Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Monday, June 1, 2026; 6:00 p.m.
Flanders Room
Official Minutes – Board Approved – Monday, July 13, 2026

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

Absent:
N/A

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

III. Approval of Minutes (Action Anticipated)
A. District Meeting on Budget, Monday, May 4, 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, May 4, 2026
A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Caren Lipinski, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.
C. District Meeting (BoE Member Nominations), Thursday, May 14, 2026
A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Michael Carbonneau to accept/approve the minutes as presented, Carol Ann Brown abstained, remainder in favor, motion carried.

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

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Student Representative Report
- Addison Bushka completed her second year as student representative and was recognized with a certificate of appreciation
- Mitchell Elementary School Updates: state testing complete, NWEA and MCLASS assessments are underway, Rock the Bands achievement celebration coming up, Field Day ahead, talent show for grades 3–5 on June 15th at 4 PM, and 5th grade promotion on June 17th
- Bethlehem Elementary School Updates: Kindness mural installed May 29th (each student made a tile that now comprises the shape of a bulldog paw), spring concert June 9th, DARE graduation and Quassy Night June 18th, and a TAG class field trip to visit the cow they adopted named Samantha at the UConn Dairy program

B. Bethlehem Elementary School Principal Introduction
- Superintendent Murphy formally introduced Lisa Bing as the new principal of Bethlehem Elementary School, selected from 50 candidates
- She's been at BES since 2018 serving as school counselor, SST chair, and lead teacher, and teacher-in-charge in the absence of the principal
- A community meet-and-greet for BES families is scheduled for next week (week of June 8th, 2026)
- Ms. Bing offered a few words

C. Litchfield County Superintendent Award Recipients
- Four students received the Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents' Award for academic excellence, community involvement, and leadership: Katie Kulesza and Jaxon Szymansky from Woodbury Middle School, and two seniors from Nonnewaug High School Everett Pierce and Boe Stokes. Each student received a certificate and a framed photo from the evening.

D. 2025 U.S. Presidential Scholar (Presented by Dr. Mykal Kuslis, Principal, NHS)
- Chloe Ann Weaver (Nonnewaug) received the U.S. Presidential Award for Academic Excellence, a national, prestigious award — only 161 students nationwide received it last year, and only 4 in Connecticut (the others are from Wilton, Simsbury, and Greenwich High Schools)
- Governor Lamont issued a congratulatory statement recognizing Chloe and the three other Connecticut recipients

E. 2026 Math Olympiad Winners
- Presented by Allison Loiseau

- Approximately 30 students from Mitchell Elementary and Woodbury Middle School participated in the Math Olympiad this year, out of over 56,900 elementary schools and 20,000+ middle school students nationally
- 10 students earned national honors for cumulative scores
- Zachary Coehlo, a fourth grader at MES, and Penelope Losh, an eighth grader at WMS, scored in the top 20% nationally, which is an outstanding accomplishment.
- At Mitchell, Alexander Losh scored in the top 25%, while William Lee, Noah Fisher, Gabriel Freccero, and William Savulak scored in the top 40%. Dean Morrisroe scored in the top 50%.
- At WMS, Victoria Wolf scored in the top 30% nationally, and Levi Chmielewski scored in the top 50%.

F. State Mandated Superintendent Reporting
- Board was informed of a new state mandate requiring superintendent reports to the Board of Education covering four areas: community-based organization partnerships, workforce development programs, staff attrition data (certified and non-certified), and serious behavior/challenge incidents

G. District Teaching Positions 2026/2027
- Superintendent Murphy informed the board that the kindergarten enrollment is over projections
- Will require the hiring of a third kindergarten teacher – should not impact 2026/2027 budget
- School districts in Connecticut are obligated by law to provide services for students identified with special needs. The district has an increased number of 3-year olds specifically, who are identified as requiring needs. There is a need to hire a pre-k3 for Mitchell Elementary School. The position will be hired through an IDEA grant

V. Committee Reports

A. Athletic Committee Meeting Update

1. Committee Chair Caren Lipinski recapped the recent Athletic Committee meeting held on May 29th. Of note, the McEneany/Condon Ironman Award was presented to three students, Sophia Garguilo - Field Hockey, Jake Cenatiempo – Soccer, and Sean Crawford – Wrestling. Each student was recognized and presented with a trophy. The award recognizes students who demonstrate outstanding determination, true grit, and physical or mental toughness throughout their varsity sports seasons.

   The Committee presented a comprehensive review of the 2025/2026 spring athletic season, which was highlighted as an exceptional and active season.

2. Nonnewaug High School Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse Update

- Nonnewaug is taking over the lacrosse co-op from Lakeview starting 2026-27, keeping Lakeview and Thomaston as co-op participants
- Girls' team is healthy with about 30 players expected; boys team had only 15 players this year
- If boys' numbers fall below 14–15 players, the school will look to bring in additional co-op schools or find alternative arrangements to keep students playing

B. Curriculum Committee
   1. On a recommendation by the Curriculum Committee to accept/approve the following
      Textbook Proposals for Approval: (Action Anticipated)
      a) Biology by Miller & Levine – College and Career Prep Level Biology
      A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Tikva Rose to accept/approve the textbook as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

      b) American Government Stories of a Nation by Abernathy & Waples – AP American Government
      A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Caren Lipinski to accept/approve the textbook as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

      c) Essentials of Human Anatomy & Physiology by Marieb & Keller – Anatomy and Physiology
      A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve the textbook as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

   2. Grade 6 Curriculum Update
      - Woodbury Middle School will double 6th grade math time from 47 to 94 minutes per day, five days a week, for the full 2026-27 school year, in response to a consistent dip in student math outcomes from 5th to 6th grade
      - A thematic interdisciplinary approach will combine science and social studies into one teacher's role, made possible by a middle school social studies retirement — no new staff or budget needed

C. Finance Committee
   1. Capital Plan/Educational Expense Fund Update (Action Anticipated)
      Jim Crocker made a motion to spend $45,000 in the capital reserve fund to purchase furniture for the 4 schools and the weightroom equipment, Tikva Rose seconded, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

   2. Food Service Update

The Board was informed that the prices of breakfast and lunch items will increase by $0.25 for the 2026–2027 school year

D. Policy Committee

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

1. Policy 4118.232/4218.232 Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco/Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace

   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. Policy 5123 Promotion/Retention

   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.

VI. Board Chair's Comments

There were no comments by Chairman Matta

VII. Privilege of the floor

Amanda Carpenter (Woodbury), raised concerns that the current 4th grade at Mitchell has no off-campus grade-level field trip this year, while other grades do. She wants the 4th graders to have the same learning experiences through field trips as other students.

Ryan Mellody echoed Ms. Carpenter's remarks and presented a petition with 169 signatures asking the board to discuss what actions can be taken to prevent this from happening again

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

A. Field Trip –Agriscience to Italy, Spring Break 2028 plus an additional 3-4 days (Action Anticipated)

   A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Alice Jones to accept/approve the field trip as presented,

   <u>Further Discussion</u>

Mike Carbonneau stated that the cost is prohibitively expensive for many families in a public school and that comparable experiences should be available locally at lower cost

Chairman Matta stated that he did not share concerns regarding the cost of the proposed trips and expressed support for providing students with educational travel opportunities. He further stated that he does not support limiting student travel opportunities to domestic destinations and supports international educational trips, citing their value in exposing students to different cultures, perspectives, and global experiences.

Michael Carbonneau was nay, the remaining board members were yea, motion carried.

X. Region 14 Community Update

- Carol Ann Brown highlighted the FFA State Convention held Saturday, May 30th at Nonnewaug — buses came from across the state, and Region 14 students, teachers, and parent volunteers were commended for their preparation and conduct.
- Carol Ann Brown, Alice Jones, and Mike Carbonneau served as judges at the convention and praised the quality of the competition and the resources put into preparing judges

XI. Other Business

XII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Jim Crocker to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 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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