

**(Please note: these minutes are in draft form and not yet approved by the Board of Education)**

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, June 15, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the Nonnewaug High School Library, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present were Board Chairperson Linda Bulvanoski, and Board members Scott Baider, Deborah Corsico, Charles Cosgriff, Monica Gati, Carla Juhas, Stephen Paluskas and Stephen Sordi. Also present, Superintendent of Schools Robert Cronin; Director of Finance and Operations Jay Hubelbank; newspaper reporters and six members of the community

I. **Call to Order**- Ms. Bulvanoski called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Ms. Bulvanoski led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance. She requested a *motion to add to the agenda, under Executive Session, discussion and possible action on a personnel matter*. Mr. Baider made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff.

**The motion carried 6-0.**

(Mr. Paluskas arrived at this point)

III. **Review of Minutes**

Ms. Juhas made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 1, 2009, seconded by Mr. Paluskas. The motion carried 6-0-1. Mr. Baider abstained, not having been present.

IV. **Correspondence**

Ms. Bulvanoski noted receipt of invitations to the three graduation/moving up ceremonies scheduled for the week. She also summarized the NHS ASG reports submitted by that group.

(Ms. Corsico arrived at this point)

V. **Report from Chairperson**

Ms. Bulvanoski reminded the Board and community of tomorrow's moving up ceremony at MES, graduation ceremony at WMS Wednesday night, and Saturday's commencement at NHS. She also noted that at the next BoE meeting, on July 6<sup>th</sup>, election of Board officers would take place.

VI. **Report from Superintendent**

1. **Board of Education Goal**

Dr. Cronin updated the Board and audience on the various systems used in the effort toward continuous improvement with communication. Minutes of Board meetings and subcommittee meetings are consistently recorded and displayed on the website, and Dr. Cronin attends most all of these. The Superintendent's participation in workshops and seminars are shared with staff and Board members. He has ongoing communication with the Board chair and meets with Board members whenever they request that. Newsletters and features in *Voices* have been published; Dr. Cronin and Mr. Hubelbank meet regularly with the First Selectmen; monthly newsletters to parents have been sent all year; parent coffees have been hosted; and meetings with the PTOs and RTC have been had. AlertNow is used as a communication tool and the website is kept up to date. Dr. Cronin meets monthly with his Administrative Council for ongoing PD.

## 2. Preschool Update

Dr. Cronin reported that a Preschool Lead Teacher would be recommended tonight. The transition team has met a total of twenty times. Typical peers have been identified and screenings have been done; daily schedules are set; mission statement is being developed as is curriculum. The goal is to enroll a total of 50 students and the program will run 8:30-11:30 M-F and 12-3 pm every day but Tuesdays.

## 3. Protocol for Reporting Student Performance on CMT/CAPT

Dr. Cronin distributed a protocol adopted for reporting this data and to follow students through the years. Subgroups of 40 or more are also reported, as is percent of mastery by strand and recommended interventions. His goal is to have school improvement plans presented by late September. Ms. Gati requested grade distribution for AP courses to see if it correlates with AP exam scores. Mr. Baider confirmed that data will go into a database to be used by the specialists.

## 4. Summer Curriculum Writing

Dr. Cronin said a group will be working on English, grade 12, and World Civilizations, grade 9, this summer in addition to the previously mentioned preschool curriculum writing. At WMS, common assessments will be developed.

## VII. Privilege of the Floor

The Board welcomes commentary from members of the community regarding agenda items or other topics of interest. The participating time will be limited to (3) minutes per person and (20) minutes overall to guarantee efficient operation of the meeting. In the event of a lengthy agenda, the (20) minute limit may be modified. Citizens wishing to make comments are requested to fill out the speaker sign-up sheet prior to the start of the meeting, recording their name and address, which must also be stated at the beginning of their public comment. Courtesy is expected during privilege of the floor, and we request that speakers be concise and respectful in their comments. Gossip, defamatory comments, abusive or vulgar language will not be permitted. Speakers are asked not to be repetitious of comments already made to the Board. Public comment is normally not invited for topics listed for action after having been publicly discussed at one or more meetings. Comments will be heard and considered. Generally, the Board will not discuss or address or act on an item not on the agenda. The primary purpose of the meeting is for the Board to conduct its business as charged by law. Spontaneous discussion, as well as disorder or disruption, prevent the Board from doing its work and will not be permitted.

Pam Gengenbach asked if development of a database would be put out to bid or done in house, and was told it would be done in house. She asked about a parent survey and said if that is not being done, a key component is being missed. She stated that the overall impression is that Dr. Cronin (and perhaps the Board, the writer is not clear on who Ms. Gengenbach meant by "you") don't care what parents think. She also asked about total numbers of preschool students expected. Dr. Cronin said approximately 15 special needs students are which would lead to about 30 in total.

Gary Suslavich noted that seven of the retirements to be accepted tonight are from WMS, and asked if there is something we should know. Dr. Cronin explained that a retirement incentive was offered in mid May, to which five teachers from the high school also responded. The incentive involved two years of health insurance and a deferment on payout of sick days which will be spread out over three years.

## VIII. Report from Director of Finance and Operations

Mr. Hubelbank noted that the WMS tennis courts would be officially opened tomorrow at 2:30 pm. The WATA will be working to raise funds to lights.

## IX. Committee Reports

### 1. Finance Committee

Mr. Hubelbank reported for the committee which had met prior to the meeting. He requested a *motion to appoint Charles Heaven, CPA, as the auditor for Region 14*. Mr. Cosgriff made the motion, seconded by Mr. Paluskas. **The motion carried 8-0.**

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He reported on the \$342,000 agriscience grant for technology, which has been used to acquire desk top and laptop computers, servers and projectors. The 3 year old agriscience computers are then moved to NHS, and this allow NHS computers to move to the elementary schools. He requested a *motion to accept the agriscience technology grant as complete*, and the motion was made by Mr. Cosgriff, seconded by Mr. Baider, and **the motion carried 8-0.**

Mr. Hubelbank also requested a *motion to offer the HSA health insurance option to non-union staff with the Region sharing the deductible*. Mr. Paluskas made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, and **the motion carried 8-0.**

## 2. Planning

Ms. Bulvanoski reported on the most recent meeting of this committee. Alice Jones had given an update on the WMS SIP, and reported she was pleased with the reading workshop model utilized in her school. Anne Uberti is working with math teachers to develop common assessments. Students are being surveyed about club memberships in hopes of identifying disenfranchised students and then striving to get them involved. Dr. Cronin had reported on hiring coordinators; proposals for 2 new clubs; summer school; and CCSC grant money for PD for administrators and curriculum coordinators.

## X. Old Business

### Update on Football Co-op

Dr. Cronin reported that he had received an email from Dr. Bruce Storm about which he had questions. He will speak with him tomorrow and hope to bring an update at the July 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## XI. New Business

### 1. Nonnewaug High School Textbook Approval

- A. Burstein and Shek, *World History*, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2008
- B. Ramirez, Stearns and Wineburg, *World History: Human Legacy*, Holt, Rinhart and Winston, 2008
- C. Campbell et al, *Biology: AP Edition*, Pearson Education, Inc., 2008

Ms. Bulvanoski made a *motion to approve textbook A*, seconded by Mr. Paluskas. **The motion carried 8-0.**

Ms. Gati made a *motion to approve textbook B*, seconded by Mr. Paluskas. **The motion carried 8-0.**

Ms. Gati made a *motion to approve textbook C*, seconded by Mr. Paluskas. **The motion carried 8-0.**

Mr. Baider asked if any textbook gaps still exist. Dr. Cronin explained that the history texts were the oldest and are now in line with the age of other texts. The Region, he said, is now on a good replacement cycle. He will provide the Board with all texts and publication dates.

### 2. Personnel

#### A. Approval of Appointments

Carol Tomkalski, 6-12 Guidance Director

Ms. Gati made a *motion to approve this appointment*. Second by Mr. Paluskas. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Brenda Cleary-Williams, Literacy Specialist

Ms. Gati made a *motion to approve this appointment*. Second by Mr. Paluskas. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Nicole Cowles, 7-12 Math Coordinator

Ms. Gati made a *motion to approve this appointment*. Second by Mr. Paluskas. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Deborah Kavanaugh, Preschool Lead Teacher

Ms. Gati made a *motion to approve this appointment*. Second by Mr. Paluskas. **Motion carried 8-0.**

**B. Approval of Retirements**

Deborah Chester, Mitchell Elementary School

Ms. Gati made a *motion to approve this retirement*. Second by Mr. Paluskas. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Leonard Ferris, Woodbury Middle School

Ms. Gati made a *motion to approve this retirement*. Second by Mr. Paluskas. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Terrence Henley, Woodbury Middle School

Ms. Gati made a *motion to approve this retirement*. Second by Mr. Paluskas. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Helen Markiewicz, Woodbury Middle School

Ms. Gati made a *motion to approve this retirement*. Second by Mr. Paluskas. **Motion carried 8-0.**

George Orzechowski, Woodbury Middle School

Ms. Gati made a *motion to approve this retirement*. Second by Mr. Paluskas. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Nancy Schoeck, Woodbury Middle School

Ms. Gati made a *motion to approve this retirement*. Second by Mr. Paluskas. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Thomas Shea, Woodbury Middle School

Ms. Gati made a *motion to approve this retirement*. Second by Mr. Paluskas. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Mr. Baider asked if exit interviews are conducted, and Dr. Cronin considered that a good idea that he would pursue.

Ms. Corsico noted the total number of years of teaching service the retirees represent. She offered her thanks for all they had done for the students, said they would be missed and wished them all well.

**XII. Board Announcements**

None.

**XIII. Executive Session**

Mr. Paluskas made a *motion to move to Executive Session regarding a personnel matter*, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, and the **motion carried 8-0.**

Mr. Hubelbank was invited to join the session.

Following the session, Mr. Paluskas made a *motion to accept the separation agreement between Michelle Margaitis and Regional School District 14, effective June 30, 2009*. Mr. Cosgriff seconded the motion, and the **motion carried 8-0.**

**XIV. Adjournment**

Mr. Paluskas made a *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Ms. Corsico, and the **motion carried 8-0.**

The meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Carla Juhas, Secretary  
Regional School District #14 Board of Education