Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Tuesday, September 3, 2024; 6:00 p.m.
Mitchell Elementary School
Flanders Room
Official Minutes – Board Approved – Monday, September 16, 2024

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

Absent:
Chris Matta

Also Present:
Brian Murphy, Superintendent
Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations

I. Call to Order

Chairman 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, July 15, 2024

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Alice Jones to accept/approve the minutes as presented, Tikva Rose and Chris Griffin abstained, motion carried.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Start of the 2024/2025 School Year

Although there were a number of road closures due to the excessive rainfall and historic flooding just a few days prior to the start of school, the staff and students were welcomed back when expected. The superintendent acknowledged several entities, including the Public Works Departments,

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

Region 14 Staff, and All-star Transportation for their support in facilitating the timely opening of school.

B. District Foreign Language Program
Spanish is now offered to students in grades 6-8 at Woodbury Middle School with French as an option for students in grade 8. Spanish is also being taught to students in grade 5 at the elementary schools.

C. New Staff
Superintendent Murphy formally welcomed the newly hired certified staff members to the district.

V. Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee Update
There was no formal committee meeting due to lack of a quorum.
Tina Tanguay, the Director of Finance and Operations, reported to the full board on the following:

- Auditors requested a review of the policies and internal controls with the Finance Committee and an explanation of accounting software and internal control protocols
- Auditors approved current financial processes
- The 23-24 audit process is underway

Ms. Tanguay offered a list of the projects that were completed over the summer months. Of note, were the paving, sidewalk, and drainage projects at Woodbury Middle School. The town is requesting that concrete sidewalks be installed in lieu of asphalt and drainage be put in place in the parking lot where the central office was once housed, or west wing as it is currently referred to. These projects total an additional $66,092 over the original bid specification.

A brief discussion was had regarding the 2023-2024 year-end budget surplus of $55,000. Mr. Crocker paid homage to Tina's efforts in balancing the budget to within .1% of the total operating budget.

***Agenda Amendments**

A. Amendment One:
Jim Crocker made a motion, seconded by Chris Griffin, to amend the agenda to include the following language:

"Move that the District appropriate and expend from the District's 'Reserve Fund for Educational Expenditures" the amount of $66,092, to be

expended on additional costs associated with the Woodbury Middle School Paving Project, in accordance with Connecticut General Status Section 10-51(d)(2), as amended.

All in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously

B. Amendment Two:
Jim Crocker made a motion, seconded by Tikva Rose, to amend the agenda to include the following language:

"Move that the District deposit the remaining estimated balance/surplus funds from the District's 2023-2024 operating budget ($55,000) as a supplemental appropriation into the District's 'Reserve Fund for Educational Expenditures', in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-51(d)(2), as amended"

All in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

Amendment Action Items

A. Action for Amendment One:
Jim Crocker made a motion, seconded by Chris Griffin, that the District appropriate and expend from the District's 'Reserve Fund for Educational Expenditures" the amount of $66,092, to be expended on additional costs associated with the Woodbury Middle School Paving Project, in accordance with Connecticut General Status Section 10-51(d)(2), as amended.

All in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

B. Action for Amendment Two:
Jim Crocker made a motion, seconded by Caren Lipinski, that the District deposit the remaining estimated balance/surplus funds from the District's 2023-2024 operating budget ($55,000) as a supplemental appropriation into the District's 'Reserve Fund for Educational Expenditures', in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-51(d)(2), as amended"

All in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

VI. Board Chair Comments

Mr. Crocker provided a commentary on a number of topics including the successful start of the 24/25 school year, four focus pillars, policy audit continuation, curriculum accomplishments under the direction of Dr. Fernandez, Nonnewaug High School's nationally recognized programs for art and Agriscience, and the district's standing as a school district in the top 19% of all schools in the State of Connecticut.

VII. Privilege of the Floor

There was none

VIII. Old Business

A. *Woodbury Middle School Paving Project
Discussion and Actions under Finance Committee Reports

IX. New Business

A. Executive Session

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Chris Griffin to enter into Executive Session for the discussion and possible action on ratification of proposed collective bargaining agreement between Regional School District #14 Board of Education and the Regional School District No. 14 Cafeteria Workers and Teamsters' Local Union No. 443 International Brother Hood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen, and Helpers of America, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously. The Board invited Superintendent Brian Murphy and the Director of Finance and Operations Tina Tanguay into Executive Session at 6:40 p.m.

Public Session

The Board returned to Public Session at 6:56 p.m.

Motion

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Chris Griffin to ratify the collective bargaining agreement between Regional School District #14 Board of Education and the Regional School District No. 14 Cafeteria Workers and Teamsters' Local Union No. 443 International Brother Hood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen, and Helpers of America, 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 Griffin to adjourn the Meeting at 7:04 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

"Minutes created with assistance of Circleback AI"