

Region 14 Schools

Serving the Towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury

Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education

Monday, November 1, 2021; 7:00 p.m.

Flanders Room

Mitchell Elementary School

Live Stream Available:

<https://vimeo.com/event/353466>

Present:

George Bauer, Board Chairman
Michael Devine
David Butkus
Jonathan Kapstein
Tikva Rose
Carol Ann Brown
Chris Matta

Absent:

Jim Crocker

Also Present:

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

School Administration/Staff Presenting

Kelly Pinho, Principal, Mitchell Elementary School

Patricia Paige, Board Recording Clerk

I. Call to Order

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

III. Introductions

Board members and central office staff introduced themselves

IV. Approval of the Minutes

A. Regular Meeting, Monday, October 18, 2021

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

V. Acting Superintendent's Report

A. Mitchell Elementary School

Principal Kelly Pinho began her commentary noting that the Mitchell Elementary school community is taking initiative and delving deeper in portraying the traits of Vision of a Learner. The staff and students are accepting ownership of their learning by inquiring, setting goals, taking action, and consistently reflecting.

A number of students from the fifth grade class presented this evening. Campaign speeches were read from those who competed for student council representatives earlier in the day, under the guidance of Class Advisor, Ms. Christine Koukopoulos. Others rallied for a fifth grade holiday production of *A Charlie Brown Christmas* as a commemorative event in recognition of their final year at the school.

B. Personnel Report

Mr. McAllister read into the record the names of both certified and non-certified staff who retired, resigned, or were newly employed during the month of October.

C. Covid 19 Update

For the months of September/October, there were 52 students testing positive and 196 in quarantine with Bethlehem Elementary School owning the majoring of those students at 30 and 100 respectively. As of today at 4:00 p.m., there were an additional seven students testing positive, zero staff, and 29 students in quarantine for 36 overall.

In accordance with Executive Order 13G, the testing program for staff continues with 100% compliance in Region 14.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Finance

Ms. Tanquay provided a brief overview of the committee meeting. Agenda items included a monthly Financial Summary for October 2021 and a Food Services and lunch program overview. Of note was the revenue of \$12,674 realized for the lunch program.

B. Policy

The Policy Committee met on Wednesday, October 27th. There were three topics of discussion, Covid 19 Vaccination Policy and Exemptions, Visitor Policy, and Controversial Topics policy. The Covid policy has been brought to the full Board this evening for a first read.

C. Public Relations

Public Relations was scheduled to meet on Monday, October 25th, but due to a lack of a quorum, was deemed a non-meeting. For those members who were present, a review of the Community Conversations to do list from 3 & 4 years ago was reviewed. Ms. Brown went on to highlight some of the recent events in the district.

D. Safe Schools

Mr. Devine gave a summation of the Safe Schools Committee, which was held on Thursday, October 28th at the Bethlehem Firehouse. Law Enforcement updates and Risk Assessment discussions were led by Officer Rich Marsh. Ms. Joy Geraci, a member of the JRB (Juvenile Review Board) and Ms. Maryanne Van Aken, a member of ASAP (Advocates for Substance Abuse Prevention) were invited and spoke to their organizations. Also slated for discussion was the School Safety Plan, School Climate, and Background Checks.

E. Ad Hoc Curriculum

The Ad Hoc Curriculum Committee, led by Mr. Kapstein, held their second meeting last week, a tour of the high school. They were also able to observe an AP class in operation and take an abbreviated tour of the building. Plans are to visit each of the schools for information gathering purposes. There will be a briefing session of the teachers who attended a course on how to conduct the new optional course, African American and Latino studies.

VII. Board Chair's Comments

The district and the board are putting together a Request for Proposal as a first step in the search for a new superintendent.

VIII. Privilege of the Floor

Kathy Velkey

Commented on CRT

IX. Old Business

None

X. New Business

A. Region 14 2022/2023 School District Calendar (First Read, No Action Anticipated)

A draft Region 14 School district calendar for the 2022/2023 school year was provided to Board members for a first review. Discussion ensued on exploring the possible option of aligning the calendar with surrounding districts, including major Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and eliminating or swapping out Columbus Day and Veterans' Day. Some members indicated that students would be better served and have a more meaningful experience with in-school Veterans' Day activities. As part of further discussions, administration has been asked to investigate whether or not the district is obligated to close schools in observance of a new federal holiday, Juneteenth.

B. Board of Education Meeting Dates for 2022 (First Read, No Action Anticipated)

A draft 2022 calendar for Board of Education regular meeting dates with a rationale for date adjustments was offered to Board members for consideration. Regular meetings are typically held on the first and third Monday of each month, except the summer, but

there were several date adjustments due to a number of holidays falling on Mondays and town meeting conflicts.

C. COVID-19 Staff Vaccination Policy (First Read)

The Covid 19 policy proposed to the Board for approval was brought forward from the Policy Committee and addressed Covid 19 Staff Vaccinations as it related to the Executive Order 13G. This is a first review and is slated for a second read and vote to accept and approve at the BoE November meeting scheduled for the 16th.

D. Teachers' Collective Bargaining Agreement

Discussion and possible action on ratification of proposed collective bargaining agreement between the Region 14 Board of Education and the Nonnewaug Education Association covering the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025 (Executive Session Anticipated)

Move that the Board of Education ratify the proposed collective bargaining agreement between the Region 14 Board of Education and the Nonnewaug Education Association covering the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025

Move that the Board of Education authorize the Chairman to sign said agreement, subject to any further legal review.

Jonathan Kapstein made a motion that the Board of Education enter into executive session for the discussion and possible action on ratification of proposed collective bargaining agreement between the Region 14 Board of Education and the Nonnewaug Education Association covering the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025; seconded by Michael Devine; all were in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously. The Board entered into Executive Session at 8:05 p.m. and invited in Wayne McAllister and Tina Tanguay.

Public Session

The Board returned to Public Session at 9:08 p.m.

Motion

Michael Devine moved that the Board of Education ratify the proposed collective bargaining agreement between the Region 14 Board of Education and the Nonnewaug Education Association covering the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025; seconded by David Butkus; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Motion

Michael Devine moved that the Board of Education authorize the Chairman to sign said agreement, subject to any further legal review; seconded by Jonathan Kapstein; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

XI. Other Business

There was no other business

XII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Jonathan Kapstein and seconded by Chris Matta to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 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 style with a large initial "P".

Patricia Paige
Board Clerk

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