



Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education

Tuesday, January 2, 2024; 6:00 p.m.

Mitchell Elementary School

Flanders Room

Official Minutes – Board Approved – Monday, January 22, 2024

Present:

Jim Crocker, Chairman
Chris Griffin
Carol Ann Brown
Michael Carbonneau
Caren Lipinski
Alice Jones

Absent:

Chris Matta
Tikva Rose

Also Present:

Brian Murphy, Superintendent
Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations
Gianna Lodice, Student Representative
Attorney for the Board, Mark Sommaruga, Pullman and Comley, LLC

I. Call to Order

Jim Crocker called the meeting to order at 6:00 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, December 4, 2023

A motion was made by Michael Carbonneau and seconded by Caren Lipinski to accept/approve the minutes as presented; Chris Griffin and Alice Jones abstained; none opposed; motion carried.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Board of Education Student Representative

Student Representative Gianna Lodice reported on events at Woodbury Middle School and Nonnewaug High. Of note was the 2023 Baseball State Championship Ring Ceremony and recognition of Nonnewaug High

School's first Olympic qualifier, Jess Davis at a recent basketball game.

Other newsworthy events reported on included the newly conceived live basketball game broadcasts, National Honor Society inductions, with 36 new members, Kindness Challenge, Nonnewaug High School Open House for students in grade 8 and the upcoming midterm exam schedule.

At Woodbury Middle School, students created gratitude books to express appreciation for specific aspects of their lives. A faculty vs. student basketball game was recently enjoyed by all.

V. Committee Reports

A. Policy Committee

The following policy was brought before the board on a recommendation by the Policy Committee; first read; no action anticipated.

1. Policy 5112 Attendance (Kindergarten)

Revisions were made to Policy 5112, specifically with regards to the kindergarten entrance age, to reflect the new state legislation, which strives to ensure that students are developmentally ready to begin school. The minimum age for admission of any child to kindergarten shall be five years on or before the first day of September; however, any child who has not reached the age of five on or before September 1st may be admitted after meeting certain conditions as outlined in the policy.

B. Curriculum Committee

On a recommendation by the Curriculum Committee to approve the following course proposals (First Read, No Action Anticipated) Carol Ann Brown, chair of the committee, offered a brief summary of each proposals.

1. Video Game Design 2

Video Game Design 2 is a half-year course proposed for students in grades 10-12 that will be offered through the Tech Ed Media Arts Department. Gdevelop Game Design Software will be used to code and design games.

2. Jazz Band

Jazz Band is a course proposed for students in grades 9-12. The course is a curricular-performing orchestra available to all students

who presently play or have an interest in learning a jazz instrument.

VI. Board Chair Comments

Chairman Crocker recapped the four focuses of Safety, Academic Performance, Budget, and Communication. Three major projects are the CAFE policy review, finalization of the high school project, and the completion of the horse barn and sugar shack.

VII. Privilege of the Floor

There was none

VIII. Old Business

There was none

IX. New Business

A. Proposed Region 14 2024/2025 School District Calendar (First Read, No Action Anticipated)

A copy of the proposed 24/25 district calendar was provided to Board members for a first review and consideration. Changes to the calendar include the notation of Open House dates as well as parent/teacher conferences. Second read and Board approval anticipated at their meeting on January 16th.

B. Field Trip:

Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks; April 15-20, 2024 (Item Tabled for January 16, 2024)

C. Horse Barn Update (Item Tabled)

D. School Bus Issue (Executive Session)

Jim Crocker moved that the Board enter into executive session for the purpose of conducting a student transportation hearing during which matters concerning the personal privacy of the students involved are likely to be discussed. He further moved that the following persons be invited into executive session, Mr. Murphy, Ms. Tanguay, Mark Summaruga and the parents of the students involved. The motion was seconded by Mike Carbonneau, all in favor, none opposed, the Board entered into executive session at 6:20 p.m.

Public Session

The Board returned to public session at 7:46 p.m.

Motion

Jim Crocker moved that:

-The school administration has proven by a preponderance of the evidence that the children discussed in executive session are receiving transportation services in accordance with Board Policy 3541 and state law.

-The parents' appeal is denied.

-However, the Board requests that the school administration continue to work with the bus company to explore possible solutions within current/available resources and within policy regarding the students' transportation.

-The Board of Education's legal counsel draft and provide written notice to the parents of the Board's decision and findings and conclusions.

Motion was seconded by Chris Griffin, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

X. Other Business

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made Jim Crocker and seconded by Chris Griffin to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m., all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia Paige". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patricia Paige
Board Clerk

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