



Board of Education Regular Meeting

April 06, 2020 7:00 PM
via Zoom Teleconference

Attendance Taken at: 7:00 PM

Present Board Members:

Erica Gelven
Jason Adler
Michael Hornyak
Kimberly Russo
Chris Passante (updated to present at 7:05 PM)

Absent Board Members:

Omar Francis
Catherine Staunton

1. Opening Exercises

1.A. Roll call

Discussion:

Also in attendance were Superintendent Maryann O'Donnell, Assistant Superintendent Marco Famiglietti, Business Manager Carolyn Dickey, Special Education Director Kim Pearce, and student representatives Sarah Auletta, Jenna Kareliussen, and Emma Lindsay.

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion:

All recited the pledge.

2. Public Participation/Recognition

Discussion:

There was no public participation.

3. Minutes Approval

3.A. Special meeting of March 18

Motion Passed: To approve the minutes of the special meeting of March 18, 2020, passed with a motion by M. Hornyak and a second by K. Russo.

4 Yeas - 0 Nays

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

3.B. Special meeting of April 1, 2020.

Motion Passed: To approve the minutes of the special meeting of April 1, 2020, passed with a motion by J. Adler and a second by K. Russo.

4 Yeas - 0 Nays

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

4. Communications

Discussion:
There were no communications.

5. Report of Student Representatives

Discussion:
The student representatives discussed the ways in which students are learning online. Seesaw, an online education application, is being used at the Joel school and a new reading application called RAZ Kids will also be implemented. At Eliot, teachers are using Google Classroom as the basis of establishing online learning. Weekly mini-videos are being created to support emotional health. At Morgan, students are experiencing a move to scheduling Google Meet for face-to-face meetings. Morgan student government is running a logo contest with a deadline of Friday, April 10. The REACT leaders are acting as media leaders. REACT is also holding an online contest for a campaign that spreads positivity through social media. E. Gelven thanked them for their reports and their dedication.

6. Administrative Reports

6.A. Administrators, Program Directors and Teachers

6.A.1. Winter Sports Update

Discussion:
Athletic Director Lewis Pappariella thanked the Board and administration for their support and reported on the winter season. He suggested the idea of creating a celebration later in the year for the athletes and their coaches. He reviewed the records of the girls and boys basketball teams as well as those of the wrestling and fencing teams. The many accomplishments of Catie Donadio were noted; Catie was awarded All-State 1st Team, the New Haven Register's All-Area award, and All-Shoreline 1st Team. He also expressed his pride in announcing Caitlin Woods being named Shoreline Conference Coach of the Year. Catie Donadio and All-SCC 1st Team wrestler Louis Bradley were recognized for being Shoreline Conference Scholar Athletes. To receive that honor, the students must be named First Team All-Conference and have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better.

6.A.2. General Update

Discussion:
Mr. Pappariella also gave an update on the CT Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) weekly Zoom meetings he's been attending. The CIAC has not yet made a decision regarding reopening athletics this school year.

6.B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

6.B.1 CPS Online Learning Overview & Update

Discussion:

M. Famiglietti talked about the great work that has taken place over the past three weeks. The technology department has ensured almost all students have appropriate access at home. Teachers and paraeducators have made major changes in how they provide lessons and work with students and are using technology new to many of them.

M. Famiglietti stated that the Board's foresight in implementing the 1:1 Chromebook program was crucial to the online transition. Having two-thirds of Clinton students already online allowed the technology department to focus on doing the same for lower elementary grade students. The IT Director, Frank Rossi, was praised for his and his team's efforts.

The substantial need of instructional technology support has been taken on by three of the district's tech integration specialists, Kate Madura, Stephanie Quarato, and Victoria Fox. They have been instrumental in making sure teachers have support in each school.

Third trimester standards-based report cards for students up to grade five will be based solely on online learning activities. Communication from the state should be forthcoming regarding what grading protocols will be put in place and the impact on transcripts for high school students.

Student attendance is being monitored and addressed by teachers, counselors, and administrators. Student mental health is being tended to by counselors, and a website was launched last week that provides information on access to social workers, guidance counselors, etc. who are offering 1-on-1 sessions.

State summative assessments have been cancelled. LAS Links testing, the state's assessment platform for ELL students, has been cancelled for the year. The School Day SATs may be offered on a voluntary basis on a Saturday to be determined. The College Board AP exams will take place globally from May 11 through May 22. Still taking place are UConn's Early College Experience exams in environmental science, anatomy, and writing.

K. Pearce expressed her gratitude to the staff at Clinton Public Schools for their creative thinking, attitude, and expertise. Her department is working, to the best of their ability, to meet the needs of the special education students to the greatest extent possible. Every effort is being made to ensure the physical, educational, and psychological needs of students are being met. The ELL teachers are working side by side with classroom teachers to make sure materials are modified or adapted for their learners. K. Pearce praised all of the teachers and the paraeducators for their extraordinary efforts and flexibility.

K. Pearce has communicated with out of district placement schools to determine what online learning plans are in place for Clinton students.

M. O'Donnell commended CPS staff for developing relationships with families and finding creative ways to support them. E. Gelven expressed her appreciation for the willingness of CPS staff to adjust teaching and programming in response to parent feedback.

6.B.2. General Update

6.C. Business Manager's Report

6.C.1. Bills Payable

Discussion:

There were no questions regarding bills payable.

6.C.2. Quarterly Report

Discussion:

M. O'Donnell highlighted tuition costs which are expected to be higher than what was expected. However, those costs should be offset from savings in medical expenses.

6.C.3. Review and Possible Action re: Preschool Tuition

Discussion:

C. Dickey provided a summary of PreK tuition, payments, and classes. Discussion regarding the PreK programming took place, including the emphasis on social and emotional learning at this level.

M. O'Donnell explained that while programming would continue to be provided for students during the closure, she is recommending that the tuition that is charged being charged for April and continuing months during the closure be waived. The grant funding will continue to support the program, but the tuition revenue would not be collected going forward for the 2019-2020 school year until school was to reopen.

Motion Passed: To approve waiving preschool tuition invoicing for April and additional months during the school building closure passed with a motion by M. Hornyak and a second by J Adler.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays

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

6.C.4. General Update

Discussion:

C. Dickey reported that the Business Office processes continue as usual with staff working remotely and in the office as needed.

7. Superintendent's Report

7.A. Food Services Update

Discussion:

Food Services is working hard and distributing approximately 230 meals per day. The district qualifies for and has been invited to apply for the "No Kid Hungry" campaign grant which would provide money for staffing or other expenses. Currently, only meals are reimbursed, which does not offset all costs.

7.B. Discussion re: Governor's Executive Orders Summary and Impact

Discussion:

The Board reviewed the Governor's Executive Orders that have been issued to date. Discussion regarding No. 7R occurred, which affects a small number of employees and contracted services such as nursing and transportation. M. O'Donnell and C. Dickey are reaching out to vendors to discuss contracts and payments.

The contract with the Visiting Nurses' Association (VNA) has been paid through March. The district is retaining a nurse supervisor two hours a day to supervise enrollments, provide health documentation, and monitor school medications. This may need to be adjusted as we progress.

7.C. Discussion re: Educational Impacts and Decisions Due to COVID-19 School Closure

Discussion:

Major items under discussion include the school calendar, grading, testing requirements, graduation requirements, evaluations, and special education decisions. In addition to information and guidance received from the state, M. O'Donnell is participating in weekly superintendent meetings.

7.D. Town Budget Process Update

Discussion:

While the public hearing on the budget has been postponed to May 6th and the in-person budget referendum has been canceled per Executive Order. The Town Council has the authority to adopt the budget and set the mill rate based upon public input.

7.E. General Update

8. Reports of Board of Education Subcommittees and Special Committees

8.A. General Updates

Discussion:

Communications will be forthcoming regarding how the various subcommittees will proceed, especially the policy subcommittee.

9. Field Trip Update

10. Personnel Items

10.A. Review and Possible Action re: Non-Renewals of Non-Tenured Teachers

Discussion: This non-renewal due to reduction in force is not a reflection of staff performance.

Motion Passed: To approve the non-renewal of the following certified staff due to a reduction in force for the 2020-2021 school year: Alicia Potash, passed with a motion by J. Adler and a second by K. Russo.

5 Years - 0 Nays

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

10.B. Staff Appointments

Discussion:

Although a few vacancies currently exist, all hiring is on hold.

10.C. Information

No report.

11. Adjournment

Motion Passed: To adjourn at 9:28 p.m. passed with a motion by K. Russo and a second by C. Passante.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays

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

Michael Hornyak, Secretary of the Board

Allison Friday, Clerk of the Board