



Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ctreg14-org.zoom.us/j/86537917746>

Meeting ID: 865 3791 7746

Phone: (646) 558-8656

Present:

Jim Crocker, Presiding Board Member
Carol Ann Brown
Michael Devine
Jonathan Kapstein
Chris Matta
David Butkus
Tikva Rose

Absent:

George Bauer, Chairman

Also Present:

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

Presenters:

Wendy Nelson Kauffman, Director of Teaching and Learning
Michael Sturges, Social Studies Teacher

Patricia Paige, Board Recording Clerk

I. Call to Order

Mr. Crocker called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. Introductions

Members of the Board introduced themselves

III. Approval of the Minutes

A. Regular Meeting, Monday, January 3, 2022

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

IV. Acting Superintendent's Report

A. African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Course of Studies Update:

The curriculum, a full-year course with the first semester encompassing African American and Black History and the second semester covering Puerto Rican and Latino history, is an elective class for juniors and seniors and fulfills the Social Studies/Humanities credit. There is currently one section at the high school with 16 students enrolled. The course is state mandated as a "must offer" beginning in 2022 according to Connecticut Public Act 19-12. The curriculum was devised by the State of Connecticut and is accessible to parents and others for review on the district's website. Quarterly course training is offered by CERC to instructors and administrators as well as a one-week summer training session.

Several students were invited to share their takeaways of the class; Zoe Inglis, Unit 1: Where we Come From: Introduction to African Origins and Contributions of Ancient African Empires to World Civilizations and the African Diaspora; Emily Lungarini, Unit 2: How African Americans Persisted: Slavery and Freedom Stories of Resistance and Agency; Adeline Angelini spoke to the final class project. Mr. Sturges, the class instructor and Ms. Nelson Kauffman fielded questions by the board.

B. Vision of a Learner and Action Plan:

Mr. McAllister shared a historical background of the Vision of a Learner model in Region 14 beginning with his appointment as that of Acting Superintendent on February 19, 2021. He noted that it has been his honor and privilege to serve an outstanding group of administrators, who are clearly dedicated to serving the needs of their students.

Weekly Admin Council meetings were reinstated on February 24th under his leadership. At their meeting on March 17th, the Admin Council began their work on the Region 14 VoL, which was formulated by a guiding coalition and support from the Center of School Change. It was subsequently adopted by the Region 14 Board of Education and rolled out to staff on March 31st. The team also continues their efforts on the best way to integrate a cohesive math program throughout the district.

Ms. Nelson Kauffman shared a PowerPoint presentation on the Vision of a Learner and Action Plan. The Region 14 vision represents the core values that guide the work of its educators and students and aligns with the characteristics the community deemed necessary for Region 14 students to be positive contributors to society. The presentation outlined the plan for implementation, design strategy for systemic evolution, Professional Learning, and common planning time for teacher collaboration. She also highlighted a VoL website for R14 Vision of a Learner Teacher Resource bank.

Board member, Tikva Rose inquired about expanding counseling services or instructional leadership for students with emotional needs after parents noted that it

was very difficult currently to secure therapists due to long waiting lists. Ms. Donna Marcinek, the Director of Student Services, explained that teachers participated in a training session last week so that they could learn about the screening process that the district plans to roll out in the near future. All of the data collected will play into identifying students, who may have been overlooked previously.

V. Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee

Mr. Kapstein and Ms. Brown toured the Agriscience program a week ago and were very impressed with the dedication of the teachers and the ability of the students to explain what they were doing.

Public Relations

The Agriscience Advisory met recently and will be commencing the Grip-and-Grin process, which prepares freshman to secure their first SAE.

VI. Board Chair's Comments

Mr. Crocker commented that the district had made significant progress last year and continues that progress again this year.

VII. Privilege of the Floor

N/A

VIII. Old Business

A. Election Polling Locations

Conversations continued from the last board meeting; Mr. Crocker opened discussions with the board members. There were a number of concerns, i.e. ensuring that schools would not be in session and restricting access to building areas outside of the voting space to name a few.

Members, Mr. Butkus and Mr. Devine suggested a MoU outlining the specific details so that there is a scoped out plan for the board to vote on; suggested that the central office staff address some of the potential issues. Mr. Devine proposed that the Fire Marshal be brought into the conversations to be certain there is sufficient exit capacity in the section of the building that would be utilized.

Mr. McAllister was asked to initiate a meeting with Ms. Tanguay, Mr. Crocker, Fire Marshal Janet Morgan and the town Registrars of Voters tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. after which the details will be shared with the full board via a zoom meeting. The board's attorney will also be consulted with regards to the MoU language.

IX. New Business

N/A

X. Other Business

A. Narcan

Narcan is used for emergency treatment of an opioid overdose. Board member Chris Matta, in light of overdoses reported in surrounding areas, had discussions with Acting Superintendent Wayne McAllister regarding its use in the district. Currently, the district's nurses and SROs are trained with Narcan usage. The drug is maintained by the SROs. Conversations were had regarding additional training, supplies and utilization, if necessary. Jeff McKenna, a member of ASAP, would make himself available for additional training.

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Michael Devine that he be authorized to work collaboratively with Acting Superintendent Wayne McAllister to outline a proposal on how to institutionalize Narcan in the district; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Jim Crocker; seconded by Jonathan Kapstein to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 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, flowing style.

*Patricia Paige
Board Clerk*

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