



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