Minutes of the FFA Advisory of the Board of Education
Regional School District 14 www.ctreg.org
Wednesday, November 14, 2018

Start: 7:05 pm End: 8:53 pm

In attendance were: Karen Kalenauskas, Sharon Knies, Laura Miller, Scott Peters Sr., Ed Belinsky, Emily Atwood, George Lyman, Bill Davenport, Marisa Bedron, Liz Webb, Tom DiMarco, Jesse Fry, Susan Bedron, Jenn Ayers, Tyler Cremeans, Angela Reich, Susan Bedron, Jennifer Jedd, Eric Birkenberger, David Carey, Richard H. Lewis III, David Golembeski, Dan Caron, Alice Wilkinson Also in attendance were: Sarah Sandor, Scott Peters, Rina Tracy, Dr. Joseph Olzacki, BOE member Carol Ann Brown, Amy Samuelson of SLAM, and BOE Clerk, Natascha Schwartz.

Karen Kalenauskas called the meeting to order 7:05pm and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

She then asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the May 8th, 2018 meeting. Hearing none, Ms. Kalenauskas requested a motion to approve the minutes. Marisa Bedron moved for the approval of minutes from May 8, 2018 and seconded by Emily Atwood, Motion carried.

Sarah Sandor FFA Chapter President presented the FFA report on what has been going on since the last meeting. The chapter hosted the annual Chapter banquet , Ag Olympics, Attend the FFA State convention Assisted with the Diebold's/Topland open house, assisted with the FFA tractor pull at the Bethlehem Fair grounds, worked the FFA milk booth at the Goshen Fair and earned a total of $4050, hosted the Ag Freshmen orientation and alumni ice cream social, created and presented a display board of the Woodbury FFA Chapter of fun interactive games/activities and duck slide for Bethlehem Fair, competed in several Big E contests including creed speaking contest, dairy judging, horse judging, floriculture, dairy showmanship. She went on to say that the chapter held the Freshmen social, attended the Big E corsage day, attended the district social and helped package 15,396 meals for those in need, held chapter tractor driving contest, district tractor driving contest, college and career fair, 8th grade open house, constructed and ran a room for Trick or Treat street at WMs, attended the 91st National FFA convention in Indianapolis, Indiana with 7 teams competing, attend and competed at the UConn Fall Field Day, attended the equine Affaire, visited Canada to attend the Royal Winter Fair and visited multiple landmarks and farms in Canada and New York.

Sarah also stated that the new officers have been sworn in, attend COLT, met weekly to work on essential tasks, attended the Alumni fall Fest, assembled a team to work on the POA, attended and received a grant for the alumni's scholarships from Thomaston Savings Bank, assisted Apple Rehab center with raising money for the Daniel Logue Scholarship Foundation at Pumpkin Harvest Festival in Watertown, completed and submitted a corrected POA to the State. The officers are currently updating social media to keep parents and students informed as to what's going on within the chapter, started planning for a bowling special and toy drive, and finally updated agendas for past and future events to make them more streamlined.

Scott Peters showcased his SAE speaking about the Little Bit horse farm he works for in Seymour. He advised that the farm sits on 9 ½ acres and he gave a wonderfully detailed description of all of the horses he tends to. Part of Scott's responsibilities include helping to graze the horses, riding lessons, tacking up the horses and untacking them when they're done, aiding in giving horses their medication when needed, feeding/watering, rotating the horses from inside to outside, cleaning stalls, and stacking bales of hay to name a few of his responsibilities. The farm provides year round boarding, riding lessons, and also offers a summer camp program which teaches students about caring for and riding horses. They learn skills including discerning different colors and breeds, diseases, grooming, cleaning stalls, tacking, safety, feeding/watering and how to ride. By the end of the session, students have a basic understanding on caring for horses.

The workers also take their horses to events/fairs and host pony parties as well. Scott has been working for xxx farms 3 1/2 years and is enjoying the experience.

Reena Tracy presented her SAE on Marta's Vineyard Canine Resort. Reena stated that this is a luxury daycare for dogs. Her job includes making sure all of the guests have been outside by 7:30a.m. There are 84 kennels and all dogs must go out. She also cleans the rooms, scrubs, hoses down, and squeegees the floors. She follows any special instructions that owners may have for their pet. There is a play set area and the workers take photos and videos of their guests and post them online. She must follow and check off from a list of duties including if the dog has eaten, been brushed, exercised, bathed if it was requested, etc. She went on to explain that the dogs go out a minimum of twice per day and in times of inclement weather, there is an indoor area for play time.

Dr. Olzacki spoke to the advisory committee to give them a bit of his background, his observations during the National FFA convention, and advised how excited he is to be the new Superintendent.

Amy Samuelson of SLAM gave an update on the Agriscience grant timeline and briefly went over the schematic drawing of each of the areas being worked on. She mentioned that there will be an additional greenhouse built, however it is part of a separate project and will be coordinated. She went on to discuss the replacement of the pole barns and the two new horse rings which will be larger than the existing one. She mentioned that there will be 3 overhead garage doors measuring 24 ft. x 30 ft. to accommodate the new equipment and will be powered by gas. The hors arena will be 160 ft. x 80 ft. and the annex building which will allow for 6 horse stalls and class area will be 80 ft. x 24 ft. The crews will be taking the surplus soil from high school project and will place it around the horse barns to have less of a gradation. SLAM and O & G are hoping that this project will go out to bid in February.

Jen Jedd wanted to get ideas for the winter adult education program. The committee suggested the following: sausage class, farmers for pesticides, safe boating certification, dog obedience, pet 1st aid or CPR, backyard poultry, regular CPR & 1st aid, Horse 4H class, Horticulture class in conjunction with the CT Floral Association, food safety, canning, farm business through Farm Credit, farm business plan, OSHA lifetime certification, hunter safety, notary public, fly tying for fly fishing, cheese making.

Mr. Davenport requested that the committee set and take note of the following meeting dates:

- January 16, 2019 with a snow date of January 23, 2019.
- March 28, 2019 with a snow date of April 4, 2019.

Mr. Davenport recognized Dave Golembeski who came to the State Board of Education meeting to talk about equitable funding for Agriscience. He wrote a letter to the State which he read out during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Ms. Kalenauskas spoke about the SAE employment letter that Jen Jedd designed and sent out to all SAE employers. She was so thankful and has waited a long time to have this put into place and is extremely pleased. She also mentioned that another way to get the word out would be via chat or email about more opportunities for potential new SAE employers. She also suggested doing a press release invitation for a January round table discussion to which SAE employers would be invited to join along with any potential employers to give them a forum to connect. She

stressed the importance of creating a FAQ document which would help greatly to make potential SAE employers aware of how the process works. Jenn Jedd asked for members to send her questions to create the FAQ document.

Ms. Kalenauskas went on to advise that she spoke with current alumni President, Lynmarie Kuzi, during a recent event that if she were to send BOE clerk Natascha Schwartz the information regarding upcoming alumni events, Natascha could then send the information out the FFA advisory to get the word out.

Ms. Kalenauskas also touched upon the Grip and Grin sessions advising that the sessions seem to work well breaking out into smaller groups of 6-14 students for more focus. The purpose of the Grip and Grin sessions are to show the students tactics on how to land their first job. She suggested asking alumni members for their help to volunteer with these sessions. Mr. Davenport and Ms. Kalenauskas to look at the school calendar to verify dates for freshmen in January and sophomores in February.

Hearing no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Natascha Z. Schwartz

Regional School District 14 Board Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Natascha Z. Schwartz, Board Clerk, 11/20/2018