



## **Board of Education Regular Meeting**

February 04, 2019 7:00 PM

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

### **Attendance Taken at 7:00 PM:**

#### Present Board Members:

Erica Gelven  
Sandra Luke  
Omar Francis  
Michael Hornyak  
Kimberly Russo  
Catherine Staunton

#### Absent Board Members:

Lois Ruggiero

#### Updated Attendance:

Omar Francis was updated to absent at: 8:19 PM  
Omar Francis was updated to present at: 8:20 PM

### **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 representative Kayla Pellegrini.

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

Discussion:

All stood for the pledge.

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

Discussion:

None.

### 3. Minutes - Approval - Regular Meeting of January 28, 2019

**Motion Passed:** To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 28, 2019, passed with a motion by Sandra Luke and a second by Kimberly Russo.

**5 Yeas - 0 Nays - 1 Abstained.**

Erica Gelven	Yes
Sandra Luke	Yes
Omar Francis	Abstain
Michael Hornyak	Yes
Lois Ruggiero	Absent
Kimberly Russo	Yes
Catherine Staunton	Yes

### 4. Communications

Discussion:

S. Luke shared an invitation for Board members to attend a seminar on ethics for elected officials offered by CIRMA.

She congratulated Eliot Middle School on its third time being selected as a New England League of Middle Schools' (NELMS) Spotlight School. E. Gelven added that the NELMS representatives were extremely complimentary of the school when she met them.

### 5. Report of Student Representatives

Discussion:

K. Pellegrini mentioned that student representative S. Auletta was in Washington, D.C. participating in a drug prevention program.

Joel School is holding its 100th Day Celebration on February 28th. Students are asked to collect 100 items for their chosen charities.

Pierson will be holding its annual school spelling bee on February 7th and students will soon be submitting their projects for Invention Convention.

At Eliot, the annual dodgeball tournament will be held on February 8th. Plans are in the works for the annual spring trip to the Goodspeed Opera House.

A hypnotist will be performing at Morgan on February 6th. Husky Leadership members are working on their legacy projects. *Swoosh for Change* is looking for players for its charity game on March 15th. Another charity event, *Morgan's Got Talent*, will be held on February 26th at 7 p.m.

### 6. Review and Possible Action re: 2019-2020 Budget

Discussion:

The Superintendent noted a savings of \$50K since the last meeting due to a retirement and a final pension-funding calculation. This drops the proposed budget increase from 1.85% to 1.7%.

E. Gelven stated that health care discussions will start soon and asked if any Board members were interested in participating on the team as a member of the negotiation group which is a subset of the Budget/Finance Subcommittee. O. Francis volunteered.

O. Francis expressed his concerns about the budget including the closing of Pierson, the impact on taxpayers, negotiations and contracts of employees, retroactive pay, and how to get the budget passed the first time. Discussion followed and members shared information with Mr. Francis to clarify some of the details of the process and efforts by administration and Board members regarding budget construction. The chair reminded everyone that the Board and administration are incredibly mindful about asking taxpayers to only pay for things the district needs, and that the Board's mandate is to properly fund the schools.

After the vote, the Chair stated that there is still work to do, and thanked everyone for funding the district's schools properly. The Superintendent and staff were thanked for the work done to date.

Board members will receive final detailed budget books with trending, per pupil costs, grant information, etc. The presentation of the Board's budget to the Board of Finance will take place on March 7th.

**Motion Passed:** To approve the Superintendent's Proposed Operating Budget of a 1.70% increase for 2019-20 passed with a motion by Sandra Luke and a second by Kimberly Russo.

**6 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

Erica Gelven	Yes
Sandra Luke	Yes
Omar Francis	Yes
Michael Hornyak	Yes
Lois Ruggiero	Absent
Kimberly Russo	Yes
Catherine Staunton	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:

M. Famiglietti's main focus is scheduling Eliot and Joel for the 2019-20 year. Work continues with administrators and each department on how best to incorporate the 4th and 5th graders into the schools.

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

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

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

Discussion:

Work continues on budget accounts: reviewing, researching and verifying data, and ensuring staff continue use of proper procedures.

C. Dickey shared that she has worked with Sue Cunningham from the town on SunGard software issues.

The 403(b) plan is being restated and will allow users more access to their funds and stay up-to-date with IRS language and compliance. U.S. Omni is being considered as the plan administrator at a cost of \$36 per participant. Discussion followed regarding who would bear the cost.

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

### **8.A. Update on Current Projects Status**

Discussion:

Work with the design engineer continues on the pipe project at Eliot including additional testing for asbestos. Once approved, work is ready to move forward, dependent upon funding from the town.

The sidewalk project at Morgan will be completed this spring. Landscaping decisions will need to be made regarding re-seeding the area.

Culvert repair should be finished by mid-March. The emergency design may be able to serve as a long-term repair and will not affect FEMA reimbursement.

### **8.B. Strategic Plan Mid-Year Update**

Discussion:

The Board received copies of the plan update. The plan tracks and monitors the progress, depth, and breadth of initiatives.

### **8.C. Legislative Report**

Discussion:

M. O'Donnell highlighted the key bills and areas of discussion at the legislature that will impacting education. Topics include regionalization, ECS funding, special education, and teachers' retirement. Updates and information will be provided to the Board as the session progresses.

### **8.D. District Reorganization Timeline and Progress Update**

Discussion:

Events at Pierson are being scheduled to honor and remember Pierson's long history. Meetings with impacted certified staff are taking place district-wide. Packing and moving plans are being discussed, especially with technology and maintenance. Communication with parents is taking place via newsletters. Updates will be posted on the website.

### **8.E. General Update**

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

### **9.A. General Updates**

Discussion:

M. Famiglietti talked about the Instruction Subcommittee's meeting earlier in the evening. The focus was on the Talented and Gifted (TAG) process and student/parent/teacher surveys. The information gleaned from the surveys will inform the TAG manual and procedures and help to flesh out the TAG coordinator's job description.

## **10. Field Trip Update**

Discussion:

The Board was made aware of a trip to Goodspeed Opera House by the 8th grade class on May 14, 2019.

**11. Personnel Items**

**11.A. Staff Appointments**

**11.B. Information**

Discussion:

The Board was made aware of two upcoming retirements: Michael Underwood, Morgan Math teacher, and Dawn Paradis, Eliot Family and Consumer Science teacher. The Board thanked them for their service and dedication.

**12. Adjournment**

**Motion Passed:** To adjourn at 8:35 p.m. passed with a motion by Omar Francis and a second by Michael Hornyak.

**6 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

Erica Gelven	Yes
Sandra Luke	Yes
Omar Francis	Yes
Michael Hornyak	Yes
Lois Ruggiero	Absent
Kimberly Russo	Yes
Catherine Staunton	Yes

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Sandy Luke, Board Secretary

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Allison Friday, Board Recorder