MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Monday, October 5, 2026; 6:00 p.m.
Flanders Room
Mitchell Elementary School

Official Minutes – Board Approved – Monday, November 2, 2026

Committee Members Present:
Chris Matta, Chair
Alice Jones, Vice-Chair (via phone)
Carol Ann Brown
Bridget Calabrese
Mike Carbonneau
Jim Crocker
Tim Drakeley
Caren Lipinski

Absent:
n/a

Also Present:
Taryn Fernandez, Acting Superintendent of Schools
Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations

I. Call to Order

Chris 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

A. **Regular Meeting, Monday, September 14, 2026**

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Tim Drakeley to accept/approve the minutes as presented, 6 were in favor, none opposed, Caren Lipinski and Bridget Calabrese abstained; motion carried.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Student Representative Report

Acting Superintendent Fernandez introduced the student representatives for this year.

Brynne Michaelis - Elementary School Updates

- Sophomore joining us from Watertown for our agriscience program. She is the Sophomore Officer Team President, on the Livestock Evaluation CDE Team, and she plans to join Swim and Dive in the winter and track in the spring. Brynne is also in the chorus, is a clarinetist participating in the Berkshire League music festival, and a member of Tri-M, the music honor society.
- While serving as a representative, she is most looking forward to being in the room where it happens; watching how things get done within the school system.

Addison Bushka - High School and Middle School Updates

- Addison is returning as the student representative this year. Addison is a senior and she runs cross country and track. She is also a member of multiple honor societies including the National Honor Society, National English Honor Society, and Rho Kappa, the National Social Studies Honor Society. She somehow finds time to do all of this while also working at her father's business.
- Addison is interested in possibly pursuing studies in nutrition or psychology after she graduates from Nonnewaug this spring.

Bethlehem Elementary School Update

- Fall benchmark testing is complete with initial results showing a strong foundation
- During the month of September, the students and families celebrated many events, including their annual Scholastic Book Fair, Hot Dog Roast, and a school-wide Doghouse Party which gave classrooms a fun opportunity to build community and celebrate team spirit through shared activities
- October will be another busy month with a Halloween costume sale, pumpkin patch paired with the Halloween Dance and the 100th anniversary celebration.

Mitchell Elementary School Update

- The PTO kicked off the school year with the annual Ice Cream Social
- Early in September they held their first whole school "Town Wide Meeting" where the theme for the year was announced– We all Fit Together Like a Puzzle. Each class participated in creating puzzle pieces which are now displayed in the front hallway serving as a reminder that every member of their community plays an important role in making MES special
- During that meeting they also introduced the first Character Strong trait – Collaboration. Everyone discussed what collaboration means and put their teamwork skills to the test with a fun hula hoop activity.

- During Open House families got to see the amazing work staff and students are doing. In addition, there were many community organizations set up in the cafeteria giving everyone the chance to learn more about the programs, resources and activities available throughout Woodbury.

Woodbury Middle School

- First Chapter Friday is a new activity this year. On the first Friday of each month a guest reader will read the first chapter of a book to spark interest and encourage more reading at WMS.
- Goodwin University's Mobile Manufacturing Lab visited WMS on September 18th to offer students a hands-on opportunity to explore state-of-the-art equipment used in today's manufacturing industry.
- WMS has partnered with Flanders Nature Center to offer a new club experience, Climate Champions. This club will give students the ability to gain hands-on experience exploring climate on and around the WMS campus. They will meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 1:00pm – 3:00pm.
- Curriculum information night will be held on October 6th. During this presentation ELA, Math and Science curricula will be discussed, along with information regarding in-district assessments.
- WMS sports and clubs are all up and running. Approximately 130 students are participating in the fall sports and students are excited about all of the club offerings.

Nonnewaug High School

- Fall sports are off to a great start with all of the teams having winning records. The football team's first game in the NVL was a success with a 12-6 victory over Oxford.
- Senior Field Day was held on September 25th. In addition, NHS hosted their homecoming games with boys and girls soccer, field hockey and football all securing wins.
- NWEA exams were held on September 30th
- The National Honor Society held their fall blood drive on September 30th
- The annual FFA Car Show was held on Sunday, October 4th
- The Homecoming Dance will be held on October 8th at the Wyndam Hotel in Southbury.
- Nonnewaug will be hosting the League of Women's Voters of Litchfield County on October 13th for a Congressional debate between Jahana Hayes and Chris Shea.
- The 8th Grade Open House will be held on October 15th. All interested Agriscience students should arrive at 5:30pm and those not interested in the program should arrive at 6:30pm.

- Five FFA teams will be competing at Nationals in Indianapolis from October 19th – 24th.
- Trick or Treat Street is scheduled for October 30th from 4:30pm – 6:30pm. This event will be followed by the Jonathan Cheung Fundraiser Football game. All proceeds will be donated to the Cheung family.

B. Bethlehem Elementary School's 100th Anniversary Celebration
Acting Superintendent Fernandez stated that the 100th Anniversary Celebration will be held on October 20th at 10:00am. This will be a schoolwide celebration, with students dressing up in different decades. In addition, local government officials will be in attendance

C. Technology Usage in Grades K-8
Acting Superintendent Fernandez stated that the district recently performed an audit of school based screen time for grades K-8.

The CSDE has recently released a position statement on purposeful technology use that includes guidance on school-day screen time The audit showed that the district is meeting all components referenced in the CSDE's statement on purposeful usage.

It was noted that the District is still very much paper based in Grades K-8 except for individual learning goals. Students are still reading from books, using paper-based math and practicing their writing skills.

D. Curriculum Nights
Acting Superintendent Fernandez shared the dates for upcoming Curriculum nights. In addition to the informational discussion about the curriculum, parents will experience hands on lessons using the Building Thinking Classroom model.
    - Woodbury Middle School – October 6
    - Bethlehem Elementary School – October 13
    - Mitchell Elementary School – October 14

V. <u>Committee Reports</u>

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

        a. Policy 5141.3 Health Assessments and Immunizations

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

b. Policy 6145.3 Student Clubs

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Caren Lipinski 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 policy: (First read, no action anticipated)

a. Policy 6146 Graduation Requirements
   - This is an existing policy updating the language to memorialize what we are already following.
   - Establishes the 25 credit requirements for graduation from Nonnewaug High School.
   - Establishes the completion of the FAFSA, or waiver, as a graduation requirement
   - Adds a portfolio component of the Vision of a Learner to replace the Mastery Based Learning experience which will be rolled out over the next three years. The class of 2030 will include all of the attributes in their portfolio

b. Policy 6146.1 Weighted Grading Policy
   - This is an existing policy updated to include dual enrollment and college prep courses.
   - Assigns extra weighting for college preparatory, honors, AP and dual enrollment courses

c. Policy 6146.2 Statewide Proficiency/Mastery Examinations (Statewide Summative Assessments
   - This is an existing policy updated to specify the types of testing that is offered.
   - Acknowledges the Federal 95% participation requirement
   - Test Results cannot be the sole basis for promotion or graduation
   - Establishes Region 14's requirements for participation in Connecticut statewide testing:
     - Grades 3-8 take Smarter Balance ELA and Math assessments
     - Grades 11 takes state approved college readiness assessment
     - Grades 5, 8 and 11 take the NGSS science assessment

B. Finance Committee

- Tina Tanguay reviewed the financials through September 30, 2026
- Revenue collected: $11,977,788 (26.76% of budget)
- Expenditures: $11,393,119 (25.46% of expenditures)
- All financial benchmarks are on target
- Agriscience tuition billing expected to go out in October
- Union contracts: the Secretary's Association contract expires June 2027 and is the only one up for negotiation this year; all others run through 2028 or 2029
- Bus contract expires in 2030

VI. Board Chair Comments

Chairman Matta thanked Acting Superintendent Fernandez for her informative report. He also wanted to thank the building administrators for attending. It is not a requirement for them to attend and the Board appreciates that they are present.

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

There was no New Business brought before the board

X. Region 14 Community Update

Carol Ann Brown wished to thank this year's student representatives for serving in the role and providing informative updates.

The FFA Alumni Car Show was a huge success with over 300 vehicles. She was pleased to see so many student volunteers for the event.

She reminded everyone about the GradNite Bottle/Can and Clothing Drive scheduled for October 17th.

XI. Other Business

There was no Old Business brought before the board

XII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Jim Crocker to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 p.m., all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kimberly Effes
Board Clerk
Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Kimberly Effes, Board Clerk
Minutes created with assistance of Circleback AI"