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**Region 14 Schools**

Serving the Towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury

**Minutes**

**Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education**

**Monday, April 4, 2022; 7:00 p.m.**

**Flanders Room/Mitchell Elementary School**

**14 School St, Woodbury, CT 06798**

**Present:**

George Bauer, Board Chairman

Jim Crocker

Carol Ann Brown

Michael Devine

Jonathan Kapstein

Chris Matta

David Butkus

Tikva Rose

**Absent:**

N/A

**Also Present:**

Wayne McAllister, Acting Superintendent

Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations

Patricia Paige, Board Recording Clerk

**I. Call to Order**

George Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m.; the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**II. Introductions**

Members of the Board introduced themselves

**III. Approval of the Minutes**

**A. Regular Meeting, Monday, March 7, 2022**

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

**IV. Acting Superintendent's Report**

**A. Nonnewaug High School Update**

Principal Pam Sordi welcomed three Nonnewaug students, who would be presenting this evening, Camden Buska, Brianna Butkevich, and Cristo Jamo. The students took turns highlighting numerous events at the high school. Their report included a slide presentation covering NHS Chief Advocate news, several student awards, a segment on Visual Arts, Performing Arts, and events such as Spirit Week, Anything But a Backpack Day, LLS Students of the Year, Athletics, FFA occurrences, Black History Month, Math Day, Media Arts, and Community Service happenings.

Of note was an ASAP sponsored program, "The First Day", an inspirational story whereby Chris Herren, a former professional basketball player, through his own struggles, addressed issues of substance use, mental wellness and self-harm.

Ms. Sordi spoke to the adult work that is being done to develop faculty learning throughout the year. This included rigorous curriculum, learning the outcomes defined daily with clarity; Vision of a Learner, a focus on effective and engaging instructional strategies; Safe and Supportive Environment and Positive School Climate.

**B. Donation by Mr. Russell Lockhart**

Mr. McAllister publicly acknowledged and thanked Mr. Russell Lockhart for his donation of two basketball nets to the Bethlehem Elementary School playground.

**C. Last Day of School**

Mr. McAllister led the conversation. The Board approved the 21/22 school calendar on December 7, 2020. The calendar, based on 182 student days, closed the year on June 17, 2022. There were six school closures during the course of the 21/22 year, subsequently pushing forward the last day to Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. McAllister asked that the Board consider revising the calendar to a 180-day calendar as opposed to 182 days, which would end the school year on Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The consideration would not impact graduation scheduled on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

Discussions were had addressing contractual obligations, teacher duties, loss of instructional time for students on those two days and the impact on senior obligations of an extended year, i.e. military commitments.

Mr. Bauer was in favor to change the last day of school to Thursday, June 23, 2022. A rollcall vote noted all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

**D. Personnel Report**

Mr. McAllister read the personnel report for March 2022. The report was comprised of several new hires and resignations.

**E. Covid 19 Update**

On February 28, 2022 masks were deemed optional in the school district. The positivity daily rate on that date was 2.58%. Today's report from the Governor's office indicated a 4.26% positivity rate. The Covid Dashboard for Region 14 notes zeros across the board.

**V. Committee Reports**

**A. Finance**

Ms. Tanguay recapped the Finance Committee meeting with an overview of the monthly financials through March. At this point in time, the district is financially sound and reasonably on target.

A Food Services update for the same period was also shared. Net revenue over expenses total \$41,786 month-to-date and \$63,042 year-to-date.

B. Policy

Ms. Rose summarized the Policy Committee, which met earlier to discuss the Title IX Personnel and Student policies; the Controversial Issues policy was tabled due to time constraints.

VI. **Board Chair's Comments**

The Curriculum Committee, under the leadership of Mr. Kapstein, developed a Curriculum Committee charge. Mr. Bauer read the charge, which will be incorporated into policy.

Mr. Bauer provided a brief update on the status of the Superintendent search. The district's webpage has a dedicated link for search information, which includes a survey and focus group meetings. The survey has been extended to Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the survey and focus groups is to collect feedback and identify desirable leadership characteristics for our next superintendent.

Several Board members' terms will be concluding this year. Per Board Policy 9100, a district meeting to nominate members to fill those positions will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2022. The election will take place on Thursday, June 2, 2022.

VII. **Privilege of the Floor**

There were no public comments

VIII. **Old Business**

There was no Old Business

IX. **New Business**

**A. Discussion/Possible Action on Budget for 2022/2023**

<p><b>Jim Crocker moved</b> that the Region 14 Board of Education approve and adopt the Superintendent's proposed budget for the fiscal year 2022/2023 in the amount of \$38,640,279 as presented to the Board; seconded by Chris Matta;</p>
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**Further Discussion**

Mr. Matta made an inquiry regarding curriculum that was built into the budget, specifically Sports and Society and Guitar classes, which are among the new course offerings at the high school next year and included in the program of studies. Mr. Matta, speaking to the Sports and Society course, is not opposed to the class, but finds it problematic for him to approve the budget with the curriculum included before he has, as a member of the Board, or the Board in its entirety, the opportunity to review it. He indicated that the classes should be properly vetted.

Though many members agreed with him, in theory, the money is not correlated with exact curriculum or an event. They are merely funds that the administration needs to operate the school district and those monies assigned for curriculum can be apportioned at the Superintendent's discretion.

Seven Board members "aye"; Chris Matta a "nay"; motion carried (7)(1).

#### **B. Calling of the Referendum**

**Jim Crocker moved** that the Board of Education schedule and warn the Annual District Meeting for Monday, May 2, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Flanders Room at Mitchell Elementary School, 14 School Street, Woodbury, CT concerning the 2022/2023 budget, with said meeting to be adjourned to a referendum on Tuesday, May 3, 2022 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury, CT; seconded by Tikva Rose; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

#### **C. Approval of Explanatory Text**

**Tikva Rose moved** that the Secretary of the Board of Education is authorized, in such official's discretion, to prepare and cause to be printed and distributed explanatory text regarding the 2022/2023 budget referendum scheduled for May 3, 2022, with such explanatory text subject to the review and approval of the District's legal counsel and to be prepared and distributed in accordance with Section 9-369b of the Connecticut General Statutes; seconded by David Butkus; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

#### **X. Other Business**

There was no Other Business

#### **XI. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Tikva Rose to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 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*

