

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education**  
**Tuesday, November 22, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Mitchell Elementary School**  
**Flanders Room**

**Present:**

James Crocker, Chairman  
Christopher Matta (via phone)  
Christopher Griffin  
Michael Devine  
Jonathan Kapstein  
Carol Ann Brown (\*arrived 7:02 p.m.)  
David Butkus (\*\*arrived 7:23 p.m.)

**Absent:**

Tikva Rose

**Also Present:**

Brian Murphy, Superintendent  
Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations  
Patricia Paige, Recording Clerk

**Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Introductions**

Mr. Crocker called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.; the Pledge of Allegiance was recited and members of the Board and Administration introduced themselves.

**Approval of the Minutes**

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

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

\*Carol Ann Brown arrived

**Superintendent's Report**

A. Agriscience National Convention Annual Report  
National Convention attendees were introduced by Chapter President Anna Shupenis. Due to Covid, the program was suspended in 2019 and resumed in 2022. Students shared their winnings, both in individual and team competitions, and thanked the board for their continued support of the program.

Of note, the Woodbury FFA was named a 3-star National Chapter Award recipient, one of three selected nationwide out of an applicant pool for 9,000. Additionally, the FFA was recognized for the first time as a Premier Chapter in the area of Growing Leaders.

## **Committee Reports**

### A. Curriculum Committee

Mr. Kapstein gave a summary of Curriculum Committee meeting, which met on November 10<sup>th</sup>. On a recommendation brought forward from the committee, he asked that the following course and curricula be approved.

#### 1. Future Agricultural Educators

Horticultural teacher Thomas DiMarco, presented a proposal for Future Agricultural Educators, a half-year elective course designed to prepare students for a career as an Agriscience teacher. The course will be made available to juniors and seniors.

#### **Motion**

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Michael Devine to accept/approve the Future Agricultural Educators course as presented, all in favor, none opposed, David Butkus abstained, motion carried.

#### 2. English 9

English 9 is designed to be the foundation for all English courses in subsequent years and was fine-tuned to make it more engaging for students. The course's six units are developed around the use of language.

#### **Motion**

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Carol Ann Brown to accept/approve the English 9 curriculum as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

#### 3. English 12

Minor revisions were made to the English 12 curriculum, which included a shift in several of the course units and the addition of a new unit, Culture and Craft.

#### **Motion**

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Carol Ann Brown to accept/approve the English 12 curriculum as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

### B. Policy Committee

#### 1. Policy #9300 Committees (Second Read)

##### **Motion**

A motion was made by David Butkus and seconded by Chris Griffin to accept/approve Policy 9300 with revisions as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

#### 2. Policy #9750 Conduct of Meetings (Second Read)

##### **Motion**

A motion was by David Butkus and seconded by Jonathan Kapstein to

accept/approve Policy 9750 with revisions as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

C. **Publicity Committee**

Carol Ann reported on a number of recent events including a music department concert - Jamie O'Dells chorus was outstanding; the football team is undefeated and she and Jonathan Kapstein had the honor of attending a Mastery based learning experience.

**Board Chair Comments**

Mr. Crocker reiterated the four focus areas; Safety, Academic Performance, Budget, and Communication and Environment. He thanked the Board for their continued contribution of time and expertise and the staff of Region 14 for their excellence and dedication. Projects underway include the CAFE Policy Review and the Nonnewaug High School Building Project Finalization.

It was also noted that there is a revenue surplus of \$75,000 that will be returned to the towns at the appropriate apportionment.

**Privilege of the Floor**

Paul Zulpa

Mr. Zulpa stood before the Board as a representative of the Woodbury Board of Finance. He publicly thanked the administration, staff, and students for their support in the annual report. He especially recognized the NHS art program for their contributions and thanked Leeza Desjardins for her direction. A number of student artwork was featured in the report.

**Old Business**

There was none

**New Business**

A. 2023 Board of Education Regular Meeting Dates (second read)

**Motion**

A motion was made by Michael Devine and seconded by David Butkus to accept/approve the meeting dates as presented

**Further Discussion**

Mr. Devine wanted to ensure that budget workshops would be scheduled and the budget is presented and approved by the board prior to going to the Boards of Selectmen.

All in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

B. Horse Barn Project

Mr. Crocker provided a brief history of the project since its inception in 2015 and that the purpose of the agenda item is to commit to an additional \$67,880.

### Motion

Mr. Crocker moved that the Region 14 Board of Education authorize the Director of Finance and Operations commit an additional \$67,880 (new total committed funds equal \$387,880) from the Region 14 Capital Reserve Projects Fund as its share of the State of Connecticut Vo Ag Building Grant #214-0094 VA/EA; seconded by Carol Ann Brown

### Further Discussion

When the Board of Education approved the initial Horse Barn project, it was noted in the minutes from 2015, that a committee for the project was to be created, but it was never carried out. It was assumed that the Building Committee absorbed the project.

The initial projected cost for the project was \$662,000 and currently stands at \$1.9 million, seven years later. Mr. Butkus noted that this is the first time some Board members are hearing about the project and there is a need to look at all the factors and/or establishing the committee that should have been formed in 2015. He asked who would be the overseer of the project.

Carol Ann Brown indicated that previous boards, superintendent, business manager and advisory committee of the FFA were always involved and brought up-to-date.

The state is instructing the district to approve the project or it will not happen as it has been in process since 2015 and was approved by the Board at that time to move forward. The funding increase was approved in 2020 with \$320,000 currently held in capital reserve. Money has already been spent to the tune of \$114,047.50.

Board member, Michael Devine, expressed his concerns noting that the description of the project had changed and questioned what was actually being built. He also inquired if there is a formal estimate to validate the \$1.9 million dollar price tag, how much money is in capital reserve and how much is allocated for the project.

He stated that there is a need for a formal committee to oversee the project. The Board must move forward in a logical manner by establishing a committee, ensuring specifications are adhered to and that the community understands the expectation and usage of the facility, everyone must be on the same page.

Mr. Devine is of the understanding that the proposal to the state is the original submission, there is no additional plan for parking and the project will absorb all available developable space on the property.

*Chris Griffin, Carol Ann Brown, Chris Matta, Jim Crocker, and Jonathan Kapstein were yea, Michael Devine abstained, Dave Butkus nay, motion carried.*

Jim Crocker will appoint a committee in keeping with the original motion from 2015.

He asked members to notify him if they wish to participate on the committee.

**Other Business**

There was none

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education, Jonathan Kapstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m., seconded by Chris Griffin, 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" and a long, sweeping underline.

*Patricia Paige*  
*Board Clerk*

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