



Board of Education Regular Meeting

May 18, 2020 7:00 PM
via Zoom Teleconference

Attendance Taken at: 7:00 PM

Present Board Members:

Erica Gelven
Jason Adler
Michael Hornyak
Christopher Passante
Kimberly Russo
Catherine Staunton

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. Student representatives Sarah Auletta, Jenna Kareliussen, and Emma Lindsay were also present.

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion:

All stood for the pledge.

2. Public participation/recognition

Discussion:

There was no public participation.

3. Minutes - Approval - Regular Meeting of May 4, 2020

Motion Passed: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 4, 2020, passed with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Christopher Passante.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays

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

4. Communications

Discussion:

There were no communications.

5. Report of Student Representatives

Discussion:

The student representatives discussed the various ways each school is continuing with its online learning model. The food drive run by Eliot's student council was a success. AP testing ends this week for Morgan students. Students Emma Blair and Olivia Swan were selected by school faculty to represent Morgan's selection for the Connecticut Association of School's outstanding seniors in the performing or visual arts.

6. Partners in Community Survey Results

Discussion:

Kelley Edwards, Coordinator for Partners in Community (PiC), along with REACT members Shelby Auletta, Jenna Kareliussen, and Emma Lindsay, highlighted key elements from an October 2019 survey of Clinton students in grades 7 through 12. The survey focused on substance use and mental health. They provided insight and next steps for PiC in continuing to support positive and healthy outcomes for Clinton youth.

A discussion followed regarding substance abuse, mental health issues, and a follow-up survey planned to be released soon.

7. Administrative Reports

7.A. Administrators, Program Directors and Teachers

7.1. General Update

7.B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

7.B.1. General Update

Discussion:

M. Famiglietti reported that College Board Advanced Placement testing is going well and has only had a few minor tech issues. On May 13, professional development for middle school math teachers was held on standards of mathematical practices. Earlier in the day, elementary and middle school social studies teachers attended a State sponsored webinar where three districts in the state shared their Social Studies best practices, many of which are already in use in Clinton.

Scheduling for the 2020-2021 school year at all schools is moving ahead. M. Famiglietti also reported that current curriculum writing in Health and Physical Education will include the topics of vaping and substance abuse which were highlighted as areas of need in the PiC presentation. The Board discussed how best to help parents who reach out regarding their children feeling overwhelmed with online learning.

7.C. Business Manager's Report

7.C.1. Bills Payable

Discussion:

There were no questions regarding bills payable.

7.C.2. General Update

Discussion:

End-of-year expenditures are a focus of the department and will be reported at the next Board meeting. Conversations with transportation vendors are ongoing and progress has been made. Once insurance rates for dental and vision are secured, employees will receive new rate sheets for the 2020-21 year.

8. Superintendent's Report

8.A. Morgan Graduation Update

Discussion:

Morgan Principal Keri Hagness was present to discuss plans for graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2020. Administration and parent groups are working diligently and creatively to determine the best possible experience they can provide for seniors while still observing health department guidelines. An official Senior Week will be held from June 3rd through 10th and will include a variety of activities including graduation cap decorating, a senior awards program, and yearbook distribution/virtual signing. Graduation will take place on June 10th on The Morgan School campus. Seniors and a small number of family members will drive onto campus. Each senior will be allowed to exit the vehicle and cross a stage to receive their diploma. The event will be livestreamed so friends and community members may watch from home. All components will adhere to existing public health recommendations to maintain safety for all.

Discussion followed regarding reimbursements for cancellations and opportunities to have iconic graduation moments. Jane Scully Welch, President of the Morgan Alumni Association, joined the conversation briefly to discuss the issuance of alumni pins to the graduating seniors.

8.B. End of Year Events Update

Discussion:

The planning for student transitions at all schools is ongoing. Eliot plans will be communicated this week. Plans to gather and inventory student materials are also being developed.

8.C. General Update

Discussion:

Adjustments by the Town Council to the Board's budget were shared. Recommendations for reductions had been presented to the Town by M. O'Donnell as a result of savings in the areas of health insurance, retirements, and repairs.

The Town's mill rate increase will be zero. M. O'Donnell stressed the importance of collaborating and praised the Town Council for making this happen. The town budget will be finalized on May 27th. The Board's operating budget has been maintained, but concerns about the needs to open school in the fall were discussed. Conversations regarding space, plexiglass, thermometers and safety measures will be discussed with the town manager.

The Board was encouraged to contact M. O'Donnell with any nominees for Business Person of the Year.

Conversations and negotiations with M&J Bus are continuing and the district is closer to finalizing a contract amendment as required by the Governor's Executive Order 7R.

Maintaining food service for students during the summer is being discussed. Currently, the district is providing approximately 460 meals a day to 230 students.

9. Reports of Board of Education Subcommittees and Special Committees

9.A. General Updates

Discussion:

Policy work plans were discussed. The next Policy subcommittee meeting will take place on June 29.

10. Field Trip Update

Discussion:
No updates.

11. IDEA 2020-2021 Grant Acceptance

Motion Passed: To accept the IDEA Grant as presented passed with a motion by Catherine Staunton and a second by Kimberly Russo.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays

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

12. Review and Possible Approval of Documents for the Joel School Roof Replacement Project (027-0065 RR)

Motion Passed: To confirm the review of and to approve the plans, specifications, and estimate for the Joel School Roof Replacement Project (027-0065 RR) dated 5/7/2020, passed with a motion by Jason Adler and a second by Kimberly Russo.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays

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

13. Review and Possible Approval of Documents for the Eliot Middle School Roof Replacement Project (027-0066 RR)

Motion Passed: To confirm the review of and to approve the plans, specifications, and estimate for the Eliot Middle School Roof Replacement Project (027-0066 RR) dated 5/7/2020, passed with a motion by Catherine Staunton and a second by Jason Adler.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays

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

14. Review and Possible Award of Bid for the Eliot Pipe Project

Discussion:

John Treichel, Associate Project Manager for DTC Engineers provided an overview of the scope of work and bid process with a recommendation that Rivco Construction LLC be awarded the bid for the Eliot pipe project. The Superintendent will work with DTC Engineers to develop the contract agreement and to finalize all contract components. The Building and Grounds Subcommittee will meet to review the final scope and timeline of the project, any value engineering cost savings, and evaluate any change orders or adjustments to the overall project as needed.

Motion Passed: To award the Eliot Pipe Project #JEMS-PM-2020 to Rivco Construction and to authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contract with Rivco Construction passed with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Christopher Passante.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays

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

15. First Reading of Policies A. Credit for Online Courses

Discussion:

The District has been advised to have a policy to ensure that students may earn credit for high school graduation by participating in online coursework. The policy was given a first reading and will be brought to the next meeting for a second reading and approval.

16. Personnel Items A. Staff Appointments B. Information

17. Adjournment

Motion Passed: To adjourn at 9:01 PM passed with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Jason Adler.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays

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

Michael Hornyak, Secretary of the Board

Allison Friday, Clerk of the Board