

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, February 2, 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 Fiscal Services Jay Hubelbank; Principals Dawn Hochsprung, Alice Jones, and Melinda McKenna; Vice Principal Jeffrey Turner; Interim Principal Kimberly Gallo and Interim Vice Principal Eric Bergeron; Student Representative Daphne Kounavis; Director of Special Services Christopher Quirk; Guidance Counselor Karen Prince; English Teacher Mary Ann Martins; Director of Buildings and Grounds Michael Molzon; and about 4 members of the community.

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Bulvanoski called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

### **II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

### **III. REPORT FROM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Ms. Kounavis presented the Board with copies of the new student honor code, an acrostic representation of Nonnewaug High School's statement of beliefs. She said the students are very enthusiastic about the honor code and are striving to follow it. She said the first practice for Dancing with the Teachers was held last Thursday and that event will be held on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **IV. PRESENTATION**

Ms. Gallo presented her improvement plan for Nonnewaug High School. She outlined beliefs and values and goals in areas of language arts, problem solving, applied learning and school culture. Mr. Bergeron spoke of the ways by which data informs instruction and how data is disseminated to department chairs and teachers. He highlighted the work of the Student Consultation Team in evaluating student progress and informing assessment. Ms. Prince explained a school culture/climate survey which will be used to create focus groups and which will be conducted annually. Ms. Gallo concluded with next steps for her school, including having all juniors take PSATs, updating skills maps, and utilizing assessments to inform curriculum and instruction. Asked what the PSAT data will be used for, Ms. Gallo said real patterns for all students are being sought. Asked what weaknesses there are based on CAPT data, she said the least growth was seen in science, and skills will be targeted across curriculum to address this.

#### **V. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES**

Ms. Juhas made *a motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 20, 2009*. Mr. Paluskas seconded the motion, and **the motion carried 7-0-1**. Ms. Bulvanoski abstained, not having been present for the meeting. Ms. Juhas noted the absence of minutes of the special Board meeting and requested approval of those at the next meeting.

#### **VI. CORRESPONDENCE**

Ms. Bulvanoski received a thank you from Watermark at East Hill, where WMS students have been participating in a partnership activity. She spoke at length about a conference call she had with Congressman Chris Murphy and other Board Chairs, after which she expressed her support of educational funding. She also spoke with Nick Caruso at CAFE, who gave her some March dates for a rescheduled Board workshop.

#### **VII. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON**

Ms. Bulvanoski recognized NHS art students who received awards for their work recently and some of whom also won scholarship money for college.

#### **VIII. REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Cronin spoke of the Superintendent/Board of Education Mid-Year Review Process including the steps in the review process and examination of the Board's and Superintendent's goals. He noted that the mid-year review would occur in March. He also reviewed Board of Education and Administrative Council beliefs. He said both groups had compiled common themes and expressed what it needs from the other. The Board requested school and program curriculum assessments that are free from jargon, profile of the senior class, and administration and teacher evaluation processes. The Administrative Council needs commitment to work as the leadership team with the goal of student achievement as well as clear direction on data that is desired.

#### **IX. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Susan Scherf, of Bethlehem, was glad to see Dr. Cronin's letter on learning practices; yet, she felt he has "failed" on the 4<sup>th</sup> practice listed in his letter. She read a portion of a letter from Pam Gengenbach, copies of which she distributed to the Board.

#### **X. REPORT FROM DIRECTOR OF FISCAL SERVICES**

Mr. Hubelbank spoke of an upcoming Board budget workshop and asked Board members to take notebooks with them tonight to review prior to the workshop. He will be asking the Board to approve an equipment/technology grant for the Agriscience program at the next meeting. The state supplies 90% of the funding and the region picks up the remaining 10%, which is very favorable for us.

**XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. **Building-** Mr. Sordi reported that this committee had met, is gathering information on the field portion of the project and plans to meet again on 2/9.
2. **Facilities-** Mr. Baider reported that this committee had met, reviewed maintenance through the winter, and reviewed its budget. The committee looked at use of buildings for private lessons consistent with policies.
3. **Planning-** Ms. Bulvanoski reported that this committee looked at options for earning level 2 music credit at NHS, heard a BES update from Ms. McKenna, and reviewed Dr. Cronin's organizational chart.

**XII. OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Hubelbank had asked the Board to review the materials on food and beverages. The policy allows discretion on the part of building principals and this statement was moved to the end of the document. Also, documents will be put in each school regarding healthier options for celebrations. He requested a motion. Mr. Paluskas made the *motion to approve the Board policy on food and beverages served outside the school lunch program*. Ms. Corsico seconded the motion, and the **motion carried 8-0**.

Discussion of the three year school calendar was tabled.

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**Personnel**

Dr. Cronin requested a *motion to approve the resignation of Deborah Hull, effective 2/6/09*.

Mr. Paluskas made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. The **motion carried 8-0**.

Dr. Cronin requested a *motion to approve the PPT Coordinator extra-duty positions listed*.

Mr. Paluskas made the motion, seconded by Ms. Corsico. The **motion carried 8-0**.

**XIV. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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