



Serving the Towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Tuesday, July 6, 2021; 7:00 p.m.
Flanders Room
Mitchell Elementary School
Livestream Available:
<https://vimeo.com/event/353466/videos/469991820/>

Present:

George Bauer
Jim Crocker
Jonathan Kapstein
Tikva Rose (Remote)
Christopher Matta
David Butkus
Carol Ann Brown
Michael Devine

Absent:

N/a

Also Present:

Wayne McAllister, Acting Superintendent
Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations
Alice Pistritto, Provisional Board Clerk

I. Call to Order

Acting Superintendent Wayne McAllister called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

III. Introductions

The board members introduced themselves

IV. Election of Chairperson

Acting Superintendent Wayne McAllister called for nominations for board chairperson.

A motion was made by Michael Devine and seconded by Carol Ann Brown to nominate George Bauer to serve as chairperson.

A motion was made by Jonathan Kapstein and seconded by Tikva Rose to nominate Jim Crocker to serve as chairperson.

No other nominations were cast; a roll call vote was had and yielded the following results:

Board members Carol Ann Brown, David Butkus, Michael Devine and Christopher Matta were in favor of George Bauer; Board members Jonathan Kapstein and Tikva Rose were in favor of Jim Crocker; (4)(2) in favor of George Bauer; Mr. Bauer accepted the nomination and will serve as chairperson.

**V. Election of Board Officers
Vice Chairperson**

Board chairman George Bauer called for nominations for vice chairperson.

A motion was made by George Bauer and seconded by Christopher Matta to nominate Jim Crocker as vice chairperson; no other nominations were cast; a roll call vote was taken; all were in favor of the appointment of Jim Crocker; Mr. Crocker accepted the nomination and will serve as vice chairperson.

Secretary

A motion was made by David Butkus and seconded by Christopher Matta to nominate Carol Ann Brown to serve as secretary; no other nominations were cast; a roll call vote was taken; all were in favor of the appointment of Carol Ann Brown; Ms. Brown accepted the nomination and will serve as secretary.

Treasurer

A motion was made by Tikva Rose and seconded by Jonathan Kapstein to nominate Jim Crocker to serve as treasurer; no other nominations were cast; a roll call vote was taken; all were in favor of the appointment of Jim Crocker; Mr. Crocker accepted the nomination and will serve as treasurer.

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

A motion was made by George Bauer and seconded by Christopher Matta to nominate David Butkus to serve as assistant secretary/treasurer.

Mr. Butkus noted that he would fulfill the obligation if selected, but encouraged additional nominations due to work obligations and time constraints.

A motion was made by Carol Ann Brown and seconded by George Bauer to nominate Christopher Matta to serve as assistant secretary/treasurer.

A roll call vote was taken and yielded the following results; George Bauer, Carol Ann Brown, Jim Crocker, Michael Devine and Jonathan Kapstein in favor of Christopher Matta; Tikva Rose and Christopher Matta in favor of David Butkus; (5)(2) in favor or Christopher Matta; Mr. Matta accepted the nomination and will serve as assistant secretary/treasurer.

VI. Board Appointments

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Michael Devine to accept/approve the following appointments:

Patricia Paige, Board Clerk
Andrea Needleman, MD, Health; School District Physician
James Bauer, DMD, School Dentist

all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

VII. Approval of Minutes

Special Meeting dated Wednesday, June 23, 2021

A motion was made by Michael Devine and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve the minutes with the following amendment:

Correct the spelling of Mr. Crocker's name from "Croker" to "Crocker", page 2; noted in the motions upon returning to Public Session

all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Acting Superintendent's Report

A. Student Performance Update

Ms. Wendy Nelson Kauffman began her presentation by celebrating today as the start date of the district's first regular education summer school program, one effort to mitigate the loss of instructional time as a result of the pandemic. The program was made possible through federal grant dollars.

Forty students, that were thought to gain the most by attending summer school, were selected to participate in the program. Math and literacy universal screeners were used to determine who those students would be.

Ms. Nelson Kauffman explained the data that was presented. Universal Screeners were used for all students. Each student has a growth score that is assigned to them based on an algorithm. Though most students are meeting or exceeding typical growth as depicted by the data, there are students not growing at an acceptable rate; need to determine what is happening.

Philosophy is teaching to the whole child; measuring students' success is not what their test scores are.

Ms. Nelson Kauffman firmly believes that if the district prepares the students utilizing the six attributes of Vision of a Learner, the students will be future ready, truly prepared for success in life and higher test scores will follow.

Mr. Crocker would like to examine Smarter Balance Assessments further.

B. Appointment of Mitchell Elementary School Principal

Mr. Wayne McAllister introduced Ms. Kelly Pinho as the district's newly appointed principal at Mitchell Elementary School. He provided a brief summary of the interview and hiring process for the vacated position and offered some highlights from Ms. Pinho's extensive resume.

C. Personnel Report

The Personnel Report for July 6, 2021 consisted of several new hires and retirements. All names were read into the record by Mr. McAllister. Most of the new hires were employed to fill the district's Extended School Year positions.

D. Covid Update

The Covid report has been maintained with the consideration of summer school and the Extended School Year program. There were no Covid issues to report this evening.

IX. Committee Reports

A. Safe School Report

Mr. Michael Devine shared a brief synopsis of the meeting.

The Safety Committee met on June 18th with both resident troopers in attendance. The agenda covered numerous topics including the SRO program with a focus on the MOU currently in place; background checks, and the ALICE program/Active Shooter Response training. Currently looking at timeslots with administrators to provide updates to staff.

Additional agenda items included district-wide risk assessments with hopes of completing them in August, security cameras, communication concerns relevant to Internet, phones, radios and the badging system. The meeting closed with a discussion on grants available to the district.

Subsequent Safety Committee meetings are planned for the last Friday of every month; 12:00 p.m.; Bethlehem Fire House.

B. Finance Committee

Ms. Tanguay has been working on wrapping up the year-end and is anticipating to be within the budget. Total revenue collected as of June 30, 2021 was noted as 99.03% of what was anticipated to be collected; expenditures at 94.74%.

The financials for the high school project noted expenses through June 2021 totaling \$62,954,127 with project funds currently on hand totaling \$381,323. The project is expected to conclude by the end of the summer.

The Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) is set to rollover this Thursday in the amount of 8.5 million dollars. The amount reflects the remaining reimbursement from the state and will be a nine month term.

The overall food service loss for the year is \$186,212, less than what was originally anticipated or \$200,000. Plans are to participate in the federal free lunch program for next school year.

Currently in the process of replacing the Food Service Director of 44 years.

X. Board Chair Comments

Mr. Bauer provided a follow up with regards to the Governor's Executive orders set to expire on July 20th. The Region 14 Safe Return to In-person Instruction Plan is housed on the district's web page for the 21/22 school year. The board continues to monitor and share what the requirements are.

XI. Privilege of the Floor

Kathy Velkey

Grandparent to six grandchildren in the district; spoke to ESSR; politically motivated to control and indoctrinate our children for Critical Race Theory while ignoring the science regarding the mental health and well-being of our children. Asked the board to allow the parents the choice of whether their students wear masks and to cancel Critical Race

Theory.

Diane McCloud

Parent of an immune comprised child; would like the school district to follow the science at the time of school opening. If remote learning is not an option next year for those who choose it, to please reconsider.

Jenna DiStefano

Advocate for parent choice when it comes to mask wearing in the fall; students need to breathe fresh air; all in same storm, not in same boat; all have different struggles.

Casey Rushin

Board missed a big opportunity this evening by not voting for Jim Crocker to serve as board chairman, he has always advocated for transparency. Parents had to wear masks at graduation, pictures of board members without. What is the plan moving forward with regards to hiring a new superintendent? What is the hiring process for a replacement?

Alyssa Detmer

Asked the board to go beyond orders and CDC; masks are harmful to children. Bring back hot lunch. What will the district do with students who are not vaccinated?

Kelly Packett

Huge issue with masks as do her children; present tonight to advocate for choice; parents decide; surrounding towns made decisions; board needs to be prepared.

Markus Wesaw

Soon to be seventh grader. On days where it was 90 degrees, students were not getting extra breaks and are required to masks; more options for lunches.

Melissa Wesaw

Make masks optional; end mask mandate; do not make CRT a part of curriculum; pushing political beliefs onto our children. Wants the entire board to resign; management proven to be awful; knew a lot more than they care to admit and cost the district a lot of money

XII. Old Business

There was no Old Business

XIII. New Business

A. Bid Awards

1. Starlift Equipment

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Michael Devine to accept/approve Starlift Equipment; Clark Forklift in the amount of \$26,311 as presented; all in favor;

none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

2. Asbestos Abatement

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by David Butkus to accept/approve the asbestos abatement at Mitchell Elementary School by A. Vets Demo, LLC; Vernon, CT; in the amount of \$56,000 as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

3. Nonnewaug High School Parking Lot Paving

A motion was made by Christopher Matta and seconded by Michael Devine to accept/approve the Nonnewaug High School parking lot pavement bid from S & S Asphalt, Inc. Paving in the amount of \$35,999 as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

4. Shakers Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram

A motion was made by Jonathan Kapstein and seconded by Christopher Matta to accept/approve the bid award from Shakers Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram for a 2022 2500 Big Horn Reg Cab 4 x 4 in the amount of \$26,660 as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Christopher Matta that the Region 14 Board of Education enter into Executive Session for the discussion and possible action on ratification of proposed collective bargaining agreement between the Regional School District No. 14 Board of Education and the Nonnewaug Secretarial Association for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024 and discussion and possible action on ratification of collective bargaining agreement between the Regional School District No. 14 Board of Education and the Local 1303-247 of Council #4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO; Nonnewaug School Nurses for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2025; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

The board invited Wayne McAllister, Acting Superintendent, and Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations, into Executive Session at 8:55 p.m.

Public Session

The board returned to public session at 9:27 p.m.

Motions

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Michael Devine that the Region 14 Board of Education ratify the proposed collective bargaining agreement between the Regional School District No. 14 Board of Education and the Nonnewaug Secretarial Association for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024; all in favor; none opposed;

motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by David Butkus and seconded by Christopher Matta that the Region 14 Board of Education authorize the Board Chair to sign said agreement, subject to any further legal review; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Christopher Matta that the Region 14 Board of Education ratify the proposed Collective bargaining agreement between the Regional School District No. 14 Board of Education and Local 1303-247 of Council #4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO; Nonnewaug School Nurses for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2025; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Christopher Matta and seconded by David Butkus that the Region 14 Board of Education authorize the Board Chair to sign said agreement, subject to any further legal review; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

XIV. Other Business

There was no Other Business

XV. Adjournment

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Christopher Matta to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 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