

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, September 15, 2008, at 7:30 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; Woodbury Middle School Principal Alice Jones; Nonnewaug High School Interim Principal Kimberly Gallo; Nonnewaug Spanish Teacher Taryn Fernandez; newspaper reporters and about 12 members of the community.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Bulvanoski called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. She thanked the NEAT TV crew for their commitment to televising Board meetings throughout the year.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. REVIEW OF MINUTES

1. Regular Board Meeting of August 25, 2008

In the absence of Carla Juhas, Ms. Corsico made a *motion to approve these minutes*, seconded by Mr. Paluskas. The **motion carried 7-0**.

2. Regular Board Meeting of September 2, 2008

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

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Bulvanoski read a thank you note from recently retired teacher, Kathy Magoun.

She also reported having received a letter from Ms. Fernandez, requesting the opportunity to address the Board. Ms. Fernandez is proposing a trip to Spain for high school students, and was called upon to make her presentation.

Ms. Fernandez provided a power point presentation to the Board describing the trip which would be made available to Spanish IV and AP Spanish students, of which there are 25 and 11 respectively this year. The trip is intended to be completely Spanish speaking; therefore, the advanced students are the target group. She described proposed itineraries, costs, and spoke of the tour group with whom she is working. She addressed questions from the Board.

Mr. Baider asked how students would be chosen. Ms. Fernandez felt dedication and intention to speak only Spanish would be criteria. Ms. Bulvanoski asked when commitment would be needed, and Ms. Fernandez answered at least 3 months prior to this spring break trip. The longer she waits to book it, the more difficult flight and hotel arrangements would be to make. Ms. Bulvanoski also expressed concern about review for the AP exam. Ms. Fernandez believes that this trip would be a far better review than any she could provide the AP students. Ms. Corsico asked about chaperone

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to student ratio and was told it will be 1:6 and that for each 6 students, one chaperone accompanies at no charge.

Hearing no further questions, Ms. Bulvanoski asked if the Board was comfortable making a motion to approve the trip.

Ms. Corsico made a *motion to approve the trip as presented*, seconded by Mr. Paluskas. The motion carried 7-0.

V. REPORT FROM CHAIRPERSON

Ms. Bulvanoski reminded the audience of the upcoming math/science coaching conference, reporting that Ms. Gati, Dr. Cronin and Anne Uberti would be attending.

VI. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Cronin reported on CMT and CAPT results. He provided the Board and audience with a series of handouts describing the scores. He showed number of students performing at or above goal on the CMTs. The Board target was to have 75% of all students performing at that level, and he highlighted areas where that goal was met. He noted grade levels who benefited from flexible math grouping, as well as those who had worked with the Growing with Math program the longest. He commented on the results showing less consistency in writing, and wants to look further at scope and sequence and added that students are now writing on a daily basis. He also offered the results by student cohort to show progress over time. He addressed adequate yearly progress (AYP) in all three schools where testing occurred. With regard to the middle school, he explained that "safe harbor" as a designation indicates that the group which did not make AYP did showed improvement of 10% or more. At Nonnewaug, he noted that students in 10th grade were cited for greater than 10% improvement in 3 of the 4 tests they took.

He reminded the Board and audience that principals will speak to results from their schools in the months to come.

VII. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Ms. Bulvanoski noted the presence of Nick Creed, a candidate for state Representative, explaining that he was here tonight for the purpose of listening to his fellow citizens.

Valerie DiLorenzo pointed out that third grade is now a transition year, the way 6th grade is. She read a passage from the Litchfield paper regarding consolidated schools.

Pam Gengenbach's opinion is that parents' lives are more difficult with the current configuration of the schools. She recalled a statement attributed to Dr. Cronin, that a balanced curriculum could be delivered in 2 schools. The population is lower now, she noted, and feels reconfiguration needs to be reviewed.

Bill Mulready offered a handout and opinion that ADA violations occur in Region 14.

Duncan McDougal's opinion is that the system has "trashed our neighborhood schools." Despite Dr. Cronin's lengthy and detailed report, Mr. McDougal wants the numbers put out there next time so the people can understand what they are. He also suggested going to the teachers to find out how to fix the problems.

VIII. REPORT FROM DIRECTOR OF FISCAL SERVICES

None.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Building- Mr. Sordi reported that this committee would meet next Monday.
2. Community Relations- not met.
3. Facilities- not met.
4. Finance- Mr. Cosgriff reported that this committee had met prior to the Board meeting to discuss health insurance, as well as bus transportation. Mr. Hubelbank spoke of the fuel consortium, and offered current rates of \$3.53 for fuel and \$3.74 for diesel. He handed out a transportation survey, comparing Region 14's usage to other comparable districts. He also reported that bus times are being tracked and that one bus at each of the elementary schools has experienced difficulty meeting the time goal.
5. Personnel- Ms. Gati reported that this committee has not met, but soon will in order to review applications for both administrative openings.
6. Planning- Ms. Bulvanoski reported that this committee had also met to discuss the administrative openings. Ten to fifteen applications have been received for each, and the application deadline is 9/19. The committee also discussed topics for professional development this year, with a concentration on literacy. Also, curriculum development was discussed, she said.

X. OLD BUSINESS

None.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Personnel

Dr. Cronin requested a *motion to approve the family medical leave request of Megan Canniff*. Mr. Paluskas made the motion, seconded by Ms. Corsico. The **motion carried 7-0**.

Dr. Cronin requested a *motion to approve the support staff recommendations as listed*. Mr. Paluskas made the motion, seconded by Ms. Gati. The **motion carried 7-0**.

Dr. Cronin requested a *motion to approve the extra duty position recommendations as listed*. Mr. Paluskas made the motion, seconded by Mr. Baider. The **motion carried 7-0**.

Board of Education Meeting Start Time

Ms. Bulvanoski voiced her idea to change Board meeting start time to 7:00 pm. After a brief discussion, Ms. Corsico made a *motion to change Board of Education start time to 7:00 p.m.*, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. The **motion carried 7-0**.

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XII. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

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 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Corsico, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
Regional School District #14 Board of Education