

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

Monday, September 21, 2020

<https://zoom.us/j/97108977231>

Meeting ID: 971 0897 7231

Phone: (646) 558 8656

Minutes

Present:

George Bauer, Chairperson
Pam Zmek, Vice Chairperson
Janet Morgan
Carol Ann Brown
Michael Devine
James Crocker
Jonathan Kapstein
Tikva Rose

Absent

N/a

Also Present:

Dr. Joseph Olzacki, Superintendent
Mark Harutunian
Wendy Nelson-Kauffman
Wendy Yatsenick
Recording Secretary, Patricia Paige

1. Call to Order

Board Chairman, Mr. George Bauer, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Introductions

Members of the board identified themselves

3. Approval of the Minutes

A. Regular Meeting, Tuesday, September 8, 2020

A motion was made by Ms. Pam Zmek and seconded by Mr. James Crocker to accept/approve the minutes as presented; seven members were in favor; none opposed; Mr. Bauer abstained; motion carried.

4. **Superintendent's Report**

A. Staff Evaluation Plan

The Director of Teaching and Learning, Ms. Wendy Nelson Kaufmann, explained the new process for the Teacher Evaluation Plan. Last year, the state placed the plan on hold due to the Covid19 Pandemic. This year, the state implemented a one-time waiver while they assess the entire plan.

B. Bethlehem Garden

Ms. Wendy Yatsenick, Principal of Bethlehem Elementary, provided a narrative on the school garden initiative termed, "Growing Bethlehem", a co-op garden project with goals to expand the study of Agriscience, build relationships, and support farm-to-school efforts in the community. She partnered with NHS Agriscience department; students participate in planting, maintenance and harvesting. Integrate math – journal about garden progress. Produce donated to families in need.

Mr. Declan Curtin, the Athletic Director at NHS, spoke to his goodwill endeavor where by aged athletic uniforms were recently mailed to South Africa. An Athletic Council meeting is scheduled for Friday; Phase II of the project will be to send expended equipment.

C. Introduction of New Certified Staff

Building administrators introduced their new staff members and provided a brief bio on each.

5. **Committee Report**

A. Finance Committee Report

Covid Financials Recap

Mr. Wayne McAllister, the district's Director of Finance and Operations, recapped the Covid19 expenses incurred for both instructional and non-instructional classifications in 2019/2020 for the period of March 10, 2020 through June 30th which totaled \$76,611.

To date, the grand total for 2020/2021 is \$62,314. As of September 20th, the district has spent \$138,925 overall on Covid 19 related expenses. Anticipate future expenses in the amount of \$247,990 with foreseen reimbursements from CRF (Covid Relief Fund) and ESSER Grants and the state yet to be applied for a net impact to the budget in the amount of \$65,051. This figure does not include the FEMA reimbursement. The final impact to the budget will be very minimal.

Mr. McAllister continued his report by providing the 2019/2020 financial wrap up a "where we are" financial status for the 2020/2021 and an update on Federal Food Service program.

The Nonnewaug High School Renovate-to-New Project Funding through 8/31/2020 was reviewed. The biggest issue of concern is to ensure that all of the eligible costs are covered. Some change orders the committee believed to be eligible were considered ineligible by the state in their initial feedback. This will be revisited for further discussion.

B. Policy Committee Report

The committee met earlier this evening for the purpose of discussing the *Operation of Schools During Covid-19 Pandemic* Policy that was approved on August 3, 2020, specifically to address and clarify the language as set forth in item 6 on page 4 according to the recent CDC guidelines on mask wearing.

Ms. Pam Zmek motioned to amend the Region 14 board policy, *Operation of Schools During Covid-19 Pandemic*, by removing the text of item 6, page 4 and replacing it with, "The only time a Region 14 staff member can remove their masks while in school is if they are alone in a closed classroom or office"; seconded by Ms. Carol Ann Brown; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Plans are for the committee members to meet the second regular Board of Education meeting date of the month at 6:00 p.m., just prior to the regular meeting of the board.

C. Public Relations

Committee members have been busy working in conjunction with Ms. Wendy Nelson Kaufmann on the "Vision of the Learner" project. The primary focus of the committee, at this juncture, is to promote the initiative within the communities.

Currently looking for a time for the committee to meet.

6. **Board Chair's Comments**

Mr. Bauer reminded the board of the upcoming workshop scheduled for Saturday; agenda to be made available to members in the coming days.

7. **Old Business**

N/A

8. **New Business**

A. Discussion and possible action on proposed Memorandum of Agreement with Nonnewaug Teachers' Association concerning COVID-19 issues.

Ms. Janet Morgan moved that the Region 14 Board of Education enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a proposed Memorandum of Agreement negotiated with the Nonnewaug Teachers' Association concerning Covid19 issues; seconded by Mr. Jim Crocker; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously. The board invited Dr. Olzacki and Mr. McAllister into Executive Session. The Board entered into executive session at 8:30 p.m.

Public Session

The Board returned to Public Session at 8:37p.m.

Motion

Ms. Pam Zmek moved that the Region 14 Board of Education approve the proposed Memorandum of Agreement with the Nonnewaug Teachers' Association concerning Covid19 issues and authorize the Board Chair to sign it on the Board's behalf; seconded by Ms. Janet Morgan; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

9. Other Business

N/A

10. Adjournment

Ms. Carol Ann Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Tikva Rose; all were 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, flowing style.

*Patricia Paige
Board Clerk*

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