



Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Monday, November 6, 2023; 7:00 p.m.
Gymnasium
Bethlehem Elementary School
Official Minutes - Board Approved Tuesday, November 21, 2023

Present:

Jim Crocker, Chairman
Chris Matta, Vice Chairman
Carol Ann Brown
Tikva Rose
Michael Carbonneau
Alice Jones

Absent:

Caren Lipinski
Chris Griffin

Also Present:

Brian Murphy, Superintendent
Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations
Gianna Lodice, Student Representative

Presenters:

Kelly Pinho, Principal, Bethlehem Elementary School
Wendy Yatsenick, Principal, Mitchell Elementary School

I. Call to Order

Mr. Crocker called the meeting to order at 7:00 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. Regular Meeting, Monday, October 16, 2023

A motion was made by Chris Matta; seconded by Tikva Rose; to accept/approve the minutes for Monday, October 16, 2023 as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

B. Special Meeting, Monday, October 23, 2023

A motion was made by Chris Matta; seconded by Carol Ann Brown; to accept/approve the minutes for the Special Meeting dated Monday, October 23, 2023 as presented; Tikva Rose abstained; motion carried.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Board of Education Student Representative

Superintendent Murphy introduced Gianna Lodice, one of two student representatives selected to sit on the Board of Education for the 2023/2024 school year. Mr. Murphy highlighted some of Gianna's accomplishments, which included serving as the captain to both the indoor and outdoor track teams as well as the soccer team. Gianna looks forward to being an editor for the NHS Chief Advocate newspaper later this year and was elected by her peers to serve as the president of the National Honor Society. Gianna is an Oxford resident in her senior year and a member of the NHS Agriscience program.

Gianna reported on events at both the middle and high school. High School highlights included athletic accomplishments, the commencement of winter sports, December drama production, free fall concert, PSAT Day, college planning, Veterans Day Ceremony, and the successful Pink out Fundraiser.

Woodbury Middle School activities included a Pep rally, visiting author Lorien Lawrence, a newly implemented volleyball club, Parent/Teacher conference dates and Leo Club Food Drive.

B. Elementary School Presentations

Elementary school principals, Kelly Pinho (Mitchell Elementary) and Wendy Yatsenick (Bethlehem Elementary) collaborated on a joint presentation for the board entitled, "An Introduction to the New Initiatives for the 2023-2024 School Year". The changes were identified as Mystery Science, a layered inquiry, hands on learning program; Illustrative Math, a problem-based curriculum; MCLASS, a universal screener that measures the development of reading skills of all students K-5; and Foundations, a program for systematically teaching phonemic awareness and word study.

The elementary schools have also embarked on several SEL (Social Emotional Learning) initiatives including PBIS, a positive behavior incentive program, and A Year of Kindness. The schools also offer After School Academy for

individualized tutoring for students in grades 1-5 in Math and ELA

V. Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee
(Cancelled)

B. Policy Committee
Two policies were reviewed by the committee and brought to the full board for a first read; Policy 5118.1, Homeless Students and Policy 5125, Student Records. A second read with action anticipated is scheduled for the November 21, 2023 board meeting.

C. Safe Schools
The Safe Schools Committee met on October 17th. The agenda items reviewed included the components of the district's safety plan, school safety assessments, active shooter training, and internet safety.

VI. Board Chair Comments

Chairman Crocker thanked the board members for their time and expertise, the staff for their dedication and efforts, and the communities for their continued support. He also provided a status of the district's major projects and reiterated the four focus areas: increased academic performance, communication, safety, and budget.

VII. Privilege of the Floor

There were no spokespersons

VIII. Old Business

There was none

IX. New Business

There was none

X. Other Business

Carol Ann Brown reminded the parents of Nonnewaug High School seniors of Gradnite fundraising activities including the Grinch Breakfast. She also noted the first Tuesday FFA Parents/Friends and Alumni meetings.

XI. Adjournment

MOTION by Chris Matta; was seconded by Tikva Rose to adjourn the meeting;
all in favor; none opposed; *meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.*

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