

  
**Region 14 Schools**

Serving the Towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury

**Minutes**

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

**Monday, March 13, 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  
Jonathan Kapstein

**Absent:**

Chris Griffin

**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**

The Pledge was recited and a moment of silence was had in memory of Tristan Ocasio, a senior at Nonnewaug High School.

**III. Introductions**

**IV. Approval of the Minutes**

*A. Regular Meeting, Monday, February 6, 2023*

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by David Butkus to accept/approve the minutes as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

**V. Superintendent's Report**

A. Region 14 Performance and Growth Report: Dr. Fernandez

A comprehensive overview of student academic performance in Region 14 was prepared by Dr. Fernandez and presented to the Board. Performance and growth data were represented by the Next Generation Accountability

Index and measured by the i-Ready Assessment, NWEA MAP Growth Assessment, and a District-Developed Tier 2 Vocabulary Assessment for students in grades 10-12.

Of significance, the Region 14 Accountability Index is the highest it has been in seven years at 76.7. Talking points noted Mitchell Elementary School is in the top 9% of schools in Connecticut, Bethlehem Elementary is in the top 19% of schools in Connecticut, Woodbury Middle School's academic achievement improved in all tested areas, Nonnewaug High School is in the top third of all schools in Connecticut and Region 14 is in the top 30% of all school districts in Connecticut. Talking points are based on the data of 201 districts and their schools (including the State of Connecticut average as a district).

B. Personnel Report

New hires for the month were read into the record including Lauren Wingen, a Math Teacher at Nonnewaug High School.

VI. **Committee Reports**

A. Curriculum

The committee met on February 13<sup>th</sup> and previewed Dr. Fernandez's Performance and Growth presentation.

The committee members would like to have a discussion with the full board in the near future on the possibility of expanding world language offerings.

B. Finance

1. Healthy Food Certification

**Motion – Healthy Food Certification**

Chris Matta made a motion, seconded by Jonathan Kapstein to accept/approve, Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the **Regional School District 14 Board of Education** certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately

from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

All in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

**Motion: Combined food and beverage exemptions:**

Chris Matta made a motion, seconded by Jim Crocker, that the *Regional School District 14 Board of Education* will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

All in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

2. Appoint Audit Firm for FYE 2023, 2024, 2025, King, King & Associates, P.C., Holabird Avenue, Winsted, CT 06098

Requests for Proposals yielded one submission, King, King and Associates, the district’s current auditors.

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Jonathan Kapstein to accept/approve King, King and Associates as the district’s auditor for 2023, 2024, and 2025 at a cost of \$34,695, \$37,300 and \$40,100 respectively.

All in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

C. Policy

There were two topics to address on the Policy agenda. The first was an update on the CAFE policy audit and where the district stands and the second, discussions regarding the capital reserve fund and the possible implementation of a policy.

**VII. Board Chair Comments**

- Thanked the Board for their time and efforts
- Focus remains on safety, economic performance, budgetary, and communication
- Initiatives include the high school finalization project, CAFE policy assessment and upgrades and the horse barn.

**VIII. Privilege of the Floor**

None

**IX. Old Business**

None

**X. New Business**

A. Superintendent's 2023/2024 Budget Presentation

Superintendent Murphy offered a first look at his proposed 2023/2024 budget with the Board, which depicts a \$1,508,995 or 3.91% increase over last year. The Board members were asked to review the proposal in advance of next week's budget workshop and send any questions they may have to Ms. Tanguay.

A goal of the Region 14 School District is to prepare a budget that meets the needs of every student and communicates the needs and priorities of Region 14 in a clear and concise manner. Other goals include Academic Performance, Communication and Safety.

The district continues their efforts with Vision of the Learner. Curriculum and Instructional Strategies for 23/24 were outlined as well as a discussion

regarding the budgetary impact of salaries, student services, utilities and fuel and curriculum to name a few.

*\*Tikva Rose adjourned at 8:13 p.m.*

- B. Nonnewaug Building Project Update: George Bauer  
Mr. Bauer was present on behalf of the Nonnewaug High School Renovation Building Committee. He provided a brief history of the project and concise updates of where things are today. A final walk-through with the Woodbury Building Official and Fire Marshal is scheduled for Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- C. Discussion on Superintendent's Evaluation (Executive Session Anticipated) Tabled for next meeting

**XI. Other Business**

- A. Community Events  
No report

**XII. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Jonathan Kapstein to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m.; 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*