Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Monday, October 6, 2025; 6:00 p.m.
Library Media Center
Bethlehem Elementary School
Official Minutes – Board Approved – Monday, November 3, 2025

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

Absent:

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

I. Call to Order

Chairman Matta called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and acquaintances were made

Board Chairman Chris Matta asked for a moment of silence in memory of former Board Member and Bethlehem resident, Michael Devine

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Special Meeting, Board Workshop, Monday, September 8, 2025

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

B. Regular Meeting, Monday, September 8, 2025

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Chris Griffin to accept and approve the minutes as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

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III. Superintendent's Report

A. Student Representative Reports

Maia Colavito and Addison Bushka reported on the many happenings across the district. Some of those happenings included:

- Woodbury Middle School completed NWEA testing from September 29th through October 8th and started lunchtime library program for students
- 8th graders will attend Nonnewaug elective fair on October 15th, with fall dance scheduled October 29th from 5-7 PM
- Nonnewaug National Honor Society blood drive surpassed goal with 25 successful donations on September 16th
- Homecoming dance scheduled for Thursday, October 9th at Grand Oak Villa, with Trick or Treat Street event Saturday, October 25th
- Mitchell Elementary launched Character Strong SEL program focusing on respect this month, responsibility next month
- Bethlehem Elementary consumed over 450 hot dogs at PTO community event and plans 100th year celebration for building opened in 1927

B. 2025 Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Student Visionaries

- Brayden Whipple and Billy Herr raised over $58,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, initially finishing second place, they actually won entire state championship due to calculation error discovered over summer
- Team featured in recent Forbes magazine article and set standard for Connecticut students
- Presented with a certificate acknowledging their commitment to the fundraising effort

C. District Capital Projects Update

Director of Grounds and Maintenance Mike Molzon provided a status on the capital projects in the district. His report to the Board included an update on the HVAC system project started in 2007, now completed, and the installation of an irrigation system at Woodbury Middle School. Other completed projects included painting across the district, restriping parking lots, the addition of security cameras at Nonnewaug High School, playground inspections and repairs, and the renovation of the tennis courts at Woodbury Middle School to name a few.

Mr. Molzon also spoke to the 2-phase planning project for the old horse barn to match current and anticipated needs of the agriscience program with confirmed funding from the state agricultural grant fund.

D. Agriscience Presentation

- Sophomore team won state competition and will compete at National Convention in Indianapolis in late October
- Students performed parliamentary procedure demonstration as prerequisite training for advanced competition
- Team led by Mrs. Leanne Foster

IV. Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee

Through August 3, 2025, the district received $7,976,563 to date, spent 7,392,603. In swing of the new year, trending on track. Currently working with the auditors, closing out the last school year.

B. Policy Committee

1. On a recommendation by the Policy Committee to accept/approve the following policy: (Second Read, Action Anticipated)
   a. Policy 5131.911 Connecticut School Climate Policy

      A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Caren Lipinski to accept and approve Policy 5131.911 as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

2. On a recommendation by the Policy Committee to accept/approve the following policies (First Read, No Action Anticipated)

   a. Policy and Regulation 4112.5/4212.5 Security Check/Fingerprinting/Criminal Justice Information
      - State mandated policy, replaces current policy
      - A thorough process is necessary for school safety

   b. Policy and Regulation 5144.12 Challenging Behavior Prevention: Restorative Practices Response
      - Superintendent Murphy presented a new state-mandated policy that replaces existing disciplinary policies and practices
      - Includes definitions, general principles, and guidelines for building administrators to implement restorative practices
      - Related to all matters of student discipline

V. Board Chair Comments

Chairman Matta once again recognized the Agriscience students for their parliamentary presentation

VI. Privilege of the Floor

Tikva Rose

- Requested more mindful scheduling around Jewish holidays to avoid conflicts with school events like cross country meets and auditions

- Acknowledged students can miss school for religious observance but highlighted difficulty choosing between family obligations and school activities

Craig Haven

- Mr. Haven requested a private meeting with Superintendent Murphy regarding grandson's "excessive and unwarranted suspensions" at Nonnewaug High School

VII. Old Business

There was none

VIII. New Business

There was none

IX. Other Business

There was none

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Jim Crocker to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m., all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patricia Paige
Board Clerk
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