Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Monday, February 2, 2026; 6:00 p.m.
Flanders Room
Mitchell Elementary School

Present:
Chris Matta, Chair
Jim Crocker
Caren Lipinski
Michael Carbonneau
Bridget Calabrese
Carol Ann Brown
Tikva Rose

Absent:
Alice Jones

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

I. Call to Order
Chairman Matta called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

II. Approval of Minutes
A. Special Meeting, Wednesday, January 7, 2026
A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve the minutes as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

B. Regular Meeting, Monday, January 12, 2026
A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve the minutes as presented, 6 were in favor, none opposed, Tikva Rose abstained, motion carried.

III. Superintendent's Report
A. Student Representative Report
Student Representative Addison Bushka provided reports for both Mitchell Elementary School and Bethlehem Elementary School.

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Mitchell Elementary School

- January was very busy with middle of the year testing in MClass and NWEA
- Character trait of the month is empathy. Students and staff looking for display of empathy and shouting them out during morning announcements
- 100th day of school on February 9th. The theme is 100 days brighter and sunglasses/bright colors will be attire for that day
- Students began a month long study on different aspects of Black History; work will be displayed at conferences held last week of February
- Bash the Trash assembly was held last Friday thanks to the PTO and partnership with Woodbury-Bethlehem Community Music Foundation

Bethlehem Elementary School

- Students completing mid-year testing to assess academic progress in Math, Literacy and Science
- Annual Grandparent Valentine's Dinner will be held February 13th at Memorial Hall. The event is almost sold out
- Students have begun working on their Invention Convention creations
- BES is again participating in the Scripps National Spelling Bee and classroom champions have been crowned. The final school bee will take place on Friday, February 6th
- Students are once again beginning to get their Garden Club going

B. Bethlehem Elementary School Development Plan

Principal Wendy Yatsenik presented her School Development Plan to the board. Reports centered on goals, supported by strategic approaches for achievement, comparison data, and progress. In addition, the school has launched a new student newspaper as an enrichment program. They are 1 of only 5 elementary schools in Connecticut with a newspaper.

C. Mitchell Elementary School Development Plan

Principal Kelly Pinho presented her School Development Plan to the board. Reports centered on goals, supported by strategic approaches for achievement, comparison data, and progress.

D. Nonnewaug High School Football Co-op Update

Principal Myke Kuslis announced that the football program moving from the Berkshire League to the Naugatuck Valley League for the next two years. This change will provide a better geographical fit and reduce some of the long travel to eastern Connecticut Schools.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Athletic Committee

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- Fall sports teams were comprised of 231 Athletes
- 4 Berkshire League Championships
- 4 Berkshire League Tournament Titles
- 3 State Semi-Finalists
- 9 All-State Athletes
- 19 All-Berkshire League First-Teamers
- Winter season includes 235 athletes

B. Finance Committee

- Revenue collected to date: **$26,196,773** (**61.25%** of budget)
- Expenditures to date: **$24,467,226** (**57.20%** of expenditures)
- Annual audit was completed for fiscal year ending **June 30, 2025**
- District received clean audit opinion with no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in financial statements or compliance
- District stayed within budget with no overages requiring additional approvals
- District followed all guidance and guidelines properly

C. Policy Committee

On a recommendation by the Policy Committee to accept/approve the following policies (First read, no action anticipated)

a. Policy 1312.3/6161.13 Library Materials Review and Reconsideration
   - Revisions to state mandated policy which calls for updating the process of requests to reconsider and remove material, displays or student programs used in the classroom or available in the school library/media center

b. Policy 4212.42 Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers
   - Revisions to state mandated policy which calls for establishing a drug and alcohol testing program that meets the requirements of federal regulations
   - In addition, school transportation contractor will train all school bus drivers with instruction on identifying signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis and in the administration of epinephrine by cartridge injector ("Epi-Pen")
   - Chris Matta would like to include in the policy to provide Narcan training for school bus drivers and have Narcan on all busses to avert a tragedy. The bus company is resistant to authorizing this but the Region will continue to pursue this important issue.

D. Curriculum Committee

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

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a. 8th Grade Math
A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve the 8th Grade Math Curriculum as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

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

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

d. Accounting II
A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Tikva Rose to accept/approve the Accounting II Curriculum as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

e. Marketing II
A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Caren Lipinski to accept/approve the Marketing II Curriculum as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

f. Algebra 2 with Financial Concepts
A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve the Algebra 2 with Financial Concepts Curriculum as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

g. Geometry
A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Michael Carbonneau to accept/approve the Geometry Curriculum as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

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

2. On a recommendation by the Curriculum Committee to accept/approve the following course proposals (Action Anticipated):

a. Computer Aided Drafting 1/CTState 1330
A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve the Computer Aided Drafting 1/CTState 1330 course

proposal as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

b. Computer Aided Drafting 2/CTState 2200
A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve the Computer Aided Drafting 2/CTState 2200 course proposal as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

c. An American History of Rock and Soul
A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve the American History of Rock and Soul course proposal as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

V. Board Chair Comments

Chairman Matta thanked Principals Yatsenik and Pinho for their informative presentations. He is pleased with all of the wonderful things happening in Region 14.

VI. Privilege of the Floor

There were no participants for Privilege of the Floor

VII. Old Business

There was no Old Business brought before the board

VIII. New Business

There was no New Business brought before the board

IX. Other Business

Carol Ann Brown wished to express how pleased she has been with all of the updates sent out from the District, specifically the newspaper clippings that are included. In addition, she wished to thank O&G for their generous donation of an air-brake system to the District.

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Jim Crocker to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m., all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Effes
Secretary
Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Kimberly Effes, Secretary
Minutes created with assistance of Circleback AI"

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