**Minutes**
**Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education**
**Monday, March 4, 2024; 6:00 p.m.**
**Mitchell Elementary School**
**Flanders Room**
**Official Minutes – Board Approved – Monday, March 18, 2024**

**Present:**
Jim Crocker, Chairman
Chris Matta
Carol Ann Brown
Alice Jones
Michael Carbonneau
Caren Lipinski

**Absent:**
Tikva Rose
Chris Griffin

**Also Present:**
Brian Murphy, Superintendent
Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations
Taryn Fernandez, Director of Teaching and Learning
Gianna Lodice, 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.** No minutes for approval

**IV. Superintendent's Report**
**A. Student Representative Update**
Gianna had much to report on with many events occurring at both the middle and high schools. Events at the high school included the annual Red Out fundraising festivities, pep rally, "STALL" fundraiser, Spirit Week, FFA field trip to the capitol, and several athletic acknowledgements.

The Regional School District 14 Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, marital status, national/ethnic origin, age, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, or disability in its programs, activities, and employment practices as set forth in compliance with the Office of Civil Rights, Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504. Any person having inquiries concerning Regional School District 14 Public Schools' compliance with Section 504, Title VI or Title IX should contact Dina Ericson, Director of Student Services, Regional School District 14, 5 Minortown Road, PO Box 469, Woodbury, CT 06798 (203) 263-6356

Woodbury Middle School happenings included a super bowl pancake breakfast, Valentine's day dance, 8th grade open house, American Heart Association Challenge, and March Madness.

**B. Superintendent's 2024/2025 Proposed Budget Presentation**

Superintendent Murphy shared a first overview of his proposed 2024/2025 budget, which notes a 3.59% or $1,441,231 increase over last year. The Board members were asked to review the proposal in advance of next week's budget workshop and send any questions they may have to Ms. Tanguay.

The proposal included Vision of a Learner progress, Instructional Core Focuses, Courses and Curricula approved by the Board, Curriculum/Instructional Strategies for 2024/2025, New Initiatives, Staff Changes, and a Budget Distribution by Member Town.

## V. Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee Update

1. Healthy Food Certification

**Required motion language for participation in healthy food option of Healthy Food Certification:**

**Motion One**

**Jim Crocker moved** that pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the **Regional School District 14 Board of Education** certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups, **seconded by Michael Carbonneau, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.**

**Required motion language for combined food and beverage exemptions:**

**Motion Two**

**Jim Crocker moved** that the **Regional School District 14 Board of Education** will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales, **seconded by Chris Matta, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.**

Policy Committee Update

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

1. Policy 4117.6 Exit Survey/Interview
   Newly implemented state mandated policy, which requires Boards of Education to develop an exit survey to be completed by a certified professional educator who is employed by the Board of Education and voluntarily resigns. Several revisions were made to the survey at the Board's request.

2. Policy 6145.2 Interscholastic/Intramural Athletics
   Policy revised to remove language that states the Board shall approve athletic schedules.

## VI. Board Chair Comments

Budget well thought out, reasonable, and supports the changes and activities currently in place. Completed some of the projects, focus on academic performance, and manage distractions.

## VII. Privilege of the Floor

Nicolas Gravalec
477 Main Street South, Bethlehem

Mr. Gravalec addressed a recent article in the newspaper

Diane Macleod
88 Weekeepeemee Road, Woodbury

Ms. Macleod spoke to self-worth and Erin's Law

**VIII. Old Business**

There was none

**IX. New Business**

A. Increasing Education Diversity Plan (Action Anticipated)
Dr. Taryn Fernandez presented.

**Legislative Mandate: Public Act 23-167 Section 10 (Effective July 1, 2023)**

The goal of the plan is to increase educator diversity. Dr. Fernandez, in conjunction with her colleagues, developed a plan, which ultimately requires approval by the Board. The plan includes 3 recruitment goals, 2 hiring and selection goals, and 4 retention goals.

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

**X. Other Business**

There was none

**XI. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Chris Matta to adjourn the meeting, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,*



*Patricia Paige*
*Board Clerk*

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