

March 1, 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, March 1, 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, Deborah Corsico, Charles Cosgriff, Carla Juhas, Stephen Paluskas and Stephen Sordi; Director of Finance and Operations Jay Hubelbank

Absent was Board member Linda Bulvanoski

Audience members included: Director of Special Services Christopher Quirk; Principals Alice Jones and Lori Ferreira; Assistant Principal Jose Martinez; Science Coordinator Nadine Pratt, Math Specialist Anne Uberti, Special Education Coordinator Donna Marcinek, Culinary Teacher John Dominello, Social Workers Sharon Gomes, Joy Geraci and Amy Williams; Student Council representative Jennie Schmalder; two members of the press and about four community members.

#### 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. Report from Student Representative

Ms. Schmalder reported on recent happenings at NHS, including the Mr. Nonnewaug competition, CAPT testing, tonight's senior night for basketball and cheering, and also noted that the indoor track team won the State M championship. She listed upcoming events and dates: 3/19 Dancing with the Teachers, 3/24 Guidance college night for parents, 3/29 FBLA state competition, 3/15 Concert for Denan, 3/3 Spread the Word to End the Word (effort to stop the improper use of the word "retarded"), 3/17 performance of Julius Caesar and 3/22 teacher appreciation luncheon.

#### IV. Presentation

Ms. Pratt updated the Board on her work on the district's science curriculum. She spoke of survey results showing that, in grades K-8, enduring understandings, essential questions and expectations are clear, and activities support enduring understanding. Improvement is sought regarding resources, planning and pacing guides and common assessments. Science curriculum begins in Kindergarten and is based on CT frameworks. In K-8, areas of study are life sciences, physical sciences, earth sciences, science/technology in society, and embedded tasks. She is developing benchmark assessments from 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade; benchmarks in grades 7-8 are in CMT format. Benchmark assessments in grade 7 are 11/09 and 5/2010 and in grade 8 they are 9/09 and 1/10. Results in grade 8 showed a 12% increase in mastery of expected performances and 8% in student mastery. These results will drive instruction. She noted the use of academic labs. Ms. Pratt reported on CAPT benchmark assessments, constructed responses, use of academic labs and updating curriculum in advance of the NEASC visit in the UBD format.

Mr. Hubelbank noted that this will be the third year where the budget has allotted funds for science.

Ms. Pratt told of plans for PD on science notebooking at the elementary level.

#### V. Review of Minutes

Mr. Sordi requested a *motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of 2/8/2010*, given by Mr. Baider, seconded by Mr. Paluskas. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Sordi requested a *motion to accept the minutes of the budget workshop of 2/22/2010*, given by Mr. Paluskas, seconded by Mr. Baider. **Motion carried 7-0.**

March 1, 2010

**VI. Correspondence**

Dr. Cronin noted two items of correspondence, the first being an email from a grade 7 parent whose child entered an essay to Golf Digest, the quality of which earned the student's father a trip and possibly more prizes to come.

The second correspondence was from ebm-papst, Inc. and included \$5000 for the NHS Robotics Team.

**VII. Report from Chairperson**

Ms. Gati reported that options for taping Board meetings have been exhausted and that an RFP will be created to hire someone to tape meetings.

She also gave a timeline related to court proceedings: a pre-argument conference will occur on 3/23; Region 14's brief is due 5/7; Pratt/Scherf brief is now due 6/7; and reply briefs by 6/28.

**VIII. Report from Superintendent**

Dr. Cronin and Mr. Hubelbank reviewed the 2010-2011 budget with the Board and audience. Dr. Cronin reviewed assumptions and priorities. Assumptions related to unchanged/worsened economic conditions in the towns, fulfilling contractual obligations, developing the budget with teaching and learning as driving forces, maintaining existing programs and services found to be improving achievement, and maintaining focus on continuous improvement.

Mr. Quirk, when asked, explained that many of the state's regular education mandates are leveraged through special education legislation. Involved in these are the compiling of a great deal of data and, in order to inform instruction, tools such as common assessments within the curriculum help us best adhere to the model provided.

Dr. Cronin highlighted as priorities: implementing SRBI, making the position of District Data Administrator permanent, implementing "Power School" to manage student data, moving Dean of Students/AD into the administrators' bargaining unit and increasing the position to 12 months, making the 7-12 math coordinator position permanent, maintaining the K-5 math specialist, purchasing texts for Algebra I, and adequately maintaining facilities. Dr. Cronin offered rationale for all.

Mr. Hubelbank thoroughly reviewed the budget document provided to all and explained current and projected staffing, enrollment, increases in tuition costs (special ed) and reimbursement rates, noted decreases in areas of purchased services and legal fees, spoke of decreases in building improvements and the current debt service, as well as new programs.

Ms. Gati thanked them both for their efforts in developing the budget proposal.

**IX. Privilege of the Floor**

Michelle Ecsedy also thanked the Board for the hours they put in as volunteers and the administrators for their time and effort in preparing the budget. She also noted that the basketball team had won tonight.

**X. Committee Reports**

For the Planning Committee, Mr. Baider reported that the committee had met on 2/25 and reviewed policies related to Drug/Alcohol, Search/Seizure and Criminal Record Checks. These were distributed to the Board for review.

For the Football Ad-hoc Committee, Mr. Sordi reported the committee had met on 2/24 and he will be prepared to offer a full report at the next meeting. The consensus at the 2/24 meeting was to look at the charge and that football will continue for the near future – its success determining its long term future. Coach Oko had given the committee information; Gridiron Club has pledged continued support and the likelihood is that a JV team will be fielded until additional players move up. 30-35 are needed for JV and 50-60 for both JV and Varsity, with some double rostering a possibility.

March 1, 2010

XI. New Business

1. **Personnel – Approval of Appointment to Extra Duty Position**

James McKirdy, Boys Track Coach, Nonnewaug High School

Ms. Gati requested a *motion to approve this appointment*, given by Mr. Paluskas, second by Mr. Cosgriff.

**Motion carried 7-0.**

2. **Field Trip Approval – Out of State Trip**

NHS Music Department to Spring Music Festival (Disney Performance), Orlando, FL, during Spring Break 4/16-4/22/10, with approximately 60 students and 6 chaperones, via bus transportation

Ms. Gati requested a *motion to approve this out-of-state trip*, given by Mr. Paluskas, second by Mr. Baider.

**Motion carried 7-0.**

XII. Board Announcements

Ms. Corsico noted four year All-State trumpet player Jacob Rego would be graduated this year. She suggested recognition for him at a Board meeting. There was also interest from the Board in recognizing the basketball and track teams, as well as the Robotics team.

XIII. Executive Session

Ms. Gati requested a *motion to go to Executive Session to discuss retirement incentives*, given by Mr. Paluskas, second by Mr. Cosgriff and the **motion carried 7-0**. Mr. Hubelbank was invited to join the session which began at 9:22 p.m.

Following the session, Ms. Corsico made a motion that the Region 14 Board of Education offer an early retirement incentive to the teachers based on the offer made last year. Mr. Baider seconded the motion and the motion carried 7-0.

XIV. Adjournment

Mr. Cosgriff made a *motion to adjourn*, seconded by Mr. Baider. **Motion carried 7-0**. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Stephen Sordi, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer  
Regional School District #14 Board of Education