



Board of Education Regular Meeting

May 17, 2021 7:00 PM
The Morgan School Cafeteria
71 Killingworth Turnpike
Clinton, CT 06413

Attendance Taken at: 7:01 PM

Present Board Members

Erica Gelven, Chairperson
Michael Hornyak, Secretary
Jason Adler
Peter Nye
Christopher Passante – arrived at 7:19 PM
Catherine Staunton

Absent Board Members

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 representatives Jessica Flanagan and Aiden Maurais. Presenters included Special Services Director Kim Pearce and Morgan Principal Keri Hagness.

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion: All stood for the pledge.

2. Public participation/recognition

Discussion: None.

3. Minutes – Approval – Regular Meeting of May 3, 2021

Motion Passed: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 3, 2021, passed with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Catherine Staunton.

5 Yeas – 0 Nays

Erica Gelven	Yes
Michael Hornyak	Yes
Jason Adler	Yes
Peter Nye	Yes
Christopher Passante	Absent
Kimberly Russo	Absent
Catherine Staunton	Yes

4. Communications

Discussion: None

5. Report of Student Representatives

Discussion: The student representatives shared each school's events and successes with the Board. At Morgan, Advanced Placement testing has concluded for all students. All juniors will be taking the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Test on May 20th. The junior prom was a success and the senior prom is taking place this week at Woodwinds in Branford. Planning for graduation and senior week is underway. Project Graduation is hosting Chalk-A-Thon, a parking lot decoration event and the Morgan Musical will be released on May 21. The High School bowl team placed first in the Shoreline tournament thanks to the senior leadership from Sam Reed and Josh Bardinelli. Spring sports senior nights this week will feature boys and girls lacrosse, baseball, track, and golf. Many courses this year will use final project models instead of final exams.

At Eliot, course selection and placement are ongoing. Student government hosted a spirit week fundraiser for Families Helping Families. The recent Leukemia and Lymphoma Society fundraiser raised \$2,484. The summer reading program has been announced. Local vaccination clinics are being offered for children aged 12 to 18.

Smarter Balanced assessments for grades 3 and 4 are complete. Several school spirit events took place. Joel reminded students and parents to come prepared to school with two water bottles and a snack and to continue Covid-19 mitigation protocols. Joel faculty will be implementing an Accelerated Learning model next school year in which teachers will gauge where their students are academically following the hardships caused by the pandemic so that they will be able to accommodate social, emotional, and academic needs of students as they transition from one grade to the next.

Administrative Reports

6.A. Administrators, Program Directors and Teachers

6.A.1. Wheeler Clinic Service Agreement Proposal

C. Passante arrived at 7:19 PM.

Discussion: K. Pearce and K. Hagness presented an overview of an agreement to contract with Wheeler Clinic to provide training and consultation, as well as clinical services, for up to 13 students at The Morgan School as part of the Collaborative Learning Program. This program is an in-district school-based program designed to provide therapeutic education services for students with mental health, behavioral, and specialized learning needs. The two discussed areas of concern and anticipated needs for the fall. The program will work towards building in-house capacity of staff and will be funded, in part, by grants. Discussion followed regarding the vendor selection process, funding, building staff capacity, the cost of not moving forward with the program, a timeline for the process, space requirements, and the focus on student social-emotional health guided by students' Individualized Learning Plans (IEPs).

Motion Passed: To approve moving forward in the creation of an in-house program with the Wheeler Clinic passed with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Jason Adler.

5 Yeas – 1 Nay

Erica Gelven	Yes
Michael Hornyak	Yes
Jason Adler	Yes
Peter Nye	No
Christopher Passante	Yes
Kimberly Russo	Absent
Catherine Staunton	Yes

6.A.2. General Update

Discussion: No discussion.

6.B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

6.B.1. NWEA MAP Growth Assessment Report

Discussion: M. Famiglietti provided an overview of student growth from fall 2020 to spring 2021 as reported in NWEA's MAP Assessments. Reading showed consistent growth with all grades at or above national norms, and with grades 6 and 8 greatly exceeding expectations. In the area of math, growth targets were achieved or exceeded except in grade 5.

6.B.2. Learning Acceleration Plans for 2021-22

Discussion: M. Famiglietti discussed plans for using the Learning Acceleration approach to instruction. District administrators, team leaders, program chairs, and math and literacy specialist have received professional development in the area of Accelerated Learning which will provide a roadmap for instruction in the fall. The initiative provides a coordinated approach to addressing interrupted teaching and learning while encouraging self-efficacy and confidence. Discussion followed regarding the value of grade level benchmarks and final exams, as well as the importance of social-emotional health.

6.B.3. Review and Possible Approval of Perkins Supplemental Grant

Discussion: A new Perkins Supplemental grant is available and due on May 21. If awarded, funds would be used to support the partnership of advanced manufacturing along the shoreline by providing professional development and curriculum alignment from middle school to high school that connect to industry standards.

Motion Passed: To support the initiatives presented and authorize submission of the Perkins Supplemental Grant passed with a motion by Peter Nye and a second by Jason Adler.

6 Yeas – 0 Nays

Erica Gelven	Yes
Michael Hornyak	Yes
Jason Adler	Yes
Peter Nye	Yes
Christopher Passante	Yes
Kimberly Russo	Absent
Catherine Staunton	Yes

6.B.4. General Update

Discussion: The Goodwin University mobile tech lab will be at Eliot School on May 18 for 8th graders to tour. An interview with student representative J. Flanagan along with elements of the advanced manufacturing initiative will be featured on "What's Right with Schools" on WTNH. Scheduling at Eliot and Morgan is ongoing. A summer camp opportunity for students is in the works; students will be able to work on academics in the morning and attend a YMCA program in the afternoon. The program is free and includes breakfast, lunch, and transportation.

6.C. Business Manager's Report

6.C.1. Bills Payable

Discussion: No discussion.

6.C.2. General Update

Discussion: End-of-year processes continue and the process of converting to the new fiscal year is underway. Interviews for companies that submitted bids for athletic training services have been scheduled for May 19.

7. Superintendent's Report

7.A. Review and Possible Approval of BoardBook Agreement

Discussion: As noted in the last Board meeting, CAFE Meeting will no longer be supported and BoardBook is the chosen vendor by CAFE for electronic meetings. This system has updated features and interface and the total cost is \$3,000 per year. The migration of the current meeting data is included and would be pulled over after the last meeting in June. If approved, we would begin using BoardBook at the July meeting. The transition of the system, CAFE dues, and the CAFE business model were also discussed.

Motion Passed: To approve the agreement for BoardBook Premier Tier 2 passed with a motion by Catherine Staunton and a second by Michael Hornyak.

6 Yeas – 0 Nays

Erica Gelven	Yes
Michael Hornyak	Yes
Jason Adler	Yes
Peter Nye	Yes
Christopher Passante	Yes
Kimberly Russo	Absent
Catherine Staunton	Yes

7.B. ARP ESSER Grant Process and Timeline

Discussion: Superintendent O'Donnell updated the Board on the district's process and timeline for use of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) grant funding. \$1,735,921 has been allocated to Clinton with the stipulation that a minimum of 20%, or \$347,184, be set aside for learning recovery. Funds will be used for a variety of programs and initiatives including after-school and summer programs, updating of HVAC systems at Eliot and Joel, and some staff positions. State-level priorities that must be adhered to were also reviewed. Discussion regarding leveraging ARP ESSER funds to offset

future capital costs were discussed. Subcommittee meetings will need to be scheduled to determine ARP ESSER grant funding decisions.

7.C. General Update

Discussion: *ThoughtExchange* has been used to gather feedback on the Eliot principal position. The district has accepted a donation of \$12K from an anonymous donor who directed the funds be used for staff appreciation. Funds will be used to hold a staff celebration on the last day of school, June 17, after students have been dismissed.

The Superintendent thanked M. Famiglietti for his work on all the grants this year. Graduation at Eliot and Morgan within CDC guidelines was discussed as were sports and school opening in the fall. Hundreds of students have been vaccinated by the CT River Area Health District which has been offering several vaccination clinics for 12-18 year-olds. Masks and other mitigation strategies will continue to be used in school through the end of the current school year.

8. Reports of Board of Education Subcommittees and Special Committees

8.A. General Updates

Discussion: Several subcommittees will need to meet soon to discuss various topics including: Buildings & Grounds subcommittee regarding HVAC, ventilation, and solar panels; Budget & Finance subcommittee regarding the ARP ESSER grant and capital account rollovers; and Wellness subcommittee regarding state health mandates. The Policy subcommittee will need to meet this summer to discuss the continuation of any temporary policies put in place during the pandemic and to update any necessary policies due to recent legislation. Negotiations are ongoing with secretaries and paraprofessionals.

9. Personnel Information

9.A. Recall of Certified Staff

Discussion: At the April 5th meeting, Nicole Magnano was non-renewed due to a reduction in force. With the approval of the ESSER II grant funding and the positions within, Ms. Magnano is qualified to fulfill a vacancy and needs to be formally recalled to a teaching position.

Motion Passed: To recall Nicole Magnano to a teaching position for the 2021-2022 school year passed with a motion by Peter Nye and a second by Catherine Staunton.

6 Yeas – 0 Nays

Erica Gelven	Yes
Michael Hornyak	Yes
Jason Adler	Yes
Peter Nye	Yes
Christopher Passante	Yes
Kimberly Russo	Absent
Catherine Staunton	Yes

10. Adjournment

Discussion: None.

Motion Passed: To adjourn at 9:03 p.m. passed with a motion by Peter Nye and a second by Christopher Passante.

6 Yeas – 0 Nays

Erica Gelven	Yes
Michael Hornyak	Yes
Jason Adler	Yes
Peter Nye	Yes
Christopher Passante	Yes
Kimberly Russo	Yes
Catherine Staunton	Yes

Michael Hornyak, Secretary of the Board

Allison Friday, Clerk of the Board