

January 25, 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, January 25, 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; K-6 Language Arts Coordinator Stacey Calo; and MES Principal Dawn Hochsprung.

Audience members included three members of the community and one member of the press.

I. Call to Order

Ms. Gati called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Gati led the Pledge of Allegiance

She noted the lack of televised coverage of the meeting, due to the absence of a NEAT TV crew. An adult supervisor is still available but, for now, there is a lack of interest on the part of the students.

III. Presentation

Ms. Calo reported to the Board about the K-6 Language Arts program. She spoke of her focus goals and explained that the Language Arts curriculum, drafted in 2007, has been reviewed both by way of staff audit and state guidelines. The draft curriculum had more on end results, she said, and less on assessments and scope/sequence, which teachers wanted. A writing goal will also be added to the curriculum. In the area of assessments, new ones will be added and some will be dropped; also, the DRA-2 will be used not only as a benchmark, but also diagnostically. Writing assessments are done three times a year. Asked about editing and revising, an area students struggle with on standardized tests, Ms. Calo noted that this skill is embedded in student writing. Ms. Hochsprung added that in preparing students for this part of the CMT, teachers will not "teach to the test" but rather teach how to take this test.

IV. Review of Minutes

1. Regular Board Meeting of 12/7/09

Motion to accept: Ms. Bulvanoski, Second, Mr. Paluskas. **Motion carried 8-0.**

2. Special Board Meeting of 12/12/09

Motion to accept: Ms. Bulvanoski, Second, Mr. Paluskas. **Motion carried 7-0-1.** Mr. Baider abstained.

3. Special Board Meeting of 12/22/09

Motion to accept: Ms. Bulvanoski, Second, Mr. Paluskas. **Motion carried 8-0.**

4. Regular Board Meeting of 1/11/10

Motion to accept: Ms. Bulvanoski, Second, Mr. Paluskas. **Motion carried 5-0-3.** Ms. Gati, Ms. Juhas and Mr. Cosgriff abstained.

V. Correspondence – None.

VI. Report from Chairperson

Ms. Gati reported meeting informally with the NTA and CEA representatives regarding current budget constraints and possible concessions from that group. Follow up meetings will be planned as well as meetings with town officials.

She requested a motion to add to the agenda, under Mr. Hubelbank's report, approval of the 2008-2009 audit. Mr. Paluskas made the motion, seconded by Mr. Baider. **Motion carried 8-0.**

VII. Report from Superintendent

Dr. Cronin spoke of his plan to address commonly asked questions on the district website. Information and reminders on such topics as lunch accounts, transportation, and CMT test dates will be posted as another way to share information with families. The Board was asked to forward questions they are being asked so answers may be included on the website.

Dr. Cronin also reported that administrators have been participating in mid-year reviews with him, as have teachers with their principals. Student performance data is being compared to benchmarks and is then used for planning for the second half of the year.

VIII. Privilege of the Floor

Pam Gengenbach, Woodbury, read a prepared statement in which she referenced a recent newspaper article in the Hartford Courant and its coverage of the reconfiguration issue.

IX. Report from Director of Finance and Operations

Mr. Hubelbank reminded the Board of the workshop scheduled for this Saturday from 9 am-noon in room 121 at NHS. The Energy Education program is getting started, too, he said. A grant from the CSDE was recently received to purchase Agriscience equipment and for repairs to that building. The grant covers 90% of costs.

He requested a motion to accept the 2008-09 audit as presented. Mr. Paluskas made the motion, seconded by Mr. Baider. **The motion carried 8-0.**

Finally, Mr. Hubelbank offered a handout of CT school districts which have already issued proposed budget increase percentages for next year.

X. Committee Reports

Mr. Sordi reported having met with his Ad-Hoc NHS Football Committee on 1/21, at which time Dan Scavone gave an overview of what it would fiscally take to make the program successful. Mr. Scavone also gave a facilities needs assessment. It will require a large financial commitment to continue the program, and Mr. Sordi asked for a month to research the situation.

Ms. Corsico, who also attended the meeting, felt it was a wake-up call for the facilities needs for all the sports teams, but did not feel that the fate of the football program need rest on the condition of the facilities. All sports teams, she noted, need better facilities. Mr. Sordi also noted that the player numbers need to be sufficient to run both a varsity and jv program and that budget concerns exist.

**XI. Old Business
Policies**

Ms. Juhas asked if the policy on restraint/seclusion/force was mandated, which it is. She was told that training on the proper procedures is offered primarily to special education staff and psychologists. The

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policy regarding weighting was worded two ways, as the attorney did not know whether grades are weighted here. Since they are, the wording corresponding to that version of the policy will be used.

Dr. Cronin requested and received motions to approve the following policies:

- A. 5000-6121 Equal Education - Motion: Mr. Paluskas, second: Mr. Paluskas **Motion carried 8-0.**
- B. 5141.21 Administering Meds– Motion: Mr. Paluskas, second: Ms. Bulvanoski **Motion carried 8-0.**
- C. 5145.14 On campus recruitment – Motion: Mr. Paluskas, second: Mr. Baider **Motion carried 8-0.**
- D. 5145.52 and accompanying regulation, sexual and other unlawful harassment – Motion: Mr. Paluskas, second: Ms. Bulvanoski **Motion carried 8-0.**
- E. 5141.5 Crisis Intervention – Motion: Mr. Paluskas, second: Ms. Bulvanoski **Motion carried 8-0.**
- F. 6159 Special Education – Motion: Mr. Paluskas, second: Ms. Bulvanoski **Motion carried 8-0.**
- G. 5113 Truancy - Motion: Mr. Paluskas, second: Mr. Baider **Motion carried 8-0.**
- H. 5112 Attendance - Motion: Mr. Paluskas, second: Ms. Bulvanoski **Motion carried 8-0.**
- I. 5145.16 Protecting Student Privacy -Motion: Mr. Paluskas, second: Mr. Baider **Motion carried 8-0.**
- J. 6115 Pledge of Allegiance - Motion: Mr. Paluskas, second: Mr. Baider **Motion carried 8-0.**
- K. 5123 Promotion and Retention - Motion: Mr. Paluskas, second: Mr. Baider **Motion carried 8-0.**
- L. NEW – Restraint/Seclusion/Force - Motion: Mr. Paluskas, second: Ms. Bulvanoski **Motion carried 8-0.**
- M. 6142.1 Exemption from Instruction - Motion: Mr. Paluskas, second: Ms. Bulvanoski **Motion carried 8-0.**
- N. 6161 Selection of Learning Resources and accompanying regulation - Motion: Mr. Paluskas, second: Mr. Baider **Motion carried 8-0.**
- O. 6146 Graduation - Motion: Mr. Paluskas, second: Mr. Baider **Motion carried 8-0.**
- P. 6154 Homework - Motion: Mr. Paluskas, second: Ms. Bulvanoski **Motion carried 8-0.**
- Q. 6146.1 Weighted Grading - Motion: Mr. Paluskas, second: Ms. Bulvanoski **Motion carried 8-0.**
- R. 6141.321 Internet/Computer Acceptable Use - Motion: Mr. Paluskas, second: Ms. Bulvanoski **Motion carried 8-0.**
- S. NEW Green Cleaning Policy - Motion: Mr. Paluskas, second: Ms. Bulvanoski **Motion carried 8-0.**
- T. NEW Wellness - Motion: Mr. Paluskas, second: Mr. Baider **Motion carried 8-0.**
- U. 1101.1 Parent/Teacher Communication - Motion: Mr. Paluskas, second: Mr. Baider **Motion carried 8-0.**

XII. New Business

Personnel

A. Approval of Resignations

1. Peg Sheehan, Spanish and French Teacher, Woodbury Middle School, effective 1/ 22/10
Motion to accept: Mr. Paluskas, second: Mr. Baider **Motion carried 8-0.**
2. Patricia Gage, Grade 4 Teacher, Mitchell Elementary School, retiring at the close of the 2009-2010 school year following 23 years of service
Motion to accept: Mr. Paluskas, second: Mr. Baider, with regret **Motion carried 8-0.**

B. Approval of Leave of Absence

1. Danielle Hay, School Psychologist, MES/BES, Maternity Leave beginning approximately 3/21/10 and continuing for six weeks following.
2. Michael Urban, Custodian, beginning 2/1/10 and continuing for 30 days following
Motion to accept both leaves of absence: Mr. Paluskas, second: Ms. Corsico **Motion carried 8-0.**

C. Approval of Appointment to Extra Duty Position

1. Bill Davenport, Agriscience Adult Education Coordinator for the winter 2010 session
2. Maryanne Kaminski, Energy Education Specialist

Motion to accept both appointments: Mr. Paluskas, second: Mr. Baider **Motion carried 8-0.**

D. Discussion/Possible Action on Substitute Nurse Compensation

Mr. Hubelbank explained the difficulty in securing sub nurses, on the extremely rare occasion that one of the 4 school nurses is absent, because the Region's rate is lower than what they can earn elsewhere. The rate is currently \$90/day while surrounding districts pay \$150/day. He requested a motion to increase the compensation for substitute nurses from \$90/day to \$150/day. Mr. Paluskas made the motion, seconded by Ms. Bulvanoski. **The motion carried 8-0.**

E. Approval of Appointment to Teaching Position

Kathleen Ghounem, Spanish Teacher, Woodbury Middle School

Motion to approve this appointment: Mr. Paluskas, second: Mr. Baider **Motion carried 8-0.**

XIII. Board Announcements

None.

XIV. Executive Session

None.

XV. Adjournment

Mr. Paluskas made a *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Ms. Bulvanoski, and the **motion carried 8-0.**
The meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Bulvanoski/dwc

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