

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, December 1, 2008, 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, Stephen Paluskas and Stephen Sordi. Also present, Superintendent of Schools Robert Cronin; Director of Fiscal Services Jay Hubelbank; Principal Alice Jones and Interim Principal Kimberly Gallo; Director of Special Services Christopher Quirk; Agriscience Director William Davenport and a number of his FFA students; reporters and about 6 members of the community.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Bulvanoski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Bulvanoski led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. REPORT FROM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

None.

Ms. Bulvanoski requested a *motion to add Executive Session to the Agenda, after Old Business and before New Business*. Mr. Paluskas made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. **The motion unanimously carried.**

IV. PRESENTATION

Mr. Davenport reported on the recent successes of the FFA students at the National Convention in Indianapolis where eight teams competed and all medaled. He called on members of 5 of the Woodbury teams to explain their competitions. Stephanie Watko, Heather Dewey and Rachel Braverman explained the competition for Horse Judging and told of their gold medal placing and individual gold, silver and bronze awards. Justine Griesenauer, Cat Hill, Sarah Curless and William Vornkahl explained their Agriculture Communications competition which earned them a gold medal finish and individual gold and silver awards. Amy Pantaleo and Kara Gabriel explained the Food Science competition and told of their silver medaling performance. Dave Bradt, Ashley Hodges and Jake Magini explained all that is involved in Poultry Judging, earning them a silver medal. Finally, Mike Schneider, Taylor Espitee and Rachelle DeSocio explained the Meat Evaluation competition, for which they were awarded bronze medals. Sophomore state delegate and block president Mary McCart spoke of the honor and overwhelming experience of the convention for her and her fellow FFA members.

Ms. Bulvanoski emphasized to all the students how proud their towns and school are of their commitment to and performance in the agriscience program at Nonnewaug High School.

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V. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

In the absence of Ms. Juhas, Ms. Corsico made a *motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 3, 2008*, seconded by Mr. Paluskas and **the motion unanimously carried.**

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

VII. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Ms. Bulvanoski informed the audience that Ms. Juhas was currently in upstate New York with her husband, Phil, who had suffered cardiac arrest as they were leaving a hotel on Thanksgiving weekend. She asked that everyone keep them both in their thoughts.

She reported that the CAFE workshop originally scheduled for 11/24 had been postponed. She circulated a sheet for Board members to indicate availability for a rescheduled workshop.

Also, she noted that it was in the intention of the district to close on both 12/26 and 1/2/09 for the holiday. Some clerical and custodial staff were scheduled to work those days.

Lastly, she congratulated the NHS girls soccer team on their second place finish in the state tournament. The team will be recognized at the next Board meeting.

VIII. REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Cronin spoke of transitioning the preschool program into R14 schools. A strict timeline for this transition has been developed and he intends to update the Board as progress is made. Involved in the process, in addition to himself, are Mr. Quirk, Mr. Hubelbank, preschool director Linda Goodman, and the R14 staff members currently serving there. Space needs are being assessed and BES is currently proposed as the most likely location for the preschool, pending Kindergarten registration numbers. Ms. Goodman has notified parents and transition activities are planned. He answered a number of questions from Board members regarding late Kindergarten registration, non-disabled peers, when CAST typically enrolls, possible changes in start times, and facility requirements.

Returning to the topic of a possible resource officer at NHS and/or WMS, Dr. Cronin explained that the recommendation for some baseline data had been made. A committee made up of administrators, social workers, guidance counselors, health teachers and Jennifer DeWitt had reviewed a number of surveys available to school districts. A survey has been chosen, and a letter about it will be sent home to parents prior to students completing it. Dr. Cronin asked Board members to review the letter, which they did. The survey contains more than 100 questions, is completed anonymously and may be reviewed by parents beforehand. Students may opt out of the survey if parents wish, or opt not to answer any question(s) they do not want to. The survey examines trends and patterns in students' answers. The survey will furnish baseline data, from which programs can be developed and future surveys can assess if change occurs. Dr. Cronin took questions from the Board about how quickly results will be returned, where the survey will be completed, who analyzes the data, how the data could benefit the towns in acquiring grant money, whether the resource officer is being postponed, and whether the 5th grade participates in DARE. It was also told that the Woodbury Police Department is furnishing an officer when available at NHS beginning in January of 2009.

Dr. Cronin explained that CAPT testing would occur in March of 2009 but with changes to the schedule. Past practice has been to test for 5 consecutive days with a late start for students not

VIII. REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT (CONT)

testing. This year testing will be for 5 days over a 2 week period, with the expectation of a stronger performance by students. A late start on those days for 9th, 11th and 12th grade students will occur. Dr. Cronin also spoke of a Board goal to develop a 3-5 year strategic plan and to update the district's mission statement. He intends to form a committee to meet for 2 sessions to review and revise this plan and mission statement. The committee will be comprised of teachers, administrators, parents, Board members, Dr. Cronin, and community members of each town. Interested parties should contact Ms. Bulvanoski or Dr. Cronin's office. A press release will be issued.

IX. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Pam Gengenbach felt the preschool transition information was vague and feels there is not sufficient space at BES for it. Her children are sad to know they will not attend the same elementary school at the same time, scheduling is difficult for her, and she does not see any educational benefit. She would like the BOE to oversee the experts.

Susan Scherf appreciated Dr. Cronin's responses to her questions at the last meeting. She still thinks dismissal takes too long at BES. She ran a list of items she believes have been lost due to reconfiguration.

X. REPORT FROM DIRECTOR OF FISCAL SERVICES

Mr. Hubelbank reviewed the enrollment report for November 1, 2008. Mr. Sordi requested the number of in district vo-ag students.

Mr. Hubelbank also discussed the Healthy Foods Statement about which the Board will need to decide at a meeting in the near future. The region has a balanced food program, a wellness committee and encourages healthy food choices in health and P.E. classes; however, it has not participated in the state's program in the past as it excludes fund raisers on which the schools depend for financing activities.

He spoke of both this year's and next year's budgets. The state may reduce its funding mid year by as much as 75% and he has frozen spending until he knows if these cuts will go into effect. As he begins work on the 2009-2010 budget, he asked the Board for guidelines to assist him with his planning.

He updated the Board on fire clean-up and repair work. Insurance will cover the replacement of curtains, and he hopes the auditorium can be used starting on 12/12.

He also told of WMS tennis court work. The courts have been milled and leveled and about 1/3 of the work is completed. In the spring, the work will be finished and courts ready for use.

Mr. Hubelbank also distributed a handout outlining the fuel consumption history of the region, state and consortium costs and comparisons of savings.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

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Ms. Corsico made a *motion to move to Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue*, seconded by Mr. Paluskas, and **the motion unanimously carried**.

Present for the session were Ms. Bulvanoski, Mr. Baider, Ms. Corsico, Mr. Cosgriff, Ms. Gati, Mr. Paluskas, Mr. Sordi and Dr. Cronin.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

Following Executive Session, Dr. Cronin requested a *motion to approve the appointment of Katya Paukova, 1.0 French Teacher, NHS, and effective 12/15/08*. Ms. Gati made the motion, seconded by Ms. Cosgriff. **The motion carried 6-0** (Mr. Paluskas had briefly stepped out of the room).

Dr. Cronin requested a *motion to approve the appointment of Erin Keating, 0.4 English Teacher, NHS, and effective 12/1/08*. Ms. Gati made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. **The motion carried 7-0**.

Dr. Cronin requested a *motion to approve the following extra duty appointments as a group*:

Amy Perras, 3rd/4th grade Chorus Advisor, MES

John Somero, NHS Girls Basketball Coach

Drew Valla, NHS Girls Asst. Basketball Coach

Lauren Valla, NHS Girls Freshman Basketball Coach

Tim Drakeley, NHS Boys Basketball Coach

Ken Sperry, NHS Boys Asst. Basketball Coach

Jeremy Greco, NHS Boys Freshman Basketball Coach

Ms. Gati made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. **The motion carried 7-0**.

XIV. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Gati made a *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Mr. Paluskas. **The motion carried 7-0**.

The meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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