

  
**Region 14 Schools**

Serving the Towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury

**Minutes**

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

**Monday, June 6, 2022; 7:00 p.m.**

**Flanders Room/Mitchell Elementary School**

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

**Present:**

George Bauer, Chairman

Jim Crocker

Carol Ann Brown

Christopher Matta

Michael Devine

Jonathan Kapstein

Tikva Rose (arrived 8:03 p.m.)

**Absent:**

David Butkus

**Also Present:**

Wayne McAllister, Acting Superintendent

Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations

Patricia Paige, Board Recording Clerk

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Julia Thole, a kindergartener at Mitchell Elementary School, sang *God Bless America* as part of the MES school presentations this evening.

**II. Introductions**

Members of the Board and Central Office introduced themselves

**III. Approval of the Minutes**

**A. Public Hearing, Tuesday, March 29, 2022**

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

**B. Regular Meeting, Monday, April 4, 2022**

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

**C. District Meeting on Budget, Monday, May 2, 2022**

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

**D. District Meeting, BoE Nominations, Thursday, May 12, 2022**

A motion was made by Michael Devine and seconded by Chris Matta to accept/approve the minutes as presented; all in favor; none opposed; George Bauer abstained; motion carried.

**E. Special Meeting, Expulsion Hearing, Tuesday, May 17, 2022**

A motion was made by Carol Ann Brown and seconded by Jonathan Kapstein to accept/approved the minutes as presented; all in favor; none opposed; Jim Crocker, George Bauer, and Chris Matta abstained; motion carried.

**IV. Acting Superintendent's Report**

**A. Bethlehem Elementary School/Mitchell Elementary School/Woodbury Middle School Updates**

The administrators' reports were comprised of musical performances by students from each of the schools. The performances were made possible by faculty members Adam Snyder and Joel Pietrorazio and consisted of string, piano and choral.

A video presentation showcasing activities at Bethlehem Elementary School was also provided as well as commentaries by Principals Kelly Pinho and Bill Nemeec.

**B. Volunteer Recognition**

Two community members/parents were recognized for their dedication and commitment to Nonnewaug High School.

Christine Paige was recognized for her many years of service to Gradnite, a community sponsored event held each year for Nonnewaug High School graduates. She has spent countless hours organizing events, fundraisers, and monthly meetings. She was also awarded the CASE Distinguished Friend of Education Award for 2022.

Paul Zulpa was acknowledged for his workmanship in constructing backdrops to display the many awards and plaques in celebration of athletics. His work can be seen in the hallways at Nonnewaug High School.

**C. Personnel Report**

Mr. McAllister read the personnel report, which consist of retirements, resignations, and new hires. Of note, Ms. Taryn Fernandez, Assistant Principal at NHS, will replace Ms. Wendy Nelson Kauffman upon her retirement at the end of the school year.

**D. Covid Report**

The Governor announced the state's Covid positivity test rate stands at 11.16% as of this afternoon. District-wide there are seven students absent with Covid and three staff members for a total of ten.

## V. Committee Reports

### A. Finance

Ms. Tanguay recapped the Finance Committee meeting particulars; the district remains on target with both revenues and expenses.

Mr. Crocker made a motion to add an item to the agenda, New Business, Item C, a discussion and presentation on a LED lighting proposal for the Ellis Agri-Science Building; seconded by Michael Devine; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

### B. Community Relations

Mr. Kapstein commented that the Board needed to make more of an effort to be at school related events.

### C. Policy (Tikva Rose arrived at 8:03 p.m.)

Board members were asked to review the following policies as a first read. A brief narration of each was provided.

1. Policy 6144 Controversial Issues
2. Policy 6147 Advanced Course Participation
3. Policy 9300 Bylaws of the Board
4. Policy 4110, Sexual, Racial, and Other Unlawful Harassment (Personnel)
5. Policy 4110A, Administrative Regulations, Procedure for Employee Complaints of Sexual, Racial, and Other Unlawful Harassment (Personnel)
6. Policy 5145.5 Sexual, Racial, and Other Unlawful Harassment (Students)
7. Policy R5145.5A Procedures for Complaints of Sexual, Racial and Other Unlawful Harassment (Students)

#### **Second Read Policies**

1. Policy 4118.111 current Policy Grievance Procedure – Title IX renamed and revised to Title IX Sexual Harassment (Personnel), Second Read
2. Policy 5145.52 Title IX Sexual Harassment (Students), Second Read

**A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Jonathan Kapstein to accept/approve the policies as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried.**

## VI. Board Chair's Comments

Mr. Bauer's comments included a reminder that the annual Art Show will be held Wednesday through Friday of this week. He congratulated the newly elected Board members and thanked them for their service.

He also provided an update on the status of the Superintendent search which included an explanation of the process and a review of the feedback from the survey and focus groups. An announcement is anticipated shortly.

**VII. Privilege of the Floor**

N/A

**VIII. Old Business**

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

The final phase of the course implementation will highlight students' work and held via zoom. Thirty-five schools will be participating. Ms. Nelson Kauffman will share the zoom link with members of the Board so that they can register if interested.

**IX. New Business**

A. Textbooks

1. Campbell Biology: *Concepts & Connections*

Chris York, Science Department Chair along with department members reviewed three books in an attempt to replace the honors biology textbook currently in use. The proposed book has access to interactive internet resources and is aligned to Next Generation Science Standards. It is also at the appropriate reading level for the freshmen honors population and the least expensive of the three choices under consideration.

**A motion was by Jim Crocker and seconded by Michael Devine to accept/approve the textbook as presented; all in favor; none opposed; George Bauer abstained; motion carried.**

2. McKay's: *A History of Western Society Thirteenth Edition*

Marisa Christoff and Rebecca Trzaski presented

Ms. Trzaski noted that there was shift in students with more sophomores interested in the course; however, the students were finding that the textbook was too challenging. She explained that the students are frustrated, not reading, and subsequently, was losing their interest. The textbook under consideration is more user friendly and aligned with the newly revised AP Course.

A meeting of the Curriculum Committee will be called to review the book prior to a vote of the full Board. The books will need to be ordered as soon as possible to address enrollment; tabled until the next Board meeting scheduled for June 20, 2022.

B. Curriculum

1. Guitar Class

Dr. Jason Bouchard will be instructing the class, a half-credit, one semester course elective that fulfills the graduation requirement. The textbook will allow the students to learn at any level and begins by teaching them how to play chords and read music. Students can use their own equipment or a school issued instrument.

This is a first read and will be brought back to the Board for a full vote. Tabled for Curriculum Committee approval.

2. Sports and Society  
Marisa Christoff and Kyle Brennan

A course description, which included guiding questions and possible assessments, was shared with the Board. The curriculum will be created once it receives Board approval. Mr. Brennan, whose background includes sports media, designed the course as a debate-driven class with interdisciplinary connections.

This is a first read and will be brought back to the Board for a full vote. Tabled for Curriculum Committee approval.

C. LED Lighting Proposal (added item)  
Jim Crocker made a motion; seconded by Michael Devine; that Region 14 accept and fund the BrightCore LED lighting for the Agriscience building and the standard solution of the proposal as presented and discussed in the Finance Committee meeting and authorize Ms. Tina Tanguay to enter into contract to execute that program;

Discussion

The proposal is to upgrade the lighting in the Agriscience building in concert with the lighting across the district. This is a cost-savings undertaking.

All in favor; none opposed; Tikva Rose abstained; motion carried.

X. Other Business

There was no Other Business

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Tikva Rose and seconded by Jim Crocker to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 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*