

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held March 19, 2018 at the Board of Education Central Office, 67 Washington Avenue, Woodbury, CT, 06798.

Present: Maryanne Van Aken, Mike Devine, John Chapman, George Bauer, Carol Ann Brown and Pam Zmek. Also in attendance were: Dr. Anna Cutaia, Kim Culkin, Chrissy Fensore, Mike Rafferty, Suzi Greene, Bill Nemec, Pat Porciello, Susan Ruddock, Jodie Roden, Pam Sordi, Pam Lazaroski, Julie Luby, BES student reps, Griffin Blum, Harlen Bass, their parents, Wendy Yatsenick, members of the NHS guidance office, Alex de Sorbo, approximately 6 community members and BOE Clerk, Natascha Schwartz.

Missing: Dave Lampart, Janet Morgan

1. **Call to Order** - Ms. Van Aken called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Ms. Van Aken led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Student Rep Report** – BES Griffin Blum and Harlen Bass gave a very comprehensive update on what wonderful things have been happening at BES.
4. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Van Aken requested a motion to approve the minutes of Regular Meeting of March 5, 2018, Mr. Bauer *moved* and seconded by Ms. Brown. The motion carried 5-0-1, with Ms. Zmek abstaining.

5. **Superintendent's report**

Dr. Anna was pleased to relay that the Region held a very successful parent workshop in partnership with ASAP, which was very well attended, with approximately 70 parents in attendance. The theme revolved around parents recognizing at risk behaviors. She was also happy to report that Newport Academy will be starting a parent support group with our community for anyone needing help. She went on to report that our students held a peaceful walkout on March 14. The students were very respectful of the school rules and policies and it was well organized. Dr. Anna noted that WMS teachers and administrators have started a new initiative by posting weekly notes to parents in the digital backpacks. The weekly notes will highlight things such as learning intentions and targets to name a few. Some other important highlights: NHS will be performing the musical Footloose next weekend, MES students had a huge win for during the annual staff vs. students' basketball game, ASAP hosted two visiting artists at WMS & NHS.

Ms. Van Aken mentioned that May 14 the region will be hosting an internet safety night with Scott Driscoll presenting and asked parents to attend. She also mentioned that Mr. Driscoll will also be speaking with WMS students during that same week. Dr. Anna thanked BOE members for all of their hard work.

6. **Board Committee Reports**

Policy Committee – Mr. Chapman advised that since the BOE will be discussing some policies during this meeting, he would save his comments until later on in the meeting.

7. **Board Chair Comments** – none

8. **Public Comment** –

Maria Price, Woodbury Resident, voiced her concerns and dissatisfaction upon hearing that French is being eliminated from the High School curriculum. She wants students to be globally minded and is looking for options for Region 14 children.

Margaret Price, Woodbury resident and 9th grader at NHS, also voiced her concerns about world languages being phased out. She noted that she has been taking French since 6th grade and gave many points as to why French and other foreign languages should be continued in the region.

9. Old Business - none

10. New Business

A. Dr. Anna presented the proposed 2018-19 budget.

B. Mr. Bauer *moved* that the Region14 Board of Education to modify the 2017-18 school calendar, and seconded by Mr. Chapman. The motion carried unanimously 6-0-0.

The Board discussed three different options that were sent to them prior to the meeting:

Option 1: Make up all 9 missed days to satisfy the 182 student days, last day of school would be June 26.

Option 2: Excuse 2 student days, to satisfy minimum state requirement of 180 student days; last day of school would be June 22.

Option 3: Not excusing the 2 student day, have school on March 30 and May 28 or April 16 & 17; last day of school would be June 22.

The BOE discussed option 2 at length, thinking that it would be the best option so as not to interfere with April vacation as many families have already made plans for the week. Should there be more weather disruptions, the region would make March 30 an early dismissal day and if necessary May 28 as well.

Mr. Bauer requested to modify the original motion to read: *move* that the Region14 Board of Education change the 2017-2018 school calendar, to excuse two student days with the last day of school being June 22, satisfying the state publication of 180 school days. Also to include the potential of future snow days to extend into March 30 and May 28 as modified days if necessary. Mr. Chapman seconded. The motion carried 5-1-0, with Mr. Devine opposed.

C. Policy Revisions – Mr. Chapman advised the policies that were handed out are the modifications that the committee is suggesting to the BOE. BOE agreed to read over policies and send questions to Dr. Anna and they will be voted on at next meeting.

11. Adjournment

Mr. Bauer *moved* to adjourn and seconded by Mr. Chapman. **The motion carried unanimously 6-0-0.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Natascha Schwartz, BOE Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Natascha Z. Schwartz, Board Clerk, 3/29/2018