



Board of Education

5 Minortown Road ~ Woodbury, CT 06798

www.ctreg14.org

Mission: The mission of Connecticut Region 14 Schools is to educate all students to their highest level of academic potential and to teach them the skills and knowledge to become capable, creative, collaborative lifelong learners and responsible members of the world community.

Board of Education Goals:

Academic Performance - The district will strive to improve academic performance for all students on multiple assessment indicators and the staff will be committed to continuous improvement.

Communication - Region 14 will develop partnerships with all stakeholders in the school community to highlight the exemplary programs the district offers

Safety - Region 14 will provide safe and secure facilities equipped with technology, enabling a 21st century learning environment that supports the values of the district

Budget - Region 14 will 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.

A G E N D A

Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education

Monday, September 18, 2023; 7:00 p.m.

Mitchell Elementary School

Flanders Room

- I. Call to Order.....James Crocker
- II. Pledge of Allegiance.....James Crocker
- III. Introductions.....James Crocker
- IV. Approval of Minutes (Action Anticipated).....James Crocker
 - A. Special Meeting, Monday, August 21, 2023
 - B. Regular Meeting, Tuesday, September 5, 2023
- V. Superintendent's Report.....Brian Murphy
 - A. Introduction of Agriscience Director
 - B. The Woodbury Republican Town Committee - Young American Essay Contest Winners

VI. Committee Reports

VII. Board Chair's Comments

VIII. Privilege of the floor

The Board of Education will recognize citizens of Bethlehem and Woodbury, who are asked to state their name and town of residence and to please limit comments to three (3) minutes. Up to 21 minutes of statements per topic are allowed. All comments should be addressed to the Board of Education Chair. Decorum will be enforced.

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

XI. Other Business

XII. Adjournment



Minutes
Special Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Monday, August 21, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Flanders Room
Mitchell Elementary School
14 School Street, Woodbury, CT

Present:

Jim Crocker, Board Chairman
Chris Matta, Vice Chairman
Carol Ann Brown
Chris Griffin
Michael Carbonneau
Alice Jones
Tikva Rose (*arrived 5:39 p.m.)

Absent:

Caren Lipinski

Also Present:

Brian Murphy, Superintendent
Tina Tanguay, Director of Teaching and Learning
Nicholas D. Caruso, Jr., CAFE Senior Staff Associate for Field Service and Coordinator of Technology
Mark J. Sommaruga, Esq., Pullman & Comley LLC
Patricia Paige, Recording Secretary

BOARD WORKSHOP PUBLIC SESSION

- I. Welcome and Introductions
Board Chair, Jim Crocker, conducted a roll call of Board members and Administrators
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. CAFE: Roles and Responsibilities: presentation by Nick Caruso
Mr. Caruso's presentation began with a brief exploratory segment asking members to introduce themselves, share why they wanted to become a member of the board and what their expectations are. Discussions included:
 - The importance of the Board's role in preparing the itemized Estimate of Expenditure
 - The significance of the District's Strategic School Profile
 - Description of a good leader
 - A review of state laws governing education
 - The oath of office
 - Governing through policy
 - Confidentiality
 - Superintendent's Evaluation Process

- Board Self-Evaluation
- How do you want to be remembered

Mr. Caruso concluded his presentation with a question and answer period.

IV. **Legal:** (Attorney Mark Sommaruga)

(*Tikva Rose arrived)

Copy materials from Pullman and Comley were provided to the Board members; *Roles, Responsibilities and Operations for Your Board of Education; The Freedom of Information Act Pop Quiz* and *Developments from the 2023 Session of the Connecticut General Assembly Affecting Public Schools*.

An Understanding of Connecticut's Freedom of Information Act was presented by Attorney Sommaruga. Talking points included types of meetings and public access to records, what is exempt, what is not, and student privacy rights.

Laws

Attorney Sommaruga shared the recent developments of the *Connecticut General Assembly Affecting Public Schools* and their impact on school districts.

Roles and Responsibilities

Reference material was provided, *Roles, Responsibilities and Operations for your Board of Education*. Attorney Sommaruga shared several real-life examples of Do's and Don'ts for Board members.

6:35 p.m. – 6:43 Brief Break

V. Focus Areas of 2022/2023 and 2023/2024

Last year the four focus areas were Safety, Academic Performance, Budget and Communication. Consensus of the Board, when surveyed, was to continue with the same focus areas for the 2023/2024 school year.

VI. Major Projects for 2022/2023 and 2023/2024

The Nonnewaug High School Renovation will continue until all issues are resolved. Horse Barn building currently under way. CABE Policy Review and Update in process.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

VII. BoE Workshop

A. Superintendent Evaluation Process

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Chris Griffin to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's evaluation process; Jim Crocker invited Brian Murphy into Executive Session; the Board entered into Executive Session at 6:50 p.m.

Public Session

The Board exited Executive Session at 7:00 p.m.

Motion

There was no motion

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m



Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Flanders Room
Mitchell Elementary School

Present:

Jim Crocker, Board Chairman
Chris Matta, Vice Chairman
Carol Ann Brown
Chris Griffin
Tikva Rose
Michael Carbonneau
Caren Lipinski

Absent:

Alice Jones

Also Present:

Brian Murphy, Superintendent
Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations

Presenters:

Taryn Fernandez, Director of Teaching and Learning
Maria Duncan, Web Specialist

I. Call to Order

Mr. Crocker called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Introductions

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and members of the Board of Education and Central Office staff introduced themselves.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Special Meeting, Wednesday, August 16, 2023

Motion by Chris Matta; was seconded by Chris Griffin to accept/approve the minutes as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

B. Regular Meeting, Monday, August 21, 2023

Motion by Tikva Rose; was seconded by Chris Griffin to accept/approve the minutes as presented; Caren Lipinski abstained; all others were aye; motion carried.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Start of School Year 2023/2024

Superintendent Murphy reported that students returned to school on Wednesday, August 30th, preceded by the Convocation on August 28th; professional learning for staff was held on the 28th and 29th. All certified and non-certified positions have been filled.

- B. Website Reveal/Logo
Superintendent Murphy introduced Maria Duncan, Website Specialist, for Region 14. Ms. Duncan, in conjunction with Dr. Fernandez and Ms. Tanguay, updated the district's website over the summer to a more user-friendly platform. An overview of the site was presented by Ms. Duncan. The site also offers a brief tutorial illustrating the major changes one might encounter when accessing the website.
- C. Vision of a Learner Summer Update
Dr. Fernandez gave an update on Vision of a Learner, what has been accomplished to date and plans for moving forward. She spoke to the district's new logo design process, which included input from the VOL Guiding Coalition. The design incorporates a PK through 12 learning vision and colors representative of each of the schools.

V. Committee Reports

A. Curriculum Committee

A Curriculum Committee meeting was held on Thursday, August 31, 2023. The following courses were brought before the board on a recommendation by the committee for board approval. Committee Chair Carol Ann Brown provided a brief narrative of each.

- i. Sophomore Veterinary Science
MOTION by Tikva Rose; was seconded by Chris Griffin to accept/approve the Sophomore Veterinary Science curriculum as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.
- ii. Journalism
MOTION by Chris Matta; was seconded by Michael Carbonneau to accept/approve the Journalism curriculum as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.
- iii. Leadership in Journalism
MOTION by Michael Carbonneau; was seconded by Chris Matta to accept/approve the Leadership in Journalism curriculum as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.
- iv. Sophomore Equine Science
MOTION by Chris Griffin; was seconded by Tikva Rose to accept/approve the Sophomore Equine Science curriculum as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

B. Finance Committee

Ms. Tanguay recapped the Finance Committee Meeting.

Revenue through August 31, 2023 is 16.96% of anticipated budgeted income or \$6,810,683; expenses totaled 16.06% of anticipated budgeted disbursements or \$6,446,923. Her report also included a Food Service Update and a list of completed summer maintenance projects.

C. Horse Barn Committee

Trusses are up; Tina met with SLAM and Burlington earlier in the day to address some of the concerns discussed at the last ad hoc Horse Barn committee meeting.

VI. Board Chair Comments

Mr. Crocker thanked the Board for their time and expertise.

The four focuses of academic performance, communication, safety, and budget will continue for the 23/24 school year. The high school renovation project, comprehensive policy review and horse barn are three continuing major projects.

VII. Privilege of the Floor

Michael Rickenbach

Parent of a Nonnewaug High School student; expressed concerns about the student drop-off protocols; asked the Board to consider a combination of the new/old system. He also questioned the early dismissal for excessive heat.

VIII. Old Business

There was none

IX. New Business

Carol Ann Brown shared the dates of several upcoming school events, open houses as well as the FFA Car show and Bethlehem Fair.

X. Other Business

XI. Adjournment

MOTION by Chris Matta; seconded by Chris Griffin, to adjourn the meeting; all in favor; none opposed. *Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,



*Patricia Paige
Board Clerk*

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