



## Board of Education Special Meeting

March 18, 2020 7:00 PM  
Virtual Meeting/Board Meeting Room  
Administrative Offices  
137-B Glenwood Road  
Clinton, CT 06413

### Attendance Taken at: 7:00 PM

#### Present Board Members:

Erica Gelven  
Catherine Staunton  
Jason Adler (via Google Meet)  
Christopher Passante  
Michael Hornyak  
Kimberly Russo (via Google Meet)

#### Absent Board Members:

Omar Francis

### 1. Opening Exercises

#### 1.A. Roll call

Discussion:

Also in attendance were Superintendent Maryann O'Donnell, Assistant Superintendent Marco Famiglietti, and Business Manager Carolyn Dickey. No student representatives were present due to school closures.

#### 1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion:

All recited the pledge.

### 2. Public participation/recognition

Discussion:

There was no public participation.

### 3. Minutes – Approval – Regular Meeting of March 2, 2020

**Motion Passed:** To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 2, 2020, passed with a motion by C. Staunton and a second by C. Passante.

#### 6 Yeas - 0 Nays

Erica Gelven	Yes
Catherine Staunton	Yes
Jason Adler	Yes
Christopher Passante	Yes
Omar Francis	Absent
Michael Hornyak	Yes
Kimberly Russo	Yes

### 4. Communications

Discussion:

There were no communications.

## **5. Administrative Reports**

### **5A. Administrators, Program Directors and Teachers**

#### **5A1. General Update**

Discussion:

No report.

### **5B. Assistant Superintendent's Report**

#### **5B1. General Update**

Discussion:

M. Famiglietti deferred his update to be included with the Superintendent's update, Item #6.

### **5C. Business Manager's Report**

#### **5C1. Bills Payable**

Discussion:

There were no questions regarding bills payable.

#### **5C.2. General Update**

Discussion:

C. Dickey deferred her update to be included with the Superintendent's update, Item #6.

## **6. Superintendent's Report**

### **6A. COVID-19 Update**

Discussion:

M. O'Donnell discussed the myriad of changes that have occurred in a very short period. The decision to close schools indefinitely was communicated on March 13 in an effort to protect the district and community from the COVID-19 virus. The Superintendent discussed her major areas of focus this week: safety, education of our students, food services, communication, and staff contracts/payments.

The state has relaxed regulations and requirements in a number of areas including student testing, teacher evaluation, and calendar days. School districts statewide were given the message to maintain continuity and to educate as many students as possible through distance learning. The 180-day school day requirement has been waived by the state so the school calendar, unless adjusted by the Board, may remain as it is.

Given the possibility that students will not return to school for weeks, and possibly for the rest of the school year, administration is working to bridge the gap using distance learning and technology. M. Famiglietti and the IT Director, Frank Rossi, are working on a plan that is ready to launch.

The Superintendent is working closely with C. Dickey on staff contracts to keep the district up and running through the pandemic. Secretaries have returned to work observing social distancing and safety guidelines. Paraprofessionals and teachers are returning March 19 to start planning and training for distance learning.

The transition from temporary supplemental learning to distance learning (teacher interactive) was discussed. Distance learning will take place via Chromebooks in grades 5 through 1. Arrangements are being made for Joel families who do not have technology to access distance learning. Information on how to access and use technology is being shared with those families. Comcast is offering free internet service during the school closure.

A teacher-training model is being implemented to familiarize teachers with distance learning. The district is fortunate to have several distance-learning professionals who will be working to get the district up and running. M. Famiglietti provided an example of a distance learning lesson plan. Questions arose regarding the possibility of returning to regular school days. M. Famiglietti discussed activities that have been crafted for parents of preK students to mimic prekindergarten.

Regarding testing, there has been no guidance from the state yet. The only state testing completed so far is Next Generation Science for the 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

Discussion followed regarding the mental health of students, pressure on students who may be taking on other responsibilities at home, and families with multiple students with limited technology. M. Famiglietti reviewed Google classroom capability for grades 3 through 12. He discussed teacher lesson planning, grade-level subject teaching, and high expectations for continuity.

Discussion turned again to the socio-emotional needs of students. Special Services is looking at options for more private counseling sessions possibly online or via telephone, but privacy issues have to be examined first. The Board discussed what options were available to make the year more special for the class of 2020. Costs for the changes were brought up. Administration responded that the costs should not be substantive, that many of the models were already in place or in the works.

Out-of-district student placements were discussed. Residential students will continue to reside where they are living. Non-residential students will have to have other solutions provided to them.

The CIAC (Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference) has postponed the spring sports season, and total cancellation remains as a possibility.

The Superintendent praised Scott Martinson of the CT River Area Health Department (CRAHD) for his help and communication in dealing with health and safety. Communication from M. O'Donnell to the community will take place at least weekly.

Food Services served 143 meals earlier in the day through a drive-up service at Pierson and Morgan schools. It is anticipated that use of the service will increase in the future. Any student in the district and their siblings under 18 years old are eligible for free breakfast and lunch. Distribution will be tracked via state guidelines. M. O'Donnell expressed her pleasure at being able to provide this necessary service to the district. She praised Food Services Director Jon Siciliano, the food services staff, and the maintenance department for making the program so successful.

M. O'Donnell and M. Famiglietti stressed that there will be challenges in the transition but we will learn as we go and try to mitigate the impact as much as possible. All the changes will surely transform us as a community. There will be loss and anger, but there will also be growth and joy, and the result will hopefully put the district and community in a better place.

## **6B. General Update**

Discussion:

Regarding the Joel and Eliot roof bids, delays might occur, as are other delays on a variety of items. All will have implications to the budget but administration is trying to be as proactive as possible.

## **7. Reports of Board of Education Subcommittees and Special Committees**

### **7A. General Updates**

Discussion:

Most committees are on hold right now.

The Budget/Finance subcommittee will meet, possibly via Google Meet, on Monday, March 23, at 5:30 p.m.

### **8. Field Trip Update**

Discussion:

There was no update.

**9. Personnel Items**

**9A.1 Appointment of Extra Pay Staff – Boys Tennis at Morgan**

Motion Passed: To appoint Eric Carroll as the Boys Tennis coach at Morgan with a motion by J. Adler and a second by M. Hornyak.

**6 Yeas - 0 Nays**

Erica Gelven	Yes
Catherine Staunton	Yes
Jason Adler	Yes
Christopher Passante	Yes
Omar Francis	Absent
Michael Hornyak	Yes
Kimberly Russo	Yes

**9B. Information**

Discussion:

Winter sports stipends will be paid in full. Spring stipends will not be paid if there are no spring sports.

**10. Adjournment**

Motion Passed: To adjourn at 9:17 p.m. passed with a motion by K. Russo and a second by C. Passante.

**6 Yeas - 0 Nays**

Erica Gelven	Yes
Catherine Staunton	Yes
Jason Adler	Yes
Christopher Passante	Yes
Omar Francis	Absent
Michael Hornyak	Yes
Kimberly Russo	Yes

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Michael Hornyak, Secretary of the Board

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Allison Friday, Clerk of the Board