Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Monday, March 2, 2026; 6:00 p.m.
Flanders Room
Mitchell Elementary School
OFFICIAL MINUTES – BOARD APPROVED – MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2026

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

Absent:
Caren Lipinski

Also Present:
Brian Murphy, Superintendent
Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations
Maia Colavito, Student Representative

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

Chris Matta paused and called for a Moment of Silence for the Region 14 students and families that were harmed and still recovering from the bus accident that occurred a few weeks ago.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. **Regular Meeting, Monday, February 2, 2026**

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve the minutes as presented, Alice Jones abstained, remaining in favor, motion carried.

III. Superintendent's Report

A. Student Representative Report

Student Representative Maia Colavita provided reports for both Nonnewaug High School (NHS) and Woodbury Middle School (WMS)

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Recent NHS Events

- NHS FFA blood drive on February 4th had 17 successful donations
- NHS held NWEA math and English tests for seniors and PSAT for freshmen, sophomores, and juniors on February 4th
- NHS seniors attended postsecondary planning session on February 19th where Mr. McLean provided scholarship advice
- NHS held line dancing lessons on February 20th to benefit this year's Cancer Crusading team raising money for blood cancer

Upcoming NHS events:

- AgriScience adult education classes started Wednesday, March 4th
- Girls track sprint medley relay team competing at nationals at New Balance Track in Boston on Friday, March 13th
- FFA Bingo Night fundraiser on Thursday, March 19th
- Musical "Guys and Dolls" performances March 19th-20th in auditorium from 6:00-9:00 PM

Recent WMS Events

- WMS cheer squad took second place in their division at Rally and Valley cheerleading competition at Naugatuck High School the weekend of February 7th
- WMS held Super Bowl Sunday pancake breakfast February 8th
- WMS held Valentine's Day dance in the gym on February 12th

Upcoming WMS events:

- Multicultural night in cafeteria on Thursday, March 5th
- Seventh grade field trip to Flanders Nature Center on Friday, March 13th
- Drama performance for senior center on Wednesday, March 25th, followed by regular performance on Thursday, March 26th

B. Region 14 2026/2027 Budget Presentation
Superintendent Murphy Presented

- District ranked in the top 24% of school districts in Connecticut
- District accountability index 80.5 exceeding state average
- Superintendent Murphy's 2026/2027 budget is $44,757,503 which represents a 4.6% increase from previous year
- 79% of the 4.6% increase consists of salaries and benefits

Other takeaways:

- Hired Independent Company to review Region 14 Agriscience Revenue/Expenses/Presented to the Public
- Formed community Agriscience Funding Committee to increase state funding for the Region 14 Agriscience Program
- Worked with Bethlehem/Woodbury state legislators to increase agriscience funding

- Worked with School/State Finance Project to increase Agriscience funding
- Superintendent/High School Principal/Nonnewaug High School Agriscience Director met with Connecticut high school Agriscience Directors to increase agriscience funding
- Superintendent Murphy is a member of the State of Connecticut's Agriscience and Technology Committee and the State Superintendent Legislative Committee
- Superintendent Murphy implemented Region 14 Budget Task Force and worked with EdAdvance to appeal to the Governor to restore Social Worker positions in Region 14
- Superintendent attended area State Legislators' CABE Breakfast
- Superintendent and Director of Finance meet monthly with First Selectmen/Finance Committee Members from the towns of Woodbury and Bethlehem to increase communications

C. Region 14 Fine Arts Presentation

Jamie Odell, Region 14 Fine Arts Director presented to the Board
Ms. Odell's report to the board included a segment on Visual Arts and Technology

Visual Arts

- Produced Fine Arts Monthly Newsletter
- Artists have consistently won state and national awards
- Scoring consistently in the fives on AP Exams

Technology

- Will Michael partnering with Goodwin University at Woodbury Middle School
- Katie Blake expanded dual enrollment in Video Production and Video Game Design at the high school with Post University and Quinnipiac. She also coaches a new Esport Team, which finished 2nd in the state in its first year of competition
- Producer at Fox 61 calls NHS Students top players for the news submissions

Ms. Odell's presentation included commendations for the Fine Arts Department's staff and their contributions to the program.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee

- Revenue collected to date: $29,917,630 (69.94% of budget)
- Expenditures to date: $28,602,525 (66.87% of expenditures)
- Monitoring Snow Removal Costs
- Issued second installment of Vo-Ag tuition
- Trending on target

B. Policy Committee

On a recommendation by the Policy Committee to accept/approve the following policies (Second Read, Action Anticipated)

1. Policy 1312.3/6161.13 Library Materials Review and Reconsideration

Motion:
A motion was made Chris Matta and seconded by Alice Jones to accept/approve the Policy as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

2. Policy 4212.42 Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers

Motion:
A motion was made Chris Matta and seconded by Alice Jones to accept/approve the Policy as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

V. Board Chair Comments

Chairman Matta praised Superintendent Murphy for his 2026/2027 budget presentation, noting that there are plenty of opportunities for community members to view and/or attend budget presentations.

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

A. Healthy Food Certifications (Action Anticipated)

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

Motion:
Chris Matta moved, that 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, **seconded by Michael Carbonneau, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.**

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

Motion:
Chris Matta moved that 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, **seconded by Jim Crocker, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.**

IX. Other Business

Member Carol Ann Brown offered comments on the FFA Faculty Breakfast, the student art exhibit at the Woodbury Library, and the Woodbury Library Art Gala scheduled for April 11th, an effort to raise money for their programs.

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Jim Crocker to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 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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