

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, August 25, 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 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; Woodbury Middle School Principal Alice Jones; Region 14 Teachers Peg Sheehan and Kathleen Peterson; Music Coordinator William Geddes; Administrative Intern Christine Syriac; newspaper reporters and about 10 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. REVIEW OF MINUTES**

#### **1. Special Board Meeting of July 1, 2008**

Ms. Juhas made a *motion to approve these minutes*. Ms. Gati seconded the motion and the **motion carried 6-0**.

#### **2. Regular Board Meeting of July 7, 2008**

Ms. Juhas made a *motion to approve these minutes*. Mr. Paluskas seconded the motion and the **motion carried 5-0-1**. Ms. Juhas abstained, not having been at this meeting.

#### **3. District Budget Meeting of July 15, 2008**

Ms. Juhas made a *motion to approve these minutes*. Mr. Paluskas seconded the motion and the **motion carried 5-0-1**. Mr. Sordi abstained, not having been at this meeting.

#### **4. Special Meeting of August 7, 2008**

Ms. Juhas made a *motion to approve these minutes*. Mr. Paluskas seconded the motion and the **motion carried 5-0-1**. Ms. Gati abstained, not having been at this meeting.

(Ms. Corsico arrived at this point, and vote tallies will reflect 7 Board members present)

### **IV. CORRESPONDENCE**

Ms. Bulvanoski acknowledged correspondence from Ms. Sheehan and Ms. Peterson regarding a proposed middle school field trip to Quebec. She called on the two to explain the details of the trip. Ms. Peterson described a 3 day trip in October to be offered to forty 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade world language students on a first come, first serve basis. The teachers are working with a New England based travel group and the trip will involve many hands on activities for the students. Two teachers, as well as other chaperones, will accompany the students, and passports are not required for students under the age of 15.

Mr. Paluskas made the *motion to approve the field trip as presented*. Ms. Corsico seconded the motion. Ms. Gati asked for an approximate cost, and was told it would depend on the number going, but would be in the \$500 range. **The motion carried 7-0**.

August 25, 2008

**V. REPORT FROM CHAIRPERSON**

Ms. Bulvanoski spoke of the local ASAP group, founded 2+ years ago by her husband, Leo, and former Woodbury First Selectman, Dick Crane. A resource of hope and support for parents of children with substance abuse problems, ASAP now recognizes grandparents who are raising their grandchildren, and the first meeting of that group will be 9/8/08 at 1:00 p.m. at the Woodbury Senior/Community Center.

She also explained that Board members had communicated requests for committee placements, which she honored. (Committee assignments are listed on the Region's website)

Finally, Ms. Bulvanoski spoke of her efforts this summer with regards to changes to the Board agenda. She will begin each meeting with the Pledge, has moved POF up on the agenda and will require those interested in speaking to sign up prior to the start of POF. She has studied CABE guidelines and researched how other Boards of Education handle POF and made her changes based on those findings.

**VI. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Cronin spoke of School Improvement Plans and that protocol is being reviewed by the Administrative Council. Each school's plan, he said, evolves from Board of Education goals, around which the schools develop their own. Test data will follow cohorts, in order to study continuous improvement. He is also interested in seeing how the Region compares with others in DRG C.

Dr. Cronin also reported on new teacher orientation earlier today. About 12 new teachers have joined the Region this school year, and he named them as well as the subjects they will teach. He listed the topics covered with new teachers and said he was very encouraged by the quality of the teachers hired. Tomorrow, the Region 14 staff will participate in professional development regarding improving school climate for achievement. Wednesday is Opening Day for students. Finally, Dr. Cronin explained that Nonnewaug High School has come up, due to a rotating schedule, for a compliance review. The state has interest in the number of students enrolled in career/technical education courses, and ELL students, those with disabilities, and by gender enrolled in those courses. A facility review will occur in March and results will be made in May.

**VII. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Susan Scherf spoke of a formal complaint she made back in November of 2007, to which she believes no action was taken. She supplied a letter she said was written by the driver of Bus #3 and which she said substantiates her claims of consistent late arrival of that bus to BES as well as the increase in fuel used on that run.

Pam Gengenbach asked, if time remains after all those who signed up for POF have spoken, whether an audience member would be allowed a second turn, and was told they would not. She reiterated her desire for a study of reconfiguration.

**VIII. REPORT FROM DIRECTOR OF FISCAL SERVICES**

Mr. Hubelbank spoke of facility work over the summer, some of which was delayed due to the late passage of the budget. He thanked Mike Molzon, Director of Buildings and Grounds, as well as the principals, for their work and cooperation as projects were done this summer. Some of the improvements were: repair of BES sidewalks, installation of a/c in the computer lab there, price quotes for security systems, elevator repair and, thanks to the PTO, installation of a new piece of

Regional School District 14 [www.ctreg14.org](http://www.ctreg14.org)

August 25, 2008

playground equipment. At WMS, tennis court repair and window replacement is scheduled for the fall. He also spoke of the domestic hot water heater there. At NHS, electrical improvements to the culinary class, an office for technical support staff were renovated, boiler work done and a bit of movement of classrooms was completed. Field work was also discussed.

He reported changes to bus routes and also reported on an automated system, called SubFinder that the Region will be using to secure substitute teachers. The system is more efficient, can track teacher attendance, and is of similar cost to what the Region paid to have a staff person locate subs on a daily basis.

At the conclusion of his report, Mr. Hubelbank was asked by Mr. Sordi about end of year transfers. He was told that those would be available at the Finance committee meeting.

## **IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. Community Relations** – has not met.

**2. Facilities** – has not met.

### **3. Finance**

Mr. Cosgriff reported that this committee has just met regarding administration of 403(b) accounts.

Mr. Hubelbank had explained that, due to changes in IRS regulations, a manager is required.

Mr. Cosgriff made a *motion to appoint ING as the manager of Region 14's 403(b) account*.

Mr. Paluskas seconded the motion and the **motion carried 6-0**. (Ms. Corsico had briefly left the room and was not present for the vote).

### **4. Personnel**

Ms. Gati reported that this committee had met to discuss the two vacant administrative positions.

The closing date for applications for both the NHS principal position and Director of Curriculum and Instruction is September 19<sup>th</sup>.

**5. Planning** – has not met.

Ms. Juhas made a *motion to add report from the Building Committee to the agenda*, seconded by Mr. Paluskas. **Motion carried 7-0**.

### **6. Building**

Mr. Sordi reported that Mr. Hubelbank had polled the committee to determine how many are willing to continue to serve, and most are. Mr. Sordi asked the Board for approval to move forward with the NHS project and was given the go ahead.

## **X. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **XI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Personnel**

Dr. Cronin requested *motions to approve the following resignations*:

1. **Marcia Peterson**, Nonnewaug High School

Mr. Paluskas made the motion, seconded by Ms. Corsico. **The motion carried 7-0**.

2. **April Goran**, Technology Coordinator

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

August 25, 2008

Dr. Cronin requested *motions to accept the following appointments to teaching positions:*

1. **Thomas Hahn**, English Department, Nonnewaug High School  
Mr. Paluskas made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. **The motion carried 7-0.**
2. **Anne Uberti**, K-8 Math Coach  
Mr. Paluskas made the motion, seconded by Ms. Corsico. **The motion carried 7-0.**
3. **Kathleen McKeon**, Grade 5 Teacher, Mitchell Elementary School  
Mr. Paluskas made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. **The motion carried 7-0.**
4. **Judith Perrucci**, Grade 5 Inclusion Teacher, Mitchell Elementary School  
Mr. Paluskas made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. **The motion carried 7-0.**

**2. First Reading: Policy 5131.911 (Revision) and Policy 5114 (Revision)**

Dr. Cronin distributed copies of both revised policies for Board review.

**3. Proposed changes to Region Calendar**

Dr. Cronin pointed out changes to the BES parent conference schedule. BES conferences are to be 12/1 and 12/2, and MES conferences on 12/3 and 12/4.

Ms. Corsico made a *motion to approve the changes as proposed*. Mr. Paluskas seconded the motion and the **motion carried 7-0.**

**4. Community request for Board approval of facility use**

Tabled.

**XII. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Bulvanoski reported on Dr. Cronin's coffees with parents which occurred several times over the summer and which will continue during the school year. Dr. Cronin reported that parents expressed concern over rigor in the curriculum and communication with the schools. The elementary parents expressed desire for homework planners, to help them to know exactly what their children have for homework. Dr. Cronin said that planner had been purchased.

**XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:27 p.m., Ms. Corsico made a *motion to move to Executive Session to discuss negotiations and a student matter*. Mr. Paluskas seconded the motion and the **motion carried 7-0.**

Executive Session convened at 8:33 p.m., attended by Ms. Bulvanoski, Ms. Corsico, Mr. Cosgriff, Ms. Gati, Ms. Juhas, Mr. Paluskas, Mr. Sordi and Dr. Cronin. Ms. Gati made a *motion to invite Mr. Hubelbank to attend*. Mr. Cosgriff seconded the motion, and the **motion carried 7-0.**

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

Following the session, Mr. Cosgriff made a *motion to accept the nurses' contract as presented in Executive Session*. Mr. Paluskas seconded the motion and the **motion carried 7-0.**

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

The meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

---

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