



## Board of Education Regular Meeting

October 5, 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

Catherine Staunton

#### Absent Board Members:

Omar Francis

Christopher Passante

Kimberly Russo

### 1. Opening Exercises

#### 1.A. Roll call

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

#### 1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion: All stood for the pledge.

### 2. Public participation/recognition

Discussion: A parent, Catherine Harris, spoke about the challenges of remote learning and shared her concerns about the use of Odysseyware and the disconnect of remote learners at the middle school. She also requested the Board and district look more closely at options for distance learners regarding synchronized instruction.

### 3. Minutes – Approval of Regular Meeting of September 21, 2020

**Motion Passed:** To approve the minutes from the regular meeting of September 21, 2020, passed with a motion by Jason Adler and a second by Catherine Staunton.

#### 3 Yeas - 0 Nays – 1 Abstain

Erica Gelven Yes

Jason Adler Yes

Omar Francis Absent

Michael Hornyak Abstain

Christopher Passante Absent

Kimberly Russo Absent

Catherine Staunton Yes

#### **4. Communications**

Discussion: No report.

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

Discussion: E. Lindsay noted the first day of full return to classes for the district. She also shared information from each school regarding pickups/drop offs, office hours, and entry times. She noted PSATs will be held on October 14 for juniors, an internet safety course will be run by the SRO and teacher Pete Gersz at Morgan, and applications for student representatives to the Board are being submitted.

#### **6. Celebration of Tenure 2020 and Employee Recognition**

Discussion: The following staff members were recognized for achieving tenure status this year:

Abby Rice  
Allison Perdue  
Mariela Spencer  
Jordan Bean  
Lauren DiBisceglie  
Jessica Lynch  
John Madura  
Brooke Mazzarella  
Susan Murphy

Paraprofessional Penny Kozak was recognized as the Classified Employee of the Year and Stephanie Quarato was introduced as Clinton's Teacher of the Year. M. Famiglietti applauded them both: Penny for all her work closing the library/media center at Pierson and transitioning to Eliot, and Stephanie for her expertise in transitioning teachers to a remote learning platform during the past year. Speaking virtually from her home, S. Quarato thanked the district for the support, encouragement, and motivation she has received.

#### **Administrative Reports**

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

###### **7.A.1. General Update**

Discussion: No report.

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

###### **7.B.1. General Update**

Discussion: M. Famiglietti mentioned some of the changes taking place now that the district has returned to full in-school learning including tiered intervention and music instruction instrumental groups.

Eliot and Morgan technology education teachers commemorated October 2, National Day of Manufacturing. A \$44K supplemental Perkins Grant has been received by the district and will be used to promote advanced manufacturing initiatives in the district.

M. Famiglietti restated that PSATs for juniors will be held on October 14, and that SATs for seniors were held on September 23.

E. Lindsay asked about the status of live streaming services for sports. M. O'Donnell replied that the process is moving forward and may be ready for the winter sports season. C. Staunton asked about PSATs for next year and M. Famiglietti replied that the intention is for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders to take them next school year while the 11th graders would take them on October 14, 2020 to prepare them for the SATs to be taken in the spring.

## **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: The auditors have been working remotely but may be in-district for a week in October. Coronavirus Relief Funds must be spent by the end of December in order to qualify for reimbursement. More details of fund allocation will be presented at the next Board meeting.

## **8. Superintendent's Report**

### **8.A. October 1 Enrollment Report**

Discussion: The Superintendent provided numbers from the October 1 enrollment snapshot that will be sent to the state. The enrollment number of 1,564 is down slightly from projections due mostly to the increase in homeschooling. About 1,381 students are in school and approximately 185 are participating remotely.

### **8.B. Athletics Update**

Discussion: The number of student athletes participating at Morgan and Eliot were shared. Virtual sports events are being held at Eliot for students in grades 5-8 who are not participating in person. An alternative season is being offered by the CIAC for winter and spring sports. Discussion followed regarding spectators at sports events. The Shoreline Conference has been working on a plan to offer a limited number of spectators at outdoor games and at home contests only and to plan Senior Night Recognition for our senior athletes and parents.

### **8.C. School Calendar Review**

Discussion: The Superintendent informed the Board of a date change; the professional development day originally scheduled for October 15 has been moved to October 22. It was acknowledged that professional development days may be adjusted during the year. If the district needs to move to full remote status, the professional development days on the calendar will remain; if hybrid, there will be no professional development on Thursdays.

### **8.D. General Update**

Discussion: The roofing project at Eliot should be fully complete by the end of October and Joel's roof should be as well. The solar panels will need to be reinstalled. Chromebook delivery has been delayed but back-up plans have commenced in order to provide devices for home use. M. Famiglietti will follow up with families of temporary remote learners who have questions.

## 9. Reports of Board of Education Subcommittees and Special Committees

### 9.A. General Updates

Discussion: Upcoming dates and meetings, including the Board retreat, were discussed. The Public Relations subcommittee is working with the graphic designer on style guides, fonts, etc. as part of the district branding initiative which should be ready by the end of October.

### 10. First Reading of Board of Education 2021 Regular Meeting Schedule

Discussion: Board members were asked to look at the schedule before approval at the next Board meeting. J. Adler asked for details on the budget season cycle. M. O'Donnell noted that a similar timeline is expected and she has reached out to the Town Manager for more information.

### 11. Personnel Information

**Motion Passed:** To approve Emily Kelsey as Interim Assistant Principal at Joel School passed with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Catherine Staunton. The position is expected to run from mid-October to mid-April to cover an employee leave.

#### 4 Yeas - 0 Nays

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

### 12. Review and Approval of Leave Absence Request

Discussion: The agenda item was tabled due to the retirement of the employee.

### 13. Personnel Information

Discussion: Several positions have been filled. Two or three part-time paraeducators still need to be hired.

### 14. Adjournment

**Motion Passed:** To adjourn at 8:25 p.m. passed with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Jason Adler.

#### 4 Yeas - 0 Nays

Erica Gelven	Yes
Jason Adler	Yes
Omar Francis	Absent
Michael Hornyak	Yes
Christopher Passante	Absent
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