



## Board of Education Regular Meeting

March 04, 2019 7:00 PM

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

### Attendance Taken at 7:02 PM:

#### Present Board Members:

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

#### Updated Attendance:

Omar Francis was updated to absent at: 8:19 PM  
Omar Francis was updated to present at: 8:21 PM

### 1. Opening Exercises

#### 1.A. Roll call

##### Discussion:

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

#### 1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

##### Discussion:

All in attendance recited the pledge.

### 2. Public participation/recognition

##### Discussion:

Ms. Peggy Adler informed the Board that she is the author of the Clinton book in the "Images in America" series to be published on June 3, 2019. She said that the publisher would provide a 44% discount if copies were purchased for all 12th graders. Ms. Adler explained that in the course of her research for this book, she discovered that Morgan City, Louisiana was named for Clinton's Charles Morgan, and thought the Board might want to explore the idea of being 'sister' city schools.

Mr. Tom Riccio spoke in appreciation of Mr. Ryan Richetelli, Business Teacher at The Morgan School, and stressed the importance of the personal finance skills his children have learned in Mr. Richetelli's class. He suggested that all 9th graders be required to take a personal finance course and that the topics covered be expanded to include all aspects of personal financial health.

### 3. Minutes - Approval - Regular Meeting of February 4, 2019

**Motion Passed:** To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 4, 2019 passed with a motion by Sandra Luke and a second by Kimberly Russo.

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

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

**4. Communications**

Discussion:

S. Luke read information sent by First Selectman Christine Goupil regarding a CT Water Company scholarship opportunity. M. O'Donnell confirmed she also received the information and it has been shared with The Morgan School.

**5. Report of Student Representatives**

Discussion:

There were no student representatives in attendance as school was not in session.

**6. Administrative Reports**

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

**6.A.1. General Update**

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

**6.B.1. Next Generation Accountability Report**

Discussion:

M. Famiglietti provided an overview of the Next Generation Accountability Report recently released by the State. He spoke about the 12 indicators used and how that data is aggregated. He also noted that science performance was not included in the index, as last year's administration was a field test.

O. Francis questioned the way the data was broken out, the inclusion of the high needs subset (students from low-income families, English learners, or students with disabilities), and how that may or may not skew the overall performance data. M. O'Donnell confirmed the data presented is how the state provides it and that it helps to ensure learning gaps are not present.

S. Luke noted the chronic absenteeism indicator and a short discussion ensued on the supports and processes in place for students who are chronically absent and those who are approaching that threshold.

M. Famiglietti highlighted the positive growth in Morgan math performance and the high participation rate throughout the district. He also noted the percentage of students with access to arts may increase as curricular adjustments, such as the new ASPIRE course being introduced to 7th and 8th graders next year, may free up time for high school students to take additional elective courses in music or art.

O. Francis asked how this report can be used to improve our performance. M. Famiglietti cautioned that while this report provides a snapshot in time, it does not necessarily help to inform teaching throughout the school year. The MAP assessments given in district three times per year, coupled with the individual Smarter Balanced results released in the fall, are the main drivers of instruction as they identify student growth and supports needed and ensure curricular alignment.

## 6.B.2. General Update

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

#### 6.C.1. Review and Possible Action re: Revised 403(b) Document

Discussion:

C. Dickey explained that the 403(b) document has been revised to be compliant with current regulation and practice. This revision process has taken time, with districts being surveyed on their practices and legal counsel thoroughly reviewing the document. The district will also obtain assistance from a third party administrator to oversee management. M. O'Donnell emphasized the district's legal obligations in regards to loans against 403(b) accounts and that by using a third party administrator, similar to what the district uses for ACA reporting and compliance, the district can ensure proper repayment. C. Dickey added that the vendor, Omni, is able to seamlessly transition in all current, approved 403(b) vendors and would also manage withdrawals and rollovers, in addition to loans and repayments. O. Francis stated his opposition to the use of a third party administrator.

**Motion Passed:** The Clinton Public Schools, acting through an officer and pursuant to authorization of its governing board, hereby adopts the Clinton Public Schools 403(b) Retirement Plan, subject to its terms and, the terms of any other agreements as deemed appropriate, attached hereto and made a part hereof, and the Adoption Agreement and the selections made therein passed with a motion by Lois Ruggiero and a second by Sandra Luke.

#### 6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

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

#### 6.C.2. Bills Payable

#### 6.C.3. General Update

Discussion:

C. Dickey stated that the current pension document that governs the non-certified pension plan is very old and outdated. In anticipation of revising that document, People's Bank, the pension plan administrator, will be scheduled to provide a presentation to the Budget & Finance subcommittee on investment and pension options.

C. Dickey has been working with the special services department on training the State's new grant system which is utilized for IDEA and Medicaid reporting. She provided a general overview of the reporting requirements and how the district is leveraging the way grants are utilized to maximize reimbursement options.

## 7. Superintendent's Report

### 7.A. Legislative Update

Discussion:

M. O'Donnell provided an update on the current legislative bills affecting education. There is an upcoming Education Committee hearing on March 6th. There are several bills concerning school regionalization and the Superintendent's group has provided testimony to the Education Committee. L. Ruggiero commented

that there are several petitions regarding regionalization and that any letters written are attached to the bill for consideration.

M. O'Donnell noted the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grant in the governor's current proposed budget shows the acceleration of decreased funding for Clinton. While Clinton has already been slated for a slow decline in funding under previous budgets, the current proposal accelerates that decline. This will need to be monitored, as it is likely to undergo several iterations before being finalized.

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

Discussion:

M. O'Donnell provided an update on the Morgan bridge. The bridge work should begin at the end of March and will be finished this spring, prior to graduation. There is additional structure work needed on CT Water Company property, located past the faculty parking lot. Site preparation will begin this week and next, but this work should not impact school or use of athletic fields.

The district reorganization work has been continuing. Teachers have been given their tentative assignments for next year and choice forms have been sent to para-educators. The Joel schedule is almost finished. By the end of the month, it is anticipated that teachers will be given room assignments.

Packing and moving will be outlined and a plan will be shared with staff in April. M. O'Donnell has been meeting with the Director of Buildings & Grounds, the Business Manager, and administrators regarding structural and maintenance transition needs.

M. O'Donnell reminded the Board that she and E. Gelven will be presenting the 2019-2020 Board of Education budget to the joint Boards of Selectmen and Finance this Thursday, March 7th at 6:30 PM in the Town Hall Green Room.

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

### **8.A. General Updates**

Discussion:

E. Gelven stated that a meeting needed to be scheduled for the Public Relations subcommittee. March 13th at 12:15 PM was selected for the meeting.

### **8.B. Review and Possible Action re: 2019-2020 Board of Education Capital Expenditure Budget**

Discussion:

L. Ruggiero explained that the Buildings & Grounds subcommittee met on February 28th and reviewed the capital budget request. The committee decided they could eliminate the request for the Joel playground (\$60,000) and remote systems monitoring (\$15,000).

**Motion Passed:** To reduce the 2019-2020 Board of Education Capital Budget by \$75,000 for a total request of \$554,021 passed with a motion by Lois Ruggiero and a second by Catherine Staunton.

### **7 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

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

## 9. Field Trip Update

Discussion:

S. Luke questioned if the same group of students would be attending these trips, which are only a few weeks apart. M. O'Donnell said she would verify the students attending.

## 10. Review and Possible Action re: Agreement between the Clinton Board of Education and the Municipal Employees Union Independent, Local 506, SEIU (Para-Educators), 2018-2021

**Motion Passed:** To approve the Agreement between the Clinton Board of Education and the Municipal Employees Union Independent, Local 506, SEIU (Para-Educators), 2018-2021 as presented passed with a motion by Sandra Luke and a second by Lois Ruggiero.

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

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

## 11. First Reading of Policies

### 11.A. 1000 Series

Discussion:

E. Gelven asked the Board to thoroughly review the policies presented and reminded the Board they would be on the next agenda for second reading and possible adoption.

## 12. Personnel Items

### 12.A. Staff Appointments

### 12.B. Information

Discussion:

E. Gelven noted there were several retirements and their letters were shared with the Board.

## 13. Adjournment

**Motion Passed:** To adjourn the meeting at 8:43 PM passed with a motion by Lois Ruggiero and a second by Sandra Luke.

**7 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

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

---

Sandy Luke, Board Secretary

---

Allison Friday, Board Recorder