

Regional School District 14 www.ctreg14.org

September 21, 2009

(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, September 21, 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, Stephen Paluskas and Stephen Sordi; Director of Finance and Operations Jay Hubelbank; two newspaper reporters and three 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 add Committee Reports as item ten on the agenda*. Ms. Corsico made the motion, seconded by Mr. Baider, and the **motion carried 8-0**.

III. Presentation

Dr. Cronin presented highlights of Region 14 students' performance on the most recent administration of CMT and CAPT, and provided details of the District Improvement Plan for 2009-2010. He spoke of district initiatives in the areas of professional development on best instructional practice, student consultation team training, instructional coaching, and systemic practices – especially planning for instruction. He highlighted areas of improvement in test scores, as well as those scores remaining flat; and stressed the need to focus on instruction this year to strengthen student performance.

IV. Review of Minutes (action anticipated)

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Ms. Bulvanoski made a *motion to approve these minutes*, seconded by Mr. Paluskas. The **motion carried 8-0**.

V. Correspondence

Ms. Gati noted receipt of correspondence related to performance of coaches and administration.

VI. Report from Chairperson

None.

VII. Report from Superintendent

Dr. Cronin spoke of the recent Civil Rights Compliance Review conducted at Nonnewaug High School over a 3 day period this past May. Dr. Adrian Wood and three of his consultants from the state investigated the district's compliance with Section 504, Title II, Title VI and Title IX. The team was on sight on May 27th, having previously walked the facility on May 12-13, and interviewed both students and staff at that time. Their finding included these: because Region 14 does not have a diverse student population, there is need to be sensitive to diversity and expose the students to it; the Region's non-discrimination policy must be disclosed; also, building accessibility needs need to be addressed. Many of the changes with regard to accessibility are voluntary and based on the age of the buildings, he said, but the proposed building project addresses a number of them.

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Dr. Cronin also reported on Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the Region's schools. AYP was met in all areas with the exception of the subgroups of Special Education and economically disadvantaged students.

VIII. Privilege of the Floor

Pam Gengenbach noted that Mitchell Elementary shows up as not making AYP due to the subgroup of grades 3-5 special education students all being located at that one school. She recalled then BoE candidate George Hochsprung predicting that such a large subgroup would pull the whole school's scores down. She asked the size of that group, and Dr. Cronin replied that it would necessarily be 40 or more to be reportable. Ms. Gengenbach suggested that this may be what is different now; that the number could have been kept lower if the students were at 2 different schools.

Ms. Corsico commented that this is simply a function of numbers; the 40 or more number is simply a trigger for NCLB and having the students together certainly is not bringing scores down.

Ms. Gengenbach asked how, historically, grade 3 scores have looked? Dr. Cronin explained that this was only the third year that grade 3 students have been tested, so no historical trends exist. She asked if there are plans for more preparations for grade 3 testing, to which Dr. Cronin replied there is, with charting beginning in Kindergarten to identify gaps.

Mary Ann Sprague asked about NEAT TV's taping of BoE meetings and was told that there is a need to find someone to provide that service. She suggested that not taping them would be a money saver, and might encourage people to attend meetings as opposed to watching from home, where they would only be talking to their televisions. She commented on money spent on legal fees which could have been avoided had the public been allowed their "God given fundamental civil right to vote." She also asked if the updated health curriculum had been approved, and was told that this curriculum is slated to be updated in either 2010-11 or 2011-12, on a cycle. Ms. Sprague also suggested that the bomb threat at WMS was a red flag that students there are curious and looking for direction. If the region would teach abstinence only it would send them the message that other behaviors like drinking, drugs, etc., are unacceptable, and would let them know what is expected of them.

IX. Report from Director of Finance and Operations

- i. Facilities- under committee reports
- ii. Technology- Mr. Hubelbank reported that teacher websites are moving forward; student assignments are available for WMS and NHS; and tests and grade information will be available beginning in October.
- iii. Transportation- Mr. Hubelbank reported that full day kindergarten began today, and that the tracking of school bus times is being done at all schools.
- iv. Finances- under committee reports

Mr. Hubelbank also supplied an enrollment report which compared last year's numbers to this year's.

X. Committee Reports

Reporting for the Facilities Committee, Mr. Sordi told of their 9/14 meeting and discussions of summer projects completed; the five year facilities plan, which will become the committee's working document; security issues; and an energy management process the committee is looking at.

For the Finance Committee, Mr. Baidier reported also having met on 9/14 and reviewing monthly financial reports, preschool report, fourth quarter transfers, and the excess special education costs from last year. He also spoke of the possibility of refinancing the region's existing debt and that he and Mr. Hubelbank had met with Webster Bank about potential savings with refinancing. He asked the Board to allow his committee to move forward on an attempt to refinance, and made a *motion to authorize the Region to begin work on an official statement regarding refinancing existing bonds*. Mr. Paluskas seconded the motion, and the **motion carried 8-0**.

XI. Old Business

None.

XII. New Business

Personnel - Approval of Extra Duty Appointments

1. Non-Athletic:

Deborah Kavanaugh, PPT Coordinator, STAR Preschool Program
Melissa Colby, PPT Coordinator, Bethlehem Elementary School
Dina Kayser, PPT Coordinator, Mitchell Elementary School
Julie Haggard, PPT Coordinator, Woodbury Middle School
Brian Bisson, Michael Jasensky, Tammy Platt and Phyllis Story, PPT Coordinators, Nonnewaug High School
Diane Baker and Kate McKeon, Student Council Advisors, Mitchell Elementary School
Michael Murphy, Robotics Club Advisor, Nonnewaug High School
Roger Parkhouse and Paul Ciotti, TV Technicians, Nonnewaug High School
Roger Parkhouse, Stage Club Advisor, Nonnewaug High School
Roger Parkhouse, Media Technician, Nonnewaug High School
Lucia Dressel, Senior Class Play Advisor, Nonnewaug High School
Lucia Dressel, Drama Club Advisor, Nonnewaug High School
David Green, Fall Athletic Academic Advisor, Nonnewaug High School
Elaine Peck, Multi-Media Club Advisor, Woodbury Middle School
Kim Caldwell and Melissa Bernardi, Outdoor Club Advisors, Woodbury Middle
Joy Geraci, Carol Tomkalski and Debra O'Leary, SMADD (now known as Students Helping Our Community, or SHOC), Woodbury Middle School
Jacqueline Smith, Leo Club Advisor, Woodbury Middle School
Kathleen Peterson, Writers Workshop Advisor, Woodbury Middle School
Jennifer Armour, Student Council Advisor, Woodbury Middle School

Mr. Paluskas made a *motion to approve the Non-Athletic Extra Duty Appointments above listed*. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bulvanoski, and the **motion carried 8-0**.

2. Athletic:

Christopher McGrath, Assistant Girls Soccer Coach, Nonnewaug High School
Tyler Sheikh, Assistant Boys Soccer Coach, Nonnewaug High School
James McKirdy, Volunteer Assistant Cross Country Coach, Nonnewaug High School
Art Blais, Assistant Football Coach, Nonnewaug High School
John Stolle, Assistant Football Coach, Nonnewaug High School
Leeza Desjardins and Patricia Reed, Fall/Winter Cheerleading Coaches, Nonnewaug High School
Tammy Platt, Unified Sports Coach, Nonnewaug High School
Christopher McGrath and Ronald Russo, Boys Basketball Coaches, Woodbury Middle
Julie Haggard, Ski Club Advisor, Woodbury Middle School

Mr. Paluskas made a *motion to approve the Athletic Extra Duty Appointments above listed*. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, and the **motion carried 8-0**.

XIII. Board Announcements

Board members were reminded to bring their policy information to the October 5th BoE meeting.

XIV. Executive Session

Ms. Corsico made a *motion to move to executive session to discuss personnel and a contract negotiation*, seconded by Mr. Paluskas and the **motion carried 8-0**. Following the session, Ms. Corsico made a *motion to approve the three year contract of the Director of Finance and Operations, 2009-2012*. Mr. Paluskas seconded the motion and the **motion carried 8-0**. Ms. Corsico made a *motion to direct Attorney Roseann Padula to respond to a personnel complaint on the Board's behalf*. This motion was seconded by Mr. Paluskas and the **motion carried 8-0**.

XV. Adjournment

Ms. Gati requested a *motion to adjourn*, offered by Ms. Corsico, seconded by Mr. Paluskas, and the **motion carried 8-0**.

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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