



Serving the Towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Budget Workshop #1
Monday, March 20, 2023; 7:00 p.m.
Mitchell Elementary School
Flanders Room

Present:

James Crocker, Chairman
Christopher Matta
Jonathan Kapstein
Christopher Griffin
Carol Ann Brown
Michael Devine
David Butkus

Absent:

Tikva Rose

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.

Superintendent's Report

A. Student Representative Report – Max Wolff

Max reported on a number of current events occurring at Woodbury Middle School and Nonnewaug High School. For the middle school, he highlighted a new program, “Words Matter at School” or WMS which focuses on kindness and the power of words. Other reported on events included an Alliance Volleyball Tournament, March Madness and a presentation by Officer Rich Marsh on the many apps students have access to and their possible dangers.

At the high school, Stephen Hill, founder of *Speaks Sobriety*, shared his personal story with substance abuse and misuse. Max also reported on Ag Spirit Week, Rock-Your-Socks Day, Unified vs. Unified Alumni basketball game, the upcoming spring concert and play, *Wizard of Oz* and several athletic accomplishments.

Board Chair Comments

Mr. Crocker thanked the Board members for their contribution of time and expertise and the Region 14 staff for a successful school year. He also expressed his enthusiasm for the optimistic academic components depicted in Dr. Fernandez's Region 14 Performance and Growth presentation.

Privilege of the Floor

Kathy Velky
Woodbury, CT

Spoke to educator sexual misconduct and sex education in schools, told the Board to take a moral stance

Old Business

A. Board of Education Budget Workshop #1

Following the Superintendent's proposed budget presentation at their March 13th meeting, Ms. Tanguay asked that the Board members submit to her any questions they had regarding the proposal so that she could prepare and offer a response. Each of the questions, with their respective reply, was shared with the Board. A copy of the proposal and questions will be made available to the public by way of the district's webpage.

Discussions ensued regarding interns, equipment replacement procedure, telephone and internet costs, class sizes, lockers, and the capital reserve account.

New Business

A. Washington D.C.; Horticulture Trip; April 27-29, 2023; Staff Member Eric Birkenberger A motion was made by Jonathan Kapstein and seconded by Chris Matta to accept/approve the field trip as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

B. Discussion on Superintendent's Evaluation (Executive Session)

Motion

A motion was made by David Butkus and seconded by Chris Matta to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's evaluation; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously. The Board invited Brian Murphy into executive session at 8:01 p.m.

Public Session

The Board returned to Public Session at 8:59 p.m.

Motion

There was no motion

Other Business

There was no other business

Adjournment

A motion was made by Jonathan Kapstein and seconded by David Butkus to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 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

Mitchell Elementary School 3/20/2023

Introduction-

- Max Wolff, Student Representative at Nonnewaug High School
- **Woodbury Middle School**
 - Words Matter at School
 - The staff at WMS is currently implementing a Words Matter at School (WMS) program. The counseling and support staff worked with the entire team to begin a hybrid program focusing on kindness and the power of words. With Words Matter at School, the school hopes to address a fast-growing problem in today's school environment.
 - March 22nd - Alliance Volleyball Tournament
 - March Madness - March 31
 - March Madness, although many recognize it as a college basketball tournament throughout the month, is much different for students at Woodbury Middle School. The event is a time for students of all grades to gather and participate in group activities such as a 3 on 3 basketball tournament, a game truck, and photo booths.
 - Secrets of the Apps Presentation 3/31
 - Officer Rich Marsh of the Woodbury PD will offer a presentation on the many apps our students are using on the web. This will take place at Mitchell School in the Flanders Room.
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- **High School**
 - February 15th
 - On Wednesday, February 15th, Stephen Hill, the founder of Speak Sobriety, shared his personal struggle with substance abuse and misuse. Hill is now a best-selling author, recovery coach, father, and fierce criminal defense attorney advocating for treatment over incarceration. The presentation was sponsored by the Woodbury-Bethlehem Advocates for Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP).
 - Week of February 20th, Ag Spirit Week, the days consisted of:
 - Monday: Twin Day
 - Tuesday: No School
 - Wednesday: Wacky Socks, Underclassman Award Ceremony
 - Thursday: USA day, Faculty Breakfast, Ski Trip to Mohawk Mountain, Visited Bridgeport, CT to watch the Bridgeport Islander's Hockey Game
 - There were also several service days held that week, Those being : Flanders Nature Center Museum Cleanup Run by Ms. Leach, Dog Shelter Socialization by Mr. Belinsky, as well as the Ag hosted blood drive by mr. Dimarco and students.
 - The blood drive was a great success with 50 donors, and enough blood to save almost 90 lives.
 - March 21st- Rock your Socks Day
 - Every year on March 21, people all around the world come together to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day by wearing brightly colored,

mismatched socks. Tomorrow, the high school will also be hosting the 1st annual Nonnewaug Unified vs. Unified Alumni basketball game!

- Spring Concert, April 29th
- Wizard of Oz, March 30th, 31st, and April 1st
- Athletics
 - Girl's Basketball: 14-8
 - Boy's Basketball: 10-13
 - Swim and Dive: The Nonnewaug High School Swim and Dive Team took 3rd place at the Berkshire League Championships on March 4.
 - The winter sports have officially come to an end, but with that, brings new beginnings. Spring sports have officially begun and the Boys and Girls Tennis Teams are heading off to their Hilton Head SC trip tomorrow. We wish them safe travels and a great time.
 - Spring Sports
 - Track has reached an all time record for registered competitors which is an outstanding achievement for them. Coach Flaherty believes this comes with great future success in their upcoming season.