

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, July 18, 2011, in the Nonnewaug High School Library, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Superintendent Jody Ian Goeler; Interim Business Manager Ed Arum; Board members Sophiezane Bartlett, George Bauer, John Chapman, Charles Cosgriff, Gary Suslavich, John Swendsen, Maryanne Van Aken and Pamela Zmek; Director of Special Services Kimberly Culkin; and Board Clerk Debra Carlton
Audience members included: two members of the community and two members of the press

I. Call to Order

Mr. Cosgriff called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Cosgriff led the Pledge of Allegiance

III. Executive Session

Ms. Zmek entered a *motion to go to executive session, permitted by CT General Statutes Section 1-225(a) for the following purpose as allowed by Section 1-2000(6), that is: discussion regarding attorney-client privileged written communication, and to include Mr. Goeler, Mr. Arum and Ms. Culkin in the session.*

The motion was seconded by Ms. Van Aken, and the motion carried 8-0.

The board entered executive session at 6:36 pm and returned at 7:33 pm.

IV. Review of the Minutes

Ms. Van Aken entered a *motion to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 12, 2011.* The motion was seconded by Mr. Bauer, and the **motion carried 6-0-2**, with Mr. Suslavich and Ms. Zmek abstaining, not having been in attendance.

V. Correspondence

None.

VI. Report from the Chairman

Mr. Cosgriff received nominations for Board Officers for 2011-2012.

Mr. Suslavich nominated Mr. Bauer as to serve as Board Vice Chairman. Hearing no further nominations, Mr. Bauer was elected unanimously.

Mr. Suslavich nominated Mr. Chapman to serve as Board Secretary. Hearing no further nominations, Mr. Chapman was elected unanimously.

Mr. Bauer nominated Mr. Suslavich to serve as Board Treasurer. Hearing no further nominations, Mr. Suslavich was elected unanimously.

Ms. Zmek nominated Ms. Van Aken to serve as Board Assistant Secretary/Treasurer. Hearing no further nominations, Ms. Van Aken was elected unanimously.

Dates for a Board retreat were discussed, with September 17th set as a tentative opportunity.

VII. Report from the Superintendent

Mr. Goeler noted that he is still working in Avon until August 14th, after which he will begin full time in Region 14. He will also participate in an administrators' retreat this week with the Region 14 administrative leadership team. He noted Dr. Little's absence tonight which was, happily, due to the birth of his grandchild in Massachusetts.

VIII. Privilege of the Floor

None.

IX. Report from Interim Director of Finance

Mr. Arum reported on a number of projects he has been working on. The irrigation project is complete, the water is on, and the grass is growing, he said. The track resurfacing is in progress, drainage work complete, lines will be painted next week. The asbestos work at MES is complete and window paint scraping is scheduled. All classroom materials have been moved to and from elementary schools. Mr. Arum thanked Mike Molzon for the 22 trips made, and the following custodians for their efforts in the completion of that important job:

At MES, Head Custodian Scott Polek, custodians Dennis Powell, Stewart Clark, and Jim Fraser, and summer custodians Dave Chapman and Adrian Peck

At BES, Head Custodian Bruce Beeman, custodians Walter Carey and Hank Chabot, and summer custodians Aaron Walters and Nick Miller.

Mr. Arum also reported that the roof on the portable will be completed this week; roof repairs from storm damage at NHS will be covered by insurance; energy conservation reports are in the board members' boxes; aeration and fertilization went out to bid; an agriscience grant in the amount of approximately \$192,000 for facilities was approved; the building committee had the architects meet with all the principles on scope of work and other details and will receive prices on all 4 options; bus routes are in and will be reviewed before publishing on the website and in the paper; this past year, we came up about \$7,250 short on food services and Mr. Arum said he will request a motion to increase lunch prices by \$0.05 for next year; and there will also be a need for a motion to move surplus money (approximately \$110,000) into the capital reserve account.

X. Committee Reports

Ms. Zmek reported for the Special Education Committee on a June 22nd meeting, at which the committee received an update from the SEPTA group; were told that Ms. Culkin wants to initiate parent coffees; had a mini workshop on the elements of an IEP; talked about reporting to the board on things like the number of outplacements; talked about test results, PD for staff and even bus drivers, and transportation costs; and discussed a desk audit.

XI. Old Business

Ms. Van Aken entered a *motion to increase school lunch prices by \$0.05 for the 2011-12 school year, for a lunch price of \$2.40 at the elementary schools and \$2.80 at the middle and high schools.* The motion was seconded by Mr. Suslavich, and the **motion carried 8-0.**

Mr. Suslavich entered a motion to move up to 1% of the surplus into the non-recurring capital account. Mr. Chapman seconded the motion and the **motion carried 8-0.**

XII. New Business

The board review current policy and proposed amendments regarding administrative hiring. Mr. Goeler requested that the board review these policies, as well as his recommendations, for more discussion at the next meeting.

There was discussion about application protocol and the "chain of custody" regarding application packets. It was suggested that all applications be logged in at the Superintendent's office, in addition to being stamped in, to ensure that after they are forwarded to schools for consideration they all return to central office for storage and for verification of names of all those who applied for any position.

XIII. **Board Announcements**
None.

XIV. **Privilege of the Floor**

Debbie DeSorbo, Woodbury, asked about plans to repaint the lettering outside MES as it is in disrepair, as is the Blue Ribbon school sign. Mr. Arum asked her to email him about this. She also asked about plans for an interim principal until a permanent replacement at the high school could be found. Mr. Goeler explained that the current principal would be kept in place until and interim or permanent replacement is found.

Pat DiSarro, Woodbury, expressed concern that any applications would sit at central office for any period of time, as good candidates could be lost that way.

XV. **Future Business**

There was discussion about frequency of board meetings in the future, as well as composition of agendas. It was decided that decisions about this could be made at the board retreat.

There was discussion regarding honoring students during the first 10 minutes of board meetings.

There was discussion regarding the role of the student representative to the board.

XVI. **Adjournment**

Mr. Suslavich entered a *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Ms. Zmek. **Motion carried 8-0.**

The Board of Education meeting concluded at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Chapman, Secretary
Regional School District #14 Board of Education