

Minutes

Board of Education – Regular Meeting

Monday, June 7, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.

Nonnewaug High

School Auditorium

Live Stream Available

Present:

George Bauer, Chairman
Jim Crocker (Via Phone)
Michael Devine
Jonathan Kapstein
David Butkus
Christopher Matta
Carol Ann Brown

Absent:

Tikva Rose

Also Present:

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

Patricia Paige, Board Clerk

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Mr. George Bauer, Chairman of the Board

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Introductions

The Board members introduced themselves

Approval of Minutes

- A. Regular meeting dated Tuesday, May 18, 2021
A motion was made by Michael Devine and seconded by David Butkus to accept/approve the minutes as presented; all in favor; Carol Ann Brown abstained; none opposed; motion carried.
- B. Special meeting dated Tuesday, June 1, 2021
A motion was made by Michael Devine and seconded by Chris Matta to accept/approve the minutes as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wayne McAllister, Acting Superintendent's Report

A. Berkshire League All Star and Award Recognition

Declan Curtin, the high school Athletic Director and Dean of Students, recognized the Berkshire League All-Stars and league champions for their athletic accomplishments. Students were acknowledged and invited to stand when their names were announced.

Board member, Chris Matta, presented a surprise award, and paid homage to, Coach Nickolas Sheikh, the Boys tennis coach, in celebration of his 200th career victory. Mr. Sheikh, who has coached tennis since 2004, was presented with a plaque acknowledging the milestone.

B. Art Students' Recognition

Ms. Leeza Desjardins, an art teacher at Nonnewaug High School, who was presenting on behalf of herself, Leann Skalkos, an art teacher at the middle school, and Genna Riggi, recognized both high school and middle school students for their CT Scholastic Regional Art Award submissions for 2021. Awards were presented in the categories of Drawing and Illustration, Painting, Digital Art, Ceramics and Glass, Mixed Media, and photography. Their artwork was showcased during the meeting; all were invited to stand as their individual pieces were displayed.

C. Elementary School Update

Bethlehem Elementary School Principal, Wendy Yatsenick, shared a pre-recorded news report offered by two student council members, as well as, a few photos and slideshow presentation highlighting the events at the school.

D. Region 14 Retirees

Wayne McAllister, Acting Superintendent, publicly announced Region 14's retiring staff. Each retiree will receive, on behalf of the board, a pewter apple engraved with their name and years of service.

E. MES Principal Search Update

The applicant pool for the position yielded 49 submissions with 36 received as completed. The completed submissions have been sent onto members of the selection committee. The first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 15th.

F. Personnel Report

The Personnel Report has been reinstated as part of the Superintendent's report after several years of omission. The categories include new hires, resignations, recall, leaves of absence and non-renewals. Names were shared under each category.

G. Covid Update

Last week one individual tested positive at BES, 19 students are currently in quarantine, one student is in isolation and three teachers are providing home instruction.

Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee

Ms. Tanguay provided a quick summary on the revenues and expenditures for month ending May 31st. She also provided an update on the Nonnewaug High School building project and school lunch program.

The Master Lease, which is designed to allow the IT Director the flexibility to purchase up to \$250,000 in various technology needs for the district at the best possible price throughout the year was also discussed and is being brought before the full board for approval.

B. Public Relations

Carol Ann Brown reported that the Republican American Athlete was Samara Thomas for Track and Field.

Agriscience students, under the guidance of faculty member, Eric Birkenberger planted flowers at the gazebo on the green in time for the Memorial Day Parade. She also thanked everyone who supported the Grad Nite fundraiser.

Board Chair's Comments

Mr. Bauer recognized Nonnewaug students for the recent music performance and the drama club for their production of the music comedy *Seussical* which was held this past weekend.

He also provided a response to a recent comment offered during the last Privilege of the Floor regarding reconvening the Safe School Committee meetings. A meeting is scheduled for the near future. Safety Plans are always updated and current and drills are on-going.

Privilege of the Floor

There was no public comment

Old Business

There was no old business

New Business

A motion was made by David Butkus and seconded by Michael Devine to add the following item to the agenda; that the Region 14 Board of Education approve the Master Lease for technology plan in the amount of \$250,000 as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Discussion

Ms. Tanguay, the Director of Finance and Operations, explained that the motion was just a formality and was part of the 2021/2022 budget discussions.

A motion was made by David Butkus and seconded by Michael Devine that the Region 14 Board of Education approve the Master Lease for Technology Plan for \$250,000 as presented; all

in favor; none opposed motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session:

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by David Butkus to enter into Executive Session for discussion and possible action on ratification of proposed collective bargaining agreement with the Cafeterias' Association (CWA) and discussion and possible action on ratification of proposed collective bargaining agreement with the Teamsters Local Union No. 677 International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously. Ms. Tina Tanguay and Mr. Wayne McAllister were invited into the Executive Session. All entered Executive Session at 8:09 p.m.

Public Session

The board returned to public session at 8:31p.m.

Board Motions

A motion was made by Jonathan Kapstein that the Region 14 Board of Education ratify the proposed collective bargaining agreement between the Board and Cafeteria Workers' Association covering the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024; seconded by Michael Devine; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by David Butkus that the Region 14 Board of Education authorize the board chair to sign said agreement, subject to any further necessary legal review; seconded by Michael Devine; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Michael Devine that the Region 14 Board of Education ratify the proposed collective bargaining agreement between the Board and the Nonnewaug Regional School District No. 14 and Teamsters Local Union No. 677 International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen, and helpers of America covering the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025; seconded by David Butkus; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Michael Devine that the Region 14 Board of Education authorize the Board Chair to sign said agreement, subject to any further necessary legal review; seconded by Jonathan Kapstein; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

A motion was made by David Butkus and seconded by Chris Matta to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patricia Laize". 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