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

Special Meeting
Board of Education –Policy Committee
Tuesday; May 21, 2024 5:30 p.m.
Bethlehem Elementary School
Library

I. Call to Order

II. Policy 6172 Alternate Education Program

III. Policy 9750 Conduct of Meetings

IV. Adjournment

Instruction

Alternative Education Programs

The purpose of this policy is to recognize the need for alternative education programs for some District students.

The Board of Education (Board) is dedicated to providing educational options for all students within available financial constraints. It is recognized there will be students in the District whose needs and interests are best served by participation in an alternative education program. The Board believes alternative education is a student focused perspective based on a respect for students, the belief that all students can learn given the right environment, and participation in an alternative setting is an informed choice made by students and their families.

"Alternative education" means a school or program maintained and operated by the Board that is offered to students in a nontraditional educational setting and addresses the social, emotional, behavioral and academic needs of such students. Alternative education does not for purposes of this policy and Connecticut State Board of Education (CSDE) guidelines include private schools, home schooling, "*School Choice,"* adult education, approved private special education programs, gifted and talented programs, and schools or programs within the Connecticut Technical High School System.

The Board shall provide alternative education to students in accordance and compliance with the "Guidelines for Alternative Education Settings," established by the State Board of Education. Such guidelines shall include, but not be limited to, a description of the purpose and expectation of alternative education, criteria for student eligibility, and criteria for how and when a student may enter or exit alternative education. The philosophy of alternative education utilizes a whole student approach. This approach promotes individualized programming to address the personal, emotional, social, intellectual, work skills, safety and security needs of students in addition to academic achievement. The Board views enrollment in an alternative setting not as punishment but as a learning opportunity.

In providing alternative education to students, the Board may use space in an existing school or establish a new school or be a program affiliated with one or more schools or districts. Programs must be affiliated with at least one district with a code previously assigned by CSDE. Such programs must comply with state laws pertaining to the number and length of school days in an academic year and shall be subject to all other federal and state laws governing public schools.

The Board may form a cooperative arrangement with other boards of education, to provide alternative education pursuant to C.G.S. 10-158a.

Instruction

Alternative Education Programs (continued)

A list of alternative programs will be approved by the Board annually. The Superintendent may/shall provide for the involvement of staff, parents and the community in recommending alternative education programs for Board approval. The alternative education program, subject to Board approval, must have a transparent and defined purpose, which includes a description of the types of students that may benefit most from the program/school environment. Clear and objective admission criteria, consistent with stated program guidelines must be evident. Also to be a part of the alternative education program are clear and explicit criteria and procedural exit criteria frameworks to address a student's return to the traditional school setting. There shall be an annual evaluation of alternative education programs.

The Board, as required, will post on its website information about any alternative education offered, including purpose, location, contact information, staff directory and enrollment criteria. Determination of enrollment shall be made by the student support team which includes, but is not limited to, parent or family representative, student (if in secondary school), appropriate representative of the alternative environment, student's teachers, school administrator and if the student is identified as disabled, a special education teacher or PPT/504 Team representative. In addition, the Board recognizes its responsibility to give all children in the District who receive alternative education as nearly equal advantages as may be practicable compared to other children in the District. In addition, the Board shall annually submit to the Commissioner of Education a strategic school profile report for each alternative school or program under its jurisdiction.

All students in an alternative education program shall receive instruction based on a curriculum aligned to the Connecticut Core State Standards, unless modified as indicated by the goals and objectives of an IEP, in particular curricular areas.

Alternative education programs implemented by the District are to maintain learning options that are flexible with regard to environment, structure and pedagogy. Such programs include, but are not limited to, a separate school, tutorial instruction, small group instruction, large group instruction, counseling and guidance, computer-assisted instruction, cooperative work experience, supervised community service activities and supervised independent study. Prior to consideration of an alternative placement, a review of the student's academic, health and behavioral records, including any PPT and Section 504 records, Student Success Plans and other history of interventions must take place.

Instruction

Alternative Education Programs (continued)

Students, upon parent request, may be placed in an alternative education program within available financial resources if the District determines that the placement serves the student's educational needs and interests and assists the student in achieving district and state academic content standards. Families shall have a right of appeal if there is disagreement with the District's placement decisions.

The implementation of this policy and any Board approval of an alternative education program are subject to the requirements and procedures enumerated in the administrative regulation.

(cf. 6172.11 – Relations with Charter Schools)
(cf. 6172.12 – Magnet Schools)
(cf. 6172.41 – Title I Program)
(cf. 6172.6 – Virtual/Online Courses)

Legal Reference Connecticut General Statutes

10-4p(b) Implementation plan to achieve resource equity and equality of opportunity. Assessment. Reports. (as amended by PA 15-133)

10-15 Towns to maintain schools.

10-16 Length of school year.

10-158a Cooperative arrangements among towns. School building projects. Student transportation.

10-220 Duties of boards of education (as amended by PA 15-133)

10-223h(c) Commissioner's network of schools. Turnaround committees. Operations and instructional audit. Turnaround plans. Report. (as amended by PA 15-133)

PA 15-133 An Act Concerning Alternative Education

Guidelines for Alternative Education Settings, State Department of Education, approved by CT State Board of Education, Oct. 5, 2016.

Policy adopted:
cps 11/15

CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

Introduction

The conduct of meetings of the Regional School District No 14 Board of Education shall be in accordance with the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act, Connecticut General Statutes §1-200 *et seq*., the rules of parliamentary practice as set forth in the Robert's Rules of Order and other applicable laws.

A quorum of five (5) members of the Board of Education must be present in order for the Board to conduct a meeting.

All Board meetings shall commence at the stated time or as soon thereafter as a quorum is present and shall be guided by an agenda which will have been posted in accordance with law and delivered in advance to all Board Members and other designated persons. The agenda for the Board of Education meetings will be completed by the Committee Chair collaborating with the Superintendent.

The Board Chairperson shall preside over meetings. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall preside.

The meetings shall, to the fullest possible extent, enable Members to conduct the business of the Board in an orderly and expeditious manner.

Order of Business

At each Board meeting, the order of business shall be as follows:

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Report from Student Representatives**
4. **Approval of Minutes**
5. **Information and Proposals**
    - **A. Committee Reports**
    - **B. Superintendents Report**
    - **C. Chair Announcements**
6. **Privilege of the Floor**
7. **New Business requiring Board Action**
8. **Old Business**
9. **Announcement of Future Meetings**
10. **Adjournment**

Open to the Public

Consistent with state law, all meetings of the Board shall be open to attendance by the public with the exception of executive sessions.

~~When members of the public are invited to address the Board concerning any subject that lies within its supervision, control and jurisdiction, the following provisions shall apply:~~ ***Provisions for permitting any resident of the Towns of Woodbury or Bethlehem, any parent/guardian of a child enrolled in the Region 14 School District, or any current employee of the Region 14 School District shall be as follows***

1. A 3 minute time limit may be allowed to each speaker with a maximum of 21 minutes per meeting being allocated for any one item. The Board may, by a majority vote, decide to cancel or adjust these time limits.
2. The Chairperson shall not permit actions which disrupt or interrupt the orderly conduct of the Board meeting. A willful participant in such conduct will be asked to leave the meeting of the Board. In the case of a general disturbance where order cannot be restored by the removal of individuals who are willfully interrupting the meeting, the members of the Board may order the meeting room to be cleared except for representatives of the press who have not participated in the disruption of themeeting.

Executive Sessions

An executive session is a meeting (or a portion of a meeting) at which the public is excluded for one or more of the purposes permitted by The Freedom of Information Act, Connecticut General Statutes § 1-200(6). Executive sessions may be held upon a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting. The motion to enter executive session shall state the specific purpose for the executive session. Only matters that fall within the stated purpose of the executive session may be discussed in executive session. The executive session is limited to discussion only; all votes must be taken in public session.

Actions of the Board

No action will be taken unless the subject acted upon was listed in the agenda posted for that meeting, except that an item of business not included on the agenda of a regular meeting may be considered and acted upon after a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting to add such business to the agenda.

The Board shall not adopt resolutions except where such adoption is required by law or where the intent of the Board is to publish a status position of the Board, as in advising the General Assembly of the Board's position on a proposed law, or commending staff members or other agencies for work well done.

Voting

Unless otherwise specified, all votes of the Board will be by majority vote of those members who

are present. An absentee ballot or proxy vote is not acceptable at any meeting of the Board except as required by law. A record of the votes of each member shall be reduced to writing and made available for public inspection within 48 hours, (excluding Saturdays, Sundays or legal holidays for votes of special meetings) and shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Minutes

The Board shall make, keep and maintain a record of the proceedings of its meetings in the form of minutes. The Secretary of the Board of Education shall ensure that minutes of all meetings of the Board shall be kept. All actions of the Board, including votes of board members, shall be identified clearly in minutes of the meeting. The official minutes of the Board meetings shall be kept in the central office.

Minutes shall be made available to the public within seven days after each meeting (excluding Saturdays, Sundays or legal holidays for minutes of special meetings) and shall be posted on the Board's website, to the extent required by law.

Copies of the minutes shall be made for distribution to the Board members with the agenda for the next regular meeting.

The minutes of any emergency special meeting shall specify the nature of the emergency and shall be available within 72 hours of the meeting, excluding any Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes

1-225 Meetings of government agencies to be public. Recording of votes. Schedule and agenda of meetings to be filed. Notice of special meetings. Executive sessions.
1-232 Conduct of meetings
10-218 Officers
10-224 Duties of secretary