



Board of Education Regular Meeting

February 01, 2016 7:30 PM
Board Meeting Room
Administrative Offices
137-B Glenwood Road
Clinton, CT 06413

Attendance Taken at 7:42 PM:

Present Board Members:

Annaliese Spaziano
Kim Buckley
Peter Giannotti
Dr. Mike Giordano
Sandra Luke
Lois Ruggiero
Doug Traynor

1. Opening Exercises

1.A. Roll call

Discussion:

Also in attendance were Jack Cross, Maryann O'Donnell, and Carolyn Dickey.

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion:

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public participation/recognition

Discussion:

None.

3. Minutes - Approval

Motion Passed: To approve the minutes of the Special meeting of Tuesday, January 19, 2016, passed with a motion by Lois Ruggiero and a second by Sandra Luke.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays - 1 Abstained.

Annaliese Spaziano	Yes
Kim Buckley	Abstain
Peter Giannotti	Yes
Dr. Mike Giordano	Yes
Sandra Luke	Yes
Lois Ruggiero	Yes
Doug Traynor	Yes

Motion Passed: To approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of Monday, January 25, 2016, passed with a motion by Kim Buckley and a second by Lois Ruggiero.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays - 2 Abstained.

Annaliese Spaziano	Yes
Kim Buckley	Yes
Peter Giannotti	Yes
Dr. Mike Giordano	Abstain
Sandra Luke	Yes
Lois Ruggiero	Yes
Doug Traynor	Abstain

4. Communications

Discussion:
None.

5. Report of Student Representatives

Discussion:
No report.

6. Proposed 2016-2017 Budget

Discussion:
Recommendations from the Budget/Finance/Public Relations meeting earlier in the evening included an \$88K reduction in the Operations budget. An additional reduction in the debt service brings the total budget increase to \$207,725 or .66% over last year's budget.

Discussion followed on whether or not to table the budget vote until next week. S. Luke would like another week to discuss energy audit results on the new Morgan and the solar panels. Mr. Cross will strive to get the numbers ASAP.

D. Traynor questioned the feasibility of adjusting the fuel delivery contract since both oil and gas commodities have collapsed. C. Dickey's office has checked but market volatility makes it difficult to ascertain. A trend that lasts for more than 2 months will allow the switch from gas to oil. They will monitor the cost of gas on a bi-weekly basis in order to determine any trends.

After failure of the budget's passage, discussion followed regarding further reductions and from where they should be taken, not from staffing but perhaps from dues & fees, benefits, fuel costs, or supplies.

The motion was tabled. The Board directed the Superintendent to refine the energy numbers and to explore reduction of the Dues & Fees line item.

Concerns about cutting another \$100K were expressed. Also discussed were liability and advertising costs.

A special meeting will need to be scheduled for Monday, February 8th at 7:00 p.m. with the single item of voting on the budget. Board training/orientation will take place on the 8th at 6 p.m.

Mr. Cross continues to request information on MBR (Minimum Budget Requirement, a per pupil expenditure) from the state but has not received the MBR to date.

Motion Failed: To approve the proposed 2016-2017 Board of Education Budget of \$31,625,313, an increase of \$207,725 over the 2015-16 budget, or a .66% increase failed with a motion by Dr. Mike Giordano and a second by Lois Ruggiero.

2 Yeas - 4 Nays - 1 Abstained.

Annaliese Spaziano	No
Kim Buckley	Abstain
Peter Giannotti	No
Dr. Mike Giordano	Yes
Sandra Luke	No
Lois Ruggiero	Yes
Doug Traynor	No

Motion Passed: To table the proposed 2016-2017 Board of Education Budget pending utility numbers passed with a motion by Dr. Mike Giordano and a second by Kim Buckley.

7 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Annaliese Spaziano	Yes
Kim Buckley	Yes
Peter Giannotti	Yes
Dr. Mike Giordano	Yes
Sandra Luke	Yes
Lois Ruggiero	Yes
Doug Traynor	Yes

7. Administrative Reports

7.A. Administrators, Program Directors and Teachers

7.A.1. General Update

7.B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

7.B.1. General Update

Discussion:

On January 29th, the state Bond Commission met and awarded Clinton a technology grant of \$41,212, which will be used to provide Chromebooks for students at Eliot (30 for each team and few additional in the library for students).

This does not affect the capital budget. The Board congratulated the team.

The state has not reposted any security grants as they have in the past. One of our state representatives, Jesse MacLachlin, is looking into this for us.

7.C. Business Manager's Report

7.C.1. Blum Shapiro - Management Letter

Discussion:

The accountants have suggested five areas in which to refine district accounting practices in the Town and Board:

1. Create a standard operating procedures manual for the business offices;
2. Perform a risk assessment in payroll and accounts payable, (these are already performed);
3. Capital asset reporting on both the Town and Board sides (a threshold for these types of items, vehicles, copiers, etc. needs to be determined). C. Dickey will meet with the Town and Board of Education community to ascertain one;
4. Streamline the number of accounts by collapsing them (more of a suggestion for the Town than the Board);
5. Review system security in the event of catastrophe (fire, flood) at Town Hall.

Following up on a request from the Board, what accounts for the difference between the salaries for two administrative positions in the budget and in the annual report is that one figure includes annuities. The annual report includes both salary and annuity combined in one figure; the budget lists them in separate line items.

The Business Manager distributed to Board members an end-of-year accounting with additional information related to the transportation and field trips broken out by school and activity.

The Board thanked her for her efforts.

7.C.2. General Update

7.D. Clinton Celebrates and Monthly Reports

Discussion:

Invention Convention has begun and judges are needed. Board members were encouraged to participate either by attending or serving as judges.

The very first Eliot cafe musical is scheduled for February 5th at 7 p.m.

Clinton is one of only eight districts scheduled to receive the Governor's Smart Start Grant for the second year in a row.

The Board congratulated everyone for their successes.

8. Superintendent's Report

8.A. Update on Town Pension Committee (OPEB)

Discussion:

A. Spaziano and D. Traynor volunteered to serve as representatives on the committee.

8.B. Eliot - Spotlight Award

Discussion:

Congratulations were offered to the staff and students at Eliot as confirmation has been received from NELMS (New England League of Middle Schools) that Eliot has been awarded another 3-year designation as a "Spotlight School".

8.C. Personal/Professional Update

Discussion:

After having served for 33 years in education, Mr. Cross announced his intent to retire at the end of the current school year in order to spend more time with his family.

He expressed his hope that the groundwork his tenure has laid will carry the district into the next 10 - 12 years, and that the quality of education for students and staff has been elevated.

The Board congratulated him and thanked him for his service. The Board's options for his replacement were discussed. A. Spaziano would like the process to be vetted and contain a level of involvement from the community so that various shareholder voices are heard. Other organizations, such as CABA, are available to assist through the process.

Motion Passed: To add a personnel item to the agenda passed with a motion by Kim Buckley and a second by Lois Ruggiero.

7 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Annaliese Spaziano	Yes
Kim Buckley	Yes
Peter Giannotti	Yes
Dr. Mike Giordano	Yes
Sandra Luke	Yes
Lois Ruggiero	Yes
Doug Traynor	Yes

Motion Passed: To accept, with gratitude for his courage and service, the retirement of Jack Cross, effective as of June 30, 2016, passed with a motion by Dr. Mike Giordano and a second by Sandra Luke.

7 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Annaliese Spaziano	Yes
Kim Buckley	Yes
Peter Giannotti	Yes
Dr. Mike Giordano	Yes
Sandra Luke	Yes
Lois Ruggiero	Yes
Doug Traynor	Yes

8.D. General Update

8.E. Upcoming Events

9. Reports

9.A. Board of Education Subcommittees and Special Committees

9.A.1. Budget & Finance Subcommittee

Discussion:

Steve Lemanski has performed a pension analysis and looked at budget highlights and drivers (included in minutes).

9.A.2. Buildings & Grounds Subcommittee

9.A.3. Instruction Subcommittee

9.A.4. LEARN

9.A.5. Policy Subcommittee

9.A.6. Public Relations Subcommittee

9.A.7. School Nutrition Subcommittee

9.A.8. Technology Subcommittee

9.B. Town of Clinton Committees

9.B.1. Capital Expenditure Committee

9.B.2. Morgan Building Committee

Discussion:

A. Spaziano expressed interest in establishing a representative presence at the Building Committee meetings. L. Ruggiero volunteered.

Mr. Cross noted that, while tours of the new Morgan are open to the public, interested parties should contact him or Gerry Vece if interested.

M. O'Donnell and Frank Rossi will provide updates on Chromebooks at the February 2nd meeting.

9.B.3. Cable Advisory Committee

Discussion:

It was suggested that this item be removed from the agenda.

9.B.4. OPEB - Other Post-Employment Benefits Board of Trustees

9.B.5. Audit Selection Committee

Discussion:

The last responses to the RFP are due on February 12th.

10. Policy Review and Revisions - second reading

Motion Passed: To accept policy revisions 6141.322, 6141.323, 6141.32, 0521, 1112.6 and bylaws 9322 and 9330, with grammatical corrections provided by K. Buckley, passed with a motion by Doug Traynor and a second by Dr. Mike Giordano.

7 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Annaliese Spaziano	Yes
Kim Buckley	Yes
Peter Giannotti	Yes
Dr. Mike Giordano	Yes
Sandra Luke	Yes
Lois Ruggiero	Yes
Doug Traynor	Yes

11. Interdistrict Cooperative Magnet School Agreement

Discussion:

Participation by our students in the magnet schools incurs no cost to the district as long as the district continues to participate in the agreement.

Motion Passed: To approve the continuation of the participation of the Clinton Public Schools in the Interdistrict Cooperative Magnet School Program in New Haven for the 2016-2017 school year passed with a motion by Kim Buckley and a second by Dr. Mike Giordano.

7 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Annaliese Spaziano	Yes
Kim Buckley	Yes
Peter Giannotti	Yes
Dr. Mike Giordano	Yes
Sandra Luke	Yes
Lois Ruggiero	Yes
Doug Traynor	Yes

12. Personnel Items

12.A. Resignations/Retirement/Termination

12.A.1. Retirement - John F. Cross, Superintendent of Schools

12.B. Appointments (Certificated, Classified, Extra Duty)

12.B.1. Classified Appointment - Full-time Paraprofessional for Pierson School: Carol Schmardel

Motion Passed: To approve the appointment of Carol Schmardel to a paraprofessional position at Abraham Pierson School effective February 1, 2016 passed with a motion by Kim Buckley and a second by Peter Giannotti.

7 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Annaliese Spaziano	Yes
Kim Buckley	Yes
Peter Giannotti	Yes
Dr. Mike Giordano	Yes
Sandra Luke	Yes
Lois Ruggiero	Yes
Doug Traynor	Yes

12.B.2. Classified Appointment - Full-time Custodian for Joel School: Gregory Maher

Motion Passed: To approve the appointment of Gregory Maher to the position of full-time custodian for Joel School effective February 1, 2016, passed with a motion by Dr. Mike Giordano and a second by Doug Traynor.

7 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Annaliese Spaziano	Yes
Kim Buckley	Yes
Peter Giannotti	Yes
Dr. Mike Giordano	Yes
Sandra Luke	Yes
Lois Ruggiero	Yes
Doug Traynor	Yes

12.B.3. Classified Appointment - Part-time Custodian for Joel School: Jonathan Mizger

Motion Passed: To approve the appointment of Jonathan Mizger to the position of part-time custodian for Joel School effective February 1, 2016 passed with a motion by Kim Buckley and a second by Sandra Luke.

7 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Annaliese Spaziano	Yes
Kim Buckley	Yes
Peter Giannotti	Yes
Dr. Mike Giordano	Yes
Sandra Luke	Yes
Lois Ruggiero	Yes
Doug Traynor	Yes

12.C. Transfers

12.D. Information

13. Financial Items

13.A. Bills Payable

Discussion:

If there are any questions regarding bills, Board members should contact the Superintendent's Office for clarification prior to the Board meeting.

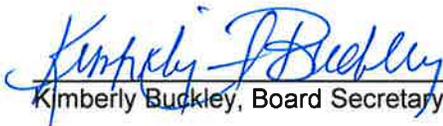
14. Field Trip Update

15. Adjournment

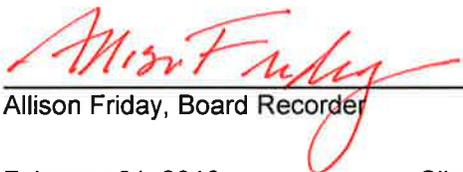
Motion Passed: To adjourn at 8:49 p.m. passed with a motion by Sandra Luke and a second by Dr. Mike Giordano.

7 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Annaliese Spaziano	Yes
Kim Buckley	Yes
Peter Giannotti	Yes
Dr. Mike Giordano	Yes
Sandra Luke	Yes
Lois Ruggiero	Yes
Doug Traynor	Yes



Kimberly Buckley, Board Secretary



Allison Friday, Board Recorder