



## Board of Education Regular Meeting

April 5, 2021 7:00 PM  
via Zoom Teleconference

### Attendance Taken at: 7:00 PM

#### Present Board Members

Erica Gelven, Chairperson  
Jason Adler  
Peter Nye  
Christopher Passante  
Catherine Staunton

#### Absent Board Members

Michael Hornyak, Secretary  
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 Emma Lindsay, Jessica Flanagan and Aiden Maurais. Presenters included Athletic Director Lew Pappariella and IT Director Frank Rossi.

#### 1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion: All recited the pledge.

### 2. Public participation/recognition

Discussion: None.

### 3. Minutes – Approval – Regular Meeting of March 15, 2021

**Motion Passed:** To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 15, 2021, passed with a motion by Christopher Passante and a second by Jason Adler.

#### 5 Yeas – 0 Nays

Erica Gelven	Yes
Jason Adler	Yes
Peter Nye	Yes
Christopher Passante	Yes
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, all juniors will be taking the NGSS (Next Generation Science Standard Test) on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Junior portfolios are being presented April 9. A prom survey is being conducted to assist with planning. The Morgan Boys Basketball team went undefeated this season and won the 2021 shoreline championship. The Morgan Girls Basketball team came in second in the Shoreline Conference Championship. The 2020-21 yearbook won Jostens' National Yearbook Design Recognition for 2021. Spring sports start in April and all AP exams will be administered in person at Morgan in May.

At Eliot, spring sports sign-ups have begun. State testing will be starting shortly and the student government fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society celebrated with a spirit week.

Joel students are grateful for the grade 3 and 4 Chromebooks. Joel teacher Dana Skidmore facilitated the provision of scholarships to summer ecology camp for grades 3 and 4 students. The Friends of Joel's Read-a-Thon was a success and on April 9, the CONNECT Committee invites students and staff to wear their favorite hats for school spirit day.

## **6. CAPSS/Superintendent/Student Recognition**

Discussion: Two Eliot 8th graders and two Morgan 12th grade students have been selected as recipients of the CAPSS Superintendent/Student Recognition Award. The award is based on community service and service to others, academic prowess, and leadership service to the school community. Isabella Johnson and Gavin Baptista from Eliot and Emma Lindsay and Samuel Reed from Morgan were honored. Principals Hagness and Tucker spoke in high praise of the personal characteristics of the students and the activities they have been involved in. The Board formally extended its congratulations to the students being selected for this award. They also praised family, community, and teachers for their part in supporting the honorees.

### **Administrative Reports**

#### **7.A. Administrators, Program Directors and Teachers**

##### **7.A.1. Winter Sports Update**

Discussion: Athletic Director Lewis Pappariella thanked the Board, administration, parents and coaches for their support during another challenging season. He introduced coaches and captains of the winter sports teams who spoke of their records as well as their challenges, but mainly of their gratitude for being able to have a season during the pandemic. As noted earlier, the Morgan Boys Basketball team won the 2021 Shoreline Championships and their individual honors and awards were highlighted. L. Pappariella also expressed his pride in announcing Frank Rossi as Shoreline Conference Coach of the Year. In fencing, the girls foil squad won the conference championship as did the boys epee squad. The Board thanked the coaches, athletic department, families, and students for being willing and able to meet and overcome the challenges of the season.

P. Nye acknowledged the donation of the Booster Club which supported the installation of the Pixellot cameras in the gym at Morgan that allowed our fans to watch our winter teams play.

##### **7.A.2. General Update**

Discussion: None

## **7.B. Assistant Superintendent's Report**

### **7.B.1. Review and Possible Approval of Perkins Supplemental Grant Application**

Discussion: M. Famiglietti summarized the Perkins Supplemental Grant, for \$22,194, which is aimed towards secondary special populations recruitment and retention and includes initiatives to engage female and EL students in CTE (Career and Technical Education) courses at Eliot and Morgan. If awarded, grant funds will be used to create four weeks of CTE camp this summer.

**Motion Passed:** To support the initiatives put forward and approve the Perkins Supplemental Grant as presented passed with a motion by Jason Adler and a second by Peter Nye.

#### **5 Yeas – 0 Nays**

Erica Gelven	Yes
Jason Adler	Yes
Peter Nye	Yes
Christopher Passante	Yes
Catherine Staunton	Yes

### **7.B.2. General Update**

Discussion: The Goodwin University Advanced Manufacturing Mobile Training Lab will be stopping at Jared Eliot Middle School to promote engineering to middle schools. Eliot 8<sup>th</sup> grade tech ed classes will be cycling through the mobile lab. As part of the district's collaboration with area manufacturing plants, several Clinton students have taken advantage of after-school employment opportunities there.

The Board also heard an update by F. Rossi on the funding sources, distribution, and allocation of Chromebooks for the school year 2021-22. Grade 2 and 3 devices will be requested as part of the ESSER grant in order to ensure all students in the district have a functional device for learning.

## **7.C. Business Manager's Report**

### **7.C.1. Bills Payable**

Discussion: No discussion.

### **7.C.2. Quarterly Report**

Discussion: Third quarter expense and revenue reports were presented to the Board by C. Dickey.

### **7.C.3. Possible Action Regarding SunGard Upgrade Costs**

Discussion: C. Dickey reviewed the components and cost for the SunGard upgrade to a new version. Questions followed regarding training and implementation.

**Motion Passed:** To approve the expenditure of \$12,500 from the 2020-21 Board of Education operating budget for SunGard upgrade costs passed with a motion by Christopher Passante and a second by Jason Adler.

## 5 Yeas – 0 Nays

Erica Gelven	Yes
Jason Adler	Yes
Peter Nye	Yes
Christopher Passante	Yes
Catherine Staunton	Yes

### 7.C.4. General Update

Discussion: The agreement with PenChecks, Inc. approved at the March 15, 2021, Board meeting is moot, as People's Bank has made the decision for now to continue to process the benefit payments to non-certified retirees.

Covid expenditures for \$114,411 have been reimbursed by the Covid Relief Fund. The ESSER grant has reimbursed \$143,167 of \$166,618 to date.

## 8. Superintendent's Report

### 8.A. Teacher Appreciation Resolution

Discussion: The Superintendent presented the following resolution to the Board for approval:

WHEREAS, *May 3<sup>rd</sup> through May 7<sup>th</sup> 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 continued to adapt their practices to seamlessly deliver engaging lessons and instruction via in-person, hybrid, or fully remote learning models;*

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, ensuring that all children are engaged in a quality education.*

**Motion Passed:** To adopt the Teacher Appreciation Resolution for 2021 as presented passed with a motion by Peter Nye and a second by Catherine Staunton.

**5 Yeas – 0 Nays**

Erica Gelven	Yes
Jason Adler	Yes
Peter Nye	Yes
Christopher Passante	Yes
Catherine Staunton	Yes

**8.B. ESSER II Grant Update**

Discussion: M. O'Donnell updated the Board on a needs assessment that was conducted to take advantage of Covid- relief grant funding and the tentative planning for use of the funds. Areas to be funded in the grant include staffing in math, literacy, and social-emotional supports, classroom ventilation, summer programming, and technology needs. The grant must be submitted by April 19.

**8.C. General Update**

Discussion: The solar panels at Joel are being reinstalled. The Town Council is holding a Public Hearing on April 7 to finalize the budget and send it to referendum.

The spectator policy for spring sports is being developed and is aligned to safety guidelines of the health department, and in collaboration with other Shoreline Conference districts. A gift to Joel school for \$500 was received to be used to upgrade the play area for the Intensive Learning Program.

Attached for the Board's review was a consensus statement crafted by representatives of CAPSS, CEA, AFT-CT, CABE, the RESC Alliance, and CAS-CIAC, who met in an ad hoc coalition in March to discuss whether and how school districts would implement a remote learning option for the 2021-2022 school year.

P. Nye had questions about the prom survey and protocols for prom participation. Administration is awaiting guidance from the CT Department of Public Health regarding proms and graduation.

**9. Reports of Board of Education Subcommittees and Special Committees**

**9.A. General Updates**

Discussion: Minutes from the March 22 Instruction and Budget & Finance subcommittee meetings and the March 31 Public Relations subcommittee meeting were provided to the Board.

**10. Personnel Information**

**10.A. Review and Possible Action Regarding Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Teachers**

Discussion: The Superintendent explained the statutory requirements and timelines regarding non-renewal of employees for reductions in force and noted that the action was not due to performance reasons.

**Motion Passed:** To approve, with deep appreciation and the respect of the Board and the community for their work this year in our schools, the non-renewal of the following certified staff due to a reduction in force for the 2021-22 school year: Eileen Diaz, Pamela Guidi, Jillian Laggis, and Nicole Magnano passed with a motion by Peter Nye and a second by Jason Adler.

**5 Yeas – 0 Nays**

Erica Gelven	Yes
Jason Adler	Yes
Peter Nye	Yes
Christopher Passante	Yes
Catherine Staunton	Yes

**10.B. Review and Possible Action Regarding Leave of Absence Request**

Discussion: The Board reviewed the request by Stephanie Wielgoszinski for a leave of absence in the 2021-22 school year.

**Motion Passed:** To approve an unpaid leave of absence for Stephanie Wielgoszinski in the 2021-22 school year passed with a motion by Peter Nye and a second by Jason Adler.

**5 Yeas – 0 Nays**

Erica Gelven	Yes
Jason Adler	Yes
Peter Nye	Yes
Christopher Passante	Yes
Catherine Staunton	Yes

## 11. Adjournment

Discussion: None.

**Motion Passed:** To adjourn at 9:22 p.m. passed with a motion by Peter Nye and a second by Jason Adler.

### 5 Yeas – 0 Nays

Erica Gelven	Yes
Jason Adler	Yes
Peter Nye	Yes
Christopher Passante	Yes
Catherine Staunton	Yes

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Michael Hornyak, Secretary of the Board

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Allison Friday, Clerk of the Board