

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Monday, October 4, 2021; 7:00 p.m.
Flanders Room
Mitchell Elementary School
Live Stream Available:
<https://vimeo.com/event/353466>

Present:

George Bauer
Jim Crocker
Carol Ann Brown
Chris Matta
Jonathan Kapstein
David Butkus
Tikva Rose

Absent:

Michael Devine

Also Present:

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

School Administration Presenting

William Nemec, Principal, Woodbury Middle School
Suzi Greene, Assistant Principal, Woodbury Middle School

Patricia Paige, Board Recording Clerk

I. Call to Order

Board Chairman, George Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

III. Introductions

Board members and central office staff introduced themselves

IV. Approval of the Minutes

A. Special Meeting, Monday, September 13, 2021

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Dave Butkus to accept/approve the minutes as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

B. Regular meeting; Monday, September 20, 2021; 6:00 p.m.

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

V. **Acting Superintendent's Report**

A. Woodbury Middle School Update

Elly Ouellette, Mia Salisbury, and Grace Rubacha, 8th grade students at Woodbury Middle School, were introduced by Principal Bill Nemec. The students reported on a number of exciting happenings at the school which included Clubs; Athletics; Alliance, a student leadership program, Open House and the return to outside lunches to name a few. They also spoke to the 8th Grade Charter, a list of feelings, determined to be the most important, that students wish to experience every day. The charter was devised as part of the RULER program and signed by both 8th grade students and teachers.

To close out their presentation, they shared their anticipations for the school year including class field trips, concerts, school spirit rallies, Athletics and fundraising efforts.

B. Personnel Report

Mr. McAllister read the October 2021 Personnel Report into the record, including the retirement of long-time employee Steve Mulhall, a custodian since October 25, 1991.

C. Covid 19 Update

Region 14 Covid 19 statistics to date are, 3 positive staff members, 5 positive students, 27 in quarantine, for a total of 35 impacted by Covid. Bethlehem Elementary School has incurred the most diagnosis with a 9% community infection rate.

With the current undesirable Covid environment, the previously Board approved Agriscience Field Trip Request to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana October 25th through the 30th is back on the table for reexamination. Several discussions were had at the high school level with the Acting Superintendent concerning the number of students that would be transported via bus as well as the large number anticipated at the convention. Their discussions addressed the protocols that would be necessary should a student be diagnosed with Covid and need to quarantine while attending the conference. The positivity rate currently stands at 1.8% in Connecticut, while in Indianapolis it is 5 times higher, or 9.5%, another contributing factor to take into consideration.

Thirty-five students were expected to attend, most of who had the option to compete virtually, and although the Board was sympathetic and wished for all to participate, there were four currently enrolled high school students that would need to take part or forfeit their competition.

The Board considered many alternative options, for the entire group as well as the

required four. In the end, it was the consensus of most board members, for health and safety purposes, to allow only the four required students to attend. Ms. Sordi, the principal at the high school, noted that there was a verbal commitment from the parents that were contacted, to assume the responsibility of their student should they have exposure to Covid 19 and become ill, including transportation and accommodations.

Motion

George Bauer moved that the Regional School District #14 authorize to send four students required to compete in person at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis October 25th through October 30th; the motion also supersedes the previous authorization; seconded by Chris Matta. Dave Butkus and Carol Ann Brown (nay); Tikva Rose, Jim Crocker, George Bauer, Jonathan Kapstein and Chris Matta (yea); motion passes.

Mandatory Covid Vaccinations per Executive Order 13G

Region 14 has 88.4% fully vaccinated staff; 11.6% testing weekly with some in the process of completing their second vaccinations.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee

Ms. Tanguay recapped the Finance Committee meeting discussions, which included the Monthly Financial Summary for September, a Food Service Update and a grant expenditure itemization.

B. ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs

As a formality and with the recent retirement of Mr. Peter Brooks as the Director of Food Services in Region 14, the Authorized Signatures Change Form needed to be updated.

A motion was made by Dave Butkus and seconded by Jim Crocker to revise the authorized signers of the ED-099 Agreement For Child Nutrition Programs to that of Mr. Wayne McAllister, Acting Superintendent and Ms. Tina Tanguay, the Director of Finance and Operations; all in favor; none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

C. Public Relations Committee

Ms. Brown participated in two, full-day professional development sessions on the African American Latino Studies course along with Ms. Wendy Nelson Kauffman, Ms. Taryn Fernandez, and Michael Sturges.

Grad Nite committee will have their first meeting on the 13th.

She shared an article on Paige Brandt, an outstanding athlete in girls' soccer.

D. Policy Committee

A committee meeting is planned for the end-of-the-month.

E. Adhoc Curriculum Committee

Plan to visit the district's schools for a tour of what information has been delayed by Covid

VII. Board Chair's Comments

Reserved for the end of the meeting

VIII. Privilege of the Floor

Lisa Armatruda

Ms. Armatruda referenced the Dr. Olzacki investigation and the Board's role as his Supervisor; they fired the subordinate; will members resign if they received the shot?

Concerned for students wearing masks 6-8 hours a day; causing damage to the students; asked the Board to please fight back for the kids.

Kathleen V. (grandparent)

Need to be aware of what the children are saying; getting progressively worse; what will the legacy to the children be?

IX. Old Business

There was no old Business

X. New Business

A. Discussion/possible action on formation of personnel search committee for Superintendent

A motion was made by Tikva Rose and seconded by Jim Crocker to appoint and designate the full Board of Education as a personnel search committee for the purpose of the search for a new Superintendent of Schools, as permitted under the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act; Jonathan Kapstein abstained, with the remaining in favor; motion carried.

XI. Other Business

There was no Other Business

XII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Jim Crocker to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m.; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried.

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