Minutes of the FFA Advisory of the Board of Education
Regional School District 14 www.ctreg.org
Tuesday, April 23, 2019

Start: 7:05 pm End: 8:37 pm

In attendance were: Karen Kalenauskas, Christopher Brown, Jenn Ayers, Pam Zmek, Susan Bedron, David Golembeski, Ron Bridge, Carol Ann Brown, Jen Jedd, Eric Birkenberger, Ed Belinsky, David Carey, Marisa Bedron, Tyler Cremeans, Tom DiMarco, Michael Lavoie, Jesse Fry, Dan Caron, 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 January 16, 2019 meeting. Hearing none, Ms. Kalenauskas requested a motion to approve the minutes. Ron Bridge *moved* to approve the minutes from January 16, 2019, and seconded by Jenn Ayers. Motion carried.

The FFA report was given by Chapter Treasurer Lindsey Meyers. She started off by saying how excited she was to be able to share some of the activities that have been held since the last meeting on January 16, 2019. Since the last meeting the Chapter has held events such as Cocoa and Cram, FFA week, District 1 dance, State Degree workshop, Freshmen Grip and Grin session. She thanks the committee for putting on this event for the students.

The Chapter also sent student to the Philadelphia Flower Show, Horse of CT in Washington, Ag Day at the Capitol, and Freshmen attended the Junior Leadership Conference at Manchester Community College, to provide them with more leadership skills.

Students have also competed in various CDE and LDE competitions: Riley Kennedy competed in the Employment Skill LCD, where she placed 9th. Hanna Kostka competed in the Creed Speaking CDE, placing 2nd. Breana Butkievich also competed in Creed CDE, placing 5th. Hannah Pryor competed in the Prepared Public Speaking CDE, where she placed 2nd. Chelsea Fowler and Julia Grzywacz competed in the Extemporaneous Public Speaking CDE, whereby Chelsea placed 7th and Julia placed 5th. The Parliamentary Procedure team composed of Matthew Syrotiak, Matthew Fyr, Alexandra Jablon, Charlie Demers, Marissa Uva, and Sierra Wilson, placed 2nd. The Conduct of Chapter Meetings team, with Charlie Stock, Breana Butkiewich, Hannah Kostka, Camryn Sudimuck, Zuzanna Jurkowski, Shelby Rushin, Katelyn Meyers, and Michael Lynch, placed 2nd. The Quiz Bowl team made up of Emma Alexander, Jordan Sellner, And Sage Wotton placed 1st.

The Officers have attended the Litchfield Farm Bureau Legislative Dinner, the State Officer Workshop at the Junior Leadership Conference, to learn about applying for District of State Officer. They have also updated the Chapter Officer and Sophomore Block applications for the 2019-2020 team, and have released them. They have updated the social media platforms with upcoming events.

The Officers are currently getting ready for the Underclassmen Awards Night on Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., planning the Chapter Banquet being held on May 23rd, and planning events for the end of the year to allow chapter members to get involved and earn their FFA credit.

In closing, Lindsay thanked the Advisory Committee on behalf of the chapter and the officers stating that they are successful because of the committee's efforts and strong support.

SAE presentation – Ariana presented her SAE where she works in the meat dept at Shoprite. Ariana walked the committee through a day in the Life at Shoprite in the meat department. She mentioned that on Monday mornings they receive their shipment of boxes and they are unloaded from the truck and onto a "u boat". The merchandise is unload based on the special numbers on each box, which will also notify them as to which shelves the goods go on to. They receive both fresh and frozen meat and part of her job is to make sure that she does a facing that the items are properly stocked. She mentioned that when she started at Shoprite she was not able to use the meat wrapping machine as she was not yet 18 years of age, which is the minimum required age to be able to do so. Ariana went on to give the procedure for weighing and packaging meat to go out onto the shelves. She mentioned that she rotates

the positioning of the meat from back to front depending on packaging date. Another part of her job involves restocking plastic bags and any other items which need replenishment.

Questions which were asked after SAE presentation:

Q: Do certain meats go on sale at certain time of year?
A: Yes, depending on the time of year for occasions such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter.

Q: What do you look for if the meat is expired?

A: By the smell and if the meat has a grey coloration or is slimy.

Q: Does Shoprite have other potential uses for meat if it is close to the expiration date?

A: Yes, they will grind certain meat to make pre-made meals.

Q: What are your plans for next year after graduation

A: Going to College in Florida and studying to be physical therapist.

FFA Parliamentary Procedure Demonstration – Tom DiMarco gave a brief explanation of what "Parlipro" is and the team gave an abridged version to show the procedure.

Update on Agriscience Building Grant Timeline – Tyler Cremeans advised that Bill Davenport was not able to be present as he was at the Town of Woodbury's Planning and Zoning meeting to obtain approval to an amendment on the original grant. He mentioned that in the original grant request the Region was asking to put in 2 more pole barns and they have since decided to put one large one in to save money. It must be reapproved by the State. He went on to advise that they're hoping for the bid request to go out by the end of April and to be back by June 1st and are hoping for construction to begin July 1st.

The committee continued discussions regarding the current grant and what the money will be put to. It was stated that the original grant amount of $400K is not going as far it would have several years ago and that Mr. Davenport is hoping to raise $150K to enhance the grant amount in order to get other work done which they had originally requested. Liz Webb advised that she has contacted all graduates and is asking them to spread the word that extra money is needed. Mr. Davenport's is hoping to reach his goal of $150K by August and very little has been pledged so far.

Grip and Grin presentation report - Karen Kalenauskas had some members from the advisory committee assist in the Grip and Grin sessions that were held in January. She mentioned that they are always short of helpers and would like a few more volunteers from the community, as potential employers, to help students look for their 1st jobs, help to transition from one job to another, or expand their current skills. They spoke with 92 freshmen and 70 sophomores in January. Ms. Kalenauskas's goal is to have 2 mentors with each class and preferable a class size of 8-12 students. Currently there are up to 20 students in a room which gives the mentors less opportunity to work with students on a more individual level. She mentioned that she is proud of the work that the group has done and stressed that all of the prep work puts NHS Ag students on a better playing field than other students.

Winter Adult Ed Program report – Jen Jedd updated the committee on the Adult Ed Program. She was able to offer 30 classes over 4-6 weeks and has more ideas for the next session. We didn't have a lot of advertisement and would like to have more, but did end up having good press. She mentioned that she would like to add a Fall session of 2-3 weeks. Ms. Jedd asked for the committee to send ideas to her.

2013 grad survey results report – Jen Jedd gave committee members a copy of the report and gave an overview of the report and what it is used for.

Upcoming events – The Farm to table dinner hosted by the Alumni association at Toplands Farm in Roxbury will be held on Friday, June7th. Tickets are $75 per person if purchased prior to April 30, after they will be $100 per person. The event raises $12k for scholarships and other programs. This is an adult event only as libations will be served. They are still looking for sponsors. There will be a silent auction and are still looking for items. People may reserve for tables of 8 and there will be a vegetarian meal offered as well.

SAE Placement Committee – Jen Jedd updated the design of the brochure and the committee had a round table discussion and came up with ways to enhance the brochure including enlarging the font, moving photos around, etc. Tom diMarco advised that he would like to see pamphlet on the website.

Bill Davenport arrived directly from the Woodbury Planning and Zoning Commission meeting at 8:15 p.m. with good news that the commission gave its final approval on the horse arena and storage building construction project. The next and last step is the final approval meeting with the state on Friday, May 3rd, 2019 with hopes to go out to bid in mid-May, which will keep us on our schedule for construction to begin in July of this summer.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 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, 5/2/19