



## Board of Education Regular Meeting

May 02, 2016 7:30 PM  
Board Meeting Room  
Administrative Offices  
137-B Glenwood Road  
Clinton, CT 06413

### Attendance Taken at 10:02 PM:

#### Present Board Members:

Annaliese Spaziano  
Kim Buckley  
Peter Giannotti  
Sandra Luke  
Lois Ruggiero

#### Absent Board Members:

Dr. Mike Giordano  
Doug Traynor

#### Updated Attendance:

Peter Giannotti was updated to present at: 10:02 PM  
Peter Giannotti was updated to absent at: 10:00 PM

### 1. Opening Exercises

#### 1.A. Roll call

##### Discussion:

Also in attendance were Superintendent Jack Cross, Assistant Superintendent Maryann O'Donnell, Business Director Carolyn Dickey, Student Representatives Lindsay Harden, Mike Van Ness, and Andrew Tessman.

#### 1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

##### Discussion:

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 2. Public participation/recognition

### 3. Minutes - Approval of Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 11, 2016

**Motion Passed:** To approve the minutes of the special meeting of April 11, 2016, passed with a motion by Kim Buckley and a second by Sandra Luke.

### 4 Yeas - 0 Nays - 1 Abstained.

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

#### **4. Communications**

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

Discussion:

The Locker Decorating Day fundraiser was held on Friday, April 29th. Senior and junior proms are upcoming. A'ric Jackson is returning to work with the Husky Leaders group with the goal of planning STEP. Junior Portfolio presentations were held before the April break. Morgan just held its semi-annual blood drive. The PawPrint sponsored a Wear Your College Attire Day for seniors. The hypnotist fundraiser for Project Grad 2016 was a success. AP testing will take place during the next two weeks. The chorus and band concerts will be held on May 3rd and May 5th, respectively.

#### **6. Winter Interscholastic Sports Update**

Discussion:

Eliot and Morgan student captains and players spoke about their seasons after being introduced by their coaches and Kevin Rayel. The Board was impressed by the number of articulate, thoughtful, and accomplished students and their achievements.

The Morgan cheerleaders had an incredible year with two first place wins. The fencing team earned 13 trophies, has doubled in size, and increased the number of weapons with which they can compete from one to three: saber, epee and foil.

Boys and girls track had a very successful season and broke several school records.

Eliot girls basketball just missed out on a perfect season, beating all teams except Old Lyme.

The Board extended its congratulations and thanked everyone for their presentations.

Mr. Rayel thanked the Board, coaches, parents, DPW, and Parks and Recreation for their support.

#### **7. Administrative Reports**

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

##### **7.A.1. Joel: School Climate and Social-Emotional Literacy - Claudia Norman and Joe Macrino**

Discussion:

Joe Macrino and Claudia Norman, assistant principal and principal respectively at Joel, illustrated how social and emotional learning (SEL) is being utilized to strengthen their school climate.

A large emphasis is being put on social competence in Kindergarten as studies show that it is a predictor of future outcomes in social behaviors/relationships, grades, test scores, discipline, and emotional well-being.

Joe Macrino participates on the CAS Climate Committee, consisting of 4-5 Connecticut elementary principals and assistant principals working on developing a library of SEL resources and sharing them statewide. Joel will continue its work on increasing capacity for responsive classroom, increasing consistency in school-wide messaging for behavior expectations, continuing opportunities for parents to be part of the process, and researching a restorative and inclusionary approach to discipline.

Joel also continues to build a partnership with Pierson School in order to maintain a continuum of success for our students.

**7.A.2. Special Services: Gifted and Talented Eligibility Criteria/Enrichment Experiences - Jacqueline Bonner, Bev Bowen and Charlene Best**

Discussion:

The Board listened to a presentation on the Gifted & Talented Program (TAG) by Special Services Director Kelly Enoch and the building level TAG coordinators, Jacque Bonner, Bev Bowen, and Charlene Best.

The identification and assessment process for TAG was explained. Differentiated classroom instruction and the myriad of after-school clubs/activities offered, not only to the TAG students but to all students, were discussed.

The program's next goals are to:

- \* improve parent outreach and information regarding opportunities that link to TAG programming;
- \* improve student outreach regarding the after-hours opportunities; and
- \* continue development of the talents and gifts of all students.

Discussion followed regarding the screening process, the possibility of an application process, and extending the leadership opportunity at Pierson to more students.

**7.A.3. Eliot: A review of the After Hours program and the Spotlight School Award**

Discussion:

Eliot Principal Linda Tucker described the process of her school applying for and being awarded the New England League of Middle Schools' (NELMS) Spotlight Award. The award recognizes schools that "have a record of effective teaching and learning for young adolescents and consistently implement middle level best practices."

Only 34 schools in New England received this honor. Eliot has held the title of NELMS Spotlight School since 2011-12. L. Tucker thanked the Board for its support.

C. Best talked about Eliot's After Hours and MARSS (Math and Research Science Seminars) programs. She reviewed the purpose of the program, the variety of topics offered, and the program's future.

**7.A.4. General Update**

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

**7.B.1. Assessment and Accountability Update**

Discussion:

M. O'Donnell provided an overview of the Assessment and Accountability Report for Clinton and the 12 indicators involved in calculating the Accountability Index for 2014-15.

In K-8, our areas of strength are assessment performance in SBAC, attendance, participation rate and no outlier achievement gaps. The areas of concern are high needs performance students, especially in math, and high needs student attendance in grades 6-8.

At Morgan, the areas of strength are college and career preparation, graduation indicators, and post-secondary entrance and participation rates on tests. The indicators of concern were the overall SBAC assessment performance, math gap indicators, and attendance & chronic absenteeism.

The discussion that followed focused on attendance and the difficulties in addressing chronic absenteeism.

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

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

#### **7.C.1. End-of-Year Budget Update**

Discussion:

An estimate of residual budget money for 2015-16 is about \$305K. However, several line items are moving targets (substitutes, retirements, long-term maternity leave, etc.) and could change the final number significantly.

#### **7.C.2. General Update**

Discussion:

Work on SunGard is ongoing to restructure the account setup within the system. The goal is to have the database built by summertime with the ultimate goal of going live on January 1, 2017.

C. Dickey has met with the new auditors and will meet again before the audit starts in order to establish a firm line of communication.

Affordable Care Act reporting continues and work on the pension document has begun.

### **7.D. Clinton Celebrates and Monthly Reports**

### **8. Superintendent's Report**

#### **8.A. State Budget Status (ECS/MBR)**

Discussion:

There is ongoing controversy about how the state will balance the budget by reducing funding to school districts statewide.

The Education Cost Sharing grant funding has not yet been determined and may be cut resulting in reduced revenue to the town.

#### **8.B. New Morgan School Update on FFE and Move Plan**

Discussion:

All information required for the Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FFE) for the New Morgan was submitted in January, but there has been no movement forward on the state's side. The rules of eligibility for reimbursement have changed forcing the district to argue for reimbursement under the rules that were in place when the work was done.

It is likely that the core items on the FFE list will be ready for the start of school, but a few items may not be there in time due to the delay.

The move planning is progressing well. Classroom material will be moved in June. The main office, technology, and guidance will be moved during the second phase in July. The 3rd phase will take place in September in order to close out the building.

Work is ongoing with Mike Koziy and Owner's Representative Joe Crouse to recycle furniture and equipment if possible.

### **8.C. Maintenance Facility Update**

Discussion:

Bids are in and approved, but the work start date is undetermined.

### **8.D. Annual Staff Reception**

Discussion:

L. Ruggiero and A. Spaziano will attend the annual staff reception.

### **8.E. Annual Nurse Appreciation Breakfast on May 11, 2016**

Discussion:

All Board members were invited to the May 11th annual nurse appreciation breakfast. A. Spaziano offered to provide the welcoming remarks.

### **8.F. General Update**

### **8.G. Upcoming Events**

## **9. Reports**

### **9.A. Board of Education Subcommittees and Special Committees**

#### **9.A.1. Budget & Finance Subcommittee**

#### **9.A.2. Buildings & Grounds Subcommittee**

#### **9.A.3. Instruction Subcommittee**

#### **9.A.4. LEARN**

#### **9.A.5. Policy Subcommittee**

Discussion:

Policies on health assessment and immunization are coming up for review.

#### **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:

The next tour/walk-through will take place at 4 p.m. on May 4th.

#### **9.B.3. OPEB - Other Post-Employment Benefits Board of Trustees**

#### **9.B.4. Audit Selection Committee**

**10. Personnel Items**

**10.A. Resignations/Retirement/Termination**

**10.A.1. Retirement - Certified Staff - Gail Evarts**

**Motion Passed:** To accept the retirement of Joel teacher Gail Evarts effective at the conclusion of the 2015-16 school year passed with a motion by Sandra Luke and a second by Kim Buckley.

**5 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

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

**10.A.2. Retirement - Certified Staff - Ed Shumway**

**Motion Passed:** To accept the retirement of Joel teacher Ed Shumway effective at the conclusion of the 2015-16 school year, with tremendous respect and appreciation for years of service passed with a motion by Kim Buckley and a second by Lois Ruggiero.

**4 Yeas - 1 Nays.**

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

**10.B. Appointments (Certificated, Classified, Extra Duty)**

**10.B.1. Summer School Appointment - Vocational Learning Center - Teacher - Peter McManus -**

**Motion Passed:** To approve the appointment of Peter McManus as a teacher in the ESY 2016 program passed with a motion by Kim Buckley and a second by Peter Giannotti.

**5 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

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

**10.C. Transfers**

**10.D. Information**

**11. Financial Items**

**11.A. Bills Payable**

**12. Adjournment**

**Motion Passed:** To adjourn at 10:37 passed with a motion by Lois Ruggiero and a second by Kim Buckley.

**5 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

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

  
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Kimberly Buckley, Board Secretary

  
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Allison Friday, Board Recorder