

  
**Region 14 Schools**

Serving the Towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury

**Minutes**

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

**Monday, December 5, 2022, 7:00 p.m.**

**Mitchell Elementary School**

**Flanders Room**

**\*Board Approved January 3, 2023 with noted amendment**

**Present:**

James Crocker, Chairman

Christopher Matta

Jonathan Kapstein

Carol Ann Brown

David Butkus

Tikva Rose

**Absent:**

Christopher Griffin

Michael Devine

**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, Tuesday, November 22, 2022*

A motion was made by David Butkus and seconded by Chris Matta to accept/approve the minutes as presented; no further discussion, all in favor, none opposed, Tikva Rose abstained, motion carried.

**Superintendent's Report**

A. National Merit Commended Students

Superintendent Murphy was pleased to inform the Board that three Nonnewaug High School students were named commended students in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program, Gabriela Fernandes, Daniel Foster, and Jack Rubacha. The students were chosen for their exceptional academic prowess.

B. Mitchell Elementary School Presentation

A primary focus at Mitchell Elementary School this year is supporting the whole student both in and outside of the classroom. Data teams, small group instruction and a 30-minute intervention block are mechanisms utilized by the teaching staff to meet the needs of all students.

Inside the classroom, students are encouraged to set goals and devise strategies on how

they will succeed with them. Outside of the classroom, students are offered a multitude of activities to express themselves such as Jazz Band, Chess Club, chorus and many other opportunities.

C. Eagle Scout POW/MIA project

Eagle Scout, Andrew Grivner, who orchestrated the POW/MIA project at the high school, indicated that the project came in under budget and that a balance of \$251.44 remains. Discussions were had on a proper use of the funds.

**Motion**

A motion was made by Carol Ann Brown and seconded by David Butkus to apply the residual monies to the maintenance of the project, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

**Committee Reports**

A. Finance Committee

The Finance meeting scheduled for December 5, 2022 was canceled due to a lack of a quorum.

Ms. Tanquay, the Director of Finance and Operations, recapped the monthly financials. Through November 30<sup>th</sup> anticipated revenues collected total \$17,168,018 or 44.43%. Expenditures to date total \$16,362,644 or 42.35%.

Monthly revenue for the school lunch program totals \$41,919; year-to-date revenue totals \$21,797. The Smart Funds Program will conclude at the end of December. Students will begin paying for meals when they return on January 3, 2023. Reminder messages noting such will be sent to parents.

Chris Matta reported that an ad hoc Horse Barn Committee was established. Participating board members include Chris Matta, who will chair the committee, Chris Griffin, Carol Ann Brown, and Jim Crocker. Region 14 members include Brian Murphy, Tina Tanguay, Pam Sordi, Mike Molzon and \*Ed Belinsky. The first meeting is anticipated for early January with a report back to the Board thereafter.

**Board Chair Comments**

Chairman Crocker once again thanked the Board members for their participation. The board's four main focuses are Safety, Academic Performance, Budget, and Communication. Currently there are three projects in the works, high school building finalization project, CAFE policy review and the horse barn.

The next meeting of the Board scheduled for Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> has been canceled, Policy committee will also not meet.

**Motion**

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by David Butkus to cancel the regular

meeting of the Board of Education scheduled for Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

**Privilege of the Floor**

There was none

**Old Business**

There was none

**New Business**

- A. 2023/2024 School District Calendar (First Read, No Action Anticipated)  
The calendar was provided as a first read and will be brought back to the Board at the January 3<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting.

**Further Discussion (Election Day – Tuesday, November 7, 2023)**

At a previous meeting, a request was made from the Woodbury Registrars of Voters to utilize the cafeterias at Woodbury Middle School and Mitchell Elementary School for election polling locations. To accommodate the request, it was the decision of the Board that Region 14 Schools would close and a Professional Learning day would be scheduled. Since the referendum failed at the town level to split Woodbury into two voting districts, their request to use the school cafeterias was null and void. Mr. Butkus wanted to assure administration that Professional Learning is no longer tied to the November election day if another day is more appropriate.

**Other Business**

Carol Ann Brown reported that Nonnewaug High School senior, Sarah Cipriani, signed a national letter of intent to play softball at St. Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire. She paid homage to the young chefs at Woodbury Middle School and to their instructor, faculty member Mike Hadoulis. She reported that the Senior Lunch, a grab and go, was a huge success and thanked all those who contributed their time and effort including the band, chorus, and Mr. Dominello. She also thanked those who participated in the many events occurring over the weekend both in Woodbury and Bethlehem.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education, David Butkus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m., seconded by Chris Matta, 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*