

April 5, 2010

**(Please note: these minutes are in draft form and not yet approved by the Board of Education)**

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

Present were 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; Director of Buildings/Grounds Michael Molzon; NHS student representative Lindsey Sieber; three members of the press and five community members

I. Call to Order

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Report from Student Representative

Ms. Sieber updated the Board on recent events at her school: about \$1000 (less the price for the dance coach) was raised at the 3/19 Senior Class Council sponsored "Dancing with the Teachers," won by Kai Foraker and WMS PE teacher Chris McGrath; at the FFA underclassmen awards, 93 juniors and 72 sophomores received degrees; Kelly Flynn won the FFA district public speaking contest on 3/25; the FFA junior leadership conference is upcoming, and adult education classes are in progress; guidance is hosting a college parent night on 3/24 and there will be a career fair on 4/16; the play "Footloose" will be this weekend; hypnotist Dan LaRosa will perform on 4/16; the academic banquet is 4/29 at the Painted Pony in Bethlehem; and AP exams are 5/4-5/10. Ms. Sieber said preparations for the masquerade-themed prom are in progress and there is interest in having breathalyzers at the door to keep everyone safe. There was some discussion of this by the Board and, although it was agreed that it would be a good idea, and that the senior class should not have to pay for the police who would administer it, there was concern that the policy regarding use of breathalyzers has not yet been approved, nor is the use of them outlined in the student handbook. It was agreed that more discussion was needed.

IV. Review of Minutes

Ms. Bulvanoski entered a *motion to approve the regular Board meeting minutes of March 15, 2010*. The motion was seconded by Mr. Paluskas. **Motion carried 7-0-1** (Ms. Bulvanoski abstained, as she was not in attendance at that meeting).

Ms. Bulvanoski entered a *motion to approve the minutes of the special Board meeting of March 24, 2010*. The motion was seconded by Mr. Paluskas. **Motion carried 7-0-1** (Ms. Juhas abstained, as she was not in attendance at that meeting).

V. Correspondence

The only correspondence noted by Ms. Gati was that which was just received from Mr. McDougal during the budget hearing.

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VI. Report from Chairperson

Ms. Gati reported that the Board is awaiting a response from the Nonnewaug Teachers' Association regarding possible contract concessions.

VII. Report from Superintendent

Dr. Cronin explained the effect of snow days on the last scheduled day for students, the requirement for total number of school days, and the resulting need to hold NHS graduation on Saturday, June 26, 2010. He requested a *motion to approve Saturday, June 26, 2010 at 10:00 am for NHS graduation*. The motion was entered by Mr. Paluskas, seconded by Mr. Baider, and the **motion carried 8-0**.

Dr. Cronin also explained that NHS had received an extension on its NEASC accreditation, due both to the change in administration and the need for some districts to volunteer for such delays based on the needs of the accreditation board. NHS received a one year extension and will be reviewed in 2013.

VIII. Privilege of the Floor

None.

IX. Report from Director of Finance and Operations

Mr. Hubelbank informed the Board that because of the ongoing struggle to have spectators not park behind the high school for sports events, and the unsuccessful attempts to patrol, use signs, tape, etc to prevent it, the decision has been made to block access with gates. He assumes the Board will hear about this from community members and wanted to alert them to it ahead of time.

X. Committee Reports

Ms. Bulvanoski reported that the Planning Committee had met on 4/1/10 and four agenda items were discussed. An update on PD implementing the best practice "activating prior knowledge" to improve classroom instruction was given. Curriculum writing was discussed, and re-written curricula have been aligned with NEASC learner expectations. Still to be re-written are world language, chemistry, physics, anatomy and physiology, geometry and vet science curricula to be completed over the summer. The Superintendents' Network will visit Region 14 on May 19<sup>th</sup> and will spend time at WMS, as Alice Jones and Eric Bergeron have been leaders in Dr. Cronin's *Theory of Action* in practice. The committee also reviewed a chemistry text, discussed trends in collapsing levels and providing differentiation in classrooms, and heard a proposal for a trip to Italy in April 2011 requested by the world language department.

Mr. Sordi updated the Board on the progress of the ad-hoc Football Committee and provided a written report for review. He gave a brief history of the committee's work, from its formation to its study of player numbers, resources, fiscal resources needed, identification of outside resources, relationship to Pop Warner football, and discussions of possible co-op arrangements. The overall conclusion, he said, was that continued support of NHS football is warranted and that a re-evaluation of the program at the end of next year is the plan.

XI. Old Business

None.

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XII. New Business

**Personnel - Approval of Appointment to Coaching Position**

- i. Peter Carlson, Assistant Baseball Coach,  
Nonnewaug High School

Dr. Cronin requested a *motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Carlson as assistant baseball coach at Nonnewaug High School*. Mr. Paluskas entered the motion, seconded by Ms. Corsico. **Motion carried 8-0.**

- ii. Arleigh Duff, Interim Boys Track Coach, NHS  
(replaces James McKirdy)

Dr. Cronin requested a *motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Duff as interim boys track coach at Nonnewaug High School*. Mr. Paluskas entered the motion, seconded by Ms. Corsico. **Motion carried 8-0.**

XIII. Board Announcements

None.

XIV. Executive Session

None.

XV. Adjournment

With no further business to address, Ms. Gati requested a *motion to adjourn*. Mr. Paluskas entered the motion, seconded by Ms. Corsico. **The motion carried 8-0.**

The meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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