MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Monday, November 2, 2026; 6:00 p.m.
Library
Bethlehem Elementary School

Committee Members Present:
Chris Matta, Chair
Alice Jones, Vice-Chair
Carol Ann Brown
Bridget Calabrese
Mike Carbonneau
Jim Crocker
Tim Drakeley (*arrived 6:45 p.m.)
Caren Lipinski

Absent:
n/a

Also Present:
Brian Murphy, 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, October 5, 2026**
A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Alice Jones to accept/approve the minutes as presented, all were in favor, none opposed; motion carried.

B. Special Meeting, Thursday, October 15, 2026
A motion was made by Chris Matta and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve the minutes as presented, all were in favor, none opposed; motion carried.

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IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Student Representative Report

Student Representative Addison Bushka provided reports for both Woodbury Middle School and Nonnewaug High School.

Woodbury Middle School Update

- WMS celebrated 121 students with perfect attendance
- Grade 8 students attended the Electives Fair at NHS, exploring academic programs and future course opportunities
- WMS students will again participate in the Agriscience Club, run by NHS.
- During CT Grown Week, students explored locally grown foods, learned about area farms and provided feedback through a tasting survey.
- Navy veteran and Johnson & Wales trained chef, Dave McCurdy visited eighth grade culinary classes to share his expertise and demonstrate stir-fry techniques
- WMS held their annual Halloween Dance on October 28th
- The Alliance Leadership group organized Spirit Week ending with a schoolwide rally on October 30th, celebrating school pride and community
- Parents in the Middle held their first meeting of the year
- The girls' soccer team celebrated an outstanding fall season, securing the Berkshire League Middle School championship
- The undefeated cross country team participated in the Berkshire League Cross Country Finals. The girls finished in 2nd place and the boys finished in 4th place. They also hosted a Halloween themed Zombie Run which brings together from WMS, Rochambeau, Thomaston and Plum Hill.

Nonnewaug High School Update

- NHS had a busy end to the month; Quarter 1 ended, their Annual Trick or Treat Street event was held, along with hosting the Jonathan Cheung Football Game fundraiser.
- The FFA National Convention was held in Indianapolis. Two of the NHS Agriscience teams won silver and three teams won bronze.
- The State of CT recently released the results for the 2025-2026 Accountability Index Report and NHS was in the top 9% of all schools in the state and the top 11% of all high schools in CT.
- Fall sports teams are finishing up their regular seasons and starting their state tournaments this week. The Field Hockey team is the Berkshire League Champion for the regular season

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- The Special Olympics Unified Program was named a national champion school for the 3rd time
- The Veteran's Day Ceremony will be held on November 10th at 9:15 a.m.
- Students will be participating in a Voices for Change assembly on November 16th and 17th
- The staff v. senior boys corn bowl and the senior v. junior girls powder puff flag football games will take place on November 19th
- The NHS Culinary program will head to the middle school for the annual Senior Harvest Luncheon on November 19th
- The drama department's fall show, "Almost, Maine" will run from November 19th through November 21st.
- The Culinary Department will host the Senior Meal Drive Through on December 3rd
- The annual Winter Concert will be held on December 17th

B. Award Presentation
Superintendent Murphy presented Mae Ambruso (Grade 7, WMS) with an award acknowledging her facilitation of the Spring Peeper being named the official State of Connecticut Amphibian

C. Superintendent's District 5-Year Strategic Plan
Superintendent Murphy presented the District's 5-year Strategic plan for 2026-2031, including the four primary goals: academics, safety, communication and budget. Talking points include:

- Region 14 is in the top 15% of districts in the State of CT (up from 24% in 2024-2025)
- Nonnewaug High School moved from the top 25% of all high schools to the top 11% and is also in the top 9% of all schools in CT.
- Woodbury Middle School continues to improve with a .5 increase in the Accountability Index.
- Woodbury Middle School had the highest math proficiency in the history of the school with the 6th grade cohort exceeding their 5th grade proficiency for the first time ever.
- Mitchell Elementary moved from the top 26% of elementary schools to the top 16%.
- Mitchell Elementary is in the top 4% of all schools for Average Growth Target Achieved in Math.
- Bethlehem Elementary earned School of Distinction status for the third year in a row.
- Student success in the CT Physical Fitness Assessment increased 14% across the district.

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- All the performance indices for the Region 14 improved (ELA, Math, and Science) for "all students" and for "high needs students".
- The district chronic absenteeism rate continues to improve with a decrease of .5% from last year to this year and a decrease of 5% over the past three years.

D. Director of Teaching and Learning Development Plan
Dr. Fernandez presented the District's professional development plan focusing on performance based academic goals, curriculum strategies and professional learning:
- Increase student performance on English Language Arts and Math SBAC, PSAT and SAT testing to 75% of students meeting or exceeding CT State proficiency targets in all schools
- Increase student performance in science on NGSS testing to 75% of all students meeting or exceeding CT State proficiency targets in all three grades
- Update all curricular documents across the district to the new Understanding by Design format which includes Vision of a Learner attributes by the end of the 2026-2027 school year and continue a consistent 5-year revision cycle in 2027-2028.
- Plan and execute differentiated professional learning opportunities in alignment with research-based instructional practices and The Effective Classroom Teacher Framework, with a particular focus on productive struggle and rigor across all content areas and grade levels.

V. Committee Reports

A. Policy Committee

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

   a. Policy 6146 Graduation Requirements

   Chris Matta indicated that Board action on this policy is postponed

   b. Policy 6146.1 Weighted Grading Policy

   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.

   c. Policy 6146.2 Statewide Proficiency/Mastery Examinations (Statewide Summative Assessments)

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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 6159 Individualized Education Program
      - This is an existing policy updating the language to memorialize practices already in place and include updated required language from CABE.
      - Revisions/updates to this policy are primarily administrative, rather than service driven
      - A big piece of the revision is transition services, which serves students with special needs up to age 22.

B. Finance Committee

- Tina Tanguay reviewed the financials through October 31, 2026
- Revenue collected: $16,096,773 (35.96% of budget)
- Expenditures: $13,903,026 (31.06% of expenditures)
- Tuition bills for the Vo-Ag program have gone out
- All financial benchmarks are on target
- The consortium for the heating and diesel fuel met last week. The consensus is to wait before locking in for the 2027/2028 school year as the group is hoping that prices come down a bit.

*Tim Drakeley arrived at meeting at 6:45 p.m.

VI. Board Chair Comments

Chairman Matta thanked Superintendent Murphy and Dr. Fernandez for their presentations. The District is doing amazing work and making great strides.

He also wanted to welcome Superintendent Murphy back and thank Dr. Fernandez for her great work while Acting Superintendent.

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

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IX. New Business

There was no New Business brought before the board

X. Region 14 Community Update

Carol Ann Brown discussed the recent NHS football game which was a fundraiser for Jonathan Cheung. The event was very well attended, including many alumni. It was a wonderful surprise for Jonathan to be present for the game.

The Bethlehem Elementary School's 100 year celebration was a great success. In addition to the celebration, there is also now a cookbook with recipes spanning many decades and listing historical information.

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 7:03 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"

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