

A Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, May 2, 2011, in the Nonnewaug High School Library, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Board Chair Stephen Sordi, Board members Scott Baider, George Bauer, Linda Bulvanoski, Deborah Corsico, Charles Cosgriff, Gary Suslavich and Pamela Zmek; also, Interim Superintendent Greg Little, Interim Director of Finance/Operations Ed Arum, administrators Kim Culkin, Melinda McKenna, Alice Jones, MaryLou Torre Lori Ferreira and Jose Martinez; student representative Stephen Aleandri; CAFE representatives Jacqueline Jacoby, Ed.D and Randall Collins, Ed.D., WBC Music Foundation representative William Geddes; and faculty and staff representatives Julee Oppici, Jane Panza, Alice Pistrutto, Katie Yocis, Jodie D'Alexander, and Richard Mosman.
Audience members included: two members of the press and approximately five members of the community.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Sordi called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Sordi led the Pledge of Allegiance

III. Presentations

Mr. Sordi read a proclamation that May 3, 2011 be recognized as Region 14 faculty and staff appreciation day. He called representatives from each group to receive a copy of the proclamation, and each of the following faculty/staff was thanked individually by board members:

Julee Oppici on behalf of the Nurses; Jane Panza on behalf of the Paraprofessionals; Alice Pistrutto on behalf of the Instructional Support staff; Katie Yocis and Jodie D'Alexander on behalf of the Teachers; Jose Martinez on behalf of the Administrators; (in the absence of a representative) Lori Ferreira on behalf of the Secretaries; and Richard Mosman on behalf of the Custodians. Food Service and Central Office employees were also thanked.

Dr. Jacoby and Dr. Collins reviewed the Superintendent Leadership Profile Report which they prepared after having met with various focus groups. Dr. Jacoby outlined next steps in the search.

Mr. Geddes reviewed the status of the Strings Program in the elementary schools and next steps needed to keep that program growing in the schools.

IV. Report from Student Representative

Stephen Aleandri updated the Board on activities at Nonnewaug High School, including a concert for Denan, AP testing, FFA plant sale, awards banquets, Gladiators fundraiser, Bald and Beautiful fund raiser, Battle of the Bands, shattered dreams pre-prom awareness presentation, Scholarship and FFA banquets, prom and senior field trip, spring concert and art show, and graduation. He gave a sports update and provided a handout about schools to which NHS seniors have been accepted this year.

V. Review of the Minutes

Mr. Bauer entered a motion to accept the minutes of the special board meeting of March 25, 2011, second by Mr. Suslavich. **Motion carried 6-0-2** with Ms. Bulvanoski and Mr. Baider abstaining.

Mr. Suslavich entered a motion to accept the minutes of the budget hearing of April 4, 2011, second by Mr. Baider. **Motion carried 6-0-2** with Ms. Bulvanoski and Ms. Zmek abstaining.

Mr. Suslavich entered a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 4, 2011, second by Mr. Baider. **Motion carried 6-0-2** with Ms. Bulvanoski and Ms. Zmek abstaining.
The minutes of the special meeting if April 15, 2011 were tabled.

VI. Correspondence

Mr. Sordi reported receiving correspondence from the state approving Dr. Little interim appointment. He also mentioned a parent letter asking the board to ask Dr. Cronin to attend this year's graduation, and said he would be extending that invitation. He read a third letter from a Newtown teacher, thanking 3 of the agriscience students for presenting information in a day long visit to his school.

VII. Report from Chairman

Mr. Sordi referenced a letter he had received from Mr. Bauer regarding the building committee and his suggestion that the former committee be kept intact and new members added to that group. Former members returning are: John Chapman, JP Fernandes, Rob Van Akin and Steve Morris. New members are: Mr. Bauer, Mr. Suslavich and, in his role as the board chair, Mr. Sordi; also, Gary Broderick, Kevin Violette, Pat DiSarro and Brian O'Leary.

VIII. Report from the Interim Superintendent

Dr. Little reported on the need for a security guard at Nonnewaug High School due to several recent incidents at that school. The guard is instructed to follow an "observe and report" protocol, is hands off, has a radio and a car, and was hired through Security Forces, Inc. Mr. Suslavich felt it is important to identify the threat to be mitigated, and cautioned against going overboard in our response.

IX. Privilege of the Floor

Privilege of the Floor was offered, but no one spoke.

X. Report from (Interim) Director of Finance and Operations

Mr. Arum reported having met with Mike Molzon and a representative from Yankee Gas. He also spoke of going out to bid on the NHS track resurfacing and moving the drainage to the outside of the track. He has been having weekly meeting on Energy Education and thanks all building staff for efforts to reduce energy consumption.

Mr. Arum requested three motions regarding an agriscience grant:
He requested, "Be and it is hereby resolved that Region 14 authorize the superintendent to apply for the agriscience equipment grant, entitled 'Proposed vocational agriculture Grant # TMP-214-JKLH,'" entered by Mr. Cosgriff, second by Mr. Suslavich. **Motion carried 8-0.**
He requested, "Be and it is hereby resolved that Region 14 authorize the Chairman of the Board of Education to form a building committee for this purpose. Said committee is authorized to engage in an architect, engineer or other specialists for the purpose of providing architectural, engineering or technical services, including outline specifications and preparation of schematics," entered by Ms. Corsico, second by Mr. Suslavich. **Motion carried 8-0.**
He requested, "Be and it is hereby resolved that the Region 14 Board of Education approve the attached education specifications as presented," entered by Mr. Suslavich, second by Mr. Cosgriff. **Motion carried 8-0.**

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Mr. Arum further reported that out-of-district special education transportation will go out to bid in mid-May. The district is in the black as of the end of March. He also distributed answers to questions asked at recent committee meetings.

XI. Committee Reports

For Facilities, Mr. Bauer reported having met and reviewing a building committee update. The building committee will meet on May 9th. The Yankee Gas proposal was also reviewed by his committee.

For Finance, Mr. Suslavich reported having met and reviewing year-to-date expenditures, expenses over \$10,000, and the district's bidding policy.

XII. Old Business

None.

XIII. New Business

Ms. Corsico entered a motion to approve the appointment of Kristen Frantz, Special Education Teacher, Bethlehem Elementary School, second by Mr. Baider. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Mr. Cosgriff entered a motion to authorize a signature change for CSDE Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education form, second by Mr. Bauer. **Motion carried 8-0.**

XIV. Announcements

None.

XV. Privilege of the Floor

Privilege of the Floor was offered, but no one spoke.

XVI. Executive Session

Mr. Baider entered a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation involving a special education student, and discussion regarding interpersonal board relationships, and to include Mr. Arum in the session, as well as Ms. Culkin for the first item only. Second by Ms. Zmek. **Motion carried 8-0.**

XVII. Adjournment

Ms. Corsico entered a *motion to adjourn*, second by Mr. Cosgriff. **Motion carried 8-0.**
The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Zmek, Secretary
Regional School District #14 Board of Education

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Debra W. Carlton, Board Clerk, 5/4/11