



Region 14 Schools

Serving the Towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury

MINUTES

Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Safe Schools Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 19, 2023; 12:00 p.m.
Bethlehem Fire House
26 Main St S, Bethlehem, CT 06751

Present

Michael Devine, Chair
Chris Matta
Carol Ann Brown
Jim Crocker (ex-officio) (arrived 12:29 pm)

Absent

Jonathan Kapstein

Bethlehem Resident Trooper, Cody Fitzgerald
Constable Cono D'Elia
Woodbury Officer Rich Marsh
State Police Sgt. Matt Costella
Fire Marshal Janet Morgan

Also Present

Brain Murphy, Superintendent
Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations
Michael Molzon, Director of Grounds and Maintenance
Patricia Paige, Recording Secretary

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment

Old Business

A. Background Checks

A discussion was had regarding background checks for elected officials, specifically Board of Education members. Mr. Devine consulted with the board's attorney, who indicated that the district can require background checks, however there would need to be a policy in place. Officer Marsh received a response from Homeland Security, who noted that most school districts in Connecticut do not require backgrounds for board members. The consensus of the committee, at this time, was to follow suit.

B. ATT Tower Update

A new site has been established for the tower; core borings have commenced. Next steps include engineering requirements and signal propagation. The site will utilize First Net site, an ATT service that may conflict with the district's Verizon phone systems.

C. Review of October Minutes

Mr. Devine offered a review of the October minutes.

D. Mutual Link Update

Mr. Kapstein recently attended a Mutual Link seminar. Mr. Kapstein was not present; item was tabled until the next meeting of the Safe Schools Committee.

New Business

A. SRO Vehicles:

Executive Session

Mike Devine made a motion to move into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing law enforcement response vehicles for Regional School District #14; seconded by Chris Matta; all in favor; none opposed. The committee invited all noted as present into Executive Session at 12:16 p.m.

Public Session

The committee returned to Public Session at 12:25 p.m.

Motion

There was no motion

Constable Cono D'Elia shared some of the occurrences that SROs address on a daily basis at each of the schools.

B. Grants

A Safety Grant was recently made available to the school district. Ms. Tanguay met with Mike Molzon, Director of Grounds and Maintenance and Phil Pagano, IT Director to evaluate the performance of school cameras and walkie-talkies and whether or not there was a need for new equipment. Ms. Tanguay indicated that the systems were functioning sufficiently and did not necessitate a grant submission.

Minor security fixes are being addressed as they arise. Risk assessments are planned for the fall and will include an evaluation of security equipment.

C. School Safety Plans

Region 14 School Safety Plans were submitted to the state in November.

Region 14 Schools continue to submit their fire drills to Fire Marshal Janet Morgan, who completes an audit to ensure that the schools are in compliance with 11 fire drill requirement. She indicated that the new code reads that a fire drill can be substituted as a crisis drill once every three months.

D. Evacuation Drills

Evacuation specifics were discussed including site capacities and scheduling.

E. Data Collection

Mr. Devine suggested creating an internal reporting system that will demonstrate value with quantitative data, a SRO reporting structure for each of the four schools to evaluate the trends and daily activities. A report prototype will be crafted by Constable Cono D'Elia in conjunction with Superintendent Murphy.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Michael Devine and seconded by Rich Marsh to adjourn the meeting at 1:23 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, flowing style.

Patricia Paige

Board Clerk

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