



Board of Education Regular Meeting

June 1, 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

Chris Passante was updated to Present at 7:03 PM.

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 representative Sarah Auletta was 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 18, 2020

Motion Passed: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 18, 2020, passed with a motion by Jason Adler and a second by Michael Hornyak.

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 Board listened to S. Auletta's report on the three schools. At Joel, all grades are focused on writing skills. Eliot school's 8th grade distribution of promotion recognition materials including a yard sign and class t-shirt will take place on June 5th in front of the Eliot building. At Morgan, school materials are being collected. Graduation activities start taking place at 10 a.m. on June 10th.

6. Administrative Reports

6.A. Administrators, Program Directors and Teachers

6.1. General Update

6.B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

6.B.1. General Update

Discussion:

M. Famiglietti reported on various initiatives districtwide. Various online applications and learning tools are being evaluated by administrators for continued use in the 2020-21 school year. A survey will be sent out shortly to garner feedback from staff, students, and parents. Math and literacy continue to be a primary area of focus.

Professional development for the English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers has been guided by a consultant at ACES and M. Famiglietti. Various applications for teaching ESL have been recommended by the state and are being investigated.

Curriculum writing in the subjects of Civics, Health/PE, Film Studies, Humanities, and Physics is being scheduled for the summer.

6.C. Business Manager's Report

6.C.1. Bills Payable

Discussion:

There were no questions regarding bills payable.

6.C.2. Current Fiscal Year Projected Ending Balance

Discussion:

The projected ending balance figures for the 2019-20 school year were presented by C. Dickey. The report was presented by Object and included some of the assumptions that are embedded in calculating end-of-year budget balances. This year, the impacts of the COVID-19 closure have resulted in a significant increase in the end-of-year balance which is projected to be \$1,204,894. The largest savings were realized in the areas of certified employee salaries, health insurance, and transportation. There was substantial discussion regarding returning monies to the Town, purchase of deferred capitol items, and financial planning for the future.

In addition, Superintendent O'Donnell reviewed potential district needs and how they may impact the final end-of-year balances. The areas of need included repair/replacement of fencing at Joel and Eliot, modifications to classrooms and offices due to COVID-19, and the purchase/recycling of Chromebooks at Joel. The administration is exploring a plan to purchase additional Chromebooks and Chrome tablets to provide students with devices for use in school and for online learning if necessary in the Fall. Approximately \$10K of the cost would be deferred by fundraising efforts at Joel. Discussion followed regarding Town needs and the possible reduction of ECS and other funding.

Recommendations for a motion to fund several district projects will be put forth at the June 15 Board meeting.

6.C.3. General Update

Discussion:

7. Superintendent's Report

7.A. Roof Projects Update

Discussion: The letter of approval from the State has been received. On June 8, the pre-bid walkthroughs will take place. On June 19, bidding closes and work should begin in July.

7.B. Extended School Year (ESY) Information

Discussion: The Extended School Year (ESY) was scheduled to begin on June 29, running for four weeks from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Draft guidelines have been received from the state on how summer school should be run. A survey is being sent to district families to determine interest. Training faculty in the safety requirements for in-person classes would have to take place and the program would need to be held at Morgan due to summer roofing projects.

7.C. General Update

Discussion: M. O'Donnell provided an update on the pipes project at Eliot, end-of-year planning for grades 4, 8, and 12, and state guidelines on reopening in the fall. Discussion regarding standardized learning, training of staff, and assessments followed.

8. Reports of Board of Education Subcommittees and Special Committees

8.A. General Updates

Discussion: The Policy Subcommittee will continue its work next week with a review of the 4000 series.

9. Field Trip Update

Discussion: No updates.

10.A. List of Potential 2020 Morgan Graduates

Discussion: The Board reviewed the class list of high school students who may be eligible to graduate this year. Graduation is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2020.

10.B. Addition of Agenda Item 10.B.1

Motion Passed: To add item 10.B.1 to the agenda 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

10.B.1 Online Courses

Discussion: Discussion followed regarding the language in the policy and the payment for online courses. In addition, the idea of approvals by administration and equity of access was discussed.

Motion Passed: To adopt Policy #6300 as presented passed with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Catherine Staunton.

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

11. Personnel Items

11.A. Staff Appointments

11.B. Information

The Board was provided with an update on personnel. It is anticipated that a few candidates for teaching positions will be presented for Board approval at the June 15 meeting.

12. Adjournment

Motion Passed: To adjourn at 8:52 p.m. passed with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Catherine Staunton.

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