

The Regular Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, August 24, 2009, 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, and Stephen Paluskas; Director of Finance and Operations Jay Hubelbank; three newspaper reporter and six members of the community.

I. Call to Order

Ms. Gati called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Gati led the Pledge of Allegiance

She requested a *motion to move Executive Session to item III. on the agenda*. Ms. Corsico made the motion, seconded by Mr. Paluskas, and the **motion carried 7-0**. Ms. Gati requested a *motion to move to Executive Session to discuss pending litigation*. Mr. Paluskas made that motion, seconded by Mr. Baider, and the **motion carried 7-0**.

III. Executive Session

Ms. Corsico made a *motion to invite Mr. Hubelbank and Attorney Mark Sommaruga to join the session*, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, and the **motion carried 7-0**.

The Board returned from the session at 7:40 p.m. and resumed their regular meeting.

IV. Review of Minutes (action anticipated)

Regular Board Meeting of July 6, 2009

Ms. Bulvanoski made a *motion to approve these minutes*, seconded by Mr. Paluskas. The **motion carried 7-0**.

V. Correspondence

Ms. Gati noted receipt of a letter of thanks from recently retired teacher, Debbie Chester. She would make it available to any Board members wishing to read it.

VI. Report from Chairperson

Ms. Gati noted that the dates for regular Board meetings in September needed to be changed, as the first one listed is prior to the beginning of the school year. She requested a *motion to change the September 1 meeting to September 8, and the September 14 meeting to September 21*. Mr. Paluskas made the motion, seconded by Ms. Bulvanoski and the **motion carried 7-0**.

Ms. Gati also announced her intention to form a football committee comprised of Mr. Cosgriff and Mr. Sordi, Athletic Director Dan Scavone, the football coach, Mr. Hubelbank, and three parents. This is in response to the region having withdrawn its application for a co-op arrangement with Region 12, and to study the situation and direction for the future of the football program.

VII. Report from Superintendent

i. Opening Schedule

Dr. Cronin outlined the opening schedule for the start of the 2009-2010 school year. He noted new teacher orientation on 8/31; the opening convocation on 9/1, to which he invited available Board members to attend; professional development on 9/2; and the first day of school for students on 9/3.

ii. School Calendar Modification

Dr. Cronin explained that the published school calendar contains one more than the 181 student and 186 teacher days needed. He requested a *motion to reduce the number of days by one by changing the last day of school for students to 6/16/2010 and last staff day to 6/17/2010*. Ms. Corsico made the motion, seconded by Mr. Paluskas, and the **motion carried 7-0**.

iii. Preschool Update

Dr. Cronin reported that the work in the 2 preschool classrooms is complete; staff has been hired; materials have been ordered and received; 2 teachers and paraprofessionals assigned. There has been an open house for parents of special needs students and all families will attend an open house on 9/4/09. Playground equipment has been installed and a playscape ordered.

iv. H1N1 Virus

Dr. Cronin reported having met with the Pomperaug and Torrington Health District, along with Mr. Hubelbank and superintendents from surrounding towns, regarding the concerns about the virus for this fall which has the potential to be serious. A letter to all students has been developed and he shared a sample of it. Absences will be recorded and reported to the health districts while a vaccine is being developed. There will also be a clinic for the seasonal flu at WMS and administrators will address the virus during their open houses. Nurses have met and the region will follow all guidelines set, including requiring students who have been affected by the virus to visit the nurse's office prior to being readmitted to school.

v. Building Substitutes

Dr. Cronin explained that the region utilizes graduate interns in all schools and that, this year, there are 2 at WMS, 1.5 at NHS, a 0.5 at BES, but none for MES. He will use money budgeted for interns to provide building substitutes at BES and MES.

VIII. Privilege of the Floor

Pam Gengenbach, Woodbury, asked if the preschool playground will be fenced in. Mr. Hubelbank responded that 2 sides already are, they are in the process of blocking cars from the fire road access and, once the remainder of the playground equipment is installed, staff will consider what other fencing needs exist.

Duncan McDougal, Woodbury, wants to hear at the next meeting of new things the region is doing with the kids. The region, he said, should do some things differently, not just the status quo, and is always worried about having fancy building instead of looking at priorities. He requests the region go to other districts and buy curriculum and wants to know what is being done for the top of the class, which he believes is getting "short-sheeted." He suggests a cooperative arrangement with UCONN, and sending them there at noon if need be.

Laura Lewis, a Region 12 parent from Washington, said it was a privilege to be at the meeting and thanked the Board for allowing her to speak. She had hoped there was still a chance for the co-op and asked if anyone could explain why it wasn't able to happen.

Dr. Cronin outlined the history of conversations between the 2 regions, dating back to February, and explained that each time Region 14 submitted an agreement of understanding to Region 12, it would come back with revisions. Ultimately, he said, it became untenable to reach agreement for this year but he added how badly he feels having to disappoint the athletes.

Cathy Foote, a Region 12 parent from Bridgewater, thanked the Board and Dr. Cronin for the time taken in the effort to form the football co-op, and expressed her exhaustion and difficulty understanding why her school district could not get something so simple accomplished. She said she and the other parents have disappointed boys at home, good Christian boys, and she thinks it is

shameful that adults cannot resolve something so simple. She asked if there is any chance for this year, as there is a \$1500 check in the safe to cover insurance.
Dr. Cronin said there is not, as the CIAC deadline has passed and the application has been withdrawn. Even without a commitment from Region 12, he had submitted the application, but withdrew it last week.

IX. Report from Director of Finance and Operations

i. Facilities

Mr. Hubelbank provided a hand out of all facilities work done this summer, and offered his thanks and appreciation to Mike Molzon, his crew and all the custodians for a job well done.

ii. Technology

Mr. Hubelbank updated the Board on recommendations from the technology staff regarding network configurations and protected sites, as well as upgrades on speed; additionally, teachers will be working on their own websites, and grades and assignments will be available on line for WMS and NHS students.

iii. Transportation

Mr. Hubelbank reported that bus routes are published on line and appeared in *Voices*. BES parents, in particular, are asked to notify the school if their afternoon arrangements have changed.

iv. Food Services

Mr. Hubelbank gave a reminder of the rate increase for lunches this year.

v. Finances

Mr. Hubelbank provided copies of letters from both Woodbury Area Tennis Association, regarding their commitment to raising money for lights for the WMS courts, and Nonnewaug Gridiron Club, pledging their continued financial support for football.
He also distributed a year end budget report showing a balance of \$72,627.13 to be moved to the non-recurring capital account, pending audit, and earmarked to refurbishing the NHS track, rebuilding the NHS tennis courts, A/C in the special services suite of NHS, and repaving the BES sidewalk area of concern.

X. Old Business

Football Co-op
Previously addressed

XI. New Business

i. Personnel

A. Approval of Faculty Appointments

1. Katherine Anderheggen, Grade 5, Mitchell Elementary

Mr. Paluskas made a *motion to approve this appointment*, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, and the **motion carried 7-0**.

2. Sarah Bates, Grade 6, Woodbury Middle

Mr. Paluskas made a *motion to approve this appointment*, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, and the **motion carried 7-0**.

3. Julie Cappuzzo, STAR Preschool

Ms. Bulvanoski made a *motion to approve this appointment*, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, and the **motion carried 7-0**.

4. Erica Foster, Science Teacher, Nonnewaug High

Mr. Paluskas made a *motion to approve this appointment*, seconded by Mr. Baider, and the **motion carried 7-0**.

5. Jennifer MacCallum, Grade 5, Mitchell Elementary, temporary one year
Mr. Paluskas made a *motion to approve this appointment*, seconded by Mr. Baider, and the **motion carried 7-0**.

6. Christopher Maclean, School Counselor, Nonnewaug High
Mr. Paluskas made a *motion to approve this appointment*, seconded by Ms. Bulvanoski, and the **motion carried 7-0**.

7. Tammy Platt, Special Education Teacher, Nonnewaug High
Mr. Paluskas made a *motion to approve this appointment*, seconded by Mr. Baider, and the **motion carried 7-0**.

8. Rebecca Ransom, English Teacher, Nonnewaug High
Mr. Paluskas made a *motion to approve this appointment*, seconded by Ms. Bulvanoski, and the **motion carried 7-0**.

9. Daniel Scavone, Dean of Students/Athletic Director, Nonnewaug High
Mr. Paluskas made a *motion to approve this appointment*, seconded by Ms. Bulvanoski, and the motion carried 7-0.

10. Stephanie Seligmann, School Counselor, Nonnewaug High
Mr. Paluskas made a motion to approve this appointment, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, and the **motion carried 7-0**.

11. Meghan Tracey, Grade 4, Mitchell Elementary
Mr. Paluskas made a *motion to approve this appointment*, seconded by Ms. Bulvanoski, and the **motion carried 7-0**.

B. Approval of Resignations/Leave of Absence

1. Katya Paukova, French Teacher, Nonnewaug High, resigned effective August 6, 2009
Mr. Paluskas made a *motion to accept this resignation*, seconded by Ms. Corsico, and the **motion carried 7-0**.

2. Karen Prince, School Counselor, Nonnewaug High, resigned effective July 31, 2009
Mr. Paluskas made a *motion to accept this resignation*, seconded by Ms. Corsico, and the **motion carried 7-0**.

3. Allison Washington, Grade 5 Teacher, Mitchell Elementary, leave of absence for the 2009-2010 school year, child rearing
Mr. Paluskas made a *motion to accept this leave of absence*, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, and the **motion carried 7-0**.

C. Approval of Appointment to Extra Duty Positions

Nonnewaug High School

Agriscience Director – William Davenport

Boys Track and Field Coach – Jana Rehkamp

Chamber Singers Advisor – Walter Culup

Football Coach – Dean Hardt

Guitar Club Advisor – Stephen Bunovsky

Jazz Band Advisor – Walter Culup

Latin America Club – Jane Caruso

Leo Club Advisors – Laurie Paparazzo and Betsy Lyle

Music Tech Club Advisor – Walter Culup

Peer Connection Advisor – Sharon Gomes

SAT Math Prep – Kevin Clemente

Tri-M Music Honors Advisor – Walter Culup
Yearbook Advisors – Christopher Martinelli and Susan McNally

Bethlehem Elementary School
Lead Teachers – Melissa Colby and Melissa Hughes

Ms. Corsico made a *motion to approve all the appointments listed in this section, with the exception of the Music Tech Club Advisor* (at the request of Dr. Cronin), seconded by Mr. Paluskas, and the **motion carried 7-0.**

ii. Fundraising Proposal

Dr. Cronin indicated that he would bring this proposal to the Planning Committee, now that committees have been formed.

XII. Board Announcements

None.

XIII. Adjournment

Ms. Gati requested a *motion to adjourn*, offered by Mr. Paluskas, seconded by Ms. Corsico, and the **motion carried 7-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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