

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, February 8, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Nonnewaug High School Library, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Superintendent Robert D. Cronin, Ph.D.; Board Chair Monica Gati, Board members Scott Baider, Linda Bulvanoski, Deborah Corsico, Charles Cosgriff, Carla Juhas, Stephen Paluskas and Stephen Sordi; Director of Finance and Operations Jay Hubelbank; Math Specialists Anne Uberti and Nicole Cowles; and Region 14 Music Foundation representatives David Jaffin and Mark Kroll.

Audience members included: WMS principal Alice Jones and technology teacher Charles Von Hollen; school social workers Sharon Gomes, Joy Geraci, Doriene Wester and Amy Williams; teachers Donna Marcinek and Nancy Ayre; Language Arts Coordinator Stacey Calo; two newspaper reporter and about eight members of the community.

I. Call to Order

Ms. Gati called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Gati led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

III. Presentations

Mr. Jaffin spoke of the foundation's interest in initiating a strings program in Region 14. He spoke of the benefits to students, parents and faculty, as well as support that such programs are catalysts for improved student performance. He noted that high performing school districts often include a strings program for their students. His proposal was that, with commitment from the BoE to provide infrastructure and administration of a program, the music foundation will secure five years worth of funding for it. He asked for "handshake support" for the program which will be offered, ultimately, to grades 4-12; will begin most likely as an after school program for younger grades; and which he hopes will eventually become a "permanent and cherished part of the curriculum." He suggested a task force of about 5-7 to get the program rolling within a few months, and hoped to have it started in September 2010.

Following questions from the Board, Mr. Baider offered a *motion to form a joint task force with the Region 14 Music Foundation*, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Ms. Uberti and Ms. Cowles outlined actions they have taken to ensure that all students in Region 14 are offered a challenging math curriculum. They explained their goals in areas of curriculum development, instructional support and professional development. Regarding curriculum development, Ms. Uberti spoke of the use of universal beginning, mid-year and year-end benchmark assessments that are aligned both with the state and CMT standards. Teachers are provided with spreadsheets showing student results to assist them in gauging instruction. Curriculum guides within and between grade levels are utilized at BES and MES; at WMS there is full implementation of the Connected Math 2 Program, including introduction of an accelerated 6th grade curriculum. Ms. Cowles spoke of pre-curriculum work being done at NHS where teachers were aligning curriculum among math courses, but where there had been less alignment between courses. She is working toward scope/sequence in Algebra II and Pre-calculus, including work with Physics teachers to determine what is needed at the beginning for Physics, and is also working to align curriculum between WMS and NHS. She has focused on choosing topics and timing assessments so that when curriculum is written this type of groundwork is already done. She will help high school teachers tie in what students have already done in 8th grade to have less overlap between Algebra I and II.

In their roles of providing instructional support, they spoke of weekly grade level meetings focusing on instruction, and classroom support with on-site coaching. At the high school, weekly department meetings focus on creating common assessments, previewing and evaluating new materials and offering classroom

February 8, 2010

support. Added professional development opportunities have included First Steps training, which is a highly regarded philosophy to analyze student performance. Also, teachers have been working with graphing calculator technology and much progress has been made in incorporating this tool in classrooms.

IV. Review of Minutes

Ms. Bulvanoski offered a *motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of 1/25/2010*, seconded by Mr. Paluskas. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Ms. Bulvanoski offered a *motion to accept the minutes of the budget workshop of 1/30/2010*, seconded by Mr. Paluskas. **Motion carried 8-0.**

V. Correspondence

None.

VI. Report from Chairperson

Ms. Gati reported that conversations continue with the teachers' bargaining unit. There was a meeting on Friday, at which questions were compiled.

She also noted that the budget workshop did not include adequate time for discussion so, prior to the next Board meeting, the Board will meet again for this purpose, possibly during the evening instead of on the weekend.

VII. Report from Superintendent

Dr. Cronin informed the Board and public that screening for typical peers for the preschool program is underway today and tomorrow. The preschool can be contacted by way of the middle school for information about this.

Also, about 88 children have been registered for Kindergarten, a number similar to previous years. Of those, 73 have paperwork completed and screenings scheduled.

Questioned as to this year's kindergarten enrollment, Mr. Hubelbank indicated there are 110 students this year, with 105 predicted for next year.

VIII. Privilege of the Floor

Pam Gengenbach read a prepared statement regarding the sizes of the two elementary school buildings and the populations they were intended to house, noting that each now hold about 50% of the K-5 student population.

IX. Report from Director of Finance and Operations

Mr. Hubelbank reported having attended a two day Energy Education conference, along with Mike Molzon and Maryanne Kaminski, in Dallas; and, implementation of the program will begin the week of 2/15. The software has been purchased for the program.

X. Committee Reports

For the Planning Committee, Ms. Bulvanoski reported that her committee heard the presentation from the music foundation, which they decided to have presented to the full Board tonight.

They also reviewed a new Algebra text which she sought approval for from the Board.

Ms. Corsico made the *motion to approve the Algebra I and II text, published by Holt McDougal*, seconded by Ms. Juhas. **Motion carried 8-0.**

She also reported that her committee discussed the Search Institute student survey conducted last spring, and that a representative of that group will discuss results with parents this spring.

Dr. Cronin also reported at the Planning Committee meeting on his progress with administrator and coordinator mid-year reviews.

February 8, 2010

XI. Old Business

Dr. Cronin requested and received motions to approve Board policies 4090 and 4080. After realizing these policies were part of a set not yet reviewed by the Board, a *motion to rescind those two motions* was requested. Mr. Paluskas made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Dr. Cronin requested motions to accept the following revised Board policies:

- ✓ 4020 Anti Nepotism: Motion to approve, Mr. Paluskas. Second, Ms. Bulvanoski. **Motion carried 8-0.**
- ✓ 4025 Assignment Transfer: Motion to approve, Mr. Paluskas. Second, Mr. Cosgriff. **Motion carried 8-0.**
- ✓ 4035 Health Examinations, as modified to add the phrase "cost of exam to be at the expense of the employee": Motion to approve, Mr. Paluskas. Second, Mr. Baider. **Motion carried 8-0.**
- ✓ 4040 Employment at will: Motion to approve, Mr. Paluskas. Second, Mr. Baider. **Motion carried 8-0.**
- ✓ 4045 Job Descriptions: Motion to approve, Mr. Paluskas. Second, Mr. Baider. **Motion carried 8-0.**
- ✓ 4055 Consultants: Motion to approve, Mr. Paluskas. Second, Ms. Bulvanoski. **Motion carried 8-0.**
- ✓ 4065 Travel Reimbursement: Motion to approve, Mr. Paluskas. Second, Ms. Bulvanoski. **Motion carried 8-0.**
- ✓ 4070 Evaluations: Motion to approve, Mr. Paluskas. Second, Mr. Cosgriff. **Motion carried 8-0.**
- ✓ 4125 Conflict of Interest: Motion to approve, Mr. Paluskas. Second, Mr. Baider. **Motion carried 8-0.**
- ✓ 4130 Outside Employment: Motion to approve, Mr. Paluskas. Second, Mr. Baider. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Policy 4030 was set aside because of questions regarding criminal record checks of substitutes.

Ms. Corsico requested the posting of a Policy Committee meeting.

Mr. Hubelbank provided a handout describing the Region's Energy Management Conservation Policy.

XII. Board Announcements

None.

XIV. Adjournment

Ms. Corsico made a *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Ms. Juhas. **Motion carried 8-0.** The meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Bulvanoski, Secretary
Regional School District #14 Board of Education