

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Tuesday, May 19, 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, Superintendent Robert D. Cronin, Ph.D., Woodbury Middle School Principal Alice Jones, World Language Teacher Maude Chasse, reporters and about eight 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 the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. REVIEW OF MINUTES

1. District Budget Meeting of May 4, 2009
Motion to accept: Ms. Juhas Second: Mr. Paluskas **Motion carried 7-0-1** (Ms. Juhas abstained)
2. Regular Board Meeting of May 4, 2009
Motion to accept: Ms. Juhas Second: Mr. Paluskas **Motion carried 7-0-1** (Ms. Juhas abstained)
3. Special Meeting of May 7, 2009
Motion to accept: Ms. Juhas Second: Mr. Paluskas Corrections by Mr. Sordi: Mr. Cosgriff seconded the motion made at that meeting by Mr. Sordi; also Mr. Sordi asked that the minutes reflect a timeline as part of what the Board requested of Region 12, that they act by May 13, 2009. *Motion to accept with corrections:* Ms. Juhas Second: Mr. Paluskas **Motion carried 6-0-2** (Abstaining were Ms. Juhas and Ms. Bulvanoski)

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

V. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Ms. Bulvanoski reminded the public of upcoming events: the NHS Art Show, NHS Spring Concert, Scholarship Night on May 27th, and the Vo-ag award dinner on 5/28.

VI. REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

1. Board of Education Goals 2008-09
Dr. Cronin spoke of progress made on the second Board goal of improvements in Instruction. He reported that administrators have been studying best instructional practices this year and working

VI. REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT (cont)

with a professor from CCSU. They have done classroom walk-throughs in all schools, looking at learning environments, relevant and challenging instruction strategies and have targeted a specific area each month on which to concentrate – emotional, intellectual and social learning. They are compiling baseline data for the Region’s students.

2. Teacher Hiring Practices

Dr. Cronin spoke of protocols for filling teacher vacancies. He outlined a process for screening applicants and involving a committee in bringing forward final candidates to him, and then the Board. He said the Region has most success in finding suitable candidates through a resource that is both free and most widely used by applicants – CTREAP.

VII. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mary Ann Sprague, Bethlehem, is a Stop Planned Parenthood representative for CT. She is concerned that Planned Parenthood sex ed, as well as tolerance for same sex marriage, can be taught without parental notification. She would like to repeal the curriculum the Region currently uses because she is not in favor of library books in which “David has 2 mommies.” She knows it is within Dr. Cronin’s discretion to do so, but he has not allowed her to do a presentation.

Tom Arras, Woodbury, again expressed his upset that the “verbage” in the call to the district budget meeting differed from that which was displayed elsewhere; he checked the statutes and would like to see the legal opinion which allows for this.

Jim Uberti, Woodbury, spoke about reasons why he favors a football co-op with Region 12. He explained that the goal of youth football for the boys who play is to ultimately play high school ball. To keep the NHS program viable, as well as to offer R12 boys who play Pop Warner football an opportunity to continue playing, he urged Board support of the co-op arrangement.

Peter Masi, Woodbury, agreed with Mr. Uberti. He has watched similar situations unfold with other youth sports. If the sport is not supported at the high school level, the youth program folds. He asked the Board to give the program a chance and let it grow.

Mrs. Hill, Waterbury, spoke of a bus incident involving a driver allegedly using a racial slur, which she urged the Board to address. She believes the bus company should apologize and the problem should be corrected. She thanked Mr. Hubelbank for his attention and concern to this point.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning – Ms. Chasse reviewed the information she had shared with the Planning Committee about a proposed 3rd international trip for Woodbury Middle School, this one to Puerto Rico and planned for next February break. She said the trip would be offered to 20 full paying 6-8 graders, meaning that some then 9th graders could be going. Three full paid certified teachers would chaperone. Ms. Gati made a motion to approve the WMS trip to Puerto Rico, seconded by Mr.

May 19, 2009

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS (cont)

Paluskas. Ms. Juhas asked the expected cost and was told approximately \$2249 each. Dr. Cronin said that hardship cases would be assisted. The motion carried 8-0.

IX. OLD BUSINESS**1. Football Co-op with Region 12**

Dr. Cronin updated the Board on information regarding the proposed co-op, including insurance arrangements; changes to the R12 Board on July 1; Dr. Storm's concerns; and Paul Hoey's (CIAC) assurances that R14 can withdraw from a co-op at any time, as could R12. Members of the Board expressed concern that R12 had not met the terms outlined by R14, and there was discussion of waiting until the next R12 BoE meeting to see what transpires, or possibly until new BoE members take office in July. Dr. Cronin was asked how he would advise the Board.

Dr. Cronin responded that one way to look at it is that R12 has not met the conditions; however, he worries about the future of the football program and feels we may need them as much as they need us. He did caution that conditions should be explicit with the R12 Board.

Mr. Paluskas felt that if R14 can opt out at any time, that a positive response should be made now and R14 should make the effort now to get the co-op started.

Mr. Baider felt the insurance piece was important and needed to be straightened out quickly.

The Board directed Dr. Cronin to verify with Mr. Hoey the opt out option, how long that is in force, and then to communicate to Dr. Storm the need for assurances with regard to R12's Board commitment.

2. Review and possible action on Region 14 Educational Technology Plan

Tabled.

3. Discussion/possible action on retirement incentive

Dr. Cronin explained that teachers have been presented with materials related to the retirement incentive. NTA President Tim Cleary sent the proposal to CEA to review and standard language has been added to address workman's compensation benefits. If agreed to by the Board, the proposal would be sent in 1-2 days with a sign-by date of 6/12/09 as per statute; then the 8 day revocation period would need to pass. Mr. Paluskas made a *motion to accept the teachers' retirement incentive*, seconded by Mr. Baider and the **motion carried 7-0-1** (Ms. Juhas abstained).

X. NEW BUSINESS**Personnel**

1. Approval of Appointment to Teaching Positions
Krista Forte, Mathematics Teacher, Woodbury Middle School
Erin Keating, English/Language Arts Teacher, Woodbury Middle School
Alicia Chera, Mathematics Teacher, Nonnewaug High School
Stacey Calo, K-6 Language Arts Coordinator
2. Approval of Appointment to One-Year, Temporary Teaching Position
John Dominello, Culinary Arts Teacher, Nonnewaug High School

Ms. Corsico made the *motion to approve the above appointments*, seconded by Ms. Gati, and the **motion carried 8-0**.

May 19, 2009

XI. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:29 p.m., Ms. Corsico made a *motion to move to executive session to discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation*, seconded by Mr. Paluskas, and the **motion carried 8-0**.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Corsico made the *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Mr. Baider. The **motion carried 8-0**. The meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

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