Board of Education

5 Minortown Road ~ Woodbury, CT 06798
www.ctreg14.org

Mission: The mission of Connecticut Region 14 Schools is to educate all students to their highest level of academic potential and to teach them the skills and knowledge to become capable, creative, collaborative lifelong learners and responsible members of the world community.

Board of Education Goals:
Academic Performance - The district will strive to improve academic performance for all students on multiple assessment indicators and the staff will be committed to continuous improvement.
Communication - Region 14 will develop partnerships with all stakeholders in the school community to highlight the exemplary programs the district offers
Safety - Region 14 will provide safe and secure facilities equipped with technology, enabling a 21st century learning environment that supports the values of the district
Budget - Region 14 will prepare a budget that meets the needs of every student and communicates the needs and priorities of Region 14 in a clear and concise manner.

A G E N D A

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

I. Call to Order.....Chris Matta

II. Pledge of Allegiance.....Chris Matta

III. Introductions.....Chris Matta

IV. Approval of Minutes (Action Anticipated) .....Chris Matta
   A. Regular Meeting, Monday, February 2, 2026

V. Superintendent's Report
   A. Student Representative Report
   B. Region 14 2026/2027 Budget Presentation
   C. Region 14 Fine Arts Presentation

VI. Committee Reports
   A. Finance Committee Update

   B. Policy Committee

A. On a recommendation by the Policy Committee to accept/approve the following policies: (Second Read, Action Anticipated)
   1. Policy 1312.3/6161.12 Library Materials Review and Reconsideration
   2. Policy 4212.42 Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers

VII. Board Chair's Comments

VIII. Privilege of the floor
The Board of Education will recognize citizens of Bethlehem and Woodbury, any parent/guardian of a child enrolled in the Region 14 School District, or any current employee of the Region 14 School District who are asked to state their name and town of residence and to please limit comments to three (3) minutes. Up to 21 minutes of statements per topic are allowed. All comments should be addressed to the Board of Education Chair. Decorum will be enforced.

IX. Old Business

X. New Business
A. Healthy Food Certifications (Action Anticipated)

Vote 1: Required vote for participation in healthy food option of the Healthy Food Certification

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, 2026, through June 30, 2027. 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.

Vote 2: Required motion language for combined food and beverage exemptions:

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.

XI. Other Business

XII. Adjournment

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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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

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 Yatsenick 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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Community Relations/Instruction

Library Material Review and Reconsideration Policy

Statement of Policy:

The Region 14 Board of Education understands that, on occasion, a member of the public will wish to lodge a complaint against instructional material used in the classroom or available in the school library/media center. Consideration of requests to reconsider and remove material, displays, or student programs is limited to individuals with a vested interest. An individual with vested interest may challenge any library and other educational materials, display or student program by initiating a review of such material via the submission of a request for reconsideration form.

It shall be the policy of the Region 14 Board of Education that the removal, exclusion or censoring of any book shall not occur on the sole basis that a person with a vested interest finds such book offensive. No library and other educational material, display, or program shall be removed from library media centers, or programs be canceled, because of the origin, background, or viewpoints expressed in such material, display, or program, or because of the origin, background, or viewpoints of the creator of such material, display, or program. Library and other educational materials, displays, and student programs shall only be excluded for legitimate pedagogical purposes or for professionally accepted standards of collection maintenance practices as adopted in the collection development and maintenance policy or the display and program policy.

Until a final decision is made by the review committee, any library and other educational material being challenged shall remain available in the school library media center according to such material's catalog record and be available for a student to reserve, check out, or access.

A school district may consolidate any requests for review and reconsideration of the same challenged library and other educational material. Once a decision has been made by **the review committee** on any library and other educational material, such material cannot be subject to a new request for review and reconsideration for a period of three years.

The Region 14 Board of Education will review and update this policy as necessary every five years.

Definitions

"Library and other educational material" means any material belonging to, on loan to or otherwise in the custody of a school library media center, including, but not limited to, nonfiction and fiction books, magazines, reference books, supplementary titles, multimedia and digital material, software and other material not required as part of classroom instruction.

Community Relations/Instruction

Library Material Review and Reconsideration Policy

Definitions (continued)

"School library staff member" means a school library media specialist, school librarian, any certified or non-certificated staff member whose assignment is in the school library or any individual carrying out or assisting with the functions of a school library media specialist or school librarian.

"Individual with a vested interest" means any school staff member employed by a local or regional board of education, parent or guardian of a student currently enrolled in a school at the time a reconsideration form is filed, or any student currently enrolled in a school at the time a reconsideration form is filed.

"Remove" means deliberately taking library material out of a library's collection. **"Remove"** does not include the process of clearing such collection of any materials that are no longer useful.

Material Review and Reconsideration Procedure

The Board of Education has established the following procedure for addressing complaints regarding the utilization of library and other educational materials:

1. Individuals with a vested interest may initiate the review or reconsideration of any library and other educational materials, display, or student program by submitting a request for recommendation form to the principal of the school in which the library and other education materials are being challenged.
2. The Principal, or the Principal's designee, shall promptly forward the request for reconsideration to the Superintendent of Schools for the school district.
3. The Superintendent, or the Superintendent's designee, shall appoint a review committee consisting of:
    a. The Superintendent, or the Superintendent's designee;
    b. the Principal of the school in which the library and other educational material is being challenged, or the Principal's designee;
    c. the Director of curriculum, or a person in an equivalent position;
    d. a representative from the local or regional board of education;
    e. at least one grade-level-appropriate teacher familiar with the library material provided, the teacher selected is not the individual who submitted the form;
    f. a parent or guardian of a student *age thirteen years or younger* enrolled in the school district, provided the parent or guardian selected is not the individual who submitted the form;
    g. a parent or guardian of a student *aged fourteen years or older* enrolled in the school district, provided the parent or guardian selected is not the individual who submitted the form;
    h. a certified school librarian employed by such board or employed by another board of education in the state.

Community Relations/Instruction

Library Material Review and Reconsideration Policy

Material Review and Reconsideration Procedure (continued)

In cases where such form is submitted by a student enrolled in *grades nine to twelve*, inclusive, and when appropriate and at the discretion of the superintendent, a student enrolled in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, may serve on the review committee if such student did not submit the reconsideration form, provided the superintendent consults with the principal of the school involved in such reconsideration request prior to making this determination whether to include such student on the review committee.

4. The **review committee** shall evaluate the request for reconsideration form by reading the challenged material in its entirety and evaluating the challenged material against the school district's *Collection Development and Maintenance Policy*.

5. The **review committee** shall make a *written decision* on whether to remove the challenged material *within sixty school days* from the date of receiving such request and provide a copy of the committee's decision and report to *the individual with a vested interest who submitted the form and to the principal of the school*.

6. The individual with a vested interest who submitted the *request for reconsideration form* may appeal to the *review committee's decision* to the local or regional board of education for the school district. The Board shall determine whether the reconsideration process was followed and publish the decision on the school district's website.

General Provisions

Any school library media specialist or school library staff member who, in good faith, implements the policies described in this section shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed and shall have the same immunity with respect to any judicial proceeding that results from such implementation.

Policy adopted:

1312.3
6161.12
Form 1

Region 14 Public Schools

Request for Reconsideration of Library Books/Materials

Title _____

Author _____ Publisher _____

This request was initiated by

☐ Parent/Guardian

☐ Student

☐ Other (please specify) _____

The material is best described as a:

☐ Book

☐ Video or Online Content

☐ Periodical/Magazine

☐ Other Media. Please specify _____

Please answer the following questions:

1. Did you read, view, or listen to the entire work? If not, what parts did you examine?

_____
_____
_____

2. In what specific ways do you think this work is inappropriate for students?

_____
_____
_____

3. What have you been told about the educational purpose of this material?

_____
_____
_____

4. What do you believe is the theme or purpose of this material?

5. For what age group would you recommend this material?

6. Are you aware of the judgment of this work by literary critics and/or professional educators/organizations?

7. What are the valuable aspects of this material?

8. What do you feel may be the results of students reading, listening to, or viewing this material?

9. What work/material of equal or superior value would you recommend replacing the one in question?

10. Please explain your reasons for your objection:

Signature of Complainant

Date

1312.3
6161.12
Form 2

REGION 14 PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WOODBURY, CONNECTICUT

Request for Appeal of Reconsideration of Library and Other Educational Materials Decision

Full Legal Name: _____ Title of Material:_____

Address: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Author:_____ Publisher: _____

Date the Reconsideration Decision was communicated to you: _____

Please explain why you are appealing against this decision:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

How do you believe the review committee failed to follow the reconsideration process?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Are you submitting any documentation with this appeal? If so, please list/describe supporting documents:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

1312.3
6161.12
Complainant
Letter

REGION 14 PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WOODBURY, CONNECTICUT

Sample Letter to Complainant

Date: _____

Complainant Name
Address Line 1
Address Line 2

Dear [Complainant's Name],

Thank you for bringing your concerns regarding one of our school's library materials to our attention. In accordance with Connecticut state law, our school has a procedure in place to adjudicate concerns and reconsideration requests.

To facilitate this review, we kindly request that you submit a *Request for Reconsideration* of *Library Books and Materials* form to clearly identify the specific content you find objectionable and describe the nature of your concerns. Once your submission is received, it will be forwarded to the District Library Review Committee for formal consideration. The Committee's review process includes thoroughly reviewing the material, assessing its educational value, and addressing all concerns raised.

If you have any questions or require assistance with this process, please do not hesitate to contact me at [phone number or email address].

Thank you for engaging with us to support a thoughtful and responsible approach to creating libraries that meet the needs of all students.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
[Your "Vested Interest" Identity]

Personnel -- Non-Certified

Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers

Contracts for transportation approved by this District shall contain assurance that the contractor will establish a drug and alcohol testing program that meets the requirements of federal regulations.

In addition, the Board of Education expects its school transportation contractor to train all school bus drivers, with instruction pertaining to the identification, the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis, and in the administration of epinephrine by a cartridge injector ("EpiPen"), the notification of emergency personnel, and the reporting of an incident involving a student's life-threatening allergic reaction. Such training shall occur following the issuance or renewal of an endorsement to operate a school bus for carrier employees, and upon the hiring of a school bus driver, except a driver who received the training after the most recent issuance or renewal of his or her endorsement is not required to repeat it.

Prior to employment of bus drivers, the Board of Education expects its school transportation carrier to conduct a full query of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse (Clearinghouse) to obtain information about the driver's eligibility under federal rules to perform a safety-sensitive function. The District/school transportation carrier will also contact prior employers where the applicant was a CDL driver for information to determine the driver's eligibility to perform safety-sensitive functions. (Prior employers' inquiries will continue until January 2023.)

The school transportation carrier will also utilize the Clearinghouse for current CDL drivers who are employees on at least an annual basis. Required personal information that is collected and maintained in connection with the testing program shall also be reported, as required, to the Clearinghouse.

Legal Reference: United States Code, Title 49

2717 Alcohol and controlled substances testing (Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991)

Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49

40 Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs

382 Controlled Substance and Alcohol Use and Testing (as amended)

395 Hours of Service Drivers

Holiday v. City of Modesto (1991) 229 Cal. App. 3d. 528, 540.

Personnel -- Non-Certified

Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes (continued)

International Brotherhood of Teamsters v. Department of Transportation

932 F. 2d 1292 (1991)

American Trucking Association, Inc. v. Federal Highway Administration, (1995) WL 136022 (4th circuit)

10-212c Life-threatening food allergies and glycogen storage disease: Guidelines; district plans. (as amended by PA 18-185)

14-261b Drug and alcohol testing of drivers of certain vehicles, mechanics and forklift operators

14-276a Regulations re school bus operators and operators of student transportation vehicles; qualifications; training. Pre-employment drug test required for operators

52-557b Immunity from liability for emergency medical assistance first aid or medication by injection. School personnel not required to administer or render. (as amended by PA 18-185, An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Task Force on Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Schools)

Policy adopted:
rev 10/18
rev 2/20
rev 1/21