

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education**  
**Tuesday, May 16, 2023; 7:00 p.m.**  
**Bethlehem Elementary School**  
**Gymnasium**

**Present:**

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

**Absent:**

David Butkus  
Chris Griffin

**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.

A moment of silence was held in memory of Gabriella Lee Reitmeyer, who passed away on Wednesday, April 19, 2023. Gabriella was a 10<sup>th</sup> grade Agriscience student at Nonnewaug High School.

**Approval of Minutes**

**A. Regular Meeting, Monday, March 27, 2023**

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Tikva Rose to accept/approve the minutes as presented; Tikva Rose abstained; remaining members were aye; motion carried.

**B. Public Hearing, Tuesday, March 28, 2023**

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Jonathan Kapstein to accept/approve the minutes as presented; Tikva Rose abstained; remaining members were aye; motion carried.

**C. Regular Meeting, Monday, April 3, 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.

**D. Annual District Meeting, Monday, May 1, 2023**

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Carol Ann Brown to accept/approve the minutes as presented; Michael Devine and Tikva Rose abstained; remaining members were aye; motion carried.

**Superintendent's Report**

**A. Student Representative Report – Max Wolff**

Max Wolff reported on happenings at the two elementary schools, which included features on Fine Arts, Gardening, Field Trips, End-of-Year Celebrations, Smarter Balance Testing, and Teacher Appreciation Week activities.

**B. Earth Day Poster Contest Winners**

Ms. Christina Strell recognized those students from both Bethlehem Elementary School and Mitchell Elementary School who were winners of the Earth Day Poster contest. Students were commended for their creativity and dedication to the project. Each winner has shown exemplary creativity and knowledge about Earth Day.

Bethlehem Elementary School

Maggie Williams  
Thea Siemon  
Jackie Girgasky  
Makenna Gilbert  
Ellie March  
Emma Golden

Mitchell Elementary School

Cashen South  
Julia Thole  
Brooklyn Lawlor  
Kyra Klykooa  
Levi Chmielewski  
Tyler Howard

**C. Invention Convention Semi-Finalists**

Superintendent Murphy invited Ms. Christina Strell to recognize the Invention Convention winners and participants. At Mitchell Elementary School inventions included The Light Board by Anna Dewey and Olivia Bombero; The Sustainable Saddle, Katie Kulesza and Ava Leblanc; The Easy Cleaner, Marabella Macomber and Peyton Fisher; The Beep-O-Bot, Hazel Brent and Lila Coelho; and The Lego Muncher, Luca Maini.

At Bethlehem Elementary inventions included The BullDog, Louis Gargulio and Francis Cuccia; The Temperature Stickers, Kennedy Amodio, Lyla Johnson, Mae Ambruso; The Never Lost, Camille Sanchez; Painter 2.0, Leighton Parmelee, Lola Kakowski; and the EZ Light, Oliver Nix.

Of these student winners, the state has selected Oliver Nix, Luca Maini, Katie Kulesza and Ava LeBlanc. These students are moving on to the state finals at the University of Connecticut on June 10th. Winners were invited to tell a little bit about their invention.

D. Nonnewaug High School Art Show

Faculty member, Ms. Leeza Desjardins, was before the Board representing the Visual Arts Department at Nonnewaug High School. She brought with her a number of digital images that were displayed. Of note, thirteen Advanced Placement Art students received a high score of five on the 2022 exam; two of the five students were one of 343 from around the world that won every point possible. Ms. Desjardins summarized the many 2022-2023 Student Awards and Accomplishments

The Art show will take place June 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

E. Last Day of School, June 20, 2023

Superintendent Murphy made a recommendation to the Board to change Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, the last day of school, to an early dismissal for all students.

Mr. Crocker made a motion to have an early dismissal on Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Tikva Rose; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

### **Committee Reports**

A. Curriculum Committee

A Curriculum Committee meeting was held on April 26, 2023 with the following recommendations brought to the full Board for consideration:

1. On a recommendation by the Curriculum Committee, Jonathan Kapstein moved to approve the Microeconomics Curriculum; seconded by Chris Matta; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.
2. On a recommendation by the Curriculum Committee, Jonathan Kapstein moved to approve the Macroeconomics Curriculum; seconded by Chris Matta; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.
3. On a recommendation by the Curriculum Committee, Jonathan Kapstein moved to approve the AP US History Textbook, "A People and A Nation" 11<sup>th</sup> Edition; seconded by Michael Devine; Michael Devine abstained; all others were aye; motion carried.

Ms. Brown went on record and stated that the district needs to explore alternatives to the textbook due to its hefty cost and weight, offering paperback and/or electronic versions as options.

B. Finance

1. Capital Reserve Fund Expenditures

Chris Matta moved that the Region 14 Board of Education authorize the use and expenditure from Capital/Non-Recurring Expenditure Reserve Fund in the amount of \$778,561.83 for the following capital improvement projects in accordance with the law as set forth;

BES	Paving Parking Lot	\$207,358.83
BES	Replace Wooden Play Scape	\$113,000.00
BES	Replace Carpet in Main Office	\$ 10,000.00
BES	Replace Basketball Hoops in Gym	\$ 15,000.00
MES	Paving Parking Lot	\$297,203.00
WMS	Replace (2) Rooftop Units in Portable Classrooms	\$ 26,000.00
WMS	Phase 1 of 3 for Locker Replacement	\$ 60,000.00
WMS	Replace Carpet in Main Office	\$ 10,000.00
DW	New Gator for Ball Field Work and Striping	\$ 20,000.00
DW	6" Zero Turn Mower	\$ 20,000.00

seconded by Jim Crocker; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

2. Parking Lot Paving at Bethlehem School

Chris Matta made a motion to accept the paving of the parking lot at Bethlehem Elementary School by Asphalt Repair Solutions in the amount of \$207,358.83 as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

3. Parking Lot Paving at Mitchell Elementary School

Chris Matta made a motion to accept the paving of the parking lot and Mitchell Elementary School by S&S Paving Inc. in the amount of \$297,203 as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

4. Bethlehem Elementary School Playground

Chris Matta made a motion to accept the Playground Option III presented by Creative Recreation from the state bid award in the amount of \$108,077.00; seconded by Jim Crocker; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

C. Policy Committee

Policy 3542.22 Food Services Personnel Code of Conduct and Policy 3542.41 Food Services Personnel Professional Standards (regulation and appendix also included) were brought to the full Board as a first read.

D. Safe Schools Committee

Committee Chair, Mike Devine, offered a brief summary from the meeting, which was held on Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. Topics covered included background checks for elected officials, updates on the ATT Tower and Mutual Link, SRO vehicles and a review of the

October minutes. Discussions also included grants, district safety plans, evacuation drills and a reporting data system for SRO officers.

**Board Chair Comments**

Chairman Crocker thanked the citizens of Bethlehem and Woodbury for passing the budget; he also thanked members of Board for their dedication, time, and expertise for a very productive year.

**Privilege of the Floor**

There was none

**Old Business**

There was none

**New Business**

- A. Lion's Club Donation – Garden Beds for BES Garden  
Superintendent Murphy publicly thanked the Bethlehem Lions Club for their donation of four garden beds at Bethlehem Elementary School and asked that the Board approve the donation.

Mr. Crocker made a motion to approve the donation of the Lions Club garden beds for Bethlehem Elementary School; seconded by Chris Matta; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

- B. Agriscience Equipment Grant Completion  
Technical Close Out of the 2012 Grant

Mr. Crocker made a motion that the Region 14 Board of Education accept the Agriscience Equipment Grant #214-0092VE in the amount of \$246,508 as complete; seconded by Tikva Rose; 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 Tikva Rose to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 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*

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Carol Ann Brown, Secretary

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Date