



Board of Education Regular Meeting

Monday, April 3, 2023 7:00 PM

Board Meeting Room
Administrative Offices
137 B Glenwood Road
Clinton, CT 06413

Attendance Taken at 7:00 PM.

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|---------------------|---------|
| Jason Adler: | Present |
| Erica Gelven: | Present |
| Michael Hornyak: | Absent |
| Peter Nye: | Present |
| Alan Samet: | Present |
| Jack Scherban: | Present |
| Catherine Staunton: | Present |

1. Opening Exercises

A. Roll call

Also in attendance were Superintendent Maryann O'Donnell, Assistant Superintendent Marco Famiglietti, and Business Manager Carolyn Dickey. They were joined by student representatives Abel Rodriguez and Sean Davis. Attendees were reminded that the meeting was being recorded.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood for the pledge.

2. Public participation/recognition

Matthew Guarnieri, a resident and parent of three students in the district, discussed his review of the proposed 2023-24 operating budget including remarks about class sizes, salary and benefits, and possible considerations for areas of reduction. While finding it fiscally responsible, he suggested that if teaching positions had to be cut, that they be in schools with greater declining student enrollment. He also suggested the cuts come in other departments instead.

3.Minutes - Approval - Regular Meeting of March 20, 2023

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 20, 2023. Carried with a motion by Peter Nye and a second by Jack Scherban.

Jason Adler: Yea
Erica Gelven: Yea
Michael Hornyak: Absent
Peter Nye: Yea
Alan Samet: Yea
Jack Scherban: Yea
Catherine Staunton: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

4.Communications

A. Rodriguez reported on happenings at The Morgan School, including Junior Portfolios on April 6, the start of spring sports, and spirit week. He also provided a report on activities at Jared Eliot School, specifically the musical production, *Willy Wonka Jr.*, which is scheduled for April 21 and 22, and Nature's Classroom which takes place the week of April 24.

S. Davis gave a brief rundown of events and studies at Joel. Kindergarten students are learning sign language for a presentation on May 24th as well as learning about 5's and 10's. First graders are writing opinion pieces. Second graders will be going to Bushy Hill on April 21. Third graders are working on Foundations and learning to control impulses, while fourth graders are learning about marine animals in preparation for Marine Science Day on May 25th.

5.Report of Student Representatives

6.Administrative Reports

A.Administrators, Program Directors and Teachers

1.General Update

B.Assistant Superintendent's Report

1.General Update

There will be a soft launch of the Expeditionary Learning Education (EL Ed) literacy program for grades K through 8 at the end of April. There is also word from CSDE that additional grant funds will be made available for professional development in the literacy program next year. On April 6, Junior Portfolios will be presented at Morgan. This week, professional development in early literacy will take place at Joel, and Eliot will hold instruction in supporting English language learners (ELLs). The same ELL professional development will be replicated at Joel and Morgan in the future.

M. Famiglietti noted that scheduling revisions will be shared with the Board at future meetings. There was a brief discussion regarding the movement towards students defending their work verbally as a way to combat the inappropriate use of artificial intelligence in the classroom.

C.Business Manager's Report

1.Bills Payable

There were no questions regarding accounts payable.

2. Food Services Budget & Action Plan Update

C. Dickey discussed the overage of funds in the Food Services budget. The overage is a result of the government funding of student meals during the pandemic. The State requires a 'corrective action plan' to be put in place and submitted to show how those funds that exceed the recommended minimum balance will be used. One idea is for a kitchen walk-in freezer at Eliot. Another possibility is HVAC work in the kitchens and cafeterias at Eliot. The matter will be brought to the Buildings & Grounds subcommittee for more discussion to determine the possible actions to take.

3. General Update

C. Dickey predicts approximately \$500,000 in unexpended funds at the end of the current school year. Not all billing is in yet, including those for utilities which are billed in arrears. The overage has been consistently low year after year, and this year's overage constitutes only about 1.5% of the total budget.

7. Superintendent's Report

A. Teacher Appreciation Resolution 2023

The Board read the Teacher Appreciation Resolution. Teacher Appreciation Week is May 8 through May 12 this year.

WHEREAS, May 8th through May 12th has been designated as National Teacher Appreciation Week;

WHEREAS, Intelligent, engaging, and compassionate educators are the prerequisites for a quality school community;

WHEREAS, The success of our children and our schools depends on the system's ability to be innovative while remaining unwavering in the pursuit of excellence;

WHEREAS, Empowering learners to embrace and influence the future with courage and compassion is a fundamental goal for all teachers;

WHEREAS, Providing personalized learning opportunities for students to apply skills, extend knowledge, and become engaged and reflective learners is critical for preparing students to participate in an ever-changing global society;

WHEREAS, Teachers have demonstrated their flexibility, adaptability, and commitment to their students under challenging circumstances;

WHEREAS, Teachers are essential in developing a school community focused on establishing positive relationships and providing supports that foster the health and well-being of all; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Clinton Board of Education wishes to express their pride and appreciation in the high caliber educators that serve our school community, and to convey their gratitude to teachers for their passionate pursuit of excellence and equity, ensuring that all children are engaged in a quality education.

B. General Update

M. O'Donnell reminded everyone that April 5 is the budget public hearing. The Town Council will then set the budget, which will then move to referendum on May 10. Recent communication from the state has indicated that health insurance increases are predicted to be about 7.1% instead of the earlier projection of 10%. The Town Council is aware of the decrease and savings amount.

The search to find a replacement for retiring Joel Principal Angela Guarascio is being headed by E. Gelven and M. Famiglietti.

M. O'Donnell has met individually with health office staff to discuss the terms of employment as the Board will be directly employing these staff next year.

Joel School announced its recent accreditation of the PK program by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The accreditation is valid through August 1, 2028. The school received high marks and staff were applauded for their hard work in achieving this goal.

Discussion occurred regarding the operating budget and campus safety personnel as well as the salary structure for certified staff and details about tenure.

8. Reports of Board of Education Subcommittees and Special Committees

The Board reviewed the proposed subcommittee meeting schedule for the spring.

A. General Updates

9. Review and Possible Action re: Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Certified Staff

The Board reviewed the list of non-renewed certified staff members. It was stressed that the reductions were not due to performance issues; they were instead related to grant phaseouts or declining enrollment. The teachers could be recalled if positions open up in the future, but the positions are not listed in next year's budget.

MOTION: That the contract of employment of Max Ames, Marianna Apergis, Meredith Curtiss, Sabrina Diaz, Kimberly DiRienzo, Amy Fortin, Pamela Guidi, Colleen Luddy, Eric Peterson, Noelle Pollard, and Duy Ninh Truong not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the 2022-2023 school year due to a reduction in force, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such persons in writing of this action. Carried with a motion by Jack Scherban and a second by Alan Samet.

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|---------------------|--------|
| Jason Adler: | Yea |
| Erica Gelven: | Yea |
| Michael Hornyak: | Absent |
| Peter Nye: | Yea |
| Alan Samet: | Yea |
| Jack Scherban: | Yea |
| Catherine Staunton: | Yea |

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

10. Personnel Information

Personnel changes were noted.

11. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:01 PM. Carried with a motion by Catherine Staunton and a second by Peter Nye.

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|---------------------|--------|
| Jason Adler: | Yea |
| Erica Gelven: | Yea |
| Michael Hornyak: | Absent |
| Peter Nye: | Yea |
| Alan Samet: | Yea |
| Jack Scherban: | Yea |
| Catherine Staunton: | Yea |

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Michael Hornyak, Board Secretary

Allison Friday, Board Recorder