

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Monday, April 3, 2023; 7:00 p.m.
Mitchell Elementary School
Flanders Room

Present:

James Crocker, Chairman
Christopher Matta, Vice Chairman
Jonathan Kapstein
Tikva Rose
Carol Ann Brown
Michael Devine
David Butkus

Absent:

Chris Griffin

Also Present:

Brian Murphy, Superintendent
Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations
William Nemec, Principal, Woodbury Middle School
Suzi Greene, Assistant Principal, Woodbury Middle School
Max Wolff, BoE Student Representative
Patricia Paige, Recording Clerk

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Introductions

Mr. Crocker called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.; the Pledge of Allegiance was recited and members of the Board and Administration introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes

A. Special Meeting, Monday, March 13, 2023

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

B. Regular Meeting, Monday, March 20, 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.

Superintendent's Report

A. Student Representative's Report – Max Wolff

Max's report covered events from both Bethlehem and Mitchell Elementary Schools and included summaries for the Invention Convention, School House Rock performance, Career Week, Jump Rope for Heart and Read Across America.

- B. Woodbury Middle School Update
Superintendent Murphy commended Principal Nemeč and Vice Principal Greene on the exemplary school climate programs in place at the middle school, highlighting the recent March Madness event.

Principal Nemeč explained the steps taken to address social and emotional needs of students by way of 112 Warrior Way, a behavior intervention and academic support room.

The counseling department developed a hybrid program, Words Matter at School (WMS), to address negative language and its impact on others.

Alliance Group student members Catherine Viveros and Kailey Townsend shared some of their roles in student led initiatives.

- C. Personnel Report
Superintendent Murphy informed the Board that Principal Pam Sordi will be retiring from her position effective June 30, 2023. The hiring process for a new principal has commenced.

Committee Reports

- A. Finance Committee
A proposal for a baseball scoreboard at Nonnewaug High School was brought before the committee for consideration and approval. The proposal will be brought back to the committee once all documents and approvals are acquired. The project will be of no cost to the district.

Board Chair Comments

Mr. Crocker noted that the district is generating outstanding results and that the board remains focused on their four primary missions.

Privilege of the Floor

There was none

Old Business

There was none

New Business

A. Discussion/possible action on Budget for 2023/2024

Jim Crocker made a motion that the Region 14 Board of Education approve and adopt the Superintendent's proposed budget for the fiscal year 2023/2024 in the amount of \$40,149,274 as presented to the Board; seconded by Chris Matta

Further Discussion

That the district will proactively use the funds allotted for interns

Michael Devine was a nay; all others were yea; motion carried.

B. Calling of Referendum

David Butkus made a motion that the Board of Education schedule and warn the Annual District Meeting for Monday, May 1, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Flanders Room at Mitchell Elementary School, 14 School Street, Woodbury, CT concerning the 2023/2024 budget, with said meeting to be adjourned to a referendum on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury, CT; seconded by Chris Matta; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

C. Approval of Explanatory Text

Jim Crocker made a motion that the Secretary of the Board of Education is authorized, in such official's discretion, to prepare and cause to be printed and distributed explanatory text regarding the 2023/2024 budget referendum scheduled for May 2, 2023, with such explanatory text subject to the review and approval of the District's legal counsel and to be prepared and distributed in accordance with Section 9-369b of the Connecticut General Statutes; seconded by Chris Matta;

Further Discussion

That the explanatory text be reviewed by legal counsel

All in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

There was no other business

Adjournment

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by David Butkus to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried.

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" and a long, sweeping underline.

*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

Invention Convention

- Many of you may remember that I mentioned an Invention Convention will be taking place during my last report for Mitchell. The Invention Convention where students devised inventions that are useful tools in today's society. Judges from all over the district judged student's work and our top students will move on to the next round in the state competition. It was a phenomenal success and the students as well as teachers were thrilled with the outcome.

SchoolHouse Rock

- SchoolHouse Rock - 3rd, 4th and 5th graders performed this play the weekend of March 25,26. Students spent Tues and Thurs after school since Oct practicing for the performance.

Career Week

- Career Week kicked off this week with staff wearing their college gear that represented the schools they went to. Tuesday is a touch a truck event for the whole school. Wednesday multiple parents and community members representing a variety of occupations are coming to speak throughout the day to our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. Thursday our 5th graders will be showing off their career projects to our 3rd and 4th graders.

Busy Week

- Last week we had a busy week with parent conferences, book fair and 2 assemblies. One was a Kindness assembly presented by Amy Kraus and the other was a reptile assembly from Riverside Reptiles.

Bethlehem Elementary School

3/20/23 - Career/College Week

- There were 3 main events- career day with speakers (Monday), during which parents and community members visited classes and informed on their careers,
- Careers on wheels event (Wednesday) with multiple vehicles such as ambulance, tree service, town of Bethlehem public works, towing service, and the fire truck to inform on careers that include vehicles on wheels; and Grade 4 and 5 student presentations on colleges and careers. The student presentations were held for all on the last day as the culminating event. The event was very well received and enjoyed immensely by the children!

3/9/2023 - Jump Rope for Heart Success

- March 9, 2023 – The Bethlehem Elementary School community had a tremendous finish on their fundraising effort for the Kids Heart Challenge in February.
- Bethlehem Elementary School had 131 kids participate and raised \$12,484 during the two-week fundraising challenge. This means that nearly half of the school participated in the event with an average donation of \$95 per student.
- The school qualified for \$1,000 in USA Games gift certificates that PE teacher Tim Jackson said will go toward equipment and games for students to use in physical education classes at BES.

3/9/2023 - Read Across America

- Nonnewaug High School students joined Bethlehem students in second grade to read their favorite books aloud throughout the classrooms.
- Region 14 administrators and teachers, Board of Education members, town Selectman, and the members of the local town organizations. Students were also visited by Nonnewaug High School student-athlete readers as well as Agriscience students who brought along some of their furry friends to visit second grade classrooms.
- The Read Across America is a celebration of reading to commemorate the birthday of the world renowned author, Dr. Seuss on March 2. The week is in efforts to celebrate the author and a passion for reading.