was held with regard to the ramifications of both K/4 and K/5 configurations. Enrollment projections for the 2011/12 school year and the potential lack of space in the current K-2/3-5 configuration for all day Kindergarten was discussed, along with the need for space for high needs special education classrooms in both elementary schools. Mrs. Corsico stated that she does not favor the K-4/5-8 model based on the Region's previous attempt to move the 5th grade to the Woodbury Middle School. She felt it was not a successful idea and does not want to see grades 5-8 at the Middle School. Mr. Cosgriff stated that he favors a K-2; 3-4; 5-8 model.

Discussion then centered on the questions drafted by counsel for the referendum. Ramifications of each option were discussed. The Board agreed that the language should be clear so as not to confuse voters at the referendum. Mrs. Corsico and Mrs. Bulvanoski feel that the wording in Question 4 is preferable to the other drafted options since the scope is somewhat broader. Mr. Sordi agreed that he felt Question 4 may be the best option. Mrs. Zmek and Mr. Baider feel that Question 1 is preferable because the language is more restrictive. Mr. Sordi stated that he would bring individual concerns and questions to Attorney Sommaruga. Mrs. Corsico would like Attorney Sommaruga to clarify Question 4 for further discussion at the next Board meeting. Mr. Sordi will speak with Attorney Sommaruga and Question 4 will be discussed further at the Board's next meeting.

Mrs. Corsico asked whether a meeting will be held on November 29, 2010. Mr. Sordi stated he is working to determine whether that meeting will go forward. If it is postponed, the next general meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 6, 2010.

Mr. Baider entered a *motion to adjourn*, second by Mr. Cosgriff. **Motion carried 7-0.**
The special meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Pamela Zmek, Secretary