Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Monday, February 26, 2024; 6:00 p.m.
Bethlehem Elementary School
Library Media Center
Official Minutes – Board Approved – Monday, March 18, 2024

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

Absent:
Tikva Rose

Also Present:
Brian Murphy, Superintendent
Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations
Taryn Fernandez, Director of Student Learning
Dina Ericson, Director of Student Services

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, February 5, 2024
A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Caren Lipinski to accept/approve the minutes as presented, all in favor, none opposed, Alice Jones abstained, motion carried.

IV. Superintendent's Report
A. Student Representative Update
There was no update

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B. Student Award Recognition

The Board of Education, Superintendent Murphy, and school administrators acknowledged several students for their recent award standings. Mr. Ray Butkus, a Bethlehem Selectmen, was on hand to introduce Rubie Lombardi and provide a few words on the essence of the American Legion contest for which she was the silver medalist.

Hazel Brent	CAS Excellence in Art
William Ryan	CAS Excellence in Art
Fiona Haines	CAS Excellence in Music
Levi Chmielewski	CAS Excellence in Music
Alyxandra Pustola	CAS Excellence in Music
Tye Weaver	CAS Excellence in Art
Christopher Farisello	CAS Excellence in Music
Daisy Collett	CAS Excellence in Art
Rubie Lombardi	Second Place Standing, American Legion Oratorical Contest
Scott Meyer	Michael H. Savage Spirit of Sport Award
Kailey Townsend	First Place-Nonnewaug in the Voice of Democracy Essay

C. Department Development Plans

Ms. Dina Ericson, the Director of Student Services and Dr. Taryn Fernandez, the Director of Teaching and Learning presented their Development Plans. Focusses included Mission, Theory of Action, Departmental Goals, and indicators/strategies for each of the goals.

Dr. Fernandez also shared a Mid-Year Performance Update with mClass Dibels and NWEA District Assessments.

V. Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee Update

1. RFP/Health Insurance

Under the directive of Tina Tanguay, the Director of Finance and Operations, a request for proposal was initiated by the district's insurance vendor, Brown and Brown, for medical insurance submissions. Of the six proposals received and considered, it was the consensus of the Board to recommend Anthem.

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Chris Griffin to accept/approve the bid proposal from Anthem with a decrease of 7.82% and a 12% cap for year 2 starting July 1, 2024, all in favor,

none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

B. Policy Committee Update

On a recommendation by the Policy Committee to approve the following Policies (Second Read, Action Anticipated)

1. Policy 6141.232 Internet Safety Policy/Filtering with Regulation

The policy ensures that the District's Internet connection is used in an appropriate manner and that all users are protected from an appropriate information published on the internet. All internet access must be filtered.

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Chris Matta to accept/approve Policy 6141.232 as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

2. Policy 6172.1 Gifted and Talented Students

Current law indicates that districts are required to identify Gifted and Talented Students, but provision of services is at the discretion of the local district. Of note, Superintendent Murphy's budget for 24/25 includes an afterschool program for Gifted and Talented students in grades 3-8.

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Chris Griffin to accept/approve Policy 6172.1 as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

C. Safe Schools Committee Update

The committee met on Thursday, February 22, 2024 and adjourned due to lack of a quorum, no report

VI. Board Chair Comments

Chairman Crocker commented that the Board continues to remain on task with the four focus areas of academic performance, safety, budget and improved communications. Three projects remain open: The CABE Policy review and the Nonnewaug building and horse barn projects, which are nearing finalization. Most notably, Chairman Crocker was happy to report that a Certificate of Occupancy was received last week from the Town of Woodbury for the high school. A temporary Certificate of Occupancy is anticipated tomorrow for the Sap Building.

VII. Privilege of the Floor

Mr. Ray Butkus spoke on the importance of public speaking decorum

VIII. Old Business

There was none

IX. New Business

A. World Language Field Trip to Quebec, Canada; May 3-5 2024 (Action Anticipated)

Faculty member Kate Peterson provided an overview of the field trip and highlighted some of the attractions students would be participating in including a visit to the Upper Town/St Louis Gate, The Chateau Frontenac, the Dufferin Terrace, the Assemblee Nationale building and the Musee de la Civilisation to name just a few.

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

X. Other Business

Chris Matta commented on the recent pancake breakfast.
Carol Ann Brown plugged the upcoming high school play, "Once Upon A Mattress".

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Chris Griffin to adjourn the Meeting, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patricia Paige
Board Clerk

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