

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Monday, October 19, 2020; 7:00 p.m.
The Flanders Room
Mitchell Elementary School

Present:

George Bauer, Chairperson
Pam Zmek, Vice Chairperson
Janet Morgan
Carol Ann Brown
Michael Devine
Jonathan Kapstein
Tikva Rose
James Crocker *(arrived 7:18 p.m)

Also Present:

Dr. Joseph Olzacki, Superintendent
Wendy Nelson Kauffman, Director of Teaching and Learning
Mark Harutunian, Covid 19 Liaison
Pam Sordi, Principal, Nonnewaug High School
Patricia Paige, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

3. Introductions

Members of the Board introduced themselves

4. Approval of the Minutes

A. Regular Meeting, Monday, October 5, 2020

A motion was made by Mr. Jonathan Kapstein and seconded by Ms. Carol Ann Brown to accept/approve the minutes as presented; all in favor; none opposed; Ms. Janet Morgan abstained; motion carried.

5. **Superintendent's Report**

A. 14's Finest

Dr. Olzacki and members of the Board of Education recognized the district's custodial and maintenance staff for their commitment to their positions, the staff, and students of Region 14 and for keeping the schools safe and clean during the pandemic. All have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Each were awarded a certificate of appreciation.

B. Intensification/Acceleration: Ms. Wendy Nelson Kauffman

Ms. Nelson Kauffman provided a Powerpoint Presentation on the concept of Acceleration, more appropriately termed by Dr. Olzacki as Intensification and defined as "not moving faster, moving smarter". The goals are to get students back on grade level, while still attending to their social and emotional needs; delineating the priority curriculum for the grade level; and deciding what to teach and how to teach it.

*James Crocker arrived 7:18 p.m.

C. Special Education Committee Report

Last fall a Superintendent's Special Education Committee was formed that had been meeting monthly until normal operations were shut down in March due to the pandemic. Last week, the committee hosted their first event since that time, a playground meet up at Mitchell Elementary School. The committee is looking to resume monthly meetings in order to continue their conversations between parents, staff members and the board.

D. Agriscience Update: Mr. Edward Belinsky

Mr. Belinsky was not available for this evening's meeting. In lieu of his report, Mr. Mark Harutunian, the Covid 19 Liaison for the district and Ms. Pamela Sordi, the Principal at Nonnewaug High School, were asked to detail the chain of events that occurred over the weekend with the confirmation of a positive Covid 19 test for a student at the high school and the subsequent closing of the school for a three day period.

6. **Committee Report**

Ms. Carol Ann Brown reminded everyone that the first Public Relations Committee Meeting is planned for Monday, October 26th at 5:00 p.m. in the central office conference room #132.

7. **Board Chair's Comments**

Mr. Bauer thanked everyone for their efforts over the weekend regarding the highly organized plan of action once it was learned that there was a student who tested positive for Covid 19.

8. Privilege of the Floor

There was no Public Comment

9. Old Business

None

10. New Business

A. Set graduation date for Class of 2021

Ms. Pam Sordi, Principal of Nonnewaug High School, made a request, according to Public Act 19-195, which permits Boards of Education to establish a high school graduation date at any time during the school year, provided the chosen date falls not earlier than the 180th day noted in the original school calendar adopted by the board, to set the graduation date for the Class of 2021 for Saturday, June 19, 2021. Given the Covid19 environment, a venue has not been determined.

A motion was made by Ms. Janet Morgan and seconded by Mr. Jonathan Kapstein to accept/approve Saturday, June 19, 2021 as the high school graduation date for the Class of 2021; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

B. Discussion and possible action on evaluation/performance of the Superintendent

Executive Session

Ms. Pam Zmek moved that the Region 14 Board of Education enter into Executive Session for the purpose of a personnel matter, specifically the Superintendent's evaluation. The Board invited the Superintendent, Dr. Joseph Olzacki, into Executive Session at 7:49 p.m.

Public Session

The Board returned to Public Session at 9:52 p.m.

C. Discussion and possible action/vote regarding re-election and contract of the Superintendent of Schools

Motion

Ms. Pamela Zmek moved that the Board of Education elect Dr. Joseph Olzacki to a new term as Superintendent of Schools for Regional School District #14, with his new term commencing on November 1, 2020 and ending on June 30, 2023; seconded by Mr. James Crocker; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Motion

Ms. Pamela Zmek moved that the Region 14 Board of Education authorize the Board Chair to negotiate a contract with the Superintendent on behalf of the Board, based upon the terms discussed in executive session and pending further legal review; seconded by Ms. Janet Morgan; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

11. Other Business

None

12. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Janet Morgan; seconded by Mr. James Crocker; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia Paige". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P".

*Patricia Paige
Board Clerk*

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