Board of Education Regular Meeting  
January 06, 2020 7:00 PM  
Board Meeting Room  
Administrative Offices  
137-B Glenwood Road  
Clinton, CT 06413

Attendance Taken at: 7:00 PM  
Present Board Members:  
Erica Gelven  
Jason Adler  
Omar Francis  
Michael Hornyak  
Christopher Passante  
Kimberly Russo  
Catherine Staunton

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 as well as Student representatives Sarah Auletta, Jenna Kareliussen, and Emma Lindsay.

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance  
Discussion: All stood for the pledge.

2. Public participation/recognition  
Discussion: No public participation.

3. Minutes-Approval - Special Meeting of November 25, 2019 and Regular Meeting of December 2, 2019

Motion Passed: To approve the minutes of the special meeting of November 25, 2019, passed with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Kimberly Russo.

7 Yeas - 0 Nays  
Erica Gelven  
Yes  
Jason Adler  
Yes  
Omar Francis  
Yes  
Michael Hornyak  
Yes  
Christopher Passante  
Yes  
Kimberly Russo  
Yes  
Catherine Staunton  
Yes
Motion Passed: To approve the minutes of regular meeting of December 2, 2019, passed with a motion by Kimberly Russo and a second by Catherine Staunton.

7 Yeas - 0 Nays

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

4. Communications

Discussion:
Board members were invited to a retirement dinner held on January 30, 2020, for Sgt. Jeremiah Dunn, a former student, student resource officer, and "one of Clinton's finest".

The Board also noted their appreciation for former Board member Doug Traynor who passed away in December.

5. Report of Student Representatives

Discussion:
The student representatives reported on a wide array of happenings at the three schools.

Joel: Three Kings Day was celebrated with the help of Morgan students who dressed as kings and distributed small gifts. Math Night will be held on January 28 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Elliot: The After Hours program will run from January 7 to January 29. Invention Convention applications are due January 8. The girls basketball team will face Westbrook on January 7, and the Ski Club will start meeting every week for the season starting January 10. Elliot's first musical will be "Shrek The Musical JR".

Morgan: The chorus helped provide seasonal music in the school in December and staff participated in a cookie swap. College Knowledge Night was hosted by the guidance department on December 18. Exams start on January 21. "The Little Mermaid" has been selected as this year's Morgan Musical and will take place from March 20 to March 23. A "Random Acts of Kindness" event led by Morgan teacher Laura Luther was held with great success.

6. Administrative Reports
6.A. Administrators, Program Directors and Teachers
6.A.1. General Update
6.B. Assistant Superintendent’s Report
6.B.1. Curriculum Update

Discussion:
M. Famiglietti provided information regarding new course proposals and adjustments. The bulk of curriculum work is taking place in the areas of math and science. He discussed curriculum realignment in grades 5 through 8 and the addition of jewelry making and metalsmithing at the high school. Grade 7 Social Studies curriculum will be revised to include the subject of World Cultures. There were questions regarding the structure of history courses.
6.B.2. Assessment Mid-Year Update (Science NGSS, PSAT & NWEA MAP)

Discussion:
M. Famiglietti described the history of the district's piloting of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), how the assessment has moved the focus for students from content to process, the results of the 2018-19 testing for grades 5, 8, and 11, and how the information will be shared with teachers. In general, Clinton's results are above the state average and above the mean of our District Reference Group (DRG).

Discussion followed regarding alternate assessments for special education students, plans to provide students access to NGSS Interim Assessment Blocks, and possible incentives for 11th graders to give the test more significance.

M. Famiglietti also reported on the NWEA MAP internal screening assessment which is conducted three times a year. He discussed how the assessments are used, why they are used, and special features of the assessment including computer adaptiveness. Students exceeded expected growth in almost all areas. He also noted that the Chromebooks at Eliot have been instrumental in having all students tested and in a timely manner.

The Board heard about the PSAT/NMSQT 2018-19 results for students in grades 9, 10, and 11. In 9th grade, the students' mean scores out-perform the state averages and the benchmark. In 10th grade, the mean score is above the state's but below the benchmark in math. In 11th grade, scores are trending up when compared to the same students' results in previous years but more work needs to be done in math.

6.B.3. General Update
None

6.C. Business Manager's Report
6.C.1. Bills Payable

Discussion:
There were no questions regarding bills payable.

6.C.2. Quarterly Report

Discussion:
C. Dickey provided the Quarterly Reports and responded to questions.

6.C.3. General Update

Discussion:
None.

7. Superintendent's Report
7.A. Strategic Plan Mid-Year Update

M. O'Donnell provided a snapshot of the ongoing work on strategic priorities and the major focal areas for 2019-2020. Documentation was contained in the Board packet.

7.B. 2020-2021 Budget Overview

Discussion:
The Superintendent shared an overview of the budget process, strategic priorities, and key dates in the budget timeline. Budget presentations by each of the cost centers will take place on January 9 and 14. After review and discussion, the Superintendent will make her presentation to the Board for adoption by the Board
on January 27. The Board will review and consider the Superintendent's recommendations and adopt a final budget on February 3.

She discussed the major budget drivers, enrollment trends, staffing considerations, special education, and curriculum needs. Health insurance rates are expected to increase by 11%, and in regards to the capital budget, an increase of $270,155 is being sought.

Debt Services numbers are being prepared by the town so were not available for the report. Education Cost Sharing is expected to decrease by $228,554. Board members were asked to send any budget questions to E. Gelven so that everyone could have access to the answers.

7.C. General Update

Discussion:
None.

8. Reports of Board of Education Subcommittees and Special Committees

8.A. General Updates

Discussion:
E. Gelven announced chairperson assignments for the Board's subcommittees. E. Gelven will serve as chair for the Budget/Finance and Wellness subcommittees. M. Hornyak will chair the Buildings and Grounds subcommittee and serve as the liaison to LEARN. The Instruction subcommittee will be chaired by K. Russo, the Policy subcommittee by J. Adler, and the Public Relations subcommittee by C. Staunton.

It was also noted that M. O'Donnell has been invited to serve on LEARN's Executive Board as a superintendent representative to provide input on regional initiatives.

E. Gelven offered her support to subcommittee members. M. O'Donnell and M. Famiglietti will also be available for assistance.

9. Field Trip Update

Discussion:
No update.

10. Second Reading and Possible Adoption of 2020-2021 School Year Calendar

Discussion:
M. O'Donnell presented the changes made since the last reading including the start date of school on Thursday, August 27, 2020, and a half-day of school on December 23, 2020.

**Motion Passed:** To approve the 2020-2021 school year calendar as presented passed with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Christopher Passante.

7 Yeas - 0 Nays

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<td>Erica Gelven</td>
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11. Review and Possible Approval of Educational Specifications for Roofing Projects

Discussion:
M. O'Donnell talked about the beginning of the roofing projects and key members serving including Board representative Mike Hornyak, Bill Watkins, Dennis Donovan, Jack Scherban, and Gonzalo Carrion. She described the areas of roof being replaced and some of the requirements for reimbursement by the state.

11.A. Lewin G. Joel, Jr. Elementary School

Motion Passed: To approve the Educational Specifications for the Joel roof replacement project as presented passed with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Kimberly Russo.

7 Yes - 0 Nays
Erica Gelven
Jason Adler
Omar Francis
Michael Hornyak
Christopher Passante
Kimberly Russo
Catherine Staunton

11.B. Jared Eliot Middle School

Motion Passed: To approve the Educational Specifications for the Eliot roof replacement project as presented passed with a motion by Catherine Staunton and a second by Jason Adler.

7 Yes - 0 Nays
Erica Gelven
Jason Adler
Omar Francis
Michael Hornyak
Christopher Passante
Kimberly Russo
Catherine Staunton

12. First Reading of Policies

12.A. Revised #5164 - Graduation Requirements

Discussion:
Policy edits regarding graduation requirements were presented for a first reading.

13. Personnel Items

13.A. Staff Appointments

13.A.1. Appointment of Certified Staff - Grade 4 at Joel

Motion Passed: To appoint Ryan Florentine as a Grade 4 Teacher at Joel passed with a motion by Omar Francis and a second by Christopher Passante.

7 Yes - 0 Nays
Erica Gelven
Jason Adler
Omar Francis
Michael Hornyak
Christopher Passante
Kimberly Russo
Catherine Staunton
13.B. Information

Discussion:
None.

14. Adjournment

**Motion Passed:** To adjourn at 9:09 passed with a motion by Kimberly Russo and a second by Omar Francis.

**7 Yeas - 0 Nays**
- Erica Gelven  
- Jason Adler  
- Omar Francis  
- Michael Hornyak  
- Christopher Passante  
- Kimberly Russo  
- Catherine Staunton

Michael Hornyak, Secretary of the Board

Allison Friday, Clerk of the Board