



## **Board of Education Regular Meeting**

Monday, August 16, 2021 7:00 PM  
via Zoom Teleconference

Attendance Taken at 7:00 PM.

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

### **1. Opening Exercises**

#### **A. Roll call**

Also in attendance were Superintendent Maryann O'Donnell, Assistant Superintendent Marco Famiglietti, and Business Manager Carolyn Dickey.

#### **B. Pledge of Allegiance**

All stood for the pledge.

### **2. Public participation/recognition**

After Chairperson Gelven detailed procedural rules, resident Allison Vece spoke for a group of community members regarding school reopening plans. They had questions and suggestions regarding mask requirements, CIAC guidelines regarding masks, air conditioning needs, swabbing for Covid-19, distance learning, the use of plexiglas in classrooms, and an online forum for answers to their questions.

### **3. Minutes - Approval - Regular Meeting of July 19, 2021**

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 19, 2021. Carried with a motion by Kimberly Russo and a second by Christopher Passante.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

#### **4. Communications**

Two thank you notes have been received, one from a retiree and the other from a 25-year employee. The Board wished them well.

#### **5. Administrative Reports**

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

###### **1. Summer Food Service Report**

Food Services Director Jon Siciliano provided an end-of-year summary on his department. The USDA has extended the free meals program until the end of June 2022 so there is no need to adjust meal prices. His department served 142,713 meals this past year including approximately 500 per week during the summer. One manager and 3 part-time cooks are being recruited to replace retired/resigning staff members. E. Gelven and M. O'Donnell thanked him for his foresight, management style and commitment to providing for students' needs.

###### **2. Summer Technology Report**

Frank Rossi, Director of Technology, reported on his department's end-of-year and capital projects. The PA system at Joel is being worked on. The crisis management program and surveillance software are being upgraded. Ninety-five percent of the new 488 Chromebooks have been deployed although the global microprocessor chip shortage is delaying staff laptop replacement. Cameras for livestreaming athletic events in the gym and at Indian River Complex will be ready for the fall. The Board Chair and the Superintendent thanked him for his forward thinking and his problem-solving approach.

###### **3. Summer Maintenance Report**

Director of Buildings & Grounds Gonzalo Carrion reported on all the repair and replacement projects at each of the schools. Highlights included installation of water bottle fillers at Eliot and Joel, Eliot Annex roof replacement, replacement of the nurses' sink at Eliot, floor-to-ceiling cleaning at all three schools, and preparation for safety inspections. E. Gelven and M. O'Donnell expressed their gratitude for G. Carrion and his team's hard work and diligence.

###### **4. Extended School Year Report**

Special Services Supervisor Melissa Noyes reported on the 2021 Extended School Year (ESY) program which ran from July 6 to July 29. Two speech students and 65 ESY students were provided literacy instruction Monday through Thursday along with transportation and free breakfast and lunch. Staff included teachers, paraprofessionals, and behavior technicians. M. Noyes thanked coordinator Emily Kelsey, administrative assistant Denise Turner, and all the other staff who helped make the program a success. The Board Chair and the Superintendent commended M. Noyes and her staff for supporting and instructing our students.

#### **5. General Update**

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

###### **1. Summer SAIL Program Report**

M. Famiglietti detailed the success of the summer SAIL program which involved partnering with the Westbrook YMCA to provide students with academic enrichment and summer recreation. The STEM-based portion of the program, funded by the ARP ESSER grant, served students in grades K

through 8 and ran Monday through Thursday during the month of July. The YMCA's recreational piece of the program ran Mondays through Fridays. M. Famiglietti shared a breakdown of the schedule, grade spans, and participation. He thanked program coordinator Jeannie Duval for her efforts and leadership. The Board and Superintendent thanked him for his vision and hard work and thanked Chris Pallatto of the YMCA for writing the grant to make the program possible. It was also noted that the program was featured on Channel 8's "What's Right with Schools".

## **2. General Update**

Back-to-school activities begin on August 17 with the STEP program for incoming 9th graders at Morgan. On August 20, a thank you/welcome breakfast will be held for substitute teachers and, on August 24, New Teacher Orientation will be held at The Morgan School for 15 teachers being welcomed to the district. Convocation will take place on August 25 at Morgan followed by professional development for all teachers on August 26 and 27.

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

### **1. Bills Payable**

There were no questions regarding bills payable.

### **2. Quarterly Report**

C. Dickey shared details of the Quarterly Expenditure and Revenue reports with the Board. A balance of \$963,471 is indicated in the expenditure report. The majority of savings was found in the areas of certified staff, health insurance, and transportation.

## **3. General Update**

The Business Office continues to work on end-of-year accounting, end-of-year state reporting, and reimbursement for the Joel and Eliot school roof repairs. E. Gelven thanked C. Dickey for her hard work and diligence.

## **6. Superintendent's Report**

### **A. School Reopening Plan & Update**

The Board received a copy of the Return to School Plan provided by M. O'Donnell. The plan is based on current guidance from the Department of Health and the CT Department of Education.

A copy of the return to school plan will be shared with parents. M. O'Donnell detailed mitigation strategies to reduce the possibility of transmitting the Covid-19 disease and the Delta variant. The goal is to safely return to 100% in-person schooling in the fall with as much normalcy as possible. She detailed mask requirements, social distancing guidelines, and some relaxation of cohorting models. Hand washing, respiratory etiquette, and daily cleaning will continue.

M. O'Donnell reviewed services that will be available in the area of socio-emotional health, which will be reinforced with new personnel. Donna Frechette, the district's Nurse Supervisor, will continue daily health monitoring and advising. Food will continue to be free of charge for students until June 2022. The CIAC just released their guidance for sports. Plans for After Hours and other enrichment programs are scheduled at this point and will be monitored.

C. Passante asked if the Governor's order overrules everything. M. O'Donnell indicated that the Executive Order must be followed. To disregard the order puts liability on the town, Board, and possibly Board members. E. Gelven added that similar parameters are being followed statewide in

schools and buses. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of holding an open Zoom meeting so parents could have their questions answered.

**B. Transportation Routes Information**

A transportation overview was shared with the Board. The Superintendent and Madelyn Kostek from M&J Bus are fine-tuning the routes and will publish them by August 20.

**C. School Rebranding Rollout Plan**

M. O'Donnell updated the Board on the plans to roll out the new logos as part of the Board's rebranding initiative. Branding guidelines were shared with the Board. The website, letterhead, spirit wear, and badges will all be rebranded and September 1 is the rollout for a newly unified Husky district. Since the majority of visitors to the website do so using mobile phones, mobile access has been a priority for the new website. E. Gelven thanked the Morgan Trust for providing financial support for this process.

**D. Review and Possible Approval re: Designation of Middle School Cross Country and Track & Field as Interscholastic Sports**

MOTION: To approve the designation of middle school Cross Country and Track & Field as Interscholastic Sports. Carried with a motion by Peter Nye and a second by Kimberly Russo.

- Catherine Staunton: Yea
  - Christopher Passante: Yea
  - Erica Gelven: Yea
  - Jason Adler: Yea
  - Kimberly Russo: Yea
  - Michael Hornyak: Yea
  - Peter Nye: Yea
- Yea: 7, Nay: 0

**E. General Update**

We are researching an upgrade to the Board of Education meeting room to allow for video recording of meetings. The STEP program at Morgan begins on August 17 with over 100 students in grades 10 to 12 participating as mentors for our incoming freshmen. The program aims to reduce anxiety and pressure on incoming freshmen. M. O'Donnell noted that this three-day program is unique and thanked the high school administrators for their commitment and vision for supporting this important transition.

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

**A. General Updates**

The subcommittees will begin scheduling meetings for the fall.

**8. Review and Possible Approval of 2021-2022 Substitute & Lunch/Recess Aide Rates**

M. O'Donnell discussed the lunch/recess aide rates and work done to compare the rates with those from other districts. Aides have not received an increase in five years. The Board thanked the aides for their work. P. Nye asked when the last substitute teacher raise occurred. The last raise was about four years ago.

MOTION: To approve the 2021-2022 Substitute and Lunch/Recess Aide rates as presented. Carried with a motion by Christopher Passante and a second by Kimberly Russo.

Catherine Staunton: Yea  
Christopher Passante: Yea  
Erica Gelven: Yea  
Jason Adler: Yea  
Kimberly Russo: Yea  
Michael Hornyak: Yea  
Peter Nye: Yea  
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

**9. Review and Possible Approval of 2021-2022 Building Rental Fees**

MOTION: To approve the 2021-2022 building rental fees as presented Carried with a motion by Christopher Passante and a second by Kimberly Russo.

Catherine Staunton: Yea  
Christopher Passante: Yea  
Erica Gelven: Yea  
Jason Adler: Yea  
Kimberly Russo: Yea  
Michael Hornyak: Yea  
Peter Nye: Yea  
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

**10. Review and Possible Approval of 2021-2022 Tuition Rate**

Discussion followed regarding tuition pricing in other districts.

MOTION: To set the 2021-2022 regular education tuition rate as \$19,295. Carried with a motion by Catherine Staunton and a second by Kimberly Russo.

Catherine Staunton: Yea  
Christopher Passante: Yea  
Erica Gelven: Yea  
Jason Adler: Yea  
Kimberly Russo: Yea  
Michael Hornyak: Yea  
Peter Nye: Yea  
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

**11. First Reading of Policy: Health & Safety Protocols Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic (#2400)**

The Board had a first reading of Policy #2400, Health & Safety Protocols Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The item will be on the agenda for a second reading and possible adoption at the September 7 Board meeting.

**12. Acceptance of The Morgan School**

E. Gelven officially thanked the Building Committee for serving the students and community so well. Board members commented on enjoying the facilities at Morgan and approved the resolution with great appreciation and admiration.

**CLINTON BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, a newly constructed public high school in the Town of Clinton, The Morgan School, located at 71 Killingworth Turnpike, Clinton, Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, on July 21, 2021 the Town Council accepted the building project as complete and disbanded the Morgan Building Committee; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 10-220, at such time that the building project is fully complete, control of The Morgan School shall be given to the Board of Education.

NOW THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED, that the Clinton Board of Education is willing to formally accept The Morgan School from the Town to be used for school purposes and assume control over all the buildings, lands, apparatus and other property located at The Morgan School in accordance with Section 10-220 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Carried with a motion by Peter Nye and a second by Jason Adler.

- Catherine Staunton: Yea
  - Christopher Passante: Yea
  - Erica Gelven: Yea
  - Jason Adler: Yea
  - Kimberly Russo: Yea
  - Michael Hornyak: Yea
  - Peter Nye: Yea
- Yea: 7, Nay: 0

**13. Personnel Information**

**14. Adjournment**

M. O'Donnell and E. Gelven will finalize the Board retreat details and communicate to Board members.

MOTION: To adjourn at 9:56 PM Carried with a motion by Kimberly Russo and a second by Peter Nye.

- Catherine Staunton: Yea
  - Christopher Passante: Yea
  - Erica Gelven: Yea
  - Jason Adler: Yea
  - Kimberly Russo: Yea
  - Michael Hornyak: Yea
  - Peter Nye: Yea
- Yea: 7, Nay: 0

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Michael Hornyak, Board Secretary

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Allison Friday, Board Recorder