Minutes
Special Meeting
Region 14 Board of Education
Friday, May 9, 2025; 4:00 p.m.
Mitchell Elementary School
Flanders Room
OFFICIAL MINUTES – BOARD APPROVED – MONDAY, JULY 14, 2025

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

Absent:
Chris Griffin

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

I. Call to Order
Chairman Crocker called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Introductions
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and acquaintances made.

Chairman Crocker and Superintendent Murphy provided some opening remarks.

III. Discussion/possible action on revised budget for 2025-2026
Eliminations from the current budget proposal:

- New Spanish Teacher
- BES Media Specialist from F/T to P/T
- High School Lab Tech
- One Section of Culinary Arts at NHS
- MES One Full-time Kindergarten Teacher
- Guidance Counselor NHS
- Agriscience Teacher Savings (New teacher at a lower rate)
- Savings of $413,895 for a total overall budget proposal of $42,932,403

State School District Average Increase is 5.6%

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Motion
Chris Matta made a motion to eliminate the Dean of Students/Athletic Director position at the high school, seconded by Jim Crocker,

Discussion
Superintendent Murphy does not support the cut
The cut is above and beyond the cuts previously noted
Superintendent would propose 2-$20,000 stipends if the position is eliminated

Tikva Rose (1-No), Alice Jones, Jim Crocker, Chris Matta, Carol Ann Brown, Caren Lipinski, and Michael Carbonneau (6-Yes), motion carried, positon eliminated.

The decision was made to discuss and motion each elimination separately

Spanish Teacher
Jim Crocker made a motion to eliminate the new Spanish teacher position with a savings of $75,000, seconded by Tikva Rose, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously, position eliminated.

Media Specialist Full-time to Part-time at Bethlehem Elementary School
Jim Crocker made a motion to move the full-time Media Specialist position at BES from full-time to part-time for a savings of $50,000, seconded by Alice Jones; Tikva Rose, Alice Jones, Michael Carbonneau, Jim Crocker and Chris Matta (5-Yes), Carol Ann Brown and Caren Lipinski (2-No), motion carried.

Lab Tech at Nonnewaug High School
Jim Crocker made a motion to eliminate the High School Lab Tech for a savings of $40,295, seconded by Tikva Rose; Alice Jones, Mike Carbonneau, Jim Crocker and Chris Matta (4-Yes); Tikva Rose, Caren Lipinski, and Carol Ann Brown, (3-No) motion carried, position eliminated.

One Teaching Section of Culinary Arts at Nonnewaug High School
Jim Crocker made a motion to eliminate one teaching section of culinary arts at the high school for a savings of $22,600, seconded by Tikva Rose; Caren Lipinski, Mike Carbonneau, Chris Matta (3-Yes); Tikva Rose, Alice Jones, Carol Ann Brown, and Jim Crocker, (4-No) motion does not pass, section remains.

One Full-time Kindergarten Teacher at Mitchell Elementary School
Jim Crocker made a motion to eliminate one full-time kindergarten teacher for a savings of $100,434, seconded by Michael Carbonneau; Tikva Rose, Alice Jones, Michael Carbonneau, Jim Crocker, Chris Matta and Carol Ann Brown (6-Yes); Caren Lipinski, (1-No) motion carried, position eliminated.

Guidance Counselor at Nonnewaug High School

Jim Crocker made a motion to eliminate a Guidance Counselor position for a savings of $68,365, seconded by Alice Jones; Alice Jones, Mike Carbonneau, Jim Crocker, Chris Matta (4-Yes); Tikva Rose, Caren Lipinski, Carol Ann Brown, (3-No) motion carried, position eliminated.

Agriscience teacher savings (new teacher)

Jim Crocker moved that the savings of $57,201 be accepted, seconded by Tikva Rose, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

Motion

Jim Crocker moved that the Region 14 Board of Education approve and adopt the Superintendent's proposed amended budget for the year 2025/2026 in the amount $42,876,216 as further amended by the Board, seconded by Mike Carbonneau; Alice Jones, Jim Crocker, and Chris Matta (3-Yes); Tikva Rose, Caren Lipinski, Carol Ann Brown, and Michael Carbonneau, (4-No) motion fails.

Chairman Crocker and Superintendent Murphy explained to the Board that the above motion was a formality. The aggregate budget had already been decided upon through the collective motions.

Motion

Jim Crocker moved that the Region 14 Board of Education approve and adopt the Superintendent's proposed amended budget for the year 2025/2026 in the amount of $42,876,215 as presented and modified by the Board, Alice Jones seconded; Alice Jones, Michael Carbonneau, Jim Crocker, Chris Matta, and Carol Ann Brown, (5-Yes); Tikva Rose and Caren Lipinski; (2-No) motion carried.

IV. Discussion/possible action on calling of District meeting and referendum on revised Budget

Jim Crocker moved that the Board of Education schedule and warn a District Meeting for Monday, May 19, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. in the Flanders Room at Mitchell Elementary School, 14 School Street, Woodbury, CT concerning the amended 2025/2026 budget, with said meeting to be adjourned to a referendum on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury, CT, seconded by Tikva Rose, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

V. Discussion/possible action on authorization and approval of explanatory text/neutral materials and notices

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 materials and notices regarding the 2025/2026 budget referendum scheduled for May 20, 2025, with such explanatory text and materials and notices 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 Michael Carbonneau, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

VI. Community Notification System (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 Caren Lipinski, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

V. Adjournment

Jim Crocker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:34 p.m., seconded by Tikva Rose, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patricia Paige
Board Clerk
Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Patricia Paige, Board Clerk

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