



Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Monday, December 6, 2021
Bethlehem Elementary School
Gymnasium
Live Stream Available:
<https://vimeo.com/event/353466>

Present:

George Bauer
Jim Crocker
Carol Ann Brown
Michael Devine
Jonathan Kapstein
Chris Matta
David Butkus

Absent:

Tikva Rose

Also Present:

Wayne McAllister, Acting Superintendent
Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations

School Administration/Staff Presenting

Wendy Yatsenick, Principal, Bethlehem Elementary School

Patricia Paige, Board Recording Clerk

I. Call to Order

Mr. Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

III. Introductions

Members of the Board and Central Office Staff introduced themselves

IV. Approval of the Minutes

A. Regular Meeting, Tuesday, November 16, 2021

A motion was made by Michael Devine and seconded by David Butkus to accept/approve the minutes as presented; George Bauer abstained, motion carried.

V. Acting Superintendent's Report

A. Bethlehem Elementary School Update

Ms. Yatsenick, the Principal of Bethlehem Elementary School, along with several members of the Student Council reported on happenings at the school. A video highlighted a recent school field trip, book reading, and a collage of student activities. Two publications were also offered as additional information, *What's Happening Now* and *In Case You Missed it*.

B. Personnel Report

The Personnel Report for November 2021 was read into the record by Mr. McAlliser and consisted of several new hires and resignations.

C. School Safety and Security

Given the recent events, Mr. McAllister spoke to school safety in Region 14. Since the beginning of the 2013 school year, Region 14 has employed full-time resource officers at each of the facilities. The schools have also undergone a vulnerability and threat assessment, which was performed by a trained police officer certified by the CT State Police/Department of Homeland Security earlier this year. ALICE training (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) is required for all new staff hires and was completed during Teacher Orientation; existing staff received the annual refresher training within the first few weeks of school. Fire, lockdown and/or evacuation drills are held throughout the school year with a bus evacuation drill scheduled early in the year.

D. Covid Update

The most recent Covid numbers for the district note 8 positive students, 1 positive staff member, and 16 students in quarantine for a total of 25.

VI. Committee Reports

Finance

Ms. Tanguay reviewed the monthly financials for November. Revenue for the month totaled \$17,255,623 or 45.75%. Budgeted expenditures equaled \$13,763,338 or 36.49%. The Food Service Program noted a profit of \$8,247 for November and year-to-date profit of \$19,261. The management of the lunch program under the supervision of EdAdvance has been a positive experience thus far; some staff hours have been adjusted to optimize efficiency.

Public Relations

Ms. Brown thanked all those who orchestrated and participated in the Grinch Breakfast. She also made mention of the FFA Potluck and wreath decorating, NHS inductions, Bethlehem tree lighting festivities and the Farm to Table Senior Citizen Grab-n-Go.

Curriculum

The committee will continue with their fourth and final information gathering tour at MES on Friday. There will also be a formal meeting of the committee on Thursday, December 9th at 2:45 p.m. in the Nonnewaug High School Library. The topic of discussion will be the African-American, Black, Puerto Rican and Latino studies.

VII. Board Chair's Comments

A number of search firms have submitted their information in response to the district's request for RFPs in search of a new Superintendent of Schools. They will be invited to discuss their approach. Once a search committee has been established, a timeline will be devised.

VIII. Privilege of the Floor

None

IX. Old Business

A. Region 14 2022/2023 School District Calendar (Survey Results/Special Observances)
The results of a recent survey extended to parents, staff and board members as a tool for collecting their preference on whether or not to leave the district calendar "as is:", remove Columbus Day and Veterans' Day as days off and replace with Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur or add Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur as days off and extend the school year by two days yielded 77.7%, 7.2%, and 15.1% respectively in favor of leaving the calendar "as is". The calendar, which was approved by the Board at their meeting on November 16, 2021, will also include a Special Observance Days Schedule to allow faculty the ability to make appropriate accommodations for students who partake.

X. New Business

None

XI. Other Business

None

XII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Michael Devine to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 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, flowing style.

*Patricia Paige
Board Clerk*

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