Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Monday, April 1, 2024; 6:00 p.m.
Mitchell Elementary School
Flanders Room
Official Minutes – Board Approved – Monday, May 6, 2024

Present:	**Absent:**
Chris Matta, Presiding Board Member	N/A
Jim Crocker (via phone)	
Carol Ann Brown	
Chris Griffin	
Alice Jones	
Michael Carbonneau	
Caren Lipinski	
Tikva Rose	

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

I. Call to Order
Chris Matta 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/Budget Workshop, Monday, March 11, 2024
A motion was made by Michael Carbonneau and seconded by Caren Lipinski to accept/approve the minutes as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

B. Regular Meeting, Monday, March 18, 2024
A motion was made by Carol Ann Brown and seconded by Chris Griffin to accept/approve the minutes as presented, all in favor, none opposed, Tikva

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Rose and Chris Griffin abstained, motion carried.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Student Representative Update

Student Representative Gianna Lodice reported on events at Woodbury Middle School and Nonnewaug High School. The many events at the high school included an internet safety presentation for juniors and seniors, SATs, the commencement of spring sports, The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society fundraising efforts, and the premiering of "Once Upon a Mattress", by the NHS Drama Club. At Woodbury Middle School events included WMS World Class Warrior trimester 2 breakfast, a lesson on maple syrup at Flanders for students in 7th grade, March Madness activities, and a paper mache experience for students in 8th grade.

B. Staff/Student Award Recognitions

The following students were recognized by the Superintendent and Board of Education for excellence in art:

- Melanie Boria- 2024 Connecticut Scholastic Arts Silver Portfolio Award- Late Stage Capitalism's Effects on the Common People- $100,000 Scholarship to the University of Hartford
- Madison Willis- 2024 Connecticut Scholastic Arts Silver Portfolio Award- Unconscious Expressions- $100,000 Scholarship to the University of Hartford
- Jiaqi Xie- 2024 Connecticut Scholastic Arts Silver Portfolio Award- Typography, Layout, and Branding Experientials- $100,000 Scholarship to the University of Hartford
- Luke Cenatiempo- 2024 Connecticut Scholastic Arts Gold Portfolio Award- Reminiscing Youth- $120,000 Scholarship to the University of Hartford
- Emily Matozzo- 2024 Connecticut Scholastic Arts Award- Drawing and Illustration- Outgrown
- Sami Sorcher- 2024 National Art Honor Society Juried Exhibition Awards Winner for her work "Tea with Granny"

The following staff members were also recognized:

- Michael Sturgess, The Outstanding Teacher of American History Award
- Nicole Cowles, The ATOMIC Albina Cannavaciolo Award

All were congratulated and provided with a certificate.

V. Committee Reports

A. Policy Committee Update

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

1. Policy 6161.3 Comparability of Services
   Policy 6161.3 is a mandated policy that states "All District schools, regardless of whether they receive Title I funds, shall provide services that, taken as a whole, are substantially comparable."
2. Policy 9700 Time, Place, and Notice of Meetings
   Policy 9700 provides for the time, place and notice of Board of Education regular meetings. Currently, there are two regular board meetings, one on the first and one on the third Monday of each month. The language has been revised to note that commencing January 1, 2025 regular meetings will be held on the first Monday of the month unless otherwise noted.

Board members were asked to review the policies, which will be brought back to the Board for a second read and anticipated approval at their next regular meeting.

VI. Board Chair Comments

Presiding Board Member, Chris Matta, thanked Mr. Crocker for always keeping the Board focused. He commented that the budget put forth was a fiscally responsible budget, which translates to a win, win for Region 14.

VII. Privilege of the Floor

There were no speakers

VIII. Old Business

Carol Ann Brown paid homage to the students and teachers who were acknowledged by Board this evening, most notably faculty member Michael Sturgess, and the acceptance of a Nonnewaug High School student into RISD College. She also acknowledged faculty member Leeza Desjardins for her outstanding art program at Nonnewaug High School.

IX. New Business

A. **Discussion/possible action on Budget for 2024/2025**

> **Carol Ann Brown moved** that the Region 14 Board of Education approve and adopt the Superintendent's proposed budget for the fiscal year 2024/2025 in the amount of $41,590,505 as presented to the Board, seconded by Chris Griffin, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

B. **Calling of Referendum (action anticipated)**

> **Michael Carbonneau moved** that the Board of Education schedule and warn the Annual District Meeting for Monday, May 6, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Flanders Room at Mitchell Elementary School, 14 School Street, Woodbury, CT concerning the 2024/2025 budget, with said meeting to be adjourned to a referendum on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury, CT, seconded by Chris Griffin, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

C. **Approval of Explanatory Text (action anticipated)**

> **Chris Griffin moved** that the Secretary of the Board of Education is authorized, in such official's discretion, to prepare and cause to be printed and distributed explanatory text regarding the 2024/2025 budget referendum scheduled for May 7, 2024, with such explanatory text subject to the review and approval of the District's legal counsel and to be prepared and distributed in accordance with Section 9-369b of the Connecticut General Statutes, seconded by Caren Lipinksi, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

X. Other Business

There was none

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Jim Crocker to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 p.m., all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patricia Paige
Board Clerk

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