

Minutes

Board of Education – Regular Meeting

March 15, 2021 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ctreg14-org.zoom.us/j/97535992246>

Meeting ID: 975 3599 2246

Phone: (646) 558-8656

Present:

George Bauer, Chairman
Carol Ann Brown
Michael Devine
Jonathan Kapstein
Tikva Rose
James Crocker
Dave Butkus
Chris 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

1. Call to Order

Board Chairman, George Bauer, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Introductions

Members of the board introduced themselves

3. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting dated Monday, March 1, 2021

A motion was made by Michael Devine and seconded by Tikva Rose to accept/approve the minutes with the following amendment:

Item 6; Board Chair Comments; Subsection A; Investigation Update; change the spelling of Carol Martin to Carole Martin;

all in favor; Christopher Matta and David Butkus abstained; motion carried.

B. Special Meeting dated Friday, March 5, 2021

A motion was made by Michael Devine and seconded by Carol Ann Brown to accept/approve the minutes as presented; all in favor; none opposed; Christopher Matta, Tikva Rose and David Butkus abstained; motion carried.

4. Acting Superintendent's Report

A. Covid 19 Update

Acting Superintendent Wayne McAllister provided the latest statistics on Covid positivity rates (14 day average) both locally and in the surrounding areas with Bethlehem at 1% and Woodbury at 2%. He also shared the latest statistics regarding faculty and student members who have currently tested positive and for those that are quarantined. There was a significant decrease noted from the prior week.

B. Reconstituting the Football Committee

There is an interest in combining the Region 14 football programs with Oliver Wolcott and possibly, Kaynor Technical schools. Nonnewaug High School would be the host team with 10 varsity games scheduled, 5 home and 5 away. Mr. McAllister asked that the Football Committee be reconstituted for the purpose of negotiating and steering the possibility. Mr. Bauer already received several requests to sit on the committee and, with that, noted that the board is able to fulfill their obligation and the committee can be reconstituted.

Mr. Bauer also encouraged the newly appointed and existing board members to review the committee list and e-mail him if they were interested in serving on any.

C. Discussion of Facilities Use

The Connecticut Department of Public Health issued an update providing guidance for sports activities effective March 19th. Mr. McAllister read the recommendations and strategies as outlined for the spring 2021. With the district's positivity test rates relatively low, activities will now begin to open up.

The Director of Woodbury Park and Recreation has requested the use of several facilities in the district including the tennis courts, Mitchell Elementary School, and at the middle school, the gym, tennis courts, and turf field.

Mr. McAllister made a recommendation to the board to allow Woodbury Park and Rec permission to utilize the requested facilities, with the understanding that Region 14 students will have precedence over all others and risk mitigation protocols will need to be followed as per the guidelines.

Mr. Bauer made a motion that the Region 14 School District allow the Woodbury Park and Recreation organization's request for sports and activities as presented in the e-mail dated March 11, 2021 occur, with the priority of facility usage allotted to district

teams or organizations and participation limited to the sector rules for events in compliance with Covid risk mitigation strategies; seconded by Jim Crocker;

Further Discussion

The e-mail includes the tennis program, summer camp, basketball summer program, boys' club lacrosse program and pickle ball.

The motion is currently limited to what was mentioned in the e-mail. The board will entertain other organizations' requests, but they must be made through the Finance and Facilities committee initially.

all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

D. Update to Full-time, In-Person Learning

Mr. McAllister shared both positive and negative comments from administrators regarding opening week. The overview provided a glimpse of how the first week back to full, in-person learning unfolded. Administration is currently making a concerted effort to bring back additional remote learners, which makes up approximately 9% of the learning population, districtwide. A letter to parents will be sent out on Wednesday.

E. Administrator/Board Communication

Commencing in April, plans are to reintroduce a regular rotating schedule with principals and students, at the first board meeting of each month, the opportunity to introduce happenings in their respective buildings. This schedule will allow for each building administrator a chance to present 3 times a year; the second meeting of the month will permit time for functional directors to present.

F. Budget Calendar Review

The calendar depicts a third budget workshop currently scheduled for March 29th. Mr. McAllister asked that the date be confirmed, which was suggested in order to allow central office and school administrators an opportunity to work with the board on the proposals before the budget is adopted.

It was the consensus of the board members to include the third workshop on the 29th.

5. Budget Workshop/Presentation/Follow-up Questions

A lower estimate for the Chromebooks caused a slight decrease in the overall budget, down to a 2.513% increase from 2.66%.

The crux of the budget presentation encompassed questions that were received by the finance office, to which Ms. Tanguay offered a response. A sampling of the questions included topics regarding Curriculum and Instruction, Special Education Software, Repair Maintenance Buildings, Staffing Requirements, Purchased Services, MES Boiler Tubing, and the BES Roof Estimate.

Mr. Molzon, the Director of Grounds and Maintenance, was available and spoke to the re-tubing of 2 boilers at Mitchell Elementary School; photos were made available. He noted that the first step of the project would be to remove the asbestos from the boiler room. A complete list of Capital and Improvement and Capital and Equipment was provided to, and reviewed with, the board members.

The final portion of the presentation was a review of the Anticipated Revenues by Source. This included all tuition sources and were listed as interest income, rental fees, miscellaneous income and 19-20 Exp. Surplus due to Covid 19. Grant revenues were also included. A brief question and answer period ensued.

6. Committee Reports

Ms. Carol Ann Brown, as a member of the Public Relations Committee, reported the following:

- The regularly scheduled Public Relations Committee meeting will not be held on the 22nd due to a conflict with the board budget presentation to the towns that evening
- Jon Khazzaka attained 1,000 points in basketball
- A prepackaged Italian food fundraiser is being orchestrated by middle school parents
- The middle school PTO is holding a center piece sale
- Volunteers are needed for the Bethlehem Elementary garden

Mr. John Kapstein spoke to the new BoE handbook and suggested having it sent to the new board members.

- 7. Board Chair's Comments.....Mr. George Bauer**
Chairman Bauer extended a warm welcome to Mr. Chris Matta and Mr. Dave Butkus as the newly appointed board members and thanked all those who ran for a seat.

8. Privilege of the floor

E-mailed Correspondence to the Board Chair

School Schedule

Ms. Yasmene Tyles (a student)

Asked the board to consider changing back the school schedule to the previous schedule with a 12:20 p.m. release time; provided examples on how the new schedule negatively impacts her day.

The board also received correspondence on this subject from Joshua Tyler.

Lacrosse/Sports Field Use

Kylie Bootsma

Woodbury Residents

Requesting permission to use the Nonnewaug High School turf for the Nonnewaug lacrosse club for the 20/21 spring season. Last season was cancelled due to Covid.

CIAC has set the opening for practice for spring sports as March 27th. Hoping to be allowed on or before March 27th.

Correspondence was also received from Samantha Farrell, Robin Bieber, Ian and Ryan Jefferies and Cari Brandt.

Raised Hand Feature

John Chapman

Woodbury

Applauded the efforts to manage facilities management.

Questioned interventionists, are they one-on-one, or more geared toward instructional leaders?

Software i.e. iReady and IXL, are they something that is needed to continue?

Question on the no confidence vote, not discussed, is board taking any actions?

What needs to be done to keep accreditation with NEASC intact?

Casey Rushin

Woodbury

What is the BoE's standing regarding SROs, believes it is great program.

With rising costs of electricity, has district thought about solar?

Teacher continuing education at a cost to the district; is there something in the contracts or policy that states that teachers stay on for a period of time so that Region 14 reaps the benefits?

9. Old Business

A. Newsletter

Ms. Rose noted that she, in conjunction with Mr. Kapstein, is working on the next edition of the BoE newsletter.

B. Grant Overview

Item tabled

10. New Business

A. Donation

A motion was made by Mr. Kapstein and seconded by Mr. Crocker to accept/approve the donation of 4 Anycubic "Mega Zero 2.0" 3D printers valued at \$219 each for a total of \$879 made by Mr. Brian Kinney of 32 Church Street, Woodbury; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

11. Other Business

A. Executive Session

Executive Session was anticipated for the discussion and possible action on grievances brought forward by the paraprofessional and instructional support classifications

regarding pay for November 9, 2020. There were no objections regarding hearing the two grievances together.

Chris Martinelli, President, Instructional Support Union and Steve Curran, Service Rep, Council 4, New Britain, were representing the unions.

The unions' position was based on the provision that, "all employees shall be paid the number of hours as specified in the annual salary agreement. When unscheduled late openings, early dismissals or an emergency of any nature is declared by the administration."

The unions were looking for their groups to be paid in accordance to the contract. Conversely, the Region 14 administration took the position that since the day will be made up like any snow day, they did not suffer any loss. Arguments for both sides were heard.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Michael Devine and seconded by Chris Matta to enter into executive session at 9:46 p.m. for deliberations; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

The following persons were invited;
Attorney Mark Sommargua with Donna Marcineck, Wayne McAllister, and Steve Curran as potential invitees.

Public Session

The board returned to public session at 10:10 pm.

Motion

Mr. Bauer made a motion that the Region 14 Board of Education deny the grievance before them and authorized the board's attorney to draft and provide notice of the decision; seconded by Carol Ann Brown; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

The board appreciates the efforts by the paraprofessionals and instructional workers, and note that they will be paid in full according to the contract.

12. Adjournment

A motion was made by John Kapstein and seconded by Tikva Rose to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 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" and a long, sweeping underline.

*Patricia Paige
Board Clerk*

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