The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at Bethlehem Elementary School, 92 East Street, Bethlehem, Connecticut.

Present: Board members George Bauer, Carol Ann Brown, John Chapman, Charles Cosgriff, Michael Devine, Maryanne Van Aken and Pamela Zmek; 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, NHS Principal Alice Jones and Assistant Principal Bill Nemec, BES Principal Susan Ruddock, Student Representative Ricky Robinson; Board Clerk Deb Carlton, one member of the press and, initially, about 20 community members.
Absent: Janet Morgan

1. Call to Order

Mr. Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Bauer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Report from Student Representative

Ricky updated the Board on recent happenings in the schools, including Hour of Code, Student Leadership Council, and Ed Camp at BES, and Scholastics Art and Writing competition, the upcoming Mr. Nonnewaug contest, and auditions for Cinderella at NHS.

4. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 21, 2015.*
Entered by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Ms. Van Aken, the **motion carried 7-0.**

5. Presentations

Ms. Ruddock invited Officer Norm George to the podium to summarize "a day in the life" for him as the SRO at BES. He described many of his daily activities: perimeter checks, reviewing Social Sentinel alerts, directing traffic, checking classroom doors to ensure they are locked with magnets in place, reviewing exterior camera footage, popping into the café during lunch, assisting custodians and staff as needed, and serving as a "sheep herder" on the playground, to name a few. He was then informed by Ms. Ruddock that he had actually been asked to come to the meeting to receive a Region 14's Finest award, which was presented to him by Mr. Bauer and for which he received enthusiastic applause from all those present, including faculty and staff from BES.

Mr. Bauer acknowledged and introduced members of the high school building committee who were in the audience. Each stated his name, told a bit about his background, and expressed confidence in the committee's ability to bring a quality project to completion for the community. Building Committee members present were: Kurt Lavaway, Andie Greene, Don Fiftal, Tom Hecht, Brian Peterson, Alan Rubacha, Gary Michell, and JP Fernandes. Mr. Bauer and Mr. Chapman also serve on the committee, along with Ms. Morgan. Mr. Chapman thanked all the committee members for taking time out of their busy lives to give back. He considers this a great example of what a community can accomplish.

6. Information and Proposals

A. Committee reports

For the Building Committee, Mr. Chapman reported having met with his committee frequently in December/January to secure the architect for the project, and they are now moving toward hiring the Owner's Project Manager (OPM) and the Construction Manager (CM). The committee will work in concert with the administration to deliver a first class project for the community. They will move quickly, yet thoughtfully, he said.

B. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard invited Ms. Jones, Mr. Rafferty and Mr. Nemec to provide the Board with a high school programming update. They described new course offerings for 2016-17 in the areas of English, Math, and Business Technology. They highlighted efforts to secure college credit for students as well as several certification programs, so that graduating seniors could be heading off to college with credits already accumulated, and other students could leave already certified in areas like Vet Science or Nurse Assisting. In answering the question of whether NHS has the right schedule, the administrators spoke about what the current schedule allows for, and the positive feedback given, as well as areas that need attention, such as including students' and teachers' voices, and whether the schedule can support a Capstone experience. Looking forward, administrators will visit other schools, work to enhance community partnerships and develop internships, and develop compatible Capstone experiences.

Mr. Chapman asked whether other schools would be considered in terms of alternate schedules. Mr. Rafferty felt WMS deserves a look.

Ms. Brown asked if glitches with Agriscience as it relates to lunch had been resolved and was told they had.

Ms. Zmek thanked the administrators for their work, noting they were not here when the block scheduling was implemented. She is glad students' voices will be sought, thanked them for their sensitivity to the different scheduled followed by the Agriscience department, saw them as thoughtful in their choices, and felt this is exciting stuff.

C. Board Chair's Comments
None.

7. Privilege of the Floor

Zachary Duda, Woodbury, and NHS FFA Chapter President, updated the Board on recent activities, including the holiday plant sale/pet adoption, at which over $6,000 was raised, 8 pets adopted, and close to 100 students helped out. He noted the successful citrus sale, earning just under $5,000 and a successful exam study session, called Cocoa and Cram, to which about 50 students came to receive help from teachers. He noted FFA week is coming up in February.

Robert Maddox, Bethlehem, regarding the building project, encouraged the Board to do it right this time. S/L/A/M is an awesome firm, he said, and they can design a great school. He encouraged the Board to back up the Building Committee in their efforts. A green building, he said, is good for the students, the environment, and the taxpayer.

8. Business Requiring Board Action

Mr. Bauer requested the following:
Move that the Board of Education approve Nonnewaug High School Agriscience Students to Philadelphia PA Flower Show, Philadelphia, PA for forty (40) students and 4-6 faculty and background checked chaperones, March 10-12, 2016, via coach bus, and funded by students' families and the horticulture program account.
Entered by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Ms. Van Aken, the **motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Bauer requested the following:
Move to authorize the Nonnewaug Building Committee to negotiate and execute a contract on behalf of Regional School District 14 with The S/L/A/M Collaborative, Inc. to provide architectural and engineering design, bid and construction services with respect to the Nonnewaug High School building project, as set forth in the November 25, 2015 RFQ/P, subject to any necessary further legal review and Building Committee action regarding the same.
Mr. Chapman commented that, although included in the motion provided, the architects will not be involved in construction services.
Entered by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Ms. Van Aken, the **motion carried 7-0.**

9. Announcement of Future Meetings

Mr. Bauer reviewed upcoming meetings:
Monday, January 25, 2016, Bylaws/Policy/Ethics Committee, 6:30 pm, COCR (since been postponed)
Monday, February 1, 2016, Regular Board of Education, 7:30 pm, NHS LMC
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

10. Adjournment

Mr. Cosgriff entered a *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Ms. Van Aken. **Motion carried 7-0.**
The meeting adjourned at 8:32 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, 1/22/2016