Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Monday, January 13, 2025; 6:00 p.m.
Mitchell Elementary School
Flanders Room
OFFICIAL MINUTES – BOARD APPROVED – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2025

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

Absent:
N/a

Also Present:
Brian Murphy, Superintendent
Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations
Maia Colavito, Student Representative
Taryn Fernandez, Director of Teaching and Learning/Presenter
Kelly Pinho, Principal, Mitchell Elementary School/Presenter
Wendy Yatsenick, Principal, Bethlehem Elementary School/Presenter
Mykal Kuslis, Principal, Nonnewaug High School/Presenter
Declan Curtin, Assistant Principal, Nonnewaug High School/Presenter

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. Nonnewaug High School Renovations and Central Office Projects and Grant
Chairman Crocker thanked the Building Committee members, past and present, for their dedication to the renovation project. The following motions were made to officially finalize the project:

Motion One
Jim Crocker moved that the Region 14 Board of Education accept (as complete) the Nonnewaug High School and Central Office renovation projects, reserving its rights

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under law to pursue any claims with respect to the same, seconded by Chris Matta, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

Motion Two

Jim Crocker moved that the Region 14 Board of Education authorize the School Administration to finalize and submit to the State Department of Administrative Services 1) the final grant applications for Nonnewaug High School Grant #214-0093 EA and Central Office Grant #214-0096 BE/A/CV and 2) the notices of project completion, seconded by Chris Matta, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

The project is officially closed

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting, Monday, November 19, 2024

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Chris Griffin to accept/approve the minutes as presented, Caren Lipinski abstained, motion carried.

B. Regular Meeting, Monday, December 2, 2024

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

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Board of Education Student Representative Report

Student Representative Maia Colavito reported

- Woodbury Middle School:
  - LEO Club organized successful toy drive for St. Mary's Hospital
  - Super Bowl Pancake breakfast scheduled for February 9th, 9-11am
  - Testing period scheduled for January 23rd-30th
- Nonnewaug High School:
  - Drama Club presented "12 Angry Jurors" on December 12th-14th
  - Jazz and Rock Concert scheduled for January 22nd
  - LLS (Leukemia & Lymphoma Society) Fundraiser running January 31st to March 21st with $25,000 goal
  - Indoor track has three runners in state top 10 rankings

B. High School Football Co-op Update (Myke Kuslis and Declan Curtin reported)

Football co-op program changes for 2025

- New varsity schedule includes 10 games (5 home, 5 away)
- Homecoming game scheduled against Nonnewaug on October 2nd, 2025
- Thanksgiving game scheduled for November 26th, 2025
- Program moving to lower division for more competitive matchups
- Players will be eligible for All-State Honors
- Head coach interviews scheduled for end of January

C. Mitchell Elementary School/Bethlehem Elementary School Development Plans
Principals Kelly Pinho and Wendy Yatsenick presented their School Development Plans for the 2024/2025 school year. The plans included information encompassing the Region 14 goals of Academic Performance, Budget, Communication and Safety. Noteworthy achievements include the After-school Academy program implemented for additional student support and the Thinking Classrooms initiative in math and language arts.

VI. **Committee Reports**

A. Curriculum Committee

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

a. English: Creative Writing

Motion

A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Michael Carbonneau to accept/approve the Creative Writing curriculum, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried. (Tikva Rose absent from vote)

b. English: Global Contexts/Multicultural Perspectives

Motion

A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Chris Griffin to accept/approve the Global Contexts/Multicultural Perspectives curriculum as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

c. Math: Pre-Calculus

Motion

A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Tikva Rose to accept/approve the Pre-Calculus curriculum as presented, all in favor, None opposed, motion carried unanimously.

d. Science: Forensics

Motion

A motion was made Alice Jones and seconded by Michael Carbonneau to accept/approve Forensics as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

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

a. Advanced Algebra with Financial Concepts

Motion

A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve Advanced Algebra with Financial Concepts as a course offering as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

3. On a recommendation by the Curriculum Committee to accept/approve the proposed revisions to the Graduation Requirements
Graduation requirement revisions
- Two additional proposals
- Added 1 credit fine arts requirement focusing on visual arts, music, media arts, or theater
- Moved US History offering to sophomore year
- Increased social studies requirement from 2.5 to 3 credits
- Changes maintain 25 total credits required for graduation
- Revisions are effective with the Class of 2029 (current grade 8 students)

Motion
A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Caren Lipinski to accept/approved the revisions to the Graduation Requirements, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

B. Finance Committee
Discussed in Item III

C. Policy Committee
1. On a recommendation by the Policy Committee to accept/approve the following policies, which were presented as a first read with no action anticipated. Expect BoE approval at the next regular meeting of the Board.
   a. Policy 6148 FAFSA
   b. Policy 6172.4 Parent and Family Engagement Policy for Title I Students

VII. Board Chair Comments
Chairman Crocker reiterated 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 stated that Region 14 is a great place to be, learn, and work and is continuously improving.

VIII. Privilege of the Floor
There was none

IX. Old Business
There was none

X. New Business
A. 2025/2026 Region 14 School District Calendar (Item Tabled)
B. Agriscience Field Trip (Eric Birkenberger presented)
- New York, Long Island/April 3-5, 2025
- Horticulture-focused experiences
- Trip opened to multiple grade levels to ensure economic viability

Motion

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Chris Griffin to accept/approve the field trip request as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

XI. Other Business

There was none

XII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Chris Griffin to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 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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