Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Monday, May 4, 2026; 6:00 p.m.
Flanders Room
Official Minutes – Board Approved – Monday, June 1, 2026

Present:
Chris Matta, Chair
Alice Jones
Jim Crocker
Carol Ann Brown
Michael Carbonneau
Bridget Calabrese
Caren Lipinski
Tikva Rose *(Exited the Meeting/Executive Session at 7:54 p.m.)

Absent:
N/A

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

I. **Call to Order**
Chairman Matta called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. **Introductions**
Parties were presented to one another

III. **Approval of Minutes**

A. **Regular Meeting, Monday, April 6, 2026**
A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve the minutes as presented, Caren Lipinski abstained, remaining members in favor, motion carried.

B. **Special Meeting, Tuesday, April 7, 2026**
A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded Jim Crocker to accept/approve the minutes as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

IV. **Superintendent's Report**

a. Student Representative Report
Maia Colavito, completing her third and final year as student representative, gave updates on Nonnewaug High School and Woodbury Middle School.

- Nonnewaug highlights included a cat yoga fundraiser, NHS clothing drive, FFA Elementary Open House, and Spring Concert; upcoming

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events include Senior Scholarship Night, NHS 5K Benefit in honor of Jonathan Chung, Awards Night, Drive Your Tractor to School Day, NHS blood drive, and prom plus state FFA convention
- Woodbury Middle School highlights included empathy-focused counselor visits to 7th grade, a resilient team project, and trips to Flanders Nature Center (grade 7) and Boston (grade 8); upcoming events include SBAC/NWEA/NGSS testing, Spring concert and art show, and grade 7 Lake Compounce trip

Superintendent Murphy acknowledged Maia Colavito for her three years of service as a Student Representative to the Board and presented her with a certificate of appreciation.

b. Field Trip: National FFA Convention, October 19-25, 2026, National FFA Convention Center, Indianapolis, IN (Action Anticipated)
    - Currently have three teams that qualify to compete at Nationals
    - Still in the preliminary planning stages regarding transportation and attendees

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

c. District's 5-Year Technology Plan
    - Allison Loiseau presented Region 14's new five-year educational technology plan, organized around five state-designated initiatives: technology-enabled learning, digital equity, competencies, sustainability, and data privacy and security
    - The plan is explicitly tied to Region 14's Vision of Learner attributes and weaves AI and social media considerations throughout all five focus areas
    - The plan will be implemented through a collaborative and phased approach aligned to the five initiatives.
    - Implementation will occur through annual action steps developed within existing district structures i.e. curriculum development, professional learning, etc.
    - Progress will be monitored using multiple measures aligned to the Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology

d. Bethlehem Elementary School Principal Update
    - Principal Wendy Yatsenick was recognized for her career in Region 14: 4 years as NHS counseling department chair, 2 years as district counseling director, and 6 years as principal of Bethlehem Elementary School

- Under her leadership, Bethlehem Elementary earned the state school of distinction honor two years in a row and is now rated in the top 5% of local schools statewide
- The Bethlehem Elementary School conference center was named in her honor

Superintendent Murphy provided a brief update to the board regarding the search process for Bethlehem Elementary School principal.

e. District Art Show
Superintendent Murphy highlighted the upcoming Art Show. Every school in the district participate and will be held at Nonnewaug High School, Wednesday, June 3, 2026 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

V. Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee

- As of April 30th, the district collected $36,356,533, or 85% of anticipated revenues — on target
- Spending is at $33,914,557, or 79.29% of budget, with the rest of the year on track

B. Curriculum Committee

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

a. Entrepreneurship Curriculum
A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve the curriculum as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

b. Agriculture and Society/UConn SPSS1150 Curriculum
A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve the curriculum as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

2. Grade Point Average Informational Update
   - New GPA system takes effect for the class of 2030 (incoming freshmen next year) and beyond
   - Three course levels replace the previous four: college and career preparatory (4.0), honors (4.67), and college experience — which includes AP, ECE, and all dual enrollment partners (Post, Eastern, Southern, Quinnipiac, etc.) — weighted at 5.0
   - The change consolidates ECE and AP under one weight since both are college-level experiences; math teacher Ray Robillard ran historical graduation ranking data against the new weights and found no significant differences in student rankings

- Standardized weighting is important for scholarship committees comparing transcripts across districts

3. Post University Partnership
   - Region 14 entered a partnership with Post University locking in $12,000/year tuition for Nonnewaug students, compared to the standard $35,736 for the upcoming year
   - Household family members of enrolled students receive a 20% tuition reduction on Post's online programs
   - Post committed five-thousand in scholarship funds to Nonnewaug students
   - 14 students are currently enrolled in Post online programs earning college credits while still in high school; students can potentially earn enough credits to enter Post with advanced standing
   - Post will also provide FAFSA and college application process training for students and parents; room and board costs are not included in the discounted rate

C. Policy Committee
   1. On a recommendation by the Policy Committee to accept/approve the following policies (Second Read, Action Anticipated)
      a. Policy 1110.1 Parent Involvement
         A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Alice Jones to accept/approve the policy as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

      b. Policy 5113.13 Work-Study Student Employment/Work-Release
         A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve the policy 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 4118.232/4218.232 Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco/Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace
         - Existing mandated policy updated with revised language including updated definitions to reflect newer products
      b. Policy 5123 Promotion/Retention
         - Existing mandated policy revised
         - Board policy is that student promotion decisions are based on both academic performance and social-emotional maturity — neither criterion alone is sufficient
      - Administration, teachers, and support staff are all consulted when determining whether to promote or retain a student

VI. Board Chair's Comments
Chairman Matta pushed back publicly on social media misinformation

VII. Privilege of the floor

There were no participants for Privilege of the Floor

VIII. Old Business
There was no Old Business brought before the Board

IX. New Business
a. Superintendent's Evaluation/Employment (Executive Session Anticipated/Action Anticipated)
A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Caren Lipinksi to enter into executive session for the purpose of the Superintendent's Evaluation/Employment, all in favor, none opposed, the board invited Superintendent Brian Murphy into executive session at 7:17 p.m.

*7:54 p.m. Board Member Tikva Rose exited Executive Session

Public Session
The Board exited Executive Session at 8:12 p.m.

Motion
A motion was made by Chris Matta to extend Superintendent Brian Murphy's contract one more year, seconded by Jim Crocker, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

X. Other Business
There was no Other Business brought before the Board

XI. Adjournment
A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Jim Crocker to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 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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