



## Board of Education Regular Meeting

March 05, 2018 7:30 PM  
Board Meeting Room  
Administrative Offices  
137-B Glenwood Road  
Clinton, CT 06413

### Attendance Taken at 7:29 PM:

#### Present Board Members:

Lois Ruggiero  
Erica Gelven  
Peter Giannotti  
Kimberly Russo

#### Absent Board Members:

Sandra Luke  
Todd Pozefsky  
Doug Traynor

### 1. Opening Exercises

#### 1.A. Roll call

#### Discussion:

Also in attendance were Superintendent Maryann O'Donnell, Assistant Superintendent Marco Famiglietti, Business Director Carolyn Dickey, and Student Representatives Kayla Pellegrini and Brett Martin.

#### 1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

#### Discussion:

All stood for the pledge.

### 2. Public participation/recognition

#### Discussion:

None.

### 3. Minutes - Approval - Regular Meeting of February 5, 2018 & Special Meeting of February 28, 2018

#### 3.A. Regular Meeting of February 5, 2018

**Motion Passed:** To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 5, 2018, passed with a motion by Peter Giannotti and a second by Lois Ruggiero.

#### 4 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Doug Traynor	Absent
Todd Pozefsky	Absent
Lois Ruggiero	Yes
Erica Gelven	Yes
Peter Giannotti	Yes
Sandra Luke	Absent
Kimberly Russo	Yes

### **3.B. Special Meeting of February 28, 2018**

**Motion Passed:** To table the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 28, 2018, passed with a motion by Lois Ruggiero.

#### **4 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

Doug Traynor	Absent
Todd Pozefsky	Absent
Lois Ruggiero	Yes
Erica Gelven	Yes
Peter Giannotti	Yes
Sandra Luke	Absent
Kimberly Russo	Yes

### **4. Communications**

Discussion:  
None.

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

Discussion:  
The representatives reported that the Morgan cheerleading team took third place in the Shoreline Conference Tournament, and that Families Helping Families will be the beneficiaries of the annual Swoosh for Change fundraiser. In fencing, Morgan took 4th in States for epee. The spring sports meeting will take place on March 6th. Two leadership conferences take place in March, one for 9th and 10th graders today, and one for 11th and 12th graders on the 7th. "Say Hello" week kicked off today in an effort to promote kindness. The play "She Loves You" opens on March 15th and runs four consecutive evenings. B. Martin will play the male lead on Thursday and Saturday. Dodge for a Difference happens on the 9th.

### **6. Recognition of Boys Soccer State Championship**

Discussion:  
The Board honored the Morgan boys soccer team for their Class S State Championship win and for doing so with respect, passion, skill, and unity. First Selectman Christine Goupil was on hand to issue a proclamation honoring their first win of a state championship in 53 years and to wish them much continued success. The Morgan Booster Club representatives and Athletic Coordinator Kevin Rayel noted both the team and community achievement, and presented each player with a photo plaque and patch for their jackets. There was a brief break in the meeting for refreshments.

### **7. Administrative Reports**

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

##### **7.A.1. General Update**

Discussion:  
None.

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

##### **7.B.1. General Update**

Discussion:  
Mr. Famiglietti acknowledged the success of three Eliot teams of Future Problem Solvers of CT who made it to the state level competition. The teams use their enrichment period to work with Laura Calabrese, the

library/media specialist, to work on their topics which cover toxic materials, philanthrocapitalism, and cloud storage.

Invention Convention just took place at Eliot and several inventions were notable including "Poptastic", a popcorn bowl with no kernels, a detoxification shower for firefighters, and a handlebar that allows handicapped individuals to climb stairs.

Both programs will be included in the evening of enrichment opportunities in Clinton to be held on March 6th as part of the Talented and Gifted evening. The informational evening is being held for all parents and all are welcome to attend. There will be a short presentation followed by teachers and administrators who will talk about all the opportunities available to students.

On March 8th, 7th grade parents will have the Algebra I criteria and opportunities at Eliot explained to them. Parent teacher conferences at Eliot and Morgan are coming up. An online scheduler will be used to set up the conferences.

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

### **7.C.1. SunGard Update**

Discussion:

News regarding SunGard is positive; a representative from the company worked on site to implement funding and human resources functionality. SunGard will follow up with concrete next steps and more training. C. Dickey has been instrumental in her persistence in getting assistance.

### **7.C.2. Current Status of 2017-18 Budget**

Discussion:

This is the time of year estimates are made on the amount of money to be returned to the general fund. At this point, that number is 0.5% to 0.75% of the operating budget or about \$200K.

The numbers will be reviewed every month and the number will tighten as the months go by. Cost-containment efforts, especially with the new health savings plan, have helped, but electricity rates have climbed and the numbers are still very fluid.

### **7.C.3. General Update**

Discussion:

The transportation RFP is closed. Three vendors participated but only one of them bid, our current vendor, M&J Bus. The proposal is currently being reviewed. An analysis will be performed to make sure everything presented covers all the district requirements.

Currently, the town and district are coordinating efforts to engage a new pension investment bank. The Board thanked C. Dickey for her diligence and her commitment. She added that she should have the final bus contract by April 8th, if not sooner.

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

### **8.A. Strategic Planning Survey Update**

Discussion:

About 250 responses from the community have been received. Teacher responses bring the total to 385. A final reminder to take the survey will be included in the weekly blast. Efforts are being made to include the

link in newspapers as well. Once the information is gathered, administration will analyze and present the data to the focus groups for further discussion and action.

### **8.B. School Safety Update**

Discussion:

Given recent events in Florida, the Superintendent felt it necessary to update the Board on school safety. She has met with Police Chief DeMaio to review procedures and protocols. She discussed the physical plants, security, communication, protocols, training, drills, the familiarity of first responders with the schools, and the possibility of more enhancements through state grants

When asked if volunteers were needed, the Superintendent responded with information about the history and implementation of counseling supports and the Shoreline Crisis Response Team which includes identified and vetted professionals. Resources are in place and can be mobilized if necessary.

L. Ruggiero asked about preventative measures. Mrs. O'Donnell responded that systems have been identified that allow us to react well from a physical and training standpoint. Also, the Clinton community has and continues to build good relationships with our students who will hopefully bring concerns to adults. She stressed the district's proactive efforts and believes they have thwarted situations where students could have done harm to themselves or others.

The Board praised the "We are Family" and other programs in district. K. Russo stressed the importance of drills to reinforce physical responses to crisis situations. She also asked about the March 14th walkout scheduled nationwide and how Clinton would be responding. The Superintendent discussed Morgan plans that would not only honor the victims and show solidarity with the school in Florida, but would also provide a safe space in which to do so. A ceremony, led by students, will be held at Morgan in the interior courtyard and will feature an a capella group and the creation of a stone garden. The Superintendent has been impressed to see the students dialogue with administrators in such a productive way. It's another great example of our amazing students, our relationships, and student leadership.

### **8.C. Budget Process Update**

Discussion:

The Board of Selectmen met on February 22nd and approved the operations budget with a 3-2 vote, but reduced the Capital Expenditure budget by \$76,500 to \$400K. The next Board of Finance meeting will be held on March 12th at 7 p.m. to finalize the budget. The Superintendent thanked the Board of Selectmen for spending time to review the budget and for approving it.

### **8.D. General Update**

Discussion:

Planning with Maintenance Director Carrion is ongoing related to the summer roofing projects for Joel and Eliot. Joel has a portion over the gym that needs repair and Eliot has a section over the foyer. Sections that have solar panels are scheduled to be replaced in the summer of 2019-20. First Selectman Goupil asked about the solar contract. The Superintendent responded that the contract with Greenskies has language that indicates there may be some issue with the downtime and generation. Summer school for Joel students will have to be moved to Morgan. Park and Rec events will have to relocate too. The project is being directed by Mr. Carrion and overseen by the Municipal Building Committee.

## **9. Acceptance of Perkins Supplemental Grant Application**

Discussion:

Districts are eligible for up to \$35K in a second round of the Perkins Grant focused on enhancing and promoting the idea of technical education to represent the underrepresented. With M. Famiglietti's and Morgan teacher Larry Chapman's efforts, along with Board approval, the grant can be submitted to the state.

The application focuses on increasing participation of female students in engineering. The grant would allow the district to bring in female engineers and provide funding for related field trips, etc.

**Motion Passed:** To accept the Perkins Supplemental Grant Application as presented passed with a motion by Lois Ruggiero and a second by Peter Giannotti.

**4 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

Doug Traynor	Absent
Todd Pozefsky	Absent
Lois Ruggiero	Yes
Erica Gelven	Yes
Peter Giannotti	Yes
Sandra Luke	Absent
Kimberly Russo	Yes

**10. Reports**

**10.A. Board of Education Subcommittees and Special Committees**

**10.A.1. Budget & Finance/Negotiations Subcommittee (Erica Gelven, Todd Pozefsky, Lois Ruggiero, Doug Traynor)**

Discussion:

A meeting will need to be held to discuss where the budget stands after the budget is approved by the Board of Finance. It will provide a chance to discuss process, the Board of Finance's input, and next steps. The meeting will be held on March 21st at 6 p.m.

The district's attorney has been reaching out to the paraprofessional union representative for dates for negotiations this spring. L. Ruggiero, S. Luke, and E. Gelven volunteered to serve on the committee. M. O'Donnell will follow up with dates and send them out.

**10.A.2. Buildings & Grounds Subcommittee (Lois Ruggiero, Doug Traynor)**

Discussion:

No report.

**10.A.3. Instruction Subcommittee (Erica Gelven, Peter Giannotti, Sandy Luke, Kimberly Russo)**

Discussion:

No report.

**10.A.4. LEARN (Doug Traynor is the BOE Liaison to LEARN)**

Discussion:

No report.

**10.A.5. Policy Subcommittee (Peter Giannotti, Sandy Luke, Lois Ruggiero, Kimberly Russo, Doug Traynor)**

Discussion:

The next meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on March 15th. Policy approaches and the wellness policy are on the agenda.

**10.A.6. Public Relations Subcommittee (Sandy Luke, Todd Pozefsky)**

Discussion: A meeting date needs to be determined to discuss the budget, the launch of a new Facebook page, and a new website vendor, among other things.

**10.A.7. School Nutrition Subcommittee (Erica Gelven, Lois Ruggiero)**

Discussion: The revised wellness policy is close to completion and will be reviewed at the next policy meeting.

**10.A.8. Technology Subcommittee (Lois Ruggiero, Peter Giannotti, Kimberly Russo)**

Discussion: No report.

**10.B. Town of Clinton Committees**

**10.B.1. Capital Expenditure Committee**

Discussion: No report.

**10.B.2. Morgan Building Committee**

Discussion: This month's meeting was cancelled. HVAC work is continuing. The manufacturers agreed to get the full system commissioned. M. O'Donnell and the committee continue their weekly conference call with the parties involved. The engineers have been very responsive and knowledgeable.

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

Discussion: No report.

**11. Field Trip Update**

Discussion: No report.

**12. Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Certified Staff**

**Motion Passed:** To approve the non-renewal of the following non-tenured certified staff due to a reduction in force for the 2018-2019 school year: Terese McDermott, Brooke Mazzarella, and Kaitlin Murphy, passed with a motion by Peter Giannotti and a second by Lois Ruggiero.

**4 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

Doug Traynor	Absent
Todd Pozefsky	Absent
Lois Ruggiero	Yes
Erica Gelven	Yes
Peter Giannotti	Yes
Sandra Luke	Absent
Kimberly Russo	Yes

### **13. Personnel Items**

#### **13.A. Resignations/Retirement/Termination**

##### **13.A.1. Acceptance of Resignation - Grade 6 Mathematics**

**Motion Passed:** To accept the resignation of Melissa Mitko effective May 4, 2018, with heartfelt thanks for what she's done for the children of Clinton, passed with a motion by Peter Giannotti and a second by Lois Ruggiero.

##### **4 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

Doug Traynor	Absent
Todd Pozefsky	Absent
Lois Ruggiero	Yes
Erica Gelven	Yes
Peter Giannotti	Yes
Sandra Luke	Absent
Kimberly Russo	Yes

##### **13.A.2. Acceptance of Resignation - Varsity Boys Basketball at Morgan**

**Motion Passed:** To accept the resignation of Kenneth Beeman as Varsity Boys Basketball Coach at Morgan passed with a motion by Lois Ruggiero and a second by Peter Giannotti.

##### **4 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

Doug Traynor	Absent
Todd Pozefsky	Absent
Lois Ruggiero	Yes
Erica Gelven	Yes
Peter Giannotti	Yes
Sandra Luke	Absent
Kimberly Russo	Yes

### **13.B. Appointments (Certificated, Classified, Extra Duty)**

#### **13.B.1. Extra-Duty Staff - JV Baseball at Morgan**

**Motion Passed:** To accept the appointment of Mr. Christopher Caprio as the candidate for the JV Baseball Coach at Morgan, stipend \$2,505, passed with a motion by Peter Giannotti and a second by Lois Ruggiero.

##### **4 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

Doug Traynor	Absent
Todd Pozefsky	Absent
Lois Ruggiero	Yes
Erica Gelven	Yes
Peter Giannotti	Yes
Sandra Luke	Absent
Kimberly Russo	Yes

**13.B.2. Extra-Duty Staff - Assistant Track at Morgan**

**Motion Passed:** To approve Jessica Blodgett as the Extra-Duty Assistant Track Coach at Morgan passed with a motion by Peter Giannotti and a second by Kimberly Russo.

**4 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

Doug Traynor	Absent
Todd Pozefsky	Absent
Lois Ruggiero	Yes
Erica Gelven	Yes
Peter Giannotti	Yes
Sandra Luke	Absent
Kimberly Russo	Yes

**13.C. Transfers**

**13.D. Information**

**14. Financial Items**


**14.A. Bills Payable**

**15. Adjournment**

**Motion Passed:** To adjourn at 9:37 p.m. passed with a motion by Peter Giannotti and a second by Lois Ruggiero.

**4 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

Doug Traynor	Absent
Todd Pozefsky	Absent
Lois Ruggiero	Yes
Erica Gelven	Yes
Peter Giannotti	Yes
Sandra Luke	Absent
Kimberly Russo	Yes



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Sandy Luke, Board Secretary



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Allison Friday, Board Recorder