

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Tuesday, January 17, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Mitchell Elementary School
Flanders Room

Present:

James Crocker, Chairman
Christopher Matta
Jonathan Kapstein
Christopher Griffin
Michael Devine
David Butkus (*arrived 7:18 p.m.)

Absent:

Tikva Rose
Carol Ann Brown

Also Present:

Brian Murphy, Superintendent
Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations
Max Wolff, BoE Student Representative
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, January 3, 2023*

A motion was made by Jim Crocker to accept/approve the minutes as presented, Michael Devine abstained, motion carried.

Superintendent's Report

A. Student Representative Report

Superintendent Murphy introduced and welcomed Max Wolff as the newly appointed Student Representative to the Board of Education for the 2022/2023 school year. Max, a senior at Nonnewaug High School, is also President of the National Honor Society. His reports to the board will alternate between events at the high school/middle school and the two elementary schools.

Max's report for January 17th featured a number of undertakings at the middle and high schools including the winter clothing and toy drives, elective fair for students in grade 8, Challenge by Alliance, athletic accomplishments, Ben's Bells and mid-term exams - Cocoa and Cram to name a few.

- B. EdAdvance Social Worker Grant Update
Region 14 is participating with Regional Litchfield County School Districts in a grant collaboration with EdAdvance, the district's RESC (Regional Education Service Center). Region 14 will be receiving two, full-time social workers over the next five years.
- C. Personnel Report
Mr. Murphy announced the retirement of three veteran educators, Lee Hubbard, Elaine Peck, and Jacquelin Meghani. All three will retire at the conclusion of the 2022/2023 school year.

Committee Reports

- A. Policy Committee - Tabled

Board Chair Comments

Board Chair Jim Crocker thanked the Board members for the massive amount of time and dedication they commit to their elected positions. He noted that Region 14 is a good place to be and to be from, expressing appreciation to the staff, students and communities. He reiterated the Board's four focus areas of safety, academic performance, budget, and communications and environment and the major projects currently in process, which includes the high school building finalization, CABE policy review and the horse barn.

Mr. Crocker also noted that George Bauer will provide an update of the NHS Building project at the regular meeting scheduled for Monday, February 6th.

*David Butkus arrived 7:18 p.m.

Privilege of the Floor

Paul Zulpa, Woodbury

Mr. Zulpa spoke to the monetary value of AP ECE Course offerings at Nonnewaug High School through his own personal experience. His son successfully completed five AP courses during his tenure at Nonnewaug, which afforded him academic freshman, second semester status when he began college. The course exams also prepare students for the rigors of college. Mr. Zulpa encouraged the board to strive for additional AP ECE course offerings.

Old Business

There was none

New Business

- A. Field Trip – Devon Barres - Tabled
DECA International Career Development Conference, Orlando Florida, April 22, 2023 to April 26, 2023

Other Business

A. Community Events - Tabled

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education, Jim Crocker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m., seconded by Chris Matta, 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

Woodbury Middle School 1/17/2023

Introduction-

- Max Wolff, Senior Student at Nonnewaug High School
- President of National Honor Society
- At the beginning of December, I applied for this position and was fortunate enough to be accepted. I am beyond grateful to be with you all tonight.
- Tonight I am excited to share with you all the current events at both Nonnewaug High School and Woodbury Middle School.

High School and Middle School Info Combined

High School Journalism Class and 8th Grade English Partnering Class Partnering Up

- Mentorship Program being facilitated by High School students to engage 8th grade students in community events and reporting skills
- 8th Grade Unit - Journalism - Not a ton of opportunities for highschoolers to interact with middle schools and "teach" - Brennan
- Something to look forward too - Brennan
- 9 8th grade students who were able to publish stories of the Chief Advocate "jr. Chief advocate
- "Beneficial to the 8th graders" Opportunity to show off our chief advocate and share what it's all about - Sam Conti
-

Winter Clothing Drive

- just completed, students leading collected 265 clothing items Ukrainian National Home

Toy Drive

- 12/18-12/23 Collected enough toys to fill the entire police cruiser to the brim

8th Graders will be visiting the high school for the elective fair on Friday 1/20

Challenge by Alliance

- Joy in January: Get people more aware of making a positive impact on their school community. 27 students in alliance this year, a mix of 7th and 8th grade students, those of which must complete an extensive application process which includes a paper application, a video application and a teacher recommendation.
-

Sports teams will be completing a "Warriors for Warmth Sandwich Making" project

- Winter Sports Athletes will be making sandwiches for the St. Vincent De Paul Shelter in Waterbury Connecticut.

1/20 Power Hour

- Teachers host special topics and events which students sign up for and participate in to complete community building activities, crafts, Corn Hole, sports tournaments etc...

Nonnewaug High School

- 12/07/22 Ben's Bells
 - December 14th marked the 10 year anniversary of the Sandy Hook shooting. Every Newtown school now has a Ben's Bell "be kind" mural in their buildings. The National Honor Society challenged all students to live by the "be kind" motto

for the week of the 14th. Students were asked to commit to performing 1 act of kindness by December 14th to honor the victims of that tragic day. All National Honor Society members also wore green as green and white are the colors of Sandy Hook Elementary.

- \

Inevitably, Midterm Exams which start on Thursday are putting a damper on the extracurriculars and events being hosted at the high school right now. Teachers are primarily focusing on preparing their students, while students are doing the same for themselves. However, the student council utilized the opportunity to bring the community together.

1/17/23 Cocoa and Cram

- Today Nonnewaug student council hosted "Cocoa and Cram" which was an event where students can visit the library and have tutors ready for them to help study for our midterms which start on Thursday, Cookies and hot chocolate were provided for anyone who attended. Vice President of National Honor Society, Jack Rubacha explained the intricacies of the event. "Upperclassmen and a handful of teachers walked about the library assisting students in need of support. When there was a bit of downtime, tutors sat with each other to prepare for their own midterms. The room was busy, but a focus and dedicated mood filled the space. It was great collaboration and an excellent time"

Athletics:

For those of you are are not familiar with the current sports records at the high school,

Boys V Basketball: 4-4

G V Basketball: 7-2

V Swimming: 2-2

Wrestling: 4-0 and won their warrior invitational tournament

1/10/23 Drama Club

- Nonnewaug Drama Club have finished their auditions for their next play: Wizard of Oz.

January 5th until January 19th

- The Nonnewaug FFA is currently hosting a winter coat drive where students bring in their retired winter clothing and drop it off in the main hallway as they enter school in the morning. The drop box currently is overflowing with donations and there are still two days to go.