



Board of Education Regular Meeting

August 17, 2020 7:00 PM
The Morgan School Cafeteria and via Zoom
71 Killingworth Turnpike
Clinton, CT 06413

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.

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion: All stood for the pledge.

2. Public participation/recognition

Discussion: Friends of Morgan Football requested the Board consider some form of organized athletic experience for students this fall and noted plans devised by the football coaching staff to provide a guided program for student athletes to follow. Abby Roccapiore, VP of the PTA, read a statement that requested live streaming of classroom instruction be included in this year's instructional model.

3. Minutes – Approval

3.A. Regular Meeting of July 20, 2020

Motion Passed: To approve the minutes from the regular meeting of July 20, 2020, 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 |

3.B. Special Meeting of August 10, 2020

Motion Passed: To approve the minutes from the special meeting of August 10, 2020, passed with a motion by Michael Hornyak 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 |

4. Communications

Discussion: There were no communications.

5. Report of Student Representatives

6. Administrative Reports

6.A. Administrators, Program Directors and Teachers

6.A.1. General Update

6.B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

6.B.1. General Update

Discussion: M. Famiglietti discussed plans for New Teacher Orientation to be held on August 20. Nine new teachers will be participating in the daylong event that will include health protocols, technology training, time with their mentors, and training on QPR which is a suicide prevention model.

Substitute teacher orientation is scheduled for Friday, August 21. Twenty-seven substitutes have expressed interest in working in the district this year.

Five days of professional development has been scheduled for district teachers starting August 24. M. Famiglietti outlined the agenda for each day to include health and safety protocols, social/emotional learning strategies, a tech expo focused on Chromebooks in the classroom, and unit planning for the start of the year.

6.C. Business Manager's Report

6.C.1. Bills Payable

Discussion: There were no questions regarding bills payable.

6.C.2. Transportation Contract Memorandum of Agreement Update

Discussion: C. Dickey relayed information regarding conversations with the bus company regarding PPE usage, on/off boarding, and scheduling. She will provide an update at the next Board meeting. Due to the complexities of Covid-19 impacts and the language of the contract, the district has enlisted the services of an attorney to work through items related to cleaning protocols and scheduling.

6.C.3 General Update

Discussion: PPE equipment is being purchased so that students and staff are protected upon their return.

7. Superintendent's Report

7.A. CIAC Sports Update

Discussion: The district is waiting for firm guidance from the CIAC before moving forward with all fall sports. The CIAC and the Department of Public Health (DPH) have disagreed regarding fall sports and that has resulted in conflicting directives. The two entities will meet later in the week with the intention of releasing a unified message.

M. O'Donnell discussed various proposals including a slow phase in plan, possible restrictions on spectators, and three mini seasons later in the year allowing all athletes to have sports experiences. Decisions will have to be made once CIAC and the DPH decide on a plan moving forward.

7.B. School Reopening Update

M. O'Donnell provided a slideshow regarding the latest plans for reopening school. She discussed the human resource and budgeting aspects including federal protections for staff and her plans to review each situation. She discussed partitions, signage, cleaning protocols, and other health plans. Plans to employ four paraprofessionals as campus safety monitors were discussed. These employees would also support remote learning, student check-ins, and student engagement. Three positions for building substitutes are being posted. Ideally, the hires would be certified teachers who would help with in-person and remote learning.

School-based parent presentations will take place on August 19 and 20.

The intent-to-return survey results were presented. Responses have been received for about 1,100 of the 1,700 total students in the district. The majority of students (867) plan to return for in-person learning; 190 will be learning through the temporary remote plan, and 26 are exploring other options. Outreach to those families who did not return surveys is planned. Questions regarding new registrations, quarantine, virus testing, and survey results were discussed.

Bus protocols and rider numbers were provided. It is expected that many students will not ride the bus this year. Work with M&J Bus is ongoing to develop routes and to determine protocols for loading, student behavior, and safety.

Temporary remote learning is being planned with a goal to provide effective learning for a variety of scenarios. Guiding principles included skills and standards, fluid transition between models, flexibility, and connection to our teachers and to the school community. M. O'Donnell defined synchronous and asynchronous learning and some tentative models for temporary distance learning to include remote learning with a classroom teacher in grades K-5 and the use of Odysseyware online software paired with a Clinton Public Schools teacher for grades 6-12. Questions followed regarding distance learning, the structure of classes, online fatigue, full days for IEP students, attendance options, Chromebooks, and AP classes.

7.C. COVID-19 Financial Impacts Update

Discussion M. O'Donnell provided a chart from a prior Board meeting indicating items needed and costs for those items as the district reopens in the fall. Adjustments to the chart were made where savings could be realized. The items the district will be able to purchase using CARES Act Provider Relief funds were identified. The others will be requested through the operating budget. The amount requested from the operating budget total approximately \$100K, while the CARES Act items total approximately \$147K. The items being requested include PPE, additional desks, custodians, bus monitors, instructional materials, storage, teacher podiums, stacking tables, student Chromebooks/handheld devices, and tenting. Additional funds from the state are possible but no confirmation has been received yet.

Questions followed from the Board regarding custodians and their cleaning routines and protocols. The Superintendent is working with the unions to fill custodial and paraprofessional openings in creative ways that provide flexibility and changing needs.

7.D. Discussion and Possible Recommendation for Business/Business Person of the Year

Discussion: Some recommendations for the Business Person of the Year were made. Past winners will be distributed to Board members.

7.E. General Update

Discussion: No update.

8. Reports of Board of Education Subcommittees and Special Committees

7.A. General Updates

Discussion: No reports. The Eliot Pipes project is progressing well and is due to be completed on time. The roof project at Joel was delayed due to the recent storm but should be substantially complete by early September.

9. Review & Possible Acceptance of CARES Act Grant

Discussion: M. O'Donnell provided a breakdown of how the CARES Act Grant money, totaling \$166K, would be applied. The grant does not require Board approval.

10. Review and Possible Approval of Revised 2020-2021 School Year Calendar

Discussion: The Superintendent recommended adjusting the calendar due to the impact of Tropical Storm Isaias and the loss of several days of work. Professional Development would now occur during the week of August 31 through September 4 and students would begin school on September 8. No professional development would take place on September 17. Graduation would be moved to June 16. The changes will be communicated to staff and families.

Motion Passed: To adopt the revised 2020-2021 school year calendar as presented passed with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Jason Adler.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays

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

11. Review and Possible Approval of 2020-2021 Substitute & Lunch/Recess Aide Rates

Motion Passed: To approve the 2020-2021 substitute and lunch/recess aide rates as presented 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 |

12. Review and Possible Approval of 2020-2021 Meal Prices

Motion Passed: To approve the 2020-2021 meal prices as presented passed with a motion by Kimberly Russo 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 |

13. Review and Possible Approval of 2020-2021 Building Rental Fees

Motion Passed: To approve the 2020-2021 building rental fees as presented passed with a motion by Michael Hornyak 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

14. Review and Possible Approval of 2020-2021 Tuition Rate

Motion Passed: To set the regular education 2020-2021 tuition rate at \$18,462 per student 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

15. Second Reading and Possible Approval of Policies

15.A. 6000 Series (Instruction)

Motion Passed: Moved, that the Board deletes current policies #1110.1, #1312, #1322, #5123, #6112, #6114.6, #6120, #6130, #6141.2, #6141.5, #6141.31, #6141.312, #6141.20, #6143, #6145, #6145.2, #6145.3, #6145.5, #6145.6, #6145.7, #6145.21, #6145.51, #6146.2, #6161.1, #6161.21, #6161.3, #6162.5, #6162.6, #6162.7, #6163.1, 6163.2, #6163.3, #6164, #6164.11, #6164.2, #6165, #6172.2, #6174, #6176, #6180, #6181, and #6200 for the reasons set forth in the "Series 6000 Policy Recommendation Chart" considered by the Board in conjunction with this action. Further, the Board adopts new and revised Series 6000 policies as follows with a motion by Jason Adler and a second by Kimberly Russo:

| Number | P/R | Title |
|--------|-----|---|
| 6300 | P | Credit for Online Courses |
| 6301 | P | Curricular Exemptions |
| 6302 | P/R | Homework |
| 6303 | P | Individuals with Disabilities Act: Alternative Assessments for Students with Disabilities for Statewide and District-wide Assessments |
| 6304 | P | Parent and Family Engagement Policy for Title I Students |
| 6305 | P | Parental Access to Instructional Materials |
| 6306 | P/R | Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials |
| 6307 | P/R | Controversial Issues |
| 6308 | P | Equipment, Books and Materials |
| 6309 | P | Care of Instructional Materials |
| 6310 | P/R | Parent-Teacher Communication |

| Number | P/R | Title |
|--------|-----|-------------------------------------|
| 6311 | P/R | Promotion and Retention |
| 6312 | P | Weighted Grading for Honors Classes |
| 6313 | P | Instructional Program |
| 6314 | P | Technology and Instruction |
| 6315 | P | Talented and Gifted Programs |
| 6316 | P | Curriculum Development |
| 6317 | P | School Calendar |
| 6318 | P/R | Class Size |
| 6319 | P | Contests for Students |
| 6320 | P | Homeschooling |

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.B. COVID-19 Temporary Policies

Motion Passed: That the Board adopts new and revised temporary C-19 Series policies as follows with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Jason Adler:

| Number | P/R |
|---------------|---|
| C-19-01 (NEW) | Temporary Policies and Regulations Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic |
| C-19-02 (NEW) | Health and Safety Protocols Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic |
| C-19-03 (NEW) | Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) Leave |
| 1002 / C-19 | Green Cleaning Programs |
| 1240 / C-19 | School Volunteers |
| 1250 / C-19 | Visitors and Observations in Schools |
| 1330 / C-19 | Use of School Facilities |
| 4306 / C-19 | Employee Use of the District's Computer Systems and Electronic Communications |
| 4316 / C-19 | Employment and Student Teacher Checks |
| 5113 / C-19 | Attendance, Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism |
| 5114 / C-19 | Student Discipline |
| 5146 / C-19 | Health Assessments/Screenings |
| 5157 / C-19 | Student Use of the District Computer Systems |
| 5158 / C-19 | Use of Private Technological Devices by Students |
| 5160 / C-19 | Transportation |
| 9325 / C-19 | Meeting Conduct |

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 |

16. Personnel Information

The district has not been able to hire a Spanish/French teacher so Laura Martino, a French teacher at Morgan, will be teaching French part-time at Eliot.

17. Adjournment

Motion Passed: To adjourn at 9:45 p.m. passed with a motion by Jason Adler 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

August 17, 2020

Superintendent Maryann O'Donnell
Clinton Public Schools

Objective: We are here to request that the BOE consider, regardless of the CIAC's decision this week, to have some form of organized athletic experience for our kids this fall. While we understand that this past spring came as a surprise, we are hoping to not replicate a completely canceled athletic season. Not only does athletics support physical well-being, but further supports and possibly most importantly, the mental and emotional well-being of our student athletes.

Our football coaching staff has devised three separate plans which would guarantee a guided program for our student athletes to follow (either within parallel cohorts or virtual) to promote their physical growth and time management this fall.

Friends of Morgan Football is fully supportive of making this season as safe as possible in unison with the BOE, the athletic department and coaches. We, FofMF, are willing to invest in safety equipment (ie. face shields or other equipment deemed necessary) to allow the season to move forward. If there is anything else that we can do to make sure our kids are supported and kept safe, please feel free to reach out to our board President, Sandra Ciarleglio, at sandracciarleglio@sbcglobal.net.

Respectfully,
Friends of Morgan Football Board
Sandra Ciarleglio, President
Julie Mendez, Vice President
Mark Palumbo, Treasurer
Jennifer Caprio, Secretary
Kimberly Inglis
Kellie Ranaudo
Katie Fratamico

LETTER READ BY ABIGAIL ROCCAPRIORE
Board of Education Meeting
August 17, 2020

If other districts in our area are finding ways to stream their instruction from the classroom to the students at home and are delivering 4/5 days of instruction each week, our children are getting 1/2 of the instruction in comparison. This is inequitable and our children are entitled to the same instruction as those in neighboring towns.

We are worried that our children will be taught less than 1/2 the intended curriculum falling further and further behind.

Students who are entitled to intervention or enrichment services will not be getting support because their intervention teachers are teaching tier 1 instruction to those students at home on their remote days. This is not sustainable.

Live interaction and instruction is what will help children build trusting relationships with their teachers. Studies show that at this time in particular is extremely important for our children to feel safe, build strong relationships, feel part of a community and feel supported by their teachers. This can't be done with only two days of instruction and interaction each week. Students need constant feedback to learn and grow both academically and socially.

The instructional model needs to incorporate live streaming in order to address the above concerns for the students choosing hybrid or remote instruction.