



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, February 5, 2024; 6:00 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, Friday, January 5, 2024
 - B. Special Meeting, Monday, January 22, 2024
- V. Superintendent’s Report.....Brian Murphy
 - A. Personnel Update
 - B. Teacher Exit Interview Process: Dr. Taryn Fernandez
 - C. New Kindergarten Registration Process Update: Dr. Taryn Fernandez

VI. Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee Update

B. Policy Committee

On a recommendation by the Policy to approve the following policies (First Read, No Action Anticipated)

1. Policy 6141.323 Internet Safety Policy/Filtering (regulation also included)
2. Policy 6172.1 Gifted and Talented Students

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
Friday, January 5, 2024; 4:30 p.m.
Central Office Conference Room

Present:

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

Absent:

Tikva Rose

Also Present:

Brian Murphy, Superintendent
Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations
Mike Molzon, Director of Facilities

I. Call to Order

Jim Crocker called the meeting to order at 4:30 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. Horse Barn (Action Anticipated)

Construction of the Horse Barn and Sugar Shack are nearing completion with the exception of the electrical work. When the original design was prepared, it was documented that the 60-amp service to the existing greenhouse would be extended to the new buildings. Upon further review, the 60-amp service is utilized primarily by the green house and therefore there is insufficient service feed to provide the electrical facilities to the project.

Burlington Construction was asked to provide a quote.

Motion

Jim Crocker moved that the Region 14 Board of Education approve the proposed change order #0004 in the amount of \$112,672 in support of electrical requirements of the Horse Barn/SAP Building Project with funding provided through the Capital Reserve Fund; seconded by Chris Matta; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

VII. Privilege of the Floor

There was none

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Chris Griffin to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board of Education at 4:42 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 style.

*Patricia Paige
Board Clerk*

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



Minutes
Special Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Monday, January 22, 2024; 6:00 p.m.
Mitchell Elementary School
Flanders Room

Present:

Jim Crocker, Chairman
Chris Matta
Chris Griffin
Carol Ann Brown (via phone)
Michael Carbonneau
Caren Lipinski
Alice Jones

Absent:

Tikva Rose

Also Present:

Brian Murphy, Superintendent
Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations
Maia Colavito, Student Representative

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, Tuesday, January 2, 2024

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Michael Carbonneau to accept/approve the minutes as presented, Chris Matta abstained, none opposed, motion carried.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Board of Education Student Representative

Student Representative Maia Colavito reported on several recent events at Bethlehem and Mitchell Elementary Schools. At Bethlehem Elementary School, twelve-Grade 4 and 5 Student Council Members participated in the CAS Leadership Conference with their advisors. A breakfast for

Student-of-the-Month awardees and their families will be held as well as the PTO Grandparents' Valentines Dinner. All students will participate in "The Great Kindness Challenge".

At Mitchell Elementary School, students with perfect attendance for the first term were honored, family members were also invited to attend. A family hockey night was had on Saturday, January 13th and students are currently working on their Black History Gallery walk projects.

B. Nonnewaug High School Fundraiser Update

Andrew Grivner and Gavin Sandor were nominated as the student visionaries for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society representing Nonnewaug High School for the 2023/2024 school year. In this capacity, they will be the energy behind fundraising efforts, organizing events, spreading awareness and engaging the community.

One fundraising initiative, Stall, was highlighted and intended to be their most profitable endeavor, details were shared with the board.

V. Committee Reports

A. Policy Committee Update

The following policies were brought before the board on a recommendation by the Policy Committee, second read, action anticipated.

1. Policy 3542.3 Food Services/Charging Policy

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve the policy as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously. (Carol Ann Brown not audible)

2. Policy 4000.1 Title IX

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Chris Griffin to accept/approve the policy as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously. (Carol Ann Brown not audible)

3. Policy 5112 Attendance (Kindergarten)

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Caren Lipinski to accept/approve the policy as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously. (Carol Ann Brown not audible)

4. Policy 5141.72 Student Sports – Emergency Action Plans
A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve the policy as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously. (Carol Ann Brown not audible)

B. Curriculum Committee

On a recommendation by the Curriculum Committee to approve the following course proposals (Action Anticipated)

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.

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Michael Carbonneau to accept/approve the course as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

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.

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Alice Jones to accept/approve the course as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

3. Dramatic Musical Theater

The Dramatic Musical Theater course will add another performance option for students to study music at Nonnewaug High School. The course will also be the first course that will allow students to study drama and theater craft.

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Chris Matta to accept/approve the course as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

4. Work Study

This course will provide opportunities for students who may not be college bound to earn an elective credit for work experience in their field of interest.

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Alice Jones to accept/approve the course as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

On a recommendation by the Curriculum Committee to approve the following curriculum, (Action Anticipated)

1. Large Animal Science (10th Grade)

The course is designed to prepare students for the junior/senior Ag Production Course where they will learn about the care and handling of livestock.

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Chris Griffin to accept/approve the curriculum as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

C. Sports Committee

Chairman Crocker recapped the recently held Sports Committee meeting. Agenda items included a proposal for a Middle School Girls' Volleyball Team, review of fall and winter sports, a high school Student Athletes' Council and Lacrosse update, new CIAC Rules-Out of Season Coaching and an update on the future of the Berkshire League.

VI. Board Chair Comments

Chairman Crocker provided an overview of the Nonnewaug High School renovation project, horse barn and sap buildings, and completion of the financial audit.

He recognized and thanked EdAdvance for providing four \$1500 scholarships to be available to Nonnewaug High School students this year.

VII. Privilege of the Floor

There was none

VIII. Old Business

- A. Proposed Region 14 2024/2025 School District Calendar (Second Read, Action Anticipated)

Having no further discussion, a motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve the Region 14 2024/2025 School District Calendar as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

IX. New Business

- A. Field Trip:
Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks; April 15-20, 2024 (Item Tabled from January 2, 2024)

Jenn Jedd presented the field trip itinerary to the board. The field trip is a recruitment measure for the program and will help to create a more worldly student.

Jim Crocker made a motion, seconded by Chris Griffin to accept/approve the field trip as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

X. Other Business

- A. Superintendent's Evaluation (Executive Session Anticipated)
A motion was made by Jim Crocker to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of the superintendent's mid-year evaluation and to invite Superintendent Murphy into Executive session, seconded by Chris Griffin, all in favor, none opposed, the board entered Executive Session at 6:39 p.m.

Public Session

Returned to Public Session at 7:15 p.m.

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Carol Ann Brown to adjourn the meeting, all in favor, none opposed, the meeting adjourned at 7:17 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'.

Patricia Paige
Board Clerk

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

DRAFT

A sample policy to consider. The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) requires that schools and libraries receiving E-Rate discounts for Internet access, service or internal connections, must block or filter all access to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, harmful to minors, or that is determined by the school district or library authority as inappropriate to minors.

Instruction

Internet Acceptable Use: Filtering

The **Region 14** Public Schools is fortunate to have access to the Internet at all schools. This access provides increased opportunities for students and staff to conduct research and to communicate locally, nationally, and internationally.

This wonderful resource also provides access to material unsuitable for students and which has no educational value. It is the responsibility of all District staff to ensure that the Internet, as used in District Schools, is appropriately guided and monitored. Moreover, staff also has the responsibility to conduct themselves in an appropriate private manner when using the Internet.

In order to ensure that the District's Internet connection is used in the appropriate manner and that all users are protected from any inappropriate information published on the Internet, the District has and is continuing to implement the following:

1. Professional development opportunities to help teachers integrate the use of the Internet into classroom teaching.
2. Use of the computers, computer systems, software electronic access privileges and networks shall be restricted to those users who have signed the District's "Acceptable Use Policy." In the case of minors, the "Acceptable Use Policy" must also be signed by the student's parent or guardian.
3. Implementation of a system developed to filter out Internet sites with content/material considered inappropriate or harmful and unacceptable for student viewing. Such content includes that which is considered obscene, child pornography or harmful to minors. A committee of teachers, parents, and administrators shall be used to receive appeals from users who indicate that they have a specific need for using a filtered site.
4. All Internet access must be filtered, whether minors (under 18) or adults are using the computer system and regardless of the number of computers with Internet access provided by the school or library.

The Internet changes rapidly making it impossible to filter all objectionable sites. Therefore, the staff role in supervising and monitoring student access to the Internet is critical. In addition, each individual has the responsibility to monitor their own navigation on the Internet to avoid undesirable sites.

Internet Acceptable Use: Filtering (*continued*)

(cf. 6141.321 - Acceptable Use of the Internet)

(cf. 6141.322 - Web Sites/Pages)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
1-19(b)(11) Access to public records. Exempt records.
10-15b Access of parent or guardians to student's records.
10-209 Records not to be public.
11-8a Retention, destruction and transfer of documents
11-8b Transfer or disposal of public records. State Library Board to adopt regulations.
46b-56 (e) Access to Records of Minors.
Connecticut Public Records Administration Schedule V - Disposition of Education Records (Revised 1983).
Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act, as amended, added by section 513 of PL 93-568, codified at 20 U.S.C. 1232g.).
Dept. of Education. 34 CFR. Part 99 (May 9, 1980 45 FR 30802) regs. implementing FERPA enacted as part of 438 of General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g)-parent and student privacy and other rights with respect to educational records, as amended 11/21/96.
Public Law 106-554 Fiscal 2001 Appropriations Law containing the "Children's Internet Protection Act"
Public Law 94-553, The Copyright Act of 1976, 17 U.S.C. 101 et. seq.
Public Law 110-385 Broadband Data Improvement Act/Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act
Reno v. ACLU, 521 U.S. 844 (1997)
Ginsberg v. New York, 390 U.S. 629, at 642, n.10 (1968)
Board of Education v. Pico, 457 U.S. 868 (1988)
Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 620, 267 (1988)

Policy adopted:

cps 7/01

rev 1/09

A sample regulation to consider.

Instruction

Internet Acceptable Use: Filtering

Preface

When minors are using the Internet, access to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography or harmful to minors must be blocked or filtered. When adults are using the Internet, only material which is obscene or child pornography must be filtered or blocked.

Definitions

1. **Obscene** is to be determined by the following test:
 - Whether the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find the work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest;
 - Whether the work depicts sexual conduct in a patently offensive way; and
 - Whether the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

1. **Child Pornography**, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2256 means any visual depiction, including any photograph, film, video, picture, computer or computer-generated image or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical, or other means, of sexually explicit conduct, where:
 - the production of such visual depiction involves the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct;
 - such visual depiction is, or appears to be, of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct;
 - such visual depiction has been created, adapted, or modified to appear that an identifiable minor is engaging in sexually explicit conduct; or
 - such visual depiction is advertised, promoted, presented, described, or distributed in such a manner that conveys the impression that the material is or contains a visual depiction of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

1. Material **“Harmful to Minors”** is any picture, graphic image file or other visual depiction that:
 - taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex or excretion;
 - depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable to minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual conduct, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
 - taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value to minors.

Instruction

Internet Acceptable Use: Filtering

Criteria for Filtering of Objectionable Sites

Anything that falls under at least one of the categories below shall be blocked/filtered. This list will be updated/modified as required.

Nudity/Pornography

- Prevailing U.S. standards for nudity (e.g., genitalia, female breasts)
- Provocative semi-nudity (e.g., lingerie models)
- Sites which contain pornography or links to pornographic sites
- **Exceptions:** Classical nudity (e.g., Michelangelo), swimsuit models

Sexuality

- Sites which contain material of a mature level (elementary/middle school levels)
- Images or descriptions of sexual aids
- Descriptions of sexual acts or techniques
- Sites which contain inappropriate personal ads

Violence

- Sites which promote violence
- Images or a description of graphically violent acts (rape, dismemberment, torture, etc.)
- Graphic autopsy or crime-scene images

Crime

- Information of performing criminal acts (e.g., drug or bomb making, computer “hacking”)
- Illegal file archives (e.g., software piracy)

Drug Use

- Sites which promote the use of illegal drugs
- Material advocating the use of illegal drugs (e.g., marijuana, LSD) or abuse of any drug (e.g., drinking-game rules)
- **Exceptions:** Material with valid educational use (e.g., drug-use statistics)

Tastelessness

- Images or descriptions of excretory acts (e.g., vomiting, urinating)
- Graphic medical images outside of a medical context
- **Exception:** Graphic medical images within a medical context

Instruction

Internet Acceptable Use: Filtering

Criteria for Filtering of Objectionable Sites (continued)

Language/Profanity

- Passages/Words too coarse to be softened by the word filter
- Profanity within images/sounds/multimedia files
- Adult humor (e.g., sexually or racially tinged)

NOTE: The focus is on American English, but profanity in other languages or dialects is blocked if brought to our attention.

Discrimination/Intolerance

- Material advocating discrimination (e.g., racial or religious intolerance)
- Sites which promote intolerance, hate, or discrimination

Interactive Mail/Chat

- Sites which contain or allow inappropriate e-mail correspondence
- Sites which contain or allow inappropriate chat areas

Inappropriate Banner Acts

- Advertisements containing inappropriate images

Gambling

- Sites which allow or promote online gambling

Weapons

- Sites which promote illegal weapons
- Sites which promote the use of illegal weapons

Other Inappropriate Material

- * Body modification: tattooing, branding, cutting, etc.

Judgment Calls

- Whether a page is likely to have more questionable material in the future (e.g., sites under construction whose names indicate questionable material)

Instruction

Internet Acceptable Use: Filtering

Procedures For Suggesting Site Be Blocked or Unblocked

If District staff members observe a site which they believe to contain inappropriate material according to the criteria provided here, they may request that the site (URL) be blocked. Education Technology staff will review the site for inappropriateness. If the site meets the criteria for filtering, steps will be taken to block the site.

Disabling Blocking/Filtering Devices

The technology protection measures used to block or filter a site may/may not be disabled during use by an adult to enable access to bona fide research or other lawful purpose. (*NOTE: CIPA does not require schools or libraries to afford adults unfiltered Internet access.*)

There are no exceptions to the requirement that Internet access be blocked/filtered at all times for minors. If material has been wrongly blocked, it must be unblocked by the company providing the software, after a request has been made by the school or library.

Regulation approved:

cps 7/01

A mandated policy (as of July 1, 2022) to consider.

Instruction

Gifted and Talented Students Program

The Board of Education (Board) recognizes its responsibility to identify gifted and talented students within the school district [and to provide these students with appropriate instructional adaptations and services]. *(Districts are required to identify but provision of services is at the discretion of the local district.)* The Board is committed to providing identification and assessment which is responsive to students' economic conditions, gender, developmental differences, disabling conditions and cultural diversity.

For purposes of this policy, "gifted and talented students" means a child identified by the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) as (A) possessing demonstrated or potential abilities that give evidence of very superior intellectual, creative or specific academic capability and (B) needing differentiated instruction or services beyond those being provided in the general education program in order to realize the child's intellectual, creative or specific academic potential. The term shall include children with extraordinary learning ability and children with outstanding talent in the creative arts.

For purposes of this policy "outstanding talent in the creative arts" means a child identified by the Planning and Placement Team as gifted and talented on the basis of demonstrated or potential achievement in music, the visual arts or the performing arts.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will develop procedures for an ongoing kindergarten through grade twelve identification process for gifted and talented students that includes multiple measures in order to identify student strengths in intellectual ability, creativity or a specific academic area.

Multiple measures may include, but are not limited to, tests of academic achievement, aptitude, intelligence, and creativity; achievement test scores; grades; student performance or products; samples of student work; parent, student, and/or teacher recommendations; and other appropriate measures. The identification methodology will include consideration of all students, including those who are English language learners and those with Individualized Education Plans (IEP) or 504 Plans, be developmentally appropriate, non-discriminatory, and related to the programs and services offered by the District.

The final determination in the identification of students as gifted and/or talented must be done by a PPT. Such PPT charged with this responsibility shall be composed of a group of certified or licensed professionals representing each of the teaching, administrative and pupil personnel staffs.

Instruction

Gifted and Talented Students Program (continued)

Though early identification of the gifted and talented is important, it is essential that the identification of these students be recognized as a continuing process in that special abilities and skills appear at different times in the lives of many children and new children are regularly being enrolled in the system.

Upon the identification of a student as gifted and talented, the District shall provide electronic notice of such identification to the parent/guardian of such student. Such notice shall include, but need not be limited to:

1. an explanation of how such student was identified as gifted and/or talented;
2. the contact information for the District's employee in charge of the provision of services to gifted and talented students, or, if there is no such employee, the District's employee in charge of the provision of special education and related services;
3. the employee at the State Department of Education who has been designated as responsible for providing information and assistance to Boards of Education and parents or guardians of students related to gifted and talented students, pursuant to section 10-3e of the General Statutes; and
4. any associations in the state that provide support to gifted and talented students.

The school district, should it decide to offer services to the gifted and talented, shall utilize the guidelines, developed and promulgated by the State Department of Education (SDE), for providing services to those students. The guidelines include best practices for the district to consider for (1) addressing the intellectual, social and emotional needs of gifted and talented students in schools and (2) providing teacher training and professional development on gifted and talented students.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-76a-(e) Definitions.
10-76d-(e) Duties and powers of Boards of Education to provide special education programs and services.
Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Sections 10-76a-1–10-76l-1.
P.A. 19-184 An Act Concerning the Provision of Special Education.
Gifted and Talented Education: Guidance Regarding Identification and Service. SDE Guidance, March 2019.
P.A. 21-199 An Act Concerning Various Revisions and Additions to the Statutes Relating to Education and Workforce Development, Section 2.

Policy adopted:

rev 6/17

rev 7/19

rev 4/22