



Region 14 Schools
Serving the Towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury

MINUTES

Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Safe Schools Committee
Friday, June 18, 2021
1:00 p.m.
Bethlehem Fire House
26 Main St S, Bethlehem, CT 06751

Present

Michael Devine, Chairman
Carol Ann Brown
Tikva Rose
Christopher Matta

Non-Participating Board Member

George Bauer

Also Present

Kevin Littau, Resident Trooper, Woodbury
Cono D'elia, Resident Trooper, Bethlehem
Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations
Wayne McAllister, Acting Superintendent (arrived 1:40p.m.)

Call to order

Meeting called to order at 1:05 p.m.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment

Committee Status

Mr. Devine provided a brief history on the formation of the committee and what it needs to evolve to. His objective with regards to the agenda for today was to provide a flavoring of topics.

SRO Program update

A pressing issue that needed clarification is the MOU, more specifically, police utilizing town vehicles at the schools. Town officials noted that cars could be utilized depending on their availability.

The plan for the fall is to use a Gator Utility Vehicle at the high school due to the size of the campus and to make it identifiable as a police vehicle. Storage of the vehicle is a consideration. Once the out buildings are constructed at the high school, on campus storage will be available.

The SRO MOU and their roles within the schools were outlined, as well as the benefits of their service in the district. Their primary role is to support administration and staff, including the behavior of students.

Background Checks

The district subscribes to Lexus Nexus, a background investigation service administered in Region 14 through the police. Those who wish to volunteer at the schools complete the appropriate paperwork and bring it to the SRO who, in turn, oversees the process.

The district also utilizes a badging program; when an outside individual wishes to gain access to the schools, they are directed to the main office, verified and assigned a badge.

ALICE update

In an emergency situation, ALICE, an Active Shooter Response Training program (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) provides options for faculty; Region 14 uses a variation of ALICE. It allows for more considerations to determine a proper course of action. Must have continuity across the district so it is of paramount importance to train all teachers; need to have a window of time for training. Suggested introducing during convocation.

The school district is required to have a School Safety and Security Plan, which is rolled into the municipal response plan. These plans are routed to the State Department of Education and Division of Emergency Management Homeland Security.

District School Risk Assessment Scheduling

Every two years, a risk assessment is performed for each of the schools, which is administered through resident troopers and police officers. There are budget consequences to take into consideration. A formal date will be forthcoming.

Security Cameras/Light update (all schools)

Cameras are located at each of the schools and all are linked to a common interface. Police have direct remote access from their offices. Police officers, SROs, state police dispatch center, and northwest public safety dispatch center all can gain access.

The number of lights have increased with the high school building renovation. The campus is very well lit.

Communications (Internet/Phones/Radios/Badging)

There is no specific date for the cell tower installation. The original intent was to put the tower behind the salt shed. Mr. Devine provided a brief history, logistics and specs. A member of the community registered a complaint, which has delayed the project.

Acting Superintendent, Wayne McAllister, provided an update on the radios; the long term goal is to connect all the schools together in the event the phones crash. Each of the schools has a landline and is depicted with a red phone. It is important for chief administrators to know its location and to test it periodically.

Internet service is currently housed on the statewide fiber, (Connecticut Education Network) and, as good as it is, can still fail. The district does not have a backup internet service.

Grants

The district can apply for grants, but need to have projects.

The First Selectmen from Bethlehem and Woodbury have reached out to Mr. McAllister with a potential grant, which he is pursuing.

The building numbering system was discussed as well as WIFI and cyber security.

Other business properly brought before the committee

The committee meeting schedule moving forward will be the last Friday of every month at 12:00 beginning July 30th to prepare for the start of the school year. Meeting location will be at the Bethlehem Fire Department

Adjournment

A motion was made by Christopher Matta and seconded by Carol Ann Brown to adjourn the meeting at 2:34 p.m.; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia Paige". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

*Patricia Paige
Board Clerk*

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Patricia Paige, Board Clerk