Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Monday, March 3, 2025; 6:00 p.m.
Mitchell Elementary School
Flanders Room
Official Minutes – Board Approved – Monday, April 7, 2025

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

Absent:
Tikva Rose
Michael Carbonneau

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, February 3, 2025
A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Caren Lipinski to accept/approve the minutes as presented, Chris Griffin abstained, motion carried.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Board of Education Student Representative Report
There was no report

B. Request for Leave of Absence
Superintendent Murphy received a request for a leave of absence from Lee Skalkos, Art teacher at Woodbury Middle School, for family obligation purposes. She will return to work on January 5, 2026. Superintendent Murphy recommended that the Board grant her request.

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Chris Griffin to accept/approve

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the leave of absence as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

C. Superintendent's 2025/2026 Budget Presentation
- Superintendent presented 2025-2026 budget of $43,346,298, a 4.99% increase from previous year
- District ranked in top 27% of Connecticut school districts for academic performance
- Two schools received achievement distinction awards:
  - Mitchell Elementary School
  - Bethlehem Elementary School
- District accountability index of 78.5 exceeded state average
- 73% of budget allocated to salaries and benefits
- Salary increases account for $1.523M (75%) of total budget increase
- Federal Funding Reduced

VI. **Committee Reports**

A. Curriculum Committee

Ms. Jones, Chair of the Curriculum Committee, recapped the course proposals brought before the Board for approval on a recommendation by the Curriculum subcommittee.

1. Music Appreciation

   Motion

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

2. Music Fundamentals and Ear Training

   Motion

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

3. The Writer's Studio/ENGL 3082

   Motion

   A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve The Writer's Studio/ENGL 3082 as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

B. Policy Committee

Chris Matta, Chair of the Policy Committee, recapped the policies brought before the Board for approval on a recommendation by the Policy subcommittee, second read, action anticipated

1. Policy 3323 Soliciting Prices

   Motion

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Caren Lipinski to accept/approve Policy 3323 as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

2. Policy 6172 Alternative Education Programs
   Motion
   A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Caren Lipinski to accept/approve Policy 6172 as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

VII. Board Chair Comments

Chairman Crocker stated that the district is finally in a place of focus and high performance. He thanked the educational team for contributing to a stabilized environment.

VIII. Privilege of the Floor

There was none

IX. Old Business

There was none

X. New Business

A. Health Food Certification

Required motion language for participation in healthy food option of Healthy Food Certification.

Motion One

Jim Crocker moved that Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the **Regional School District 14 Board of Education** certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups, seconded by Alice Jones, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

Required motion language for combined food and beverage exemptions

Motion Two

Jim Crocker moved that the **Regional School District 14 Board of Education** will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales, seconded by Carol Ann Brown, 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 6:50 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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