

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, May 6, 2013 at Nonnewaug High School, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Superintendent Jody Ian Goeler; Board members George Bauer, John Chapman, Charles Cosgriff, John Swendsen, Maryanne Van Aken and Pamela Zmek; NHS Principal Andrew O'Brien, teachers Shelly Stone, Tom Terhaar, Kim Uniacke, Katie Yocis, Mike Murphy, Mike Sturges, Joanna Gaffney, Barbara Losee and Christen Gudelski, and agriscience student Meg Williams; and Board Clerk Debra Carlton

Absent: Board members Sophiezane Bartlett and Gary Suslavich

Audience members included: about 3 additional members of the community; one member of the press

I. Call to Order

Mr. Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:46 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance

II. Presentations

The Board heard from representatives from The McKellan Group, and Brown and Brown regarding insurance brokerage services available to Region 14. Each company received questions from the Board following their presentations.

Chapter Historian Megan Williams reported on recent events and activities involving agriscience students, including a dressage and public speaking event, participation in the recent NEASC visit, Manchester CC leadership conference, underclassmen awards, Spring Days at UCONN, workshop for potential officers for next year, competition at SUNY Cobleskill and student participation at Dog Days this past weekend.

Ms. Van Aken added her thanks to all the agriscience students who volunteered at Dog Days and she named them all. The students, she said, stepped in for adults who could not make the event at the last minute, and the students all did a great job.

Mr. O'Brien spoke about the need for additional STEM related courses in advance of education reform and that a committee had been formed, schools were visited, and research was done to create new course at NHS in engineering and biotechnology. Also, new civics offerings have been developed that will offer interesting choices for students.

Mike Sturges described the new History through Film class and, for Ms. Uniacke, the American Pop Culture course.

Mr. O'Brien described the new Sociology offering on behalf of Ms. Gudelski and Ms. Gaffney.

Shelly Stone explained the Biotechnology course, and Mike Murphy talked about the Intro to Engineering class.

Finally, Mr. O'Brien reviewed the description of the Computer Animation Concepts class on behalf of Ms. Losee.

III. Review of the Minutes

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of April 22, 2013*. Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Swendsen, the **motion carried 5-0-1** with Mr. Chapman abstaining.

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to accept the minutes of the special meeting of April 29, 2013*. Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Swendsen, the **motion carried 5-0-1** with Mr. Chapman abstaining.

IV. Correspondence

None.

V. Report from the Chairman

Mr. Bauer indicated a busy few weeks ahead. The budget referendum is tomorrow and he was thankful for the contributions of the teachers, staff, town officials, and superintendent in preparing it. He urged everyone to exercise the right to vote. He noted BoE nominations on 5/9; anticipated public hearing on the building project on 5/14; and the anticipated building referendum on 6/18.

VI. Report from the Superintendent

Mr. Goeler reported on recent activities: four principal candidates were interviewed on 4/23; one will move forward and the position was reposted for 2 more weeks. Additional resumes continue to be received and possibly 2-3 more will be added to the interview list. He attended the NHS Top 10% recognition dinner at the Painted Pony on 4/25, as well as the evacuation drill at BES on 4/29. The 3 high school tours were informative and Mike Molzon showed extraordinary attention to detail in conducting those tours. Mr. O'Brien, too, displayed knowledge of his buildings' strengths and weaknesses. A meeting on educational issues was held at BES on 5/1 that lasted about 1 ½ hours, and he also attended a school safety seminar at CREC, at which Paul Vance stated his belief that educators are the first line of defense against these types of incidents. He noted May 8<sup>th</sup> is National School Nurses' Day and reminded everyone that May is also Teacher Appreciation month.

VII. Privilege of the Floor  
None.

VIII. Report from the Director of Finance and Operations

Ms. Stewart provided the monthly budget update as of 4/30/13 and received questions from the board.

IX. Committee Reports

**Bylaws:** no report

**Public Relations:** no report

**Facilities:** no report

**Finance:** no report

**Personnel:** no report

**Planning:** met tonight and heard a proposal for an international trip

**Negotiations:** no change in the state of ongoing negotiations

**Building:** the committee has been busy; three tours of NHS and proposed improvements were conducted; the committee meets tomorrow

Ms. Van Aken expressed the need for both a Safety Committee meeting and a Finance Committee meeting, and proposed 5/13 at 5:00 pm for safety, possibly followed by Finance.

X. Old Business  
None.

XI. New Business

Ms. Van Aken entered a *motion to add to the agenda discussion and possible action on the Woodbury Middle School Costa Rica trip*. Seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 6-0**.

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Ms. Van Aken described the trip which had been presented to her committee earlier today. Ms. Van Aken entered a *motion to approve the WMS Costa Rica trip for April 12-19, 2014 and to include teachers Maude Chasse and George Slowikowski and approximately 10-16 students from grades 7 and 8 for this student funded trip, via air transportation and chaperoned by Region 14 teachers.* Seconded by Ms. Zmek, the **motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Bauer requested a *motion to add to the agenda that the Board provide direction to the superintendent regarding the selection of insurance brokerage services.* Entered by Mr. Chapman and seconded by Ms. Van Aken, the **motion carried 6-0.**

Considerable discussion followed until Mr. Chapman concluded the board didn't have all the information it needed to make such a decision. Each company would need to provide best and final numbers, scope of services, fee structure and commissions, and effects on premiums. This information would be requested from both, as well as from the district's current provider.

The motion was withdrawn.

**XII. Board Announcements**

None.

**XIII. Privilege of the Floor**

Tom Arras, Woodbury, renewed his complaint over how the district meeting was noticed and who served as clerk. He felt the board owes it to itself and the community to do things by the charter and said things used to be done properly and they should familiarize themselves with how to do things the right way. Among others, he cited 10-47 of the CGS and 205.A of the Woodbury Charter. He also felt the community deserved clarification on the reasons for Mr. Turk's resignation.

Mr. Bauer indicated the board has issued a press release expressing gratitude for Mr. Turk's service and assured Mr. Arras that the matter is being taken seriously. As this is a personnel matter, however, he declined to elaborate further.

Deb DeSorbo, Woodbury, asked if the board intends to go ahead with its 5/20 meeting, as this is on the same night as the Woodbury town meeting. She was told that, yes, the board intends to meet on 5/20.

**XIV. Executive Session**

Mr. Bauer requested a motion to move to executive session for the purpose of personnel evaluation, specifically the Interim Director of Operations. Entered by Ms. Van Aken and seconded by Mr. Chapman, the motion carried 6-0.

Time: 10:40 pm

**XV. Adjournment**

Mr. Cosgriff entered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Zmek. The motion unanimously carried. The meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 10:42 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

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Maryanne Van Aken, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer  
Regional School District #14 Board of Education

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Debra W. Carlton, Board Clerk, 5/13/13