



Minutes

Board of Education – Regular Meeting

April 5, 2021 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ctreg14-org.zoom.us/j/95488415562>

Meeting ID: 954 8841 5562

Phone: (646) 558-8656

Present:

George Bauer, Chairman
Carol Ann Brown
Michael Devine
Jonathan Kapstein
Tikva Rose
James Crocker
David Butkus
Christopher Matta

Absent:

N/A

Also Present:

Wayne McAllister, Acting Superintendent
Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations
Patricia Paige, Board Clerk
Patrick DiSarro, Communications Specialist

I. Call to Order

Board Chairman George Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. Introductions

Members of the board introduced themselves

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting dated Monday, March 15, 2021

A motion was made by Christopher Matta and seconded by Michael Devine to accept and approve the minutes as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

B. Budget Presentation dated Monday, March 22, 2021

A motion was made by Carol Ann Brown and seconded by Michael Devine to accept and approve the minutes as presented; 7 in favor; Tikva Rose abstained; motion carried.

C. Public Hearing dated Tuesday, March 23, 2021

A motion was made by David Butkus and seconded by Christopher Matta to accept and approve the minutes as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

IV. Acting Superintendent's Report

A. WMS School Overview

Mr. McAllister was pleased to have the opportunity to invite students once again to monthly board members to celebrate their achievements throughout the district. This month Principal Bill Nemec and Assistant Principal Suzi Greene brought forward two grade 8 students, Grace Walkup and Owen Palmer, who highlighted several events and successes occurring at the middle school. Their summary included a description of happenings including Spirit Week, World Class Warriors, transition activities, winter sports, community service initiatives, and several Ecosystem programs. To conclude their report, Grace introduced her talk show, "Good News with Gracie".

B. Woodbury Bethlehem Community Music Foundation (WBCMF) Grant

Dr. Jason Bouchard noted that the district was recently awarded a \$10,949 grant. The purpose of the grant is to continue to build the string program in Region 14 and will fund the purchase of cellos and string bases. He, along with Mr. McAllister and members of the board, expressed their appreciation for the generosity of the foundation.

A motion was made by James Crocker and seconded by Jonathan Kapstein to accept and approve the grant in the amount of \$10,949; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

C. Covid 19 Update

The latest Covid data described by Mr. McAllister depicted a 3.28% daily test positivity rate issued by the state as of April 4, 2021. Currently, Region 14 is experiencing a roller coaster effect with the quarantining of students from contact tracing. The district has a 1% positivity rate of staff in isolation and $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1% positivity rate of students in isolation.

**D. 2020/2021 School Calendar/Last Day of School
Tabled for a future meeting**

V. Committee Reports:

A. Finance Committee

To date 74.82% of the total budgeted revenue has been collected and 66.72% of budgeted expenditures, disbursed. The budget freeze remains in affect pending information on unknown expenses.

The Nonnewaug building renovation carries on. Mr. Scott Pellman continues to review change orders and is currently prepping to meet with folks at the state level. Plans are to relocate the central offices to the new high school space during Spring break.

The lunch program financials illustrate a current loss of \$121,707 to date compared to a surplus for the same period last year. The projected loss at June 30th is expected to be \$198,500, down from the original projected loss of \$248,000. The breakfast program and adjustment in labor costs due to layoffs and staff not returning helped to alleviate some of the deficit.

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities provided notification that the American Rescue Plan Funds for Region 14 will be approximately \$496,000. The monies can be expended through December 2024. Ms. Tanguay is currently awaiting additional spending guidance, but expects the money to be used for programs above and beyond what the district currently provides to students that have fallen behind.

B. Public Relations Committee

The Grad Night Committee held their first meeting on Saturday for the purpose of planning fundraisers, which were described as, “still up in the air”. Parents of 12th grade students will be asked to assist.

Principal Pam Sordi recently forwarded a letter to board members listing end-of-year events. Ms. Carol Ann Brown asked her fellow board members to consider attending and thought that 2 or 3 at each event would be fitting.

VI. Board Chair’s Comments.....Mr. George Bauer
Mr. Bauer indicated that a revised committee membership list was generated and would be posted on the district’s web page and disseminated to members.

VII. Privilege of the floor

E-mailed Correspondence to the Board Chair

Ms. Jennifer Higgins – Woodbury

Thanked Mr. Wayne McAllister for his leadership and made a request of the board to make every effort to reinstate the CCRC position at the high school; inquired about ESSER funds.

Raised Hand Feature

John Chapman, Woodbury

Echoed Ms. Higgins comments; gave kudos to the middle school students for their reports; indicated that privilege of the floor could be enhanced if responses were provided; offered ideas on how to respond as a board

Kelly Burke, Woodbury

Thanked Mr. Wayne McAllister, central office administrators, teachers and staff for a great job; with the collaboration of these groups, have been able to accomplish quite a few things within the communities; Ms. Burke provided examples.

VIII. Old Business

A. BoE Newsletter

Ms. Tikva Rose and Jonathan Kapstein were thanked for their continued efforts with the BoE Newsletter

B. DAC (District Advisory Committee) Master Plan

Approximately 3 years ago a long range facilities study was completed and submitted by architects Silver Petrucelli. Mr. McAllister said that it could be used as a tool to develop a long-term 5-year plan initially based on their recommendations. The plan can be found on the Region 14 website and a hardcopy is housed in the superintendent's administrative assistant's office.

IX. New Business

A. Discussion/Possible Action on Budget for 2021/2022

David Butkus moved that the Region 14 Board of Education approve and adopt the Superintendent's proposed budget for the fiscal year 2021/2022 in the amount of \$ 37,721,146 as presented to the board; seconded by James Crocker; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

B. Calling of the Referendum

Michael Devine moved that the Board of Education schedule and warn the Annual District Meeting for Monday, May 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom concerning the

2021/2022 budget, with said meeting to be adjourned to a referendum on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury; seconded by Chris Matta; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

C. Approval of Explanatory Text

Christopher Matta moved that the Secretary of the Board of Education is authorized, in such official's discretion, to prepare and cause to be printed and distributed explanatory text regarding the 2021/2022 budget referendum scheduled for May 4, 2021, with such explanatory text subject to the review and approval of the District's legal counsel and to be prepared and distributed in accordance with Section 9-369b of the Connecticut General Statutes; seconded by Michael Devine; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the motions commences the quiet period.

D. Executive Session Anticipated for the purpose of discussing 1) status of ongoing investigation of Superintendent, 2) roles/performance of Board members during the investigation, and 3) written attorney client privileged communication regarding same

A motion was made by Jonathan Kapstein and seconded by Michael Devine to enter into executive session; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

The board entered into executive session at 8:07 and invited in Attorney Mark Sommaruga.

Public Session

The board returned to public session at 9:33 p.m.

Board Motion

There were no motions

X. Other Business

There was no other business

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Michael Devine and seconded by Christopher Matta to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 p.m.; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patricia Paige". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Patricia" and last name "Paige" clearly distinguishable.

*Patricia Paige
Board Clerk*

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

Middle School Success - 20-21 School Year

Spring has sprung at Woodbury Middle School and we couldn't be more excited! While this year has presented many challenges and changes, our WMS community came together with flexibility, understanding and support. With that being said, we'd like to highlight some of the successes of this school year.

Our WMS Alliance group sponsored and celebrated two spirit weeks. The students and staff did a great job keeping our school spirit alive through their participation.

School culture and climate is always something that we emphasize at WMS and this year has been no different. Students in Mr. Hadoulis's culinary class designed and led an initiative to show their appreciation for the staff at WMS by making "goodies" through culinary for all staff to enjoy. Their efforts were both kind and delicious! In addition, a group of staff led by Mr. Gorski has begun "World Class Warriors" which is a program initiated by staff to reward our students who exhibit and exemplify our "Warrior Way", respect, responsibility and relationships. The planning and structure has commenced and our first round of "World Class Warriors" will be announced soon - be on the lookout!

Transition activities have also been under way. Our 8th graders participated in a "virtual" electives fair, listened to a presentation by the high school counselors on the Program of Studies and then met with their high school counselor to pick their courses for 9th grade. Parents who wanted to participate in the high school planning meetings were invited to do so through google meet. Both the middle and elementary school counselors have met to put plans in place for the 5th to 6th grade transition as well.

Winter sports were also able to get underway and our student athletes did a great job. Once February rolled around the parents of our student athletes were invited in to also enjoy the action packed games.

Along the lines of sports, each season our student athletes give back to our community with a community service initiative led by their coaches. In the past, we have held fundraisers for the Harold Leever Cancer Center and the St. Vincent DePaul shelter in Waterbury. This past Winter season was the first time since Fall of 2019 that we were able to hold an event. We are excited to report that our Winter sports teams raised over \$900 for the American Heart Association with their Hoops for Heart event which was held on Tuesday, March 23rd. At the two hour event, student-athletes engaged in a 3pt contest, 5v5 tournament and other fun basketball related activities in order to raise awareness of heart related diseases and what the American Heart Association does. The day was highlighted by discussing the importance of heart health and the importance of giving back to the communities in which we live. We are so very proud of our student-athletes and their parents for supporting this initiative.

While we have not been able to host very many in-person events and opportunities, we have made the most of our ability to connect through technology. In February the administration held a parent meeting via zoom which was very well attended. The discussion was vibrant and refreshing - we appreciate the support that we continue to receive from our community at large.

We are looking forward to what the rest of the school year has to offer, especially through our Science classes. Through the use of google technology students and teachers will meet virtually with instructors

from the Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk and the White Memorial Conservation Center in Litchfield. These presentations will take place during their actual science classes so these smaller groupings will allow for more interaction with the presenters.

On April 27th, 8th graders will participate in a virtual presentation with the Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk. This program titled "Your Coast and Climate Change" will enhance the 8th grade units of Stability and Change on Earth and Human Impact on the Environment. Students will take a closer look at the science of climate change, and specifically learn about the effects on the coastal ecosystems of Long Island Sound.

On April 29th, 7th graders will learn about the Anatomy of a Shark as an interesting contrast to their study of Human Anatomy and Body Systems. Students will virtually visit the Aquarium's shark tank to examine the adaptations that have allowed sharks to survive so successfully for millions of years. Students will also learn about the threats sharks are facing, and the work the Aquarium and other conservation organizations are doing to protect sharks close to home and around the world.

On May 3rd, each of the 6th grade science classes will be hosting a program from White Memorial Conservation Center. The program is titled "Climate Change, Connecticut and You". This program aligns with the 6th grade's study of Climate and Human Impact. Students will learn how climate change affects people and wildlife specifically here in Connecticut and students will explore how they can make a real difference by reducing their carbon footprint.

Finally, the 8th grade students in our Capstone class have been very busy. As part of this class, which occurs over a two trimester period,

students have to identify a Personal Interest Project that they want to design and create. Each project is unique and personalized to each student and their interests. Tonight, I am excited to share with you a brief powerpoint on my Personal Interest Project, "Good News with Gracie". Mr. DiSarro at this time could you please share my slide presentation.

Good News with Gracie

The Main Idea of my PIP:

Good news with
Gracie is a talk
show organized
into episodes



Progress and Accomplishments:

- I have released 2 episodes
- I am proud that I have interviewed three people who are spreading good news, and help others.



Plans for the future:

I have two more episodes in the making:



“

If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude.

- Maya Angelou

Roadblocks

Roadblocks have helped my project grow



Woodbury-Bethlehem Community Music Foundation, Inc.

School Grant Application

Revised 11/15

Contact Person: Dr. Jason Bouchard

List of all Grant Applicants: Mr. Joel Pietroniz and Dr. Jason Bouchard

A description of the request with supporting documentation. Description should include:

Purpose of the Grant

The grant is to continue to build the string program for the Region 14 school district. The grant will go to the purchase of cellos and string basses for student use within the districts string program. The purchase of these instruments will allow more students to experience learning a string instrument by having the advantage of borrowing a school instrument.

Expected Benefits

The program will directly benefit the Region 14 String Program and the students learning to play a string instrument, play in a string ensemble, and the study of music styles.

Target Population

The target population is the elementary, middle, and high school students in Region 14, music teachers of region 14, the community of Woodbury and Bethlehem, and surrounding districts whose students attend NHS to learn a string instrument, but the financial burden may be a road block to the renting or purchase of an instrument.

Projected Budget

The projected budget for the project is 10,949.00 which will cover the cost of the instruments and delivery Tax Exempt Number if applicable

Region 14 is a tax exempt organization.

Signature: *Dr. Jason Bouchard*

Signature: *Wayne McAllister*

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Regional School District #14 - 2019-2020 Requisition Form							
REQUISITIONED BY		DATE	DATE REQ.	DEPARTMENT			
Dr. Jason Bouchard		4/6/21	4/6/21	Music			
VENDOR				ADDRESS			
ABC Music School				18 Commons Drive Store C. Lichfield CT			
Ship to Contact/Address:		Nonnewaug High School 5 Minortown Rd. Woodbury CT 06798					
DESCRIPTION	ART NO	UNIT	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	Blank/EIG	ACCOUNT NUMBER	COST
1521/2 Knilling Bucharest Laminated 1/2 Cello OF			2	1,025.00			2,050.00
Knilling 1200 Sebastian Deluxe Laminate Series Double Bass Outfit ¼			2	1,695.00			3,390.00
Knilling ¾ Bass Outfit Bucharest Model, Solid Carved			2	2055			4,110.00
Knilling Bucharest 4/4 Carved Cello Outfit w/ Perfection Pegs			1	1399			1,399.00
							0.00
							0.00
							0.00
Notes/Instructions:						TOTAL	10,949.00