Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Tuesday, November 19, 2024; 6:00 p.m.
Bethlehem Elementary School
Library
Official Minutes – Board Approved – Monday, January 13, 2025

Present:
Jim Crocker, Chairman
Chris Matta
Carol Ann Brown
Chris Griffin
Alice Jones
Michael Carbonneau (**adjourned 6:56 p.m.)
Tikva Rose (*arrived 6:20 p.m.)

Absent:
Caren Lipinski

Also Present:
Brian Murphy, Superintendent
Taryn Fernandez, Director of Teaching and Learning
Maia Colavito, Student Representative

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 dated Monday, November 4, 2024

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Michael Carbonneau to accept/approve the minutes as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

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

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Board of Education Student Representative Report

Student Rep, Maia Colavito, provided an update for Woodbury Middle School and Nonnewaug High School. A summary of events included Veterans Day ceremonies, high school blood drive, soccer semi-finals, the 3rd annual Powder Puff game, and Corn Bowl game.

B. Five-Year Strategic Plan

District Five Year Strategic Plan Overview/Presented by Superintendent Murphy

- District exceeded state averages in SBAC, SAT, and Science assessments
- Implemented talented and gifted program in middle and elementary schools
- Added Spanish instruction for grades 5-8
- Completed multimillion-dollar capital improvements including:
    - New fire alarm system at middle school
    - Paving projects at three schools
    - Horse barn project completion
    - Playground replacements at elementary schools

School Performance and Accountability Metrics Talking Points

- Region 14 ranked in the top 27% of all school districts in the State of Connecticut based on the Accountability Index/rankings are out of 200 districts
- Bethlehem Elementary School is a 23-24 School of Distinction in six areas and is in the top 12% of elementary schools in CT and top 7% of all schools
- Mitchell Elementary School was named a School of Distinction for the 21-22 and 22-23 schools years
- Woodbury Middle School is in the top 28% of middle schools, Mitchell Elementary in top **49%** of elementary schools, Nonnewaug High School in top **28%** of high schools

*Tikva Rose Arrived 6:20 p.m.

C. Curriculum Development Plan/District State Accountability Results/Presented by Taryn Fernandez

Teaching and Learning Development Plan Overview

- Implemented new math curriculum (Illustrative Math) for grades K-9
- Expanded Open Science curriculum in middle school
- Added partnership with Goodwin University for advanced manufacturing in grades 6-8
- Increased dual credit enrollment opportunities
- Established monthly data meetings across district
- Professional development initiatives include:
    - Coach training for elementary staff
    - Science and reading training for grades 6-12
    - Building Thinking Classrooms focus for Math grades 5-12

Curriculum Update

- **135** curriculum documents remaining for review
- **31** curriculum documents completed since last year
- **5** new curriculum documents currently under review
- Expanded world language program implementation in progress

** Michael Carbonneau adjourned 6:56 p.m.

V. **Committee Reports**

A. Curriculum Committee

Ms. Jones, Committee Chair, provided a brief summary on the course and curricula brought before the board for approval.

1. On a recommendation by the Curriculum Committee to accept/approve the following course:

a. Expressive Art

Motion

A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve the course proposal as presented, all in favor none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

2. On a recommendation by the Curriculum Committee to accept/approve the following curricula:

a. AP United States History

Motion

A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve the curriculum as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

b. Current Topics in Civics

Motion

A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve the curriculum as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

c. Heath Grades 6-8

Motion

A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve the curriculum as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

B. Policy Committee

Chris Matta, Chair of the Policy Committee, presented both policies as a first read with approval and action anticipated at the December meeting.

1. Policy 0200 District Goals
2. Policy 0521 Non-discrimination

VI. Board Chair Comments

Chairman Crocker offered his sincere appreciation to each of the Board members for their dedication, experience, and commitment to the benefit of the Region 14 students, staff, and communities. He reiterated the four focus groups and status of district projects and stated that Region 14 is a great place to be, learn, and work and is continuously improving.

VII. Privilege of the Floor

There was none

VIII. Old Business

There was none

IX. New Business

There was none

X. Other Business

There was none

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Carol Ann Brown to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 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

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