



## **Board of Education Regular Meeting**

Monday, November 20, 2023 7:00 PM

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

Attendance Taken at 7:00 PM.

Jason Adler: Present  
Erica Gelven: Present  
Michael Hornyak: Present  
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, Business Director Carolyn Dickey, Board Recorder Allison Friday, and Student Representatives to the Board Sean Davis, Mason Jakober, and Madelyn Sacta Guartazaca.

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

All stood for the pledge. Attendees were reminded that the meeting was being recorded.

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

There was no public participation.

### **3. Minutes - Approval - Regular Meeting of November 6, 2023**

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 6, 2023. Carried with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Alan Samet.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

#### **4. Communications**

There were no communications.

#### **5. Report of Student Representatives**

The student representatives shared highlights and news from each of the schools. S. Davis reported on past and present events at Morgan, that Homecoming, the Powder Puff game, and Spirit Week all went well. He also talked about the appreciation expressed by veterans for the Veterans Day events held districtwide on November 10. Upcoming field trips for Morgan student groups include the courthouse in Middletown, the Yale Art Museum, Bacon Academy, and Southern CT State University. Focus groups at Morgan have been introduced and will include topics such as the college application process, and the challenges facing multilingual learners. The Climate Committee will be meeting with Food Services Director Jon Siciliano to share their ideas.

M. Jakober provided participation rates for Eliot's After Hours program this fall. He also talked about the Veterans Day celebrations at Eliot, which included performances by the Eliot choir and band, to honor the sacrifices made by our military and their families. The Chamber Choir will perform on November 28 at Morgan, and Pajama Day is scheduled for December 8 with the aim of raising money for the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

M. Sacta Guartazaca followed up with details of the subjects on which Joel School students are working. Kindergartners are working on shapes, first grade on birds, second grade on time/measurement, third grade on multiplication and problem solving, and fourth grade on gratitude. Math night was a success, as was the Veterans Day celebration on November 10, and the Joel School food drive.

The Board thanked the student representatives for their reports.

#### **6. Administrative Reports**

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

###### **1. General Update**

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

###### **1. Next Generation Accountability Report**

M. Famiglietti presented an overview and details of the Next Generation Accountability Report for 2022-23 and how the report aligns with district goals and objectives. Having already reported on the math and ELA results, he focused more on some of the other indicators such as arts access, secondary education preparation, chronic absenteeism, and physical education progress. For the Progress Towards English Proficiency indicator, the district's literacy growth numbers were adversely affected by the large increase in the number of students arriving from Central and South America. Chronic absenteeism rates remain stable at a level decidedly better than the state's average. The number of students taking college level courses and meeting the benchmark scores for those courses has increased and, again, is significantly higher than the state average. Students on track to graduate are high and physical fitness indicators have improved. Arts access has dropped slightly but should improve next year due to a revised high school schedule and new graduation requirements. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the value and affordability of, and participation in AP classes versus ECE classes.

###### **2. General Update**

M. Famiglietti noted that Joel School is in the process of revising the literacy standards for report cards. He also provided an update on the shift to a new literacy program at Joel and Eliot schools.

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

### **1. Bills Payable**

There was a question regarding the coding for student activity funds.

### **2. General Update**

C. Dickey described the work the Business Office is doing including collecting budget projections, working with the town to firm up the debt service numbers, and working with the Food Service Department to monitor the payment collection process.

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

### **A. General Update**

M. O'Donnell reported that work on the 2024-25 budget is beginning and that the 2023-24 budget is being tracked very closely due to projected overruns in the Special Education cost center. A discussion followed regarding ways the district could protect itself from overruns.

## **8. Reports of Board of Education Subcommittees and Special Committees**

### **A. General Updates**

E. Gelven asked the Board to take note of the adjustments to planned dates for subcommittee meetings.

## **9. First Reading of Policies**

The Board had its first reading of policies #4300, #5110, #5113, #5114, #5130, and #9323 . A second reading is scheduled for the December 4 Board meeting.

### **A. #4300 Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Reports of Sexual Assault of Students by Employees**

### **B. #5110 Admission to the Public Schools at or Before Age Five**

### **C. #5113 Student Attendance, Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism**

### **D. #5114 Student Discipline**

### **E. #5130 Bullying Prevention and Intervention**

### **F. #9323 Construction and Posting of Agenda**

## 10. Personnel Information

### A. Review and Possible Approval of Family Liaison Specialist

M. O'Donnell reviewed the rationale for hiring a part-time family liaison specialist, funded by a recently awarded grant, who would provide support for our multilingual learners during LAS testing and the school registration process. The Family Liaison Specialist would also conduct family outreach and communication and serve as a district resource for questions.

MOTION: To approve a part-time, non-certified Family Liaison Specialist position to be funded with the Title III Immigrant Grant at an hourly rate of \$20 per hour and for a duration of one year or until the grant funds are expended. Carried with a motion by Alan Samet and a second by Catherine Staunton.

Jason Adler: Yea  
Erica Gelven: Yea  
Michael Hornyak: Yea  
Peter Nye: Yea  
Alan Samet: Yea  
Jack Scherban: Yea  
Catherine Staunton: Yea  
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

## 11. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:26 PM. Carried with a motion by Catherine Staunton and a second by Jason Adler.

Jason Adler: Yea  
Erica Gelven: Yea  
Michael Hornyak: Yea  
Peter Nye: Yea  
Alan Samet: Yea  
Jack Scherban: Yea  
Catherine Staunton: Yea  
Yea: 7, Nay: 0