


Region 14 Schools

Serving the Towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury

Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education

Monday, February 6, 2023, 2023; 7:00 p.m.

Mitchell Elementary School

Flanders Room

Present:

Jim Crocker, Chair
Chris Matta, Vice Chair
Carol Ann Brown
Mike Devine
David Butkus
Tikva Rose
Chris Griffin
Jonathan Kapstein

Absent:

N/A

Also Present:

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

I. Call to Order

Mr. Crocker called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Introductions

IV. Approval of the Minutes

A. Regular Meeting, Tuesday, January 17, 2023

A motion was made by David Butkus and seconded by Chris Matta to accept/approve the minutes as presented, Tikva Rose abstained, motion carried.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Student Representative Report

The student representative report this month encompassed both Bethlehem and Mitchell Elementary Schools and included summaries on Soar, a mentoring program at Mitchell Elementary School as well as the Invention Convention, 100th Day of School Celebration, Flying Ivories, Super Bowl Can Drive and the American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge at Bethlehem Elementary School.

B. Nonnewaug High School Fundraiser Update

Advisor Tricia Brown along with high school juniors Maggie Keane, Sam

Duncan, and Skylar Chung came before Board to present their fundraising campaign as part of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's "Students Visionaries" program. Their team, "CALL" (Chiefs Against Leukemia and Lymphoma) was created to carry on the legacy of Katie Brown, a leukemia survivor. The campaign will take place from February 3rd to March 24th with a Red Out Day scheduled for February 10th in support of the initiative.

- C. Nonnewaug High School NEASC Accreditation Update
Principal Sordi shared a presentation on the NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) accreditation process currently underway at the high school. The accreditation occurs over time and focuses on growth and school improvement. Their standards guide the district's work and helps each school identify priority concentration areas.

The Ten-Year NEASC cycle includes a Self-Reflection report, which began in May of 2022 and will culminate with a Collaborative Conference visit scheduled for Tuesday, April 4th and Wednesday, April 5th. Parents, community members, staff, Board of Education members and students will be invited to participate and provide input. The conference will include a focus on the school's current conditions and a review of the Self-Reflection report.

Ms. Sordi continued her narrative explaining what will occur beyond the Collaborative Conference in preparation for the Decennial Accreditation Visit in 2025.

- D. Unified Sports National Championship
Superintendent Murphy was honored to inform the Board that the Nonnewaug High School Unified Sports team has earned the distinction of National Champion Unified School for 2022. There are 185 high schools in Connecticut with only two percent meeting every requirement. Coaches John Dominello and Conor Gereg were thanked for all of their hard work and congratulations were extended to the students.

VI. Committee Reports

- A. Finance Committee
1. Snow Removal Contract
Chris Matta made a motion to accept/approve the bid proposal for the snow removal contract as presented in the Finance Committee meeting, seconded by Jim Crocker, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

Approved bid pricing was submitted per storm.

VII. Board Chair Comments

- Off to an exceptional start
- Focus is on safety, economic performance, budgetary, and communication
- Initiatives include the high school finalization project and CAFE policy assessment and upgrades

VIII. Privilege of the Floor

None

IX. Old Business

None

X. New Business

A. Field Trip – Devon Barres presented
DECA International Career Development Conference, Orlando Florida, April 22, 2023 to April 26, 2023, all in favor, none opposed.

B. Field Trip – Faculty member Kate Peterson along with students Colin Frechette, Moorea Santulli, Maggie Keane and Samantha Duncan proposed
Montreal and Quebec Canada, Saturday, May 6, 2023 to Monday, May 8, 2023
A motion was made by David Butkus and seconded by Chris Griffin to accept/approve the field trip as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

C. Discussion of (and possible action on) written attorney client privileged communication concerning capital reserve fund issues

Chris Matta made a motion to enter into Executive Session, seconded by Tikva Rose for discussion of (and possible action on) written attorney client privileged communication concerning capital reserve fund issues, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously. The Board invited Brian Murphy, Tina Tanguay and Attorney Sommaruga into Executive Session at 7:53 p.m.

Public Session

The Board returned to Public Session at 9:33 p.m.

Motion

None

D. Discussion on Superintendent’s Evaluation
A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Chris Griffin to table the Superintendent’s evaluation until the next meeting of the Board scheduled for Monday, February 27, 2023; all in favor; none oppose; motion carried

unanimously.

XI. Other Business

- A. Community Events
No report

XII. Adjournment

A motion was made by David Butkus and seconded by Chris Griffin to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 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 style with a large initial "P".

*Patricia Paige
Board Clerk*

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

Region 14 Board of Education 2/06/2023

Introduction-

- Max Wolff, Student Representative at Nonnewaug High School

Mitchell Elementary School

Building a Stronger, more Interconnected Community - Soaring Eagles

- January 19th sparked a new beginning for upperclassmen of Mitchell Elementary School.
- Mitchell third, fourth, and fifth graders created presentations for their younger peers on the proper behaviors expected of them in the classroom, the cafeteria, the hallways, the bus, and on the playground. As many of the students are finally able to enjoy a “normal” school year, they can benefit from the mentorship and knowledge of their older peers.
- The mentors use the acronym “SOAR” to explain the basic rules of the school. Self-control, On task, Act responsible, Respectful.
- “Students made the posters for their second-grade friends but in reality, this exercise reinforces the SOAR behavior for themselves,” said fourth grade teacher - Liesl Skilton.
- As a part of this program, 5th graders implemented this dynamic into their “kindergarten buddy” learning time. Kindergarteners were excited to have their fifth-grade buddies in their class and some even made a special drawing for the occasion.
- For students, the opportunity to learn from someone that has recently been through their process is extremely beneficial, and learning things from peers often sticks with the students better.

Invention Convention

- Invention Convention with an assembly to explain how grades 3-5 could get involved with this activity.
- Students will design and create an invention that would be something that is useful in society.
- They will compete for the top position in the school and then our top winners will go on to compete at the state level.
- Mrs. Strell, The science coach, will be working with them during lunch bunches to create and build their inventions.

100th Day of School Celebrations

- This week Mitchell will celebrate the 100th day of school by having students dress up as 100 year olds.
- There will be two parades so that everyone will get to see our 100 year old students. Classes will dive into other 100 day math activities as well.
- Because this has been a tradition for several years in elementary school, I remember my 100 day project. As a student who was very interested in engines, my 100 day project was 100 washers on a loop of mechanical wire.

Flying Ivories

- Flying Ivories - Dueling Piano Fundraiser for MES PTO
- The MES PTO will be hosting a fundraiser in conjunction with The Flying Ivories. The group features two performers on two pianos delivering an all-request, rock and roll sing-

along while guests dance, hoot, holler and even join them on stage for a show that's part music, part comedy and all fun.

- Participants will pay \$15 to attend and the money will be donated to the MES PTO.

Super Bowl Can Drive

- The student council is holding a canned goods drive during the next few weeks. Students will bring in canned goods and place them in boxes that are labeled with either the Philly or Kansas City to predict the winner of the super bowl.

Bethlehem Elementary School

02/13/23 American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge - February 13th-17th

- The American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge event is coming back to Bethlehem Elementary for the week of February 13-17 during PE Classes!
- The goal of this year's Heart Challenge is to help out Finn, a 2nd grader from Virginia who was born with several heart defects.
- Formally referred to as "Jump Rope for Heart" students participate in several cardiovascular challenges and exercises throughout Physical Education class to get involved and support the cause. Students are also asked to collect donations for the organization.

Common Qualities

- Also being emphasized at Bethlehem Elementary School is the importance of Decision-making, Communication skills and Problem solving.
- Several fourth and fifth grade students got involved in the community and exhibited these ideas on January 11th.
- The leaders joined hundreds of other students and faculty members from schools around the state at the CAS Elementary Leadership Conference at Naugatuck Valley Community College.
- For the students, the goal of the convention was to bring back the knowledge they learned through breakout sessions to peers and spread the ideas throughout their classrooms.