

Regional School District 14 www.ctreg14.org

June 1, 2009

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, June 1, 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 Deborah Corsico, Charles Cosgriff, Monica Gati, Carla Juhas, Stephen Paluskas and Stephen Sordi. Also, Superintendent Robert D. Cronin, Ph.D., Director of Finance and Operations Jay Hubelbank, one reporter and five members of the community.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Bulvanoski called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

She requested a *motion to add to the agenda, under Executive Session, discussion/possible action on the secretary contract*. Mr. Paluskas made the motion, seconded by Ms. Gati.

The motion carried 7-0.

III. REPORT FROM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Tessa Kalin, Rachael McNally and Daphne Kounavis made their final report of the year and updated the Board on recent events at NHS, including the prom, Mr. Nonnewaug contest, Gladiators, Nonnewaug's Got Talent, and Scholarship Night. They look forward to graduation on 6/20 and Gradnite to follow. The Board thanked the students for their reporting this year, wished them well in the future and asked them to come back and visit.

IV. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

Ms. Juhas made *motions to accept each of the following sets of minutes*:

Regular Board of 5/19/09; second by Mr. Paluskas. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Special Board of 5/26/09. second by Mr. Paluskas. **Motion carried 6-0-1.** Ms. Juhas abstained, not having been in attendance at that meeting.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

VI. REPORT FROM CHAIRPERSON

Ms. Bulvanoski reported that it had been an eventful time for the Board, being invited to and attending scholarship night, vo-ag awards dinner, and the upcoming Celebration of Excellence to name a few.

VII. REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Cronin spoke about protocol for reporting student progress through school improvement plans. Administrators will provide student performance data showing comparisons from beginning of the year to the end in DRP and DRA2 scores, writing, and math. There will also be data on progress with school culture initiatives, department and school accomplishments and summaries of what was more and less successful.

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VIII. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Tom Arras, Woodbury, awaits response to his FOI request for the legal opinion used in determining that the differences in wording of the call to the district budget meeting were acceptable. He also wants to know the cost to educate a vo-ag versus and regular high school student.

Pam Gengenbach, Woodbury, does not like the way meeting minutes are written, feels the writer is editorializing and including personal opinion, and would like that to stop. She respectfully asked that the minutes reflect what was said.

Mary Ann Sprague, Bethlehem, commented on a foul odor she smells from her church, which is near Bethlehem Elementary, and thinks the smell could be coming from the school. She thought the EPA should be consulted. She also noted that the region's bullying policy is up for a vote; prior to that, she would like to be able to do an abstinence only presentation. She feels the sex education policy should be repealed.

Gary Suslavich, Woodbury, said a communication problem continues; there was no notice on the website about the reception for the new NHS principal and he only read about it in the Voices. Ms. Gati explained that she had sent a press release to Voices; additionally, she asked each school to e-notice all Region 14 families. He saw in Setting the Record Straight, though not in the minutes, that the Board had discussed asking teachers to take a pay freeze, although no formal request had been made. The public, he said, must go on rumor because the communication is inadequate. Ms. Corsico confirmed that negotiations are non-meetings.

Duncan McDougal, Woodbury, noted that for the last election there were no signs indicating where to vote. The budget win, he said, is not a testament to public approval of what the Board is doing.

IX. REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Mr. Hubelbank said he will meet with the Finance Committee prior to the next meeting regarding monies remaining being put into the non-recurring capital account. Staffs are ordering supplies now in order to get them in time for the next school year. He commented on the smell issue at BES which is noticeable when the wind blows a certain way. The DEP has been consulted and there is no problem at BES. Notification of the budget vote, he said, was done through flyers, etc., but he said he would work with the town for additional signs in the future.

Asked about percentage reimbursement amounts for special education, he said he anticipates about 90% and that, looking forward, the state is considering a 3 tier system but that more may be known soon if the state budget passes this week. Dr. Cronin mentioned that the Governor may be looking at stimulus money as possibly offsetting the shortfall, so reimbursement may remain the same.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Speaking for the Facilities Committee, Mr. Hubelbank said that group had just met and discussed the "Field of Dreams" situation; now the MES fields are being considered for use and the committee will receive a proposal about that. The WMS tennis courts will be ready by week's end and a ribbon cutting ceremony will be planned. Hopefully, the undefeated NHS boys' tennis team will be able to use them to prepare for tournament play. The committee also heard from the WATA tennis group which is interested in improving the NHS courts. The district put out bids for 10

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projects and bids received were under the proposed budgets. Mr. Hubelbank also reported on stimulus money for energy savings; that money is directed to the towns, not school districts, but he is working on tracking those funds.

XI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Bullying Policy

Dr. Cronin updated the Board on his conversations with counsel concerning revisions to policies mandated by statute. By way of the Policy Committee, Dr. Cronin will bring revised mandated policies to the Board, hopefully by the start of the next school year.

2. Educational Technology Plan (ED 616)

Having had time to review the plan in the weeks preceding, the Board took action on the ED616. Mr. Paluskas made a *motion to adopt the Educational Technology Plan*, second by Mr. Cosgriff. **Motion carried 7-0.**

XII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

XIII. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Bulvanoski reminded the public of the reception for the new NHS principal, Lori Ferreira, to be held Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:44 p.m. Ms. Corsico made a *motion to move to executive session to consider the Superintendent's Contract and the Secretaries Contract*, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff.

Motion carried 7-0. Mr. Hubelbank was invited to attend the session, as well.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The Board emerged from executive session at 8:30 pm.

Mr. Paluskas *motioned to accept the negotiated contract with the Secretary's Association.*

Mr. Sordi seconded the motion. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Mrs. Gati *motioned to extend the Superintendent's current contract by one year, through June 30, 2012.* Mr. Cosgriff seconded the motion. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Mrs. Gati *motioned to adjourn the meeting.* The motion was seconded by Mr. Paluskas.

The motion carried 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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