



## **Board of Education Special Meeting**

September 21, 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  
Christopher Passante  
Catherine Staunton

#### Absent Board Members:

Omar Francis  
Michael Hornyak  
Kimberly Russo

### **1. Opening Exercises**

#### **1.A. Roll call**

Discussion: Also in attendance were Superintendent Maryann O'Donnell, Assistant Superintendent Marco Famiglietti, and Student Representative Emma Lindsay.

#### **1.B. Pledge of Allegiance**

Discussion: All stood for the pledge.

### **2. Public Participation/Recognition**

Discussion: Heather Moore, PTA president, repeated a request from some parents to see more teacher video feeds for hybrid model students and wondered if districts that employ video feeds have provided any feedback on their use. Some parents have also requested more instruction time during off-campus days. She indicated that at Joel, a parent was questioning if tiered intervention support teachers could be utilized for tiered intervention instead of other things.

Laura Colebank, Clinton PTA Board member, asked about the scheduling of parent/teacher conferences and open houses.

### **3. Minutes – Approval – Regular Meeting of September 8, 2020**

**Motion Passed:** To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 8, 2020, passed with a motion by Catherine Staunton and a second by Chris Passante.

#### **4 Yeas - 0 Nays**

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

### **4. Communications**

Discussion: There were no communications.

### **5. Report of Student Representatives**

Discussion: E. Lindsay reported on each of the schools. Joel students are adapting quickly to the new health/safety protocols and are focusing on reading stamina, Number Corners, patriotic songs, and counting in Spanish.

At Eliot, U.S. Constitution Day was celebrated, the Stop & Shop cash-earning program is running again, and Stephanie Quarato has been named Teacher of the Year.

At Morgan, the same Stop & Shop plan is available, seniors are taking the SATs on September 23, and yearbook planning is in the works. Guidance has asked the seniors to schedule senior planning meetings. Applications for student representative to the Board are due by the end of September.

### **6. Administrative Reports**

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

##### **6.A.1. Summer Technology Report**

Discussion: Director of Technology, Frank Rossi, gave the Board an update on four major projects his department tackled during the summer to prepare for the opening of schools: projector replacement, reconfiguring the Joel Media Center, Joel network infrastructure, and Chromebook planning.

For the Joel Library Media Center, F. Rossi's department worked with Shoreline Adult Education to create a new computer teaching/learning center. The laptops, center console, design, and furniture were funded through Adult Ed. Clinton Public Schools, and a Stop & Shop school rewards program.

The largest project was the Joel network infrastructure installation. All copper wiring was replaced with state-of-the-art fiber that should keep the building current for about 25 years. The new system is designed for easy expansion and part of the cost is reimbursable through E-rate.

Mr. Rossi also discussed the purchase of 350 Chromebooks during the summer. Shipping for many of the devices has been delayed so older Chromebooks have been repurposed for student use in the meantime.

He also noted that the state is working with cellular and cable providers to provide connectivity to students without internet at home. CEN, the internet provider to state school districts has upgraded internet speed from 1 to 3 GB per second. Google Enterprise for Education has been upgraded which provides district users with a number of advanced tools. His department is working on a contactless visitor management kiosk for The Morgan School. Lastly, sixty new laptops have been provided to Morgan staff members. The Superintendent noted that many of these accomplishments are the result of the successful implementation of a well-thought out technology capital plan. The Board thanked Mr. Rossi and his team for their work this summer.

### **6.A.2. Summer Maintenance Report**

Discussion: Gonzalo Carrion, Director of Buildings and Grounds, gave his report on the work his staff accomplished this summer. The Joel roof replacement work continues but should be completed soon. The Eliot roofing project is substantially complete except for some finishing metalwork. The playground surface at Joel has been sealed to extend the life of the installation. Plexiglas has been purchased for the health offices, front offices, and for use in some specialized classrooms. A fence at Joel has been extended for the safety of the students. His department has deployed a new mop system and touchless faucets were installed in some locations.

His department also worked tirelessly to make sure that personal protective equipment was delivered to every office and classroom throughout the district. Mr. Carrion described the restoration of the area around the batting cage. Maintenance staff has been trained in the use of PPE, on Covid-19 cleaning protocols, and on the prevention of sexual harassment. The Board commended him and his staff on their accomplishments.

### **6.A.3. General Update**

Discussion: No report.

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

### **6.B.1. Overview of 2020 Advanced Placement Exam Results**

Discussion: M. Famiglietti was joined by Assistant Principal Chris Luther to discuss Advanced Placement (AP) scores. Most annual summative assessments were not administered this year, but AP exams did take place. The wide variety of courses was mentioned, as was the rigor of the courses and tests. The College Board adapted quickly to school shutdowns and made the tests available to students at home. M. Famiglietti expressed his pride in the results of the AP computer science and AP calculus scores that demonstrate ongoing commitment to improving student achievement in mathematics.

Discussion followed about making sure the students are prepared for testing in the spring. M. Famiglietti described the variety of supports available to students including daily videos, daily topic questions, practice exams and a progress dashboard. Complete information on College Board testing is not yet available.

### **6.B.2. General Update**

Discussion: School day SAT administration takes place on September 23. Staff members are donating their time to serve as proctors. Transportation and snacks will be provided to the students. October 14 is the date for PSATs for juniors.

A launch session for new TEAM members and their mentors was held to determine goal areas and training for teachers working with remote students in grades 6-12 focused on the Odysseyware platform. Additional training will follow on September 23. As mentioned earlier, Stephanie Quarato has been named Clinton Public Schools' Teacher of the Year and will be recognized at the first October Board meeting.

In response to questions earlier in the evening, M. Famiglietti said that open houses would be held at Eliot on September 28, at Joel on September 30, and on October 1 at Morgan. Tiered support is available at all three schools and interventionists are spending time with students while they are at home so no in-school instructional time is lost.

C. Passante thanked administration for adding more structure and accountability in the last week. Attendance tracking is the next item being addressed and is a state reporting expectation.

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

### **6.C.1 Bills Payable**

Discussion: The Superintendent shared the bills payable report in C. Dickey's absence.

### **6.C.2. General Update**

Discussion: M. O'Donnell reported for C. Dickey on closing out the 19-20 year and on the start of budgeting for the 21-22 year. C. Dickey's office is identifying grant money to pay for Covid-19-related expenses. The business office is preparing for the yearly audit. The employee health plan will transition from Oxford to Anthem as of October 1. It is intended that the pension group will present at a Board meeting in November.

## **7. Superintendent's Report**

### **7.A. Enrollment Update**

Discussion: An enrollment update was provided by M. O'Donnell. Weekly attendance tracking has been required by the state. The annual enrollment snapshot date is October 1. The number of homeschooled students has jumped from 15 last year to about 53 this year.

### **7.B. Fall Sports Update**

Discussion: 11-man tackle football will not happen this year. The team is still moving forward to discuss next steps that could involve a spring season. Safe options are being explored for sports spectators. For middle school sports, discussion regarding intramurals is ongoing. Interscholastic competition may not be a possibility as other districts are only doing intramurals. Discussion followed regarding the difference between middle school and high school sports and the fact that students are playing sports on their own outside of school.

### **7.C. ESSER & CARES Grants Update**

Discussion: The state has released more federal Covid-19 grant funds based on districts' free/reduced lunch numbers. Many of the reopening costs will be mitigated thanks to these grants. C. Dickey and M. O'Donnell will provide a full allocation of expenses at a future meeting.

### **7.D. Metrics & Decision-Making for Full Reopening**

Discussion: M. O'Donnell outlined the metrics that determined her recommendation to move to the next phase of reopening, to move to full, in-person learning as of October 5, 2020. She cited good public health metrics and conformity at all schools to safety and social distancing protocols. Discussion followed regarding staffing and monitoring. Communication to families regarding the full, in-person opening will be sent.

### **7.E. General Update**

Discussion: The newly tenured teachers, the Clinton Classified Employee of the Year, and the Clinton Teacher of the Year will be recognized virtually at the October 5 board meeting. M. O'Donnell praised Food Services Director Jon Siciliano and his staff for the amazing work they have done serving meals at the three school including meals for remote students.

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

### **8.A. General Updates**

Discussion: The minutes from the Building and Grounds meeting were included in the Board packet. The capital plan development has been completed and will be shared with the Town. E. Gelven suggested that the Public Relations and Policy subcommittees set dates regarding rebranding and policy updates, respectively.

## **9. Second Reading and Possible Approval of Policies**

### **9.A. Use of Face Coverings in School**

**Motion Passed:** To adopt policy C-19-04 Use of Face Coverings in School passed as presented with a motion by Catherine Staunton and a second by Chris Passante.

### **4 Yeas - 0 Nays**

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

## **10. Personnel Information**

Discussion: Hiring should be completed soon, including the high school math position.

## 11. Adjournment

**Motion Passed:** To adjourn at 9:29 PM passed with a motion by Catherine Staunton and a second by Chris Passante.

### 4 Yeas - 0 Nays

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

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Michael Hornyak, Secretary of the Board

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Allison Friday, Clerk of the Board