

The Re-organizational Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, July 15, 2013 at Bethlehem Elementary School, 92 East Street, Bethlehem, Connecticut.

Present: Superintendent Jody Ian Goeler; Board members George Bauer, Carol Ann Brown, Charles Cosgriff, Janet Morgan, John Swendsen, and Maryanne Van Aken; Director of Finance and Operations Wayne McAllister; BoE legal counsel Mark Sommaruga, Esq.; Administrators Alice Jones, MaryLou Torre and Susan Ruddock; and Board Clerk Debra Carlton

Absent: Board members Sophieazane Bartlett and John Chapman

Audience members included: Bethlehem Selectman Ed Roden, Woodbury Board of Finance Chair Bill Butterly, Bethlehem Board of Finance member Mike Devine, NHS teacher Sarah LaRose; and about twelve additional members of the community

I. Call to Order

Mr. Goeler called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Presentation

Attorney Sommaruga provided an orientation for newly elected BoE members and a refresher for all members. He offered a number of handouts and answered a variety of questions about responsibilities, protocols and avoiding pitfalls as Board members. At Mr. Goeler's request, he also updated the board and audience on the issue of the building project and lack of legal notice given prior to the referendum. The district and two towns will seek a judgment on the referendum's outcome. This legal process could take a number of weeks.

III. Election of Chairperson

Mr. Goeler requested nominations for the office of **Board Chair**.

Mr. Bauer nominated **John Chapman**. Ms. Van Aken seconded the nomination. Hearing no further nominations, the floor was closed, and Mr. Chapman was elected by a vote of 6-0.

IV. Election of Board Officers

In Mr. Chapman's absence, Mr. Goeler requested nominations for the office of **Board Vice Chair**.

Mr. Cosgriff nominated **Maryanne Van Aken**. Mr. Swendsen seconded the nomination. Hearing no further nominations, the floor was closed, and Ms. Van Aken was elected by a vote of 6-0.

Mr. Goeler requested nominations for the office of **Board Secretary**.

Ms. Van Aken nominated **Carol Ann Brown**. Mr. Bauer seconded the nomination. Hearing no further nominations, the floor was closed, and Ms. Brown was elected by a vote of 6-0.

Mr. Goeler requested nominations for the office of **Board Treasurer**.

Mr. Cosgriff nominated **George Bauer**. Ms. Van Aken seconded the nomination. Hearing no further nominations, the floor was closed, and Mr. Bauer was elected by a vote of 6-0.

Mr. Goeler requested nominations for the office of **Board Assistant Secretary/Treasurer**.

Mr. Cosgriff nominated **John Swendsen**. Ms. Van Aken seconded the nomination. Hearing no further nominations, the floor was closed, and Mr. Swendsen was elected by a vote of 6-0.

V. Board Appointments

Mr. Goeler requested a *motion to approve the appointment of the law firm of Pullman and Comley, LLC as the board's legal counsel*. Entered by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Ms. Van Aken, the **motion carried 6-0**.

Mr. Goeler requested a *motion to approve the appointment of Debra Carlton as the board's clerk*. Entered by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Mr. Bauer, the **motion carried 6-0**.

Mr. Goeler requested a *motion to approve the appointment of the following School Physicians: Andrea Needleman, M.D., Health Director, MES, WMS; Charles McNair, M.D., NHS; and Andrew Wells, M.D., BES*. Entered by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Ms. Van Aken, the **motion carried 6-0**.

Mr. Goeler requested a *motion to approve the appointment of James Bauer, D.M.D. as School Dentist*. Entered by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Ms. Van Aken, the **motion carried 6-0**.

VI. Review of Minutes

Ms. Van Aken requested a *motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 17, 2013*. Entered by Mr. Swendsen and seconded by Mr. Bauer, the **motion carried 4-0-2**, with Ms. Brown and Ms. Morgan abstaining.

Ms. Van Aken requested a *motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 24, 2013*. Entered by Mr. Swendsen and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 4-0-2**, with Ms. Brown and Ms. Morgan abstaining.

VII. Correspondence

None.

VIII. Report from the Superintendent

Mr. Goeler reported on the hiring of four School Resource Officers. He sought support from the board on his plan to proceeding with interviews for Director of Instruction. He and the leadership team will interview 10 candidates. This group will be reduced by about half, and those candidates will complete a performance task and then meet with the larger interview committee to determine a finalist. The board was in agreement with this plan. It was presumed that a special meeting of the board would be called in order to appoint this administrator prior to the August 19th regular meeting.

Mr. Goeler also reported on having attended 4 days of training at Ed Connection last week around evaluation. He will meet with his leadership team next week, along with Dr. Tony Rigazio-Digilio of CCSS, for a retreat.

IX. Privilege of the Floor

Cynthia Gillette, Woodbury, read a prepared letter written by her daughter and regarding an upcoming school play at NHS. Copies were furnished to the board and Mr. Goeler indicated he would follow up with Principal Andrew O'Brien about her concerns.

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X. Report from Director of Finance and Operations

Mr. McAllister called the board's attention to copies of the 2012-13 audit report included in their packets. He will seek their approval of this report at the next meeting of the board.

He also provided them with the year-to-date report and indicated an anticipated ending balance for 2012-13 of approximately \$11,450.

XI. Committee Reports

For **Bylaws/Policy/Ethics**, Mr. Swendsen reported that this committee met on 7/12/13 and is bringing 8 policies forward for first read tonight.

For **Planning**, Ms. Van Aken reported that several items listed under new business were brought through this committee and will be acted on tonight.

For **Negotiations**, Mr. Cosgriff indicated four groups are now negotiating – 3 are ongoing and one is new.

For **Building**, Mr. Bauer reported having met on 6/24/13. The ED049 was filed by 6/30/13 by Mr. McAllister. At the committee's next meeting, bid process, contracts and community outreach will be discussed.

Ms. Van Aken urged board members to email Mr. Chapman to let him know on which committees they would be interested in serving. She also made the suggestion that several of the current committees could be combined for efficiency and scheduling of meetings.

XII. Old Business

Mr. McAllister requested a motion related to the Technology Lease Agreement.

Ms. Van Aken read the following resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of a master lease agreement, equipment schedule no. 02, an escrow agreement, and related instruments, and determining other matters in connection herewith:

"Whereas, the governing body of Regional School District 14 ("Lessee") desires to obtain certain equipment (the "equipment") described in Equipment Schedule No. 02 to the Master Lease Agreement (collectively, the "Lease") with Municipal Asset Management, Inc., the form of which has been available for review by the governing body of Lessee prior to this meeting; and

Whereas, the Equipment is essential for the Lessee to perform its governmental functions; and

Whereas, the funds made available under the Lease will be deposited with Suntrust Bank (the "Escrow Agent") pursuant to an Escrow Agreement between Lessee and the Escrow Agent (the "Escrow Agreement") and will be applied to the acquisition of the Equipment in accordance with said Escrow Agreement; and

Whereas, Lessee has taken the necessary steps, including those relating to any applicable legal bidding requirements, to arrange for the acquisition of the Equipment; and

Whereas, Lessee proposes to enter into the Lease with Municipal Asset Management, Inc., and the Escrow Agreement with the Escrow Agent substantially in the forms presented to this meeting.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the governing body of Lessee as follows:

Section 1. It is hereby found and determined that the terms of the Lease and the Escrow Agreement (collectively, the "Financing Documents") in the forms presented to this meeting and incorporated in this resolution are in the best interests of Lessee for the acquisition of the Equipment.

Section 2. The Financing Documents and the acquisition and financing of the Equipment under the terms and conditions as described in the Financing Documents are hereby approved. The Director of Finance and Operations of Lessee and any other officer of Lessee who shall have power to execute contracts on behalf of Lessee be, and each of them hereby is, authorized to execute, acknowledge and deliver the Financing Documents with any changes, insertions and omissions therein as may be approved by the officers who execute the Financing Documents, such approval to be conclusively evidenced by such execution and delivery of the Financing Documents. The

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Superintendent of the Lessee and any other officer of Lessee who shall have power to do so be, and each of them hereby is, authorized to affix the official seal of the Lessee to the Financing Documents and attest the same.

Section 3. The proper officers of Lessee be, and each of them hereby is, authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all papers, instruments, opinions, certificates, affidavits and other documents and to do or cause to be done any and all other acts and things necessary or proper for carrying out this resolution and the Financing Documents.

Section 4. Pursuant to Section 265(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), Lessee hereby specifically designates the Lease as a "qualified tax-exempt obligation" for purposes of Section 265(b)(3) of the Code.

Entered by Mr. Bauer and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 6-0.**

XIII. New Business

Ms. Van Aken requested a *motion to opt out of the CT Healthy Foods Program for 2013-14.* Entered by Mr. Swendsen and seconded by Mr. Bauer, the **motion carried 6-0.**

Ms. Van Aken requested a *motion to approve "An Unfinished Nation" by Alan Brinkley for the NHS course AP History.* Entered by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Mr. Bauer, the **motion carried 6-0.**

Ms. Van Aken requested a *motion to approve the Glencoe/McGraw Hill "My Math" K-8 math program.* Entered by Mr. Bauer and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 6-0.**

Ms. Van Aken requested a *motion to approve the new 1.0 FTE Agriscience teaching position,* entered by Mr. Swendsen and seconded by Mr. Bauer. Ms. LaRose answered questions by board members about this position, explaining that it puts us closer to State compliance for student/teacher ratio, will be one that concentrates on horticulture, and that is grant funded. The **motion carried 6-0.**

Ms. Van Aken requested a *motion to approve a technology lease agreement,* entered by Mr. Cosgriff and seconded by Mr. Swendsen. Mr. McAllister explained that a motion passed last year needed to be amended due to outstanding invoices not taken into account when the original motion was requested of the board. Instead of the original amount of \$240,000 authorized last year, the amount of \$250,000 is needed. Ms. Morgan asked if this would be charged against last year's budget and was told it would be.

Mr. Bauer entered a *motion to amend the current motion to include approving the 2012-13 technology lease agreement at a total amount of \$250,000.* Seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 6-0.**

Ms. Van Aken requested a *motion to approve early release days for elementary school students, to be released each Monday at 2:50 pm to allow for teacher common planning time similar to what is currently done at the middle and high school level.* Entered by Mr. Swendsen and seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, the **motion carried 6-0.**

The Board was given copies of eight policies for a first read. The board will hope to adopt these at its next meeting.

XIV. Board Announcements

Ms. Van Aken joined the rest of the board in welcoming new members.

She also raised the idea of having committee meeting minutes recorded by someone other than the committee chair, in order for that person to actively participate in the meeting. Mr. Goeler will follow up with this.

XV. Privilege of the Floor

Karen Miller, Bethlehem, asked whether the full board reviewed the textbook and math program prior to approving it, as was done when she was on the board. Ms. Van Aken responded that both were approved based on the recommendation of the Planning Committee, through which both were vetted prior to adding them to tonight's agenda.

Tom Arras, Woodbury, contended that the building referendum process was tainted and the results invalid. He requested the board add this to the agenda and then vote to not accept the results of the referendum, nullify them, and do it over.

Gary Suslavich, Woodbury, asked why legal action is being taken regarding the building referendum issue without BoE authorization to do so.

XVI. Adjournment

Mr. Cosgriff entered the *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Mr. Bauer. The **motion carried 6-0**. The meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 9:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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, 7/18/13