

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Monday, September 20, 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
Dave Butkus
Chris Matta
Jonathan Kapstein
Michael Devine
Tikva Rose

Absent:

n/a

Also Present:

Wayne McAllister, Acting Superintendent
Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations
Wendy Nelson Kauffman, Director of Teaching and Learning

Patricia Paige, Board Recording Clerk

I. Call to Order

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

III. Introductions

Board members introduced themselves

IV. Approval of the Minutes

A. Special Meeting, Tuesday, August 31, 2021

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

B. Regular Meeting, Tuesday, September 7, 2021

A motion was made by Michael Devine and seconded by Chris Matta to accept/approve the minutes as presented; George Bauer and Carol Ann Brown abstained; all others were in favor; motion carried.

V. Acting Superintendent's Report

A. High School Graduation 2022

High School Principal, Pam Sordi, made a request of the Board to approve the Nonnewaug High School graduation date for the Class of 2022 to be Saturday, June 18, 2022.

Effective July 1, 2019 Public Act 19-195 removed the April 1st requirement and permits Boards to establish a high school graduation date at any time during the school year, provided the chosen date falls not earlier than the 180th date as noted in the original calendar adopted by the Board.

There was concern that students would not meet the 180 days of instruction if there were a number of non-school days due to inclement weather or other events. With the late start date, finishing early in June and the inability to have remote learning in place of snow days, there simply is no flexibility to make up the loss in instructional time unless vacation days are considered. Ms. Sordi noted that the act pertains to high school seniors only, the remaining students in grades K-11 would need to meet the 182 days Region 14 requires, two more days than that of the 180 day state requirement. Mr. Bauer made mention of graduating seniors, some of which may have military commitments, having the graduation sooner than later allows them to meet those obligations.

A motion was made by Tikva Rose and seconded by Chris Matta to set the graduation date for the Class of 2022 to be held on Saturday, June 18, 2022; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

VI. Committee Reports

There were no reports

VII. Board Chair's Comments

It was with great sadness that Mr. Bauer shared news that one of Nonnewaug's high school graduates of the Class of 2019 and Bethlehem resident, Jonathan Breda, has passed away. A moment of silence was observed.

The Woodbury Scholarship Fund **Dollars for Scholars**, an annual 5K run/bike ride is scheduled for Saturday, September 25th at Nonnewaug High School.

VIII. Privilege of the Floor

Shana Jones

Mr. Bauer read from an e-mail sent by Ms. Jones, who expressed her complete support for the mask mandate and her appreciation of the efforts to keep students safe; public schools must follow public health guidelines.

Kathy Velkey

A grandmother of six students in the district, she believes in freedom of choice for masks, not the government's choice. She spoke to the African American Puerto Rican Latino course; personally feels that the curriculum is based heavily on psychology to manipulate; it divides people.

Sarah Baskin

Strongly believes in choice; vision of the Board is admirable; doesn't feel her voice has always been represented as a parent or community member; what she hears as a priority is to have students in school, in person learning as much as possible; wants them to be safe and well; hopes that mitigating strategies continue in the schools as long as it is necessary.

IX. Old Business

There was no Old Business

X. New Business

A. TEVAL Waiver (Teacher Evaluation)

Ms. Wendy Nelson Kauffman shared a PowerPoint presentation regarding Teacher Evaluation for the 2021/2022 school year. The CSDE reconvened the Educator Evaluation and Support 2022 Council to begin the process to “reimagine” Connecticut’s educator evaluation in its entirety. They also updated and revised the 2020-2021 Flexibilities for this year implementing CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation.

At this point, they are seeking statewide stakeholder input and feedback. The final document will require not only the approval of the State Board of Education, but also that of state Lawmakers, as it will become law. Teachers expressed concerns with the current evaluation 1-4 ranking as it does not provide for meaningful feedback.

The TEVAL Waiver for 2021-2022 will focus on a number of priorities including Social and Emotional learning and the overall well-being of students, staff and educators; equitable learning opportunities for all students; culturally responsive teaching and learning practices; academic achievement; and engagement with families.

Ms. Nelson Kauffman described the observation expectations for both the teacher and the evaluator, which included a Student Learning Goal developed by the teacher and two student learning indicators or measures of accomplishment developed by the Administrator.

Mr. Crocker said the issue might be one of consistency; that there must be capable people making very sound assessments.

An inquiry was brought forward by Mr. Devine, who asked if the Board would receive an evaluation standing snapshot. Ms. Nelson Kauffman noted that the district must report to their local or regional Board of Education the status of educator evaluations by June 1, 2022.

XI. Other Business

There was no Other Business

XII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Michael Devine and seconded by Jim Crocker to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m.; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



*Patricia Paige
Board Clerk*

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Patricia Paige, Board Clerk 09/24/2021