



Board of Education Special Meeting

February 3, 2021 7:00 PM
via Zoom Teleconference

Attendance Taken at: 7:00 PM

Present Board Members:

Erica Gelven, Chairperson
Michael Hornyak, Secretary
Jason Adler
Peter Nye
Christopher Passante
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 Aiden Maurais and Jessica Flanagan.

E. Gelven introduced Peter Nye, the Board's newest member. He replaces Omar Francis who recently resigned.

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion: All recited the pledge.

2. Public participation/recognition

Melissa Savage, parent of a Morgan student, requested the AP European History class be reinstated at Morgan.

3. Minutes – Approval - Regular Meeting of January 25, 2021

Motion Passed: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 25, 2021, passed with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Jason Adler.

5 Yeas – 0 Nays - 1 Abstention

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

4. Communications

Discussion: The resignation of Board member Omar Francis was announced and his replacement, Peter Nye, was welcomed. The Board has been invited to place an ad in the Morgan yearbook. E. Gelven will purchase an ad with personal funds. Any interested Board members may contribute.

5. Report of Student Representatives

Discussion: J. Flanagan and A. Maurais reported on events at all three schools. In-person practices for winter sports have begun. Morgan students continue to be very involved in fundraising events and giving back to the community. New clubs have started at the high school. The Social Justice Club is planning activities for Black History month. The Clinton PTA is offering a parenting workshop. Virtual college fairs have started. Board members were encouraged to read the latest edition of the *Morgan PawPrint*.

At Eliot, yoga and mindfulness practice for the classroom has been introduced and well received by students. Eighth graders have been working with their counselors regarding career paths. Morgan will host a virtual open house for eighth graders on February 25. Seventh and eighth graders will be able to participate in winter sports.

At Joel, many activities took place in January honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. Joel gratefully acknowledged the work of the food services staff. The 100th Day celebration is being recognized by the collection of 500 boxes of cereal. The donation of masks by the Clinton Rotary Club was appreciated.

M. O'Donnell and the Board expressed their appreciation for the research and perspectives provided by the student representatives.

6. Review and Possible Action re: 2021-2022 Budget

Discussion: E. Gelven articulated the Board's fiduciary responsibility regarding the budget. Discussion followed regarding Eliot athletic uniforms and curriculum items. Questions followed regarding the role of the Town Council, unexpended 2020-21 funds, the referendum, and staffing. E. Gelven stressed the Board's efforts to strive to keep the budget tight. Staffing over the last several years has been reduced due to reductions in enrollment. Staffing over the years will continue to be consolidated but will take place as needed rather than being reactionary. A thorough review of requests by cost center was conducted in January by the Budget and Finance subcommittee. The Board discussed appropriate channels of communication, the upcoming budget workshop with the Town Council on February 23, and amendments to the budget as required.

Motion Passed: To approve the 2021-2022 Operating Budget in the amount of \$34,171,057, an increase of 2.92%, passed with a motion by Jason Adler and a second by Chris Passante.

5 Yeas – 0 Nays - 1 Abstention

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

7. 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:

Results of the standardized testing from fall 2020 were presented by M. Famiglietti. Testing in early fall was eclipsed by the need to get students into the buildings, provide them with technology tools, and fully engage them in learning. NWEA MAP math and reading tests were administered for grades three through eight. The School Day SAT was given to seniors and PSATs were given to juniors.

The next session of NWEA testing will take place in the spring. LAS Links testing has begun and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), the state's Physical Education test, and School Day SAT will take place this spring.

M. Famiglietti noted the skills students have gained that cannot be measured: adapting to new learning platforms and styles, resiliency, adaptability to technology, and collaboration.

7.C. Business Manager's Report

7.C.1. Bills Payable

Discussion: There were no questions regarding bills payable.

7.C.2. Quarterly Reports

Discussion: Quarterly revenue and expenditure reports were provided to the Board and C. Dickey explained the report layout, the revenues received by the district, and the expenditures by object through the second quarter of the fiscal year.

7.C.3. Audit Report 2019-20

Discussion: The Business Manager provided an overview of the annual audit results, which the Town Council formally accepted at a special meeting on January 21. Details of the

recommendation letter from the auditors were shared regarding role division, additional food service fund tracking, budget transfers, and the addition of the Superintendent as signer on school activity accounts.

7.C.4. General Update

Discussion: No update.

8. Superintendent's Report

8.A. Learning Model Considerations

Discussion: After careful monitoring of COVID-19 statistics and working with the CT River Area Health District, M. O'Donnell announced the return to full in-person learning at Joel and Eliot schools as of Monday, February 8. The Morgan School will continue to use the hybrid model for the time being due to class cohort structure but will revisit the possibility of transition to in-person learning as soon as is possible.

The Board discussed the State's prioritization of vaccinations, consistent messaging, socio-emotional impact on students, and the continuation of mitigation strategies to help keep virus transmission low.

8.B. CAPSS Blueprint to Transform CT Public Schools

Discussion: The CAPSS (CT Association of Public School Superintendents) Blueprint to Transform CT Public Schools articulates a comprehensive set of 30 recommendations that CAPSS believes will help to assure every child receives high-quality teaching and learning. The Superintendent briefly reviewed these recommendations and discussed how this document can be utilized for legislative decisions as well as impacts to the district.

8.C. General Update

Discussion: The solar panels on the Joel roof need to be reinstalled and a walk conducted to issue an extended warranty prior to formal closeout. The Eliot pipe project has been completed. Chromebooks are still on backorder. Efforts are being made to leverage acquisition at the state level.

The Pixellot camera purchased with Husky Booster Club funds is installed and functional. This week's Morgan blast will contain information on how families can view athletic contests. M. O'Donnell confirmed the gift of disposable children's masks from the Clinton Rotary Club. A second award of the Elementary and Secondary Emergency School Relief Fund (ESSER II) has been announced by the State. Clinton is slated to receive \$738,712 and the district is currently exploring the parameters for use of the funds. The main intent will be to use funds to address student learning regression and to support the social-emotional needs of students.

9. Reports of Board of Education Subcommittees and Special Committees

9.A. General Updates

Discussion: Secretary contract negotiations are coming up. E. Gelven encouraged Board members to consider serving on one of the negotiation teams that are upcoming if they can do so.

10. Personnel Information

Discussion: The Board welcomed new hires and thanked those employees leaving the district. The number of vacancies stresses coverage, especially during the pandemic.

11. Adjournment

Motion Passed: To adjourn at 9:27 p.m. 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

Michael Hornyak, Secretary of the Board

Allison Friday, Clerk of the Board