Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Monday, April 7, 2025; 6:00 p.m.
Bethlehem Elementary School
Library
Official Minutes – Board Approved – Monday, May 5, 2025

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

Absent:
Tikva Rose
Chris Griffin

Also Present:
Brian Murphy, Superintendent
Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations
Addison Bushka, Student Representative
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 acquaintances were made

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting, Monday, March 3, 2025
A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Caren Lipinski to accept/approve the minutes as presented, Michael Carbonneau abstained, motion carried.

B. Regular Meeting (Budget Workshop #1) Monday, March 10, 2025
A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Carol Ann Brown to accept/approve the minutes as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

C. Budget Presentation to the Boards of Selectmen and Boards of Finance of the Towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury dated Monday, March 24, 2025
A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Alice Jones to accept/approve the minutes as presented, Michael Carbonneau 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

D. Public Hearing dated Tuesday, March 25, 2025

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Chris Matta to accept/approve the minutes as presented, Michael Carbonneau abstained, motion carried.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Board of Education Student Representatives' Reports:

Addison Bushka and Maia Colavito reported on events across the district

- Nonnewaug High School hosted senior art showcase at Woodbury Public Library
- NEASC visited Nonnewaug High School on March 24-25 for decennial accreditation check
- NHS Spanish trip departing April 10
- Woodbury Middle School production of *Frozen Junior* scheduled for April 8-9
- MES celebrated Dr. Seuss Week with guest readers and kicked off "One Book One School" month
- BES preparing for College and Career Week starting April 21 with Senator Berthel teaching about government
- Career fair scheduled at BES on Friday, April 25 at 2:15 p.m.

B. Student Award Presentation

Woodbury Middle School student Madelyn Taylor was recognized as a finalist in the School Gear Swag Design Challenge for her "MuchMates" design. Mr. Norm Goldstein, Chief Executive Officer of EduNetwork Partners, presented Madelyn with a certificate. A personalized backpack and portfolio are forthcoming. Students who become finalists will participate as focus group for new products developed by HIT Promotion. Madelyn was recognized as the youngest participant and only non-high school student in the national contest.

Ms. Brenda Williams was also acknowledged for her "commitment to fostering a stimulating and engaging learning environment."

C. Woodbury-Bethlehem Community Music Foundation Presentation

Ms. Jan Maki, President, and Mr. Bill Geddes, Founder and Past President of the Woodbury-Bethlehem Community Foundation as well as Ms. Peg Sheehan presented Woodbury Middle School with a $2,500. Jamie O'Dell received the $2,500 community grant from Woodbury Bethlehem Music Foundation on behalf of Region 14. The grant will support High Note Music Festival where student groups prepare 20 minutes of music and receive feedback from expert adjudicators.

The foundation is celebrating its 20th year supporting music education in the community and has distributed over $200,000 in community grants.

D. Nonnewaug High School NEASC Update

- NEASC visited Nonnewaug High School on March 24-25 for decennial accreditation check
- Priority areas included Vision-of-a-Learner, Common Planning Time, Advisory (Chiefs), Curriculum, SST, and School Development Plan
- NEASC accreditation visit showed significant progress in all six priority areas with final accreditation decision expected by end of school year
- Key improvements included adoption of Portrait of a Graduate, common planning time for teachers, advisory program meeting weekly instead of monthly, curriculum revisions, and student success team implementation

V. **Committee Reports**

A. Finance Committee

- Current revenues at $31,884,902 or 77.23% of budget
- Current expenditures at $30,415,229 or 73.67% of budget
- All Vo-ag tuition has been collected

1. **Discussion of District Projects (Action Anticipated)**
   Board approved three capital projects, which will come from the Capital Reserve Fund:
   - Irrigation system for WMS ball field at estimated cost of $115,000
   - Updates to WMS tennis courts at estimated cost of $62,000
   - New furniture for elementary schools and WMS at estimated cost of $25,000

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

2. **Teacher Retirement Proposal (Possible Action)**
   - Proposal for teachers with 25+ years in State Teachers' Retirement Board (not all need to be in Region 14)
   - Teachers will receive $8,000 per year for 3 years
   - Available for the first ten teachers who qualify
   - Savings reserved for unanticipated out-placement costs

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

B. Curriculum Committee

On a recommendation by the Curriculum Committee to approve the following curricula: (Action Anticipated)

1. **Ag Engineering Grade 10**

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

2. **Equine Science (11/12) Comprehensive Care and Management of Equine Animals**
   A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Michael Carbonneau to accept/approve the curriculum as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

3. **Equine Science (11/12) Equine Biology and Evolution**
   A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Caren Lipinski to accept/approve the curriculum as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

4. **Digital Design I**
   A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Chris Matta to accept/approve the curriculum as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

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

C. Textbook Proposal

1. **AP Environmental Science Textbook**
   A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Michael Carbonneau to accept/approve the textbook as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

D. Policy Committee

On a recommendation by the Policy Committee to approve the following polices, first read, no action anticipated. The policies will be brought before the Board for a second read at their next regular meeting in May.

1. Policy 4134 Tutoring
2. Policy 4111/4211 Recruitment and Selection

VI. Board Chair Comments

Chairman Crocker comments included:

- Region 14 has made significant progress
- Region 14 is in the top 27% of all schools in the State of Connecticut
- Superintendent Murphy is doing a great job
- Projects include Curriculum and Policy review
- Bethlehem Elementary School a 23/24 “School of Distinction” according to

Accountability Index

- Mitchell Elementary School a 21/22 and 22/23 "School of Distinction" according to Accountability index

VII. Privilege of the Floor

There was none

VIII. Old Business

There was none

IX. New Business

A. Discussion/possible action on Budget for 2025/2026

Jim Crocker moved that the Region 14 Board of Education approve and adopt the Superintendent's proposed budget for the fiscal year 2025/2026 in the amount of $43,346,298 as presented to the Board, seconded by Chris Matta, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

B. Calling of Referendum (action anticipated)

Jim Crocker moved that the Board of Education schedule and warn the Annual District Meeting for Monday, May 5, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Flanders Room at Mitchell Elementary School, 14 School Street, Woodbury, CT concerning the 2025/2026 budget, with said meeting to be adjourned to a referendum on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury, CT, seconded by Chris Matta, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

C. Approval of Explanatory Text (action anticipated)

Jim Crocker moved that the Secretary of the Board of Education is authorized, in such official's discretion, to prepare and cause to be printed and distributed explanatory text and other neutral printed materials regarding the 2025/2026 budget referendum scheduled for Tuesday, May 6, 2025, with such explanatory text and other neutral printed materials subject to the review and approval of the District's legal counsel and to be prepared and distributed in accordance with Section 9-369b of the Connecticut General Statutes, seconded by Chris Matta, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

D. Community Notification (action anticipated)

Jim Crocker moved that the Chairman of the Board of Education is authorized, in such official's discretion, to request and cause the Superintendent of Schools to use the District's community notification system to provide notice of the referendum, in accordance with Section 9-369b of the Connecticut General Statutes, seconded by

Chris Matta, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

E. Nonnewaug High School Graduation Date for the Class of 2025: Saturday, June 14, 2025 with a rain date of Sunday, June 15, 2025

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Carol Ann Brown to accept/approve the Nonnewaug High School Graduate date and rain date as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

X. Other Business

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Chris Matta to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 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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