



Minutes

Board of Education – Regular Meeting

Monday, May 3, 2021

Immediately Following District Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ctreg14-org.zoom.us/j/99696415650>

Meeting ID: 996 9641 5650

Phone: (646) 558-8656

Present:

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

Absent:

N/A

Also Present:

Wayne McAllister, Acting Superintendent
Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations
Pam Sordi, Principal, Nonnewaug High School
Joy Geraci, Spokesperson, Juvenile Review Board

Patricia Paige, Board Clerk
Patrick DiSarro, Communications Specialist (Zoom)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Mr. George Bauer, Chairman of the Board

Introductions

The board members introduced themselves

Approval of Minutes

Regular meeting dated Monday, April 5, 2021

A motion was made by Mr. Michael Devine and seconded by Mr. 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. Kailey Townsend, "Follow Your Dreams"

Kailey Townsend, a 6th grader at Woodbury Middle School, is the recipient of a Silver Award in the UCONN Connecticut Writing Project for 6th grade poetry for her poem, "Follow Your Dreams". She is also invited to attend the virtual 2021 Student Writers' Recognition Night. Kailey was prerecorded reciting her poem, which was presented at tonight's board meeting.

B. Nonnewaug High School Update

Principal Pam Sordi introduced high school students Lindiana Frangu, Matthew Syrotiak, and Owen Brown, who were invited to share with the board the various events occurring at the high school. Their reports included information on senior class activities such as music and arts events, Agriscience Program happenings, honor society inductions, and AP preparation and exams. Owen completed the presentation with his remarks on athletic events and acknowledging the upcoming Teacher Appreciation Week.

C. Football Co-op Update

Declan Curtin, the high school Athletic Director, commented on the recently formed football co-op, which is composed of players from Nonnewaug High School, Oliver Wolcott Tech and several from Wamogo and how it was established. The team, referred to as the Northwest United Football team, will preserve the Nonnewaug school colors and offers an opportunity for both JV and Varsity experiences, something Nonnewaug has not had in a very long time. It also provides for the opportunity to use the new facilities, (stadium and lights); participate in the tech league and bring back school spirit.

Attorney Mark Sommaruga drew up the Memorandum of Understanding. The application, which has a deadline of May 1st, was delivered to the CIAC on April 24th. Mr. Curtin anticipates hearing from them in approximately two weeks. The next steps are hiring staff and orchestrating fundraising efforts.

D. Juvenile Review Board

Attorney Mark Sommaruga composed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Juvenile Review Board for the Towns of Woodbury and Bethlehem and Regional School District #14; it was brought before the board this evening. The Juvenile Review Board (JRB) is a community-based program established for the purpose of early intervention activities whereby juveniles, who may have committed minor offenses, may avoid the courts and juvenile justice system by accepting responsibility for their actions and then undertaking and successfully completing certain actions, including but not limited to community service and counseling, prescribed by the JRB. The memorandum addresses how JRB student confidentiality records will be maintained.

Joy Geraci, the spokesperson for the JRB this evening, is one of approximately 20 volunteers who serves on the board, which also includes local law enforcement. Their newest task is collaborating with the schools to address chronic absenteeism issues early on. They want to ensure that everyone is successful and feels supported within the towns of Woodbury and Bethlehem.

A motion was made by Mr. Chris Matta that the Region 14 Board of Education enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Juvenile Review Board as presented; seconded by Ms. Tikva Rose; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

E. Background Checks

Mr. McAllister addressed several questions that emanated out of the recent Policy Committee meeting regarding the district's background search process for volunteers. Its origin began with the ad hoc Safety Committee in the early fall of 2013, whereby the committee investigated what would be the best option for the Region 14 School District. LexisNexis was ultimately enlisted to perform the searches. Mr. McAllister pointed to various minutes outlining the steps that were taken to make that decision. The application, once completed by the volunteer, is processed through the resident trooper's office in Woodbury where all like records are maintained. Region 14 receives a notification as to who has been verified, what school or schools they will volunteer at, and the approval date.

Due to Covid restrictions, there are currently no volunteers permitted in the buildings; however, there are discussions with the elementary schools' administrators regarding a modified field day which will require a small number of volunteers. Once a final decision has been made, volunteers will be asked to complete the background process.

F. Last Day of School

The initial Region 14 20/21 school year calendar approved by the board accounted for 182 student days. The Governor's *Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Learn Together Program* waived the 180 days state requirement for students to 177 days with the extra 3 days allowing for teacher and staff Covid 19 safety training. On July 20, 2020, the board then amended the calendar to 179 days, a reduction of those 3 classroom days with June 16th noted as the final day of school. With 4 school cancellations during the year due to inclement weather and an unrelated power outage, the last day of school is currently June 22, 2021.

High School Graduation is scheduled for June 19th with a rain date of June 20th. Middle School Graduation is scheduled for June 21st with a rain date of June 22nd.

A motion was made by Ms. Carol Ann Brown and seconded by Mr. Jonathan Kapstein to set the last day of school as June 22, 2021; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

G. Covid 19 Update

Mr. McAllister noted, that as of 9:56 this morning, there are all zeros on the district's Covid 19 dashboard.

Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee

The committee met briefly this evening. Ms. Tanguay gave a brief overview of the topics

discussed which included the monthly financial summary and updates on the NHS Renovation Project and School Lunch Program. Also discussed was the tennis court fundraising project. Of note, was the Application for School Use Facilities and the related fees, which was brought to and discussed at the Policy Committee Meeting on April 27th. It was presented this evening for a first read.

B. Policy Committee

The Policy Committee met on April 27th. Focus topics included School Use Facility Fees, Volunteers/Fieldtrips, and Health Assessments. Ms. Tikva Rose gave a brief overview of each discussion item.

C. Public Relations Committee

Ms. Carol Ann Brown had several reminders; to support the AgriScience plant sale for Mother's Day and the Grad Night meeting scheduled for 6:00pm at the Woodbury Library. She also noted that Central Office Administrators, in conjunction with the Board of Education, were sponsoring a Grab-and-Go Breakfast Wednesday morning for teachers and staff in support of Teacher Appreciation Week.

Board Chair's Comments

Mr. Bauer noted that interviews for the investigation were completed and the investigative firm was wrapping up the report. He also recited a few quotes and made a few remarks in celebration of Teacher Appreciation Week.

Privilege of the Floor

Raised Hand Feature

John Chapman

Mr. Chapman offered the board a few ideas to consider including providing a response to those who made comments during Privilege of the Floor as he did at the last meeting; feedback would encourage participation. He was curious about the resignation of the MES Principal and asked if the committees were planning to meet on a regular schedule.

Old Business

There was no "Old Business"

New Business

There was no "New Business"

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Michael Devine and seconded by Mr. Jim Crocker to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 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, looped initial "P".

*Patricia Paige
Board Clerk*

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