Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Monday, April 6, 2026; 6:00 p.m.
Flanders Room
Mitchell Elementary School
OFFICIAL MINUTES – BOARD APPROVED – MONDAY, MAY 4, 2026

Present:
Chris Matta, Chair
Alice Jones
Jim Crocker
Carol Ann Brown
Michael Carbonneau
Bridget Calabrese
Tikva Rose (6:07 p.m.)

Absent:
Caren Lipinski

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

*__Agenda Amendment__
Chairman Matta moved to add the following item to the agenda under "New Business". Creation/designation of subcommittee to conduct student residency hearing under Connecticut General Statute Section 10-186, seconded by Jim Crocker, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. **Regular Meeting, Monday, March 2, 2026**
A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Carol Ann Brown to accept/approve the minutes as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

B. **Regular Meeting, Budget Workshop, Monday, March 9, 2026**
A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Alice Jones to accept/approve the minutes as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

C. **Regular Meeting, Budget Presentations to the Towns, Monday, March 23, 2026**
A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Bridget Calabrese to accept/approve the minutes as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

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

D. **Regular Meeting, Public Hearing, Tuesday, March 24, 2026**
A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Mike Carbonneau to accept/approve the minutes as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

III. Superintendent's Report

A. Student Representative Report: Addison Bushka reported on events at Bethlehem and Mitchell Elementary Schools.

Mitchell Elementary (MES)

- Three student groups will compete at the Invention Convention state level at UConn on May 2
- MES held their annual family literacy night to kick off the one book, two school month with *A Boy Called Bat*, with activities including a sensory walk, reading under flashlights in tents, and painting with yogurt
- The Holly Rocks game show visited MES (sponsored by the PTO), letting students test physical and academic skills
- MES celebrated paraeducators last week with a potluck breakfast

Bethlehem Elementary (BES)

- BES held a 'Misunderstood Animal Parade" on March 30 — the culminating activity for one read, two school month with a *A Boy Called Bat*
- Fifth graders visited the State Capitol on March 27 and learned how laws are made with state representative Karen Reddington Hughes
- Students made kindness tiles that will be installed in the shape of a bulldog paw on the building in May
- BES will also attend the Invention Convention state competition at UConn on May 2

B. End of 2025-2026 School Year (Action Anticipated)
Superintendent Murphy proposed a change to the last day of school for students from Monday, June 22, 2026, to Friday, June 19, 2026. Professional development for staff will be held on Monday, June 22, 2026.

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Carol Ann Brown to accept/approve the last day of school as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

C. Nonnewaug High School Graduation Date (Action Anticipated)
Dr. Kuslis, Principal of Nonnewaug High School, proposed Saturday, June 20th as the date for high school graduation with a rain date of Sunday, June 21st.

Chris Matta made a motion, seconded by Alice Jones to accept/approve the proposed high school graduation date and alternate rain date as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

D. Agriscience Field Trip: Pacific Northwest, April Break 2027 (Action Anticipated)
Faculty member Jenn Jedd presented a field trip whereby students will travel to the Pacific Northwest during the April 2027 spring recess. The trip is open to approximately 20 students, who will learn about ecosystems in other parts of the country, how the environment and agriculture work together, how climate change is impacting wildlife populations and visit two National Parks to name a few itinerary objectives.

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Tikva Rose to accept/approve the field trip as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously,

E. Special Education Development Plan
Dina Ericson, Director of Student Services, presented.

- Ms. Ericson walked through literacy and math goals, noting steady progress at Woodbury Middle School and Nonnewaug High School and growth at Mitchell Elementary School, with fewer students in the below/approaching proficiency range and more reaching proficiency
- Assessments used: NWEA reading (grades 6–8 and 12), NWEA math (grades K–8 and 12), SBAC (grades 3 and 8), PSAT, and SAT
- Resources put in place include the SCERTS model, Autism Helper, Trans-Math, and Foundation Inspired
- Safe school climate plans are published on each building's website; principals review data and developed building-specific improvement plans, and climate meetings now include parent and student representatives
- This has been a strong year for school climate

IV. Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee

Financials Update

- As of March 31, 2026, the district collected $33,068,067, representing 77.31% of budgeted revenue — on target
- Expenditures totaled $30,916,340 or 72.28%

Technology Lease for 2026/2027 School Year (Action Anticipated

- Tina Tanguay walked through a $350,000 tech lease proposal covering a hardware refresh
- The lease is structured as a 5-year term at roughly 6% interest, with payments starting July 2027

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve the Technology Lease for 2026/2027 as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

B. Policy Committee

On a recommendation by the Policy Committee to approve the following policies **(First Read, No Action Anticipated)**

A. Policy 1110.1 Parent Involvement

- Existing policy updated with revised language
- Requirement changed from "two flexible" parent-teacher conferences to "two required" conferences
- Conferences may be conducted via telephonic, video, or other district-approved conferencing platforms

B. Policy 5113.13 Work-Study Student Employment/Work-Release

- New mandated policy
- Student work-release allows eligible students to be released during the school day to work for an employer
- The program was adopted **2** years ago as a complement to the existing SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) program, targeting students who may not be college-bound
- Students can earn elective credits for working in a field of choice

V. Board Chair Comments

Chairman Matta encouraged board members to advocate for the budget

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

1. Budgetary Motions

A. Discussion/possible action on Budget for 2026/2027

Chris Matta moved that the Region 14 Board of Education approves and adopts the Superintendent's proposed budget for the fiscal year 2026/2027 in the amount of $44,757,503 as presented to the Board, seconded by Tikva Rose, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

B. Calling of Referendum (action anticipated)

Chris Matta moved that the Board of Education schedule and warn the Annual District Meeting for Monday, May 4, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Flanders Room at Mitchell Elementary School, 14 School Street, Woodbury, CT concerning the 2026/2027 budget, with said meeting to be adjourned to a referendum on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury, CT., seconded by Jim Crocker, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

C. **Approval of Explanatory Text (action anticipated)**

Chris Matta 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 printed materials regarding the 2026/2027 budget referendum scheduled for Tuesday, May 5, 2026, with such explanatory text and other neutral printed materials 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 Alice Jones, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

D. **Community Notification (action anticipated)**

Chris Matta 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 Bridget Calabrese, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

2. ***Amendment:** Creation/designation of subcommittee to conduct student residency hearing under Connecticut General Statute Section 10-186

Chairman Matta moved to designate a subcommittee of the Board to conduct a student residency hearing under Connecticut General Statute Section 10-186, consisting of three members, Chris Matta, Jim Crocker, and Alice Jones, was seconded by Bridget Calabrese, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

IX. Other Business

There was no New Business brought before the board

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Tikva Rose to adjourn the meeting at 6:57p.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
Minutes created with assistance of Circleback AI"