



Board of Education Regular Meeting

November 16, 2020 7:00 PM
via Zoom Teleconference

Attendance Taken at: 7:00 PM

Present Board Members:

Erica Gelven
Jason Adler
Michael Hornyak (arrived at 7:27 PM)
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, Business Manager Carolyn Dickey and student representatives Emma Lindsay, Aiden Maurais, and Jessica Flanagan.

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion: All recited the pledge.

2. Public participation/recognition

Discussion: None.

3. Minutes – Approval

3.A. Regular Meeting of November 2, 2020

Motion Passed: To approve the minutes from the regular meeting of November 2, 2020, passed with a motion by Christopher Passante and a second by Jason Adler.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays

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

4. Communications

Discussion: No report.

5. Report of Student Representatives

Discussion: A. Maurais and J. Flanagan reported on events at Joel and Eliot, respectively, including staff responses to the transition to the hybrid and remote learning models. At Morgan, E. Lindsay stated that the transition to fully remote status went smoothly overall but challenges included attendance recording and providing students with full support. MAP testing at Eliot starts on November 16. Veterans Day celebrations were produced and published online and shared with our local veterans. The Guidance Department at Morgan is hosting college fairs and a financial aid night. Board members were encouraged to read the latest edition of the Morgan PawPrint.

6. Administrative Reports

6.A. Administrators, Program Directors and Teachers

6.A.1. Recognition of Morgan Scholars 2020

Discussion: Morgan school administrators Keri Hagness and Christopher Luther virtually introduced the students who, through their academic performance, have earned the Morgan Scholar Award for 2020. Juniors and seniors are eligible for this award and a student must be ranked in the top 5% of his/her respective class. Honorees received a sweatshirt with "Morgan Scholar" embroidered on it and their accomplishments will be engraved on a plaque displayed in the high school's academic showcase. The evening's honorees were William Curry, Jessica Flanagan, Tarik Hasic, Taylor Maher, Timothy McComiskey, Cailan Steahle, and Abigail Vitola. They were applauded for their passion for academics and ideas, and for making the classroom a better place for both teachers and students. The Board praised the students for their academic achievement and thanked their parents as well.

6.A.2. General Update

Discussion: No report.

6.B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

6.B.1. General Update

Discussion: M. Famiglietti discussed the recent distribution of recently received tablets and redistribution of Chromebooks at Joel. More Chromebooks are expected to arrive before January and a plan is in place for their distribution. He praised the students and teachers for their resilience and positive attitude during these trying times. On November 17, WTNH will feature Joel School's work on a news report regarding social/emotional learning. On November 18, English as a Second Language (ESL) families have been invited to a meeting regarding the district's different learning models as well as Covid-19 information. An interpreter will be on hand as will the district's nurse supervisor and Covid-19 liaison.

Joel schools has begun NWEA MAP testing, a universal assessment tool used in grades three through eight. Preliminary testing shows positive growth. Assessments will continue to be given at Joel and Eliot through the year to provide more complete student information.

6.C. Business Manager's Report

6.C.1. Bills Payable

Discussion: There were no questions regarding bills payable.

6.C.2. General Update

Discussion: Work with the auditors continues as does 2021-22 budget work. A review of the non-certified pension was given to the Board's Budget & Finance subcommittee by People's Bank and Milliman on November 9.

Superintendent's Report

7.A. Learning Model and Metrics

Discussion: M. O'Donnell discussed the variations and adjustments that have been made for teaching and learning as the district transitions between learning models. She also provided protocols regarding contact tracing and town, county, and state Covid-19 metrics. Communications regarding Covid-19 are sent out to the district as information is confirmed and the same communications are posted on the district website. In addition, she reviewed coordination and discussions with the local health district and town emergency planning leaders regarding current factors in Clinton that affect the schools. Currently, the metrics indicate an increase in the number of Covid-19 cases in the state, county, and town. The Superintendent will continue to closely monitor the metrics and, using additional guidance of the local and state health departments, make decisions regarding school learning models. She expressed her pride in both staff and students during a challenging time. The district continues to capitalize on technology and teacher/student relationships during remote learning.

The Board followed up with questions regarding the hybrid model, staffing levels, and notifications. The district will continue to provide consistent and transparent information to the community.

7.B. General Update

Discussion: M. O'Donnell clarified the plan for snow days. If schools are using the remote learning model, the first three inclement weather days would be considered snow days. School would not be in session and would need to be made up at the end of the year. Any more than three would be considered remote learning days. If weather disrupts access to technology during a snow day, those days would need to be made up later in the year. As of the last Board meeting, the state mandated that meals be served on remote learning days, even in inclement weather. The state has modified its position and now schools are asked to attempt to provide meals if food services staff are able to get to school safely.

8. Reports of Board of Education Subcommittees and Special Committees

8.A. General Updates

Discussion: Minutes from the November 4th Buildings & Grounds and November 9th Budget & Finance subcommittee meetings were attached to the Board packet.

9. Review and Possible Approval of 2021-2022 Capital Expenditure Plan

Motion Passed: To approve the Capital Expenditure Plan as presented passed with a motion by Kimberly Russo 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 |

10. Second Reading and Possible Adoption of Policies

10.A. (New) #4322 Code of Ethics

Motion Passed: To approve Policy #4322 as presented passed with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Catherine Staunton.

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 |

10.B. #4302 Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace

Motion Passed: To approve Policy #4302 as presented passed with a motion by Jason Adler and a second by Kimberly Russo.

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 |

10.C. #5151 Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 - Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment

Motion Passed: To approve Policy #5151 as presented 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 |

10.D. #5160 Transportation

Motion Passed: To approve Policy #5160 as presented passed with a motion by Kimberly Russo and a second by Catherine Staunton.

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 |

10. Personnel Information

Discussion: The Board welcomed new hires and thanked those employees leaving the district.

11. Adjournment

Motion Passed: To adjourn at 8:54 p.m. passed with a motion by Kimberly Russo 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 |

Michael Hornyak, Secretary of the Board

Allison Friday, Clerk of the Board