Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Monday, May 6, 2024; 6:08 p.m. (Immediately Following District Meeting)
Mitchell Elementary School
Flanders Room
Official Minutes – Board Approved – Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Present:	**Absent:**
Jim Crocker, Chairman	N/A
Chris Matta	
Chris Griffin	
Carol Ann Brown	
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
Jim Crocker called the meeting to order at 6:08 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 Presentation/Monday, March 25, 2024
A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Michael Carbonneau to accept/approve the minutes as presented; Caren Lipinski and Chris Griffin abstained, motion carried.

B. Regular Meeting/Public Hearing, Tuesday, March 26, 2024
A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Chris Matta to accept/approve the minutes as presented, Alice Jones, Chris Griffin, Caren Lipinski, and Tikva Rose abstained, motion carried.

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

C. Regular Meeting, Monday, April 1, 2024
A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Chris Griffin to accept/approve the minutes as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Student Representative Update

Student Representative Gianna Lodice reported on recent events at the high school and middle school. Nonnewaug High School events included the CIAC Scholar Athlete banquet, the commencement of AP exams, spring musical, "Once Upon a Mattress", Top 10% banquet, Tri-M music honor society induction, annual FFA plant sale and spring concert. Of note, the Nonnewaug's *Chief Advocate* was recognized by school newspapers online (SNO) as a 2023/24 SNO distinguished site for excellence in journalism.

Students at Woodbury Middle School traveled to Mitchell Elementary to read stories to students about kindness. Seventh graders partook in an interactive lesson on pond ecosystems at Flanders Nature Center and the 7th and 8th engineering classes were busy designing and building bird houses, pen making, and board cutting. The 8th grade culinary arts class traveled to the high school for a joint lab lesson, while the staff surprised Principal Nemec and Assistant Principal Greene with "dress like Bill and Suzy day".

B. Goodwin University Partnership/Keith Sevigny, STEM & Career and Technical Education Coordinator

Mr. Sevigny provided an overview of the Region 14 partnership with Goodwin University, which is anticipated for the 2024/2025 school year for students in grades 6-8 at Woodbury Middle School. The curriculum will include engineering/design process, basic blueprint reading, CADD, post-production techniques, additive manufacturing, subtractive manufacturing, and applications to Aerospace Industry.

C. Bethlehem Elementary School /Mitchell Elementary School Development Plans

Each district school was tasked with completing a Development Plan with specific, smart, and measurable goals.

Principal Yatsenick and Principal Pinho presented their school development

Plans, which included specific goals, strategies to obtain the goals, indicators to measure their success, and vision of a learner correlation.

V. Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee Update

Motion to Amend Agenda

Jim Crocker made a motion, seconded by Chris Griffin to amend the agenda to add Item #6 - WMS Upgrade to the Fire Alarm System, with Anticipated Action, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

1. Capital Reserve Fund Expenditures

   Jim Crocker made a motion, seconded by Michael Carbonneau, that the Region 14 Board of Education authorize the use and expenditure from the Capital / Non-Recurring Expenditure Reserve Fund in the amount of $698,646.04 for the following Capital Improvement Projects in accordance with the law as set forth, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously:

2. Nonnewaug Junior Parking Lot

   Jim Crocker made a motion, seconded by Chris Matta, to accept the anticipated costs to install cameras in the Jr. parking lot at the Nonnewaug High School in the amount of $33,000, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

3. Woodbury Middle School Parking Lot Paving

   Jim Crocker made a motion, seconded by Chris Matta, to accept the total anticipated costs of $502,760 for the paving of the parking lot at Woodbury Middle School, which includes the acceptance of the bid award by Asphalt Repairs Solutions, Inc. in the amount of $ 478,760.00 as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

4. Woodbury Middle School Bathroom Partitions

   Jim Crocker made a motion, seconded by Chris Matta, to accept the anticipated costs to replace bathroom partitions at the Woodbury Middle School in the amount of $20,000, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

5. Woodbury Middle School 7th/8th Grade Lockers

   Jim Crocker made a motion, seconded by Chris Matta, to accept the

anticipated costs for the Woodbury Middle School 7th and 8 grade locker replacement, which includes the acceptance of the bid award from PSI - New England Storage Products in the amount of $117,886.04 as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

6. Woodbury Middle School Fire Alarm Upgrade
Jim Crocker made a motion, seconded by Chris Griffin, to accept the anticipated costs to upgrade the fire alarm system at Woodbury Middle School in the amount of $25,000, 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). Both policies were reviewed at the Policy Committee level and brought to the Board for a first read on April 1, 2024. Having no further discussion:

1. Policy 6161.3 Comparability of Services
A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Tikva Rose to accept/approve Policy 6161.3 as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

2. Policy 9700 Time, Place, and Notice of Meetings
A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Chris Griffin to accept/approve Policy 9700 as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously

VI. Board Chair Comments
Chairman Crocker thanked the staff and Board of Education members for a positive school year and for the support of the communities. Board focus remains on the four main goals of safety, academic performance, communication, and budget. Mr. Crocker also provided a quick update on the district's projects.

VII. Privilege of the Floor
There was none

VIII. Old Business
There was none

IX. New Business
A. Field Trip (Action Anticipated)
1. Woodbury FFA Goes to Ireland, April 8th -17, 2026; Lee McMillan/Jennifer

Jedd

A field trip to Ireland is being requested for the week of April 8th, 2026 (two years out to allow time for fundraising) at a cost of approximately $5,000 per student. Students will explore organic and sustainable farming practices, the impact of climate change on traditional food production, and how each agricultural product requires special care. Students will learn about the business of farming, and engage in hands-on projects.

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Chris Matta to accept/approve the field trip as presented,

Discussion

Concerns were expressed regarding the cost of the field trip and funding, the limitation on the number of students who would be able to participate, and the effect on the overall culture of the student body if the trips are only affordable to a select group of students. Others said the field trips have always been an educational experience for students and they should not be denied the opportunity to participate.

All in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Michael Carbonneau to address funding for future field trips, Chris Matta and Chris Griffin abstained, remaining in favor; motion carried.

X. Other Business

There was none

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Chris Griffin to adjourn the meeting, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patricia Paige
Board Clerk

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