



Board of Education Regular Meeting

March 19, 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:

Todd Pozefsky
Lois Ruggiero
Erica Gelven
Peter Giannotti
Sandra Luke
Kimberly Russo

Absent Board Members:

Doug Traynor

Updated Attendance:

Peter Giannotti was updated to present at: 7:31 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 Representatives Olivia Silver, Brett Martin, and Kayla Pellegrini.

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion:

All stood for the pledge.

2. Public participation/recognition

Discussion:

None.

3. Minutes - Approval

3.A. Special Meeting of February 28, 2018

Motion Passed: To approve the minutes from the Special Meeting of February 28, 2018, passed with a motion by Lois Ruggiero and a second by Sandra Luke.

4 Yeas - 0 Nays - 1 Abstained.

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

3.B. Regular Meeting of March 5, 2018

Motion Passed: To approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of March 5, 2018, passed with a motion by Lois Ruggiero and a second by Sandra Luke.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays - 1 Abstained.

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

3.C. Special Meeting of March 14, 2018

Motion Passed: To approve the minutes from the Special Meeting of March 14, 2018, passed with a motion by Lois Ruggiero and a second by Peter Giannotti.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays - 1 Abstained.

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

4. Communications

Discussion:
None.

5. Report of Student Representatives

Discussion:

SAT Day is scheduled statewide for Wednesday, March 21st. Early dismissal will take place on Thursday, April 13th to allow for Junior Portfolio Presentations. Dodge for a Difference takes place in a couple of weeks. Project Grad is hosting hypnotist Jim Spinnato on Friday, March 23rd, at 7:30 pm. The play went well this past weekend. On Saturday, March 24th, Project Grad is hosting an auction in the Green Room. Items up for auction include choice parking spots at Morgan and front row seats at graduation. Husky Leader projects are starting; K. Pellegrini's Mr. Morgan project will take place on April 10th at 7 pm and will benefit Make a Wish.

The walk-in on March 14th took place during X Block and honored gun violence victims in Florida. The a capella group sang and the art group started a rock garden. Career Day at Morgan was a success.

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 a breakdown of the Next Generation Accountability Report (NGAR). Now in its third year of existence, the NGAR's goal is to provide "a broad set of 12 indicators that help tell the story of how well a school is preparing its students for success in college, careers, and life. The system moves beyond test scores and graduation rates and instead provides a more holistic, multifactor perspective of district and school performance and incorporates student growth over time."

NGAR indicators 5 and 6, which deal with AP courses, were reviewed. The efforts being made to increase the percentage of students passing advanced exams at Morgan were discussed. The student representatives gave their opinions on the resources available to them. Graduation and post-secondary entrance rates for Clinton were all higher than the state average.

Indicators 11 and 12 which deal with physical fitness and accessibility of arts courses were included in the report.

In conclusion, the district continues to perform above the state average on most indicators of the NGAR. Joel remains a statewide school of distinction for the second year, and Morgan remains as a Focus School not because of lack of improvement but because the district did not meet requirements of 95% participation in all subgroups.

Questions followed regarding academic achievement and academic growth. M. Famiglietti will share Smarter Balanced numbers with the Board.

6.B.2. General Update

Discussion:

Mr. Famiglietti shared his excitement that four Pierson students made it through to regionals with their inventions for Invention Convention. Two of the four student inventors are returning to regionals for a second time. All four are now moving to the state-level competition.

6.C. Business Manager's Report

6.C.1. 2017 Actuarial Valuation for our Non-Certified Pension Plan

Discussion:

C. Dickey distributed copies of the 2017 pension valuation report for non-certified staff. Specific questions should be directed to Mrs. Dickey who will direct them to the actuaries.

6.C.2. General Update

Discussion:

A meeting with M&J Bus will be taking place regarding the transportation bid. C. Dickey and M. O'Donnell will meet with M&J and will report out during the Finance Subcommittee meeting on Wednesday, March 21st.

One of the three new requirements her office is working on is to have a Medicaid School Based Child Health (SBCH) Program. It is a mechanism by which a school district may seek federal Medicaid reimbursement for many of the Medicaid covered services that are provided to an eligible student pursuant to the student's IEP/504. The district is starting to collect data using CompuClaim, a medical billing center. April will be the first month the data will be processed.

Also, the state has a new financial reporting system and new methodology for collecting and reporting on annual end of year expenditures. Training and crosswalking of district accounts will have to occur.

There were questions regarding the reimbursement through CompuClaim.

7. Superintendent's Report

7.A. 2018-2019 Budget Update

Discussion:

The Superintendent sent information to the school community earlier in the day via SchoolMessenger on the budget and where it stands, where the increases are coming from, and what reductions were made by the Boards of Selectmen and Finance.

The original operating budget requested a 2.98% increase which the Board of Finance reduced by \$300K. The increase now stands at 2.04%. The operating budget will have to be reviewed again to determine where to make cuts. During the discussions leading up to the original budget approval, all areas (staffing, health insurance, etc.) were reviewed and no room was found to capture other monies so the cut will definitely impact the district.

Any further cuts determined at the public hearing would cause major structural changes to the district. As it is, the \$300K cut will be difficult to manage.

The Board of Selectmen cut the \$400K capital budget by \$76,500 so some determinations will need to be made about where the cuts will come from. Decisions about the cuts will have to be provided to the Board of Finance the night of the public hearing.

M. O'Donnell stated that with the district facing a significant cut, the Board needs to gather and make some hard decisions.

M. O'Donnell attended a session with a regional group of superintendents. The featured speaker was a woman who worked with the state on work related to the new Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula. Along with an extremely large middle tier of CT towns, Clinton is facing reductions in ECS. This year's ECS is anticipated to be approximately \$5.4MM but ECS funding faces another reduction of \$400K for the 2018-19 budget year.

7.B. Facilities Planning Presentation

Discussion:

A facilities study in 2014 looked at programming, enrollment projections, and facility needs. On March 26th, there will be a joint subcommittee presentation regarding our K-8 facilities and the exploration the Board will be doing related to the potential for closing a school. A special advisory committee will be appointed which will provide recommendations to the Board before any decisions are made.

K. Russo suggested looking at other towns which have done similar work in order to help avoid any pitfalls. The Superintendent has resources she can tap and emphasized that any decisions will be made thoughtfully.

E. Gelven will reach out for volunteers to serve on the committee. She invited all to attend the Monday, March 26th meeting in the Morgan cafeteria at 6:30 p.m. The Board of Selectmen will be asked to attend.

7.C. CPS Facebook Launch

Discussion:

Included in this evening's newsletter update to the community was a link to the district's new Facebook page. The intent is to post at least twice a week on interesting things happening in the classroom with a focus on initiatives, classes, and staff.

Also included in the newsletter was a link to Parks and Recreation's survey.

The district's new website should be ready for the beginning of the 2018-19 school year.

7.D. Information on Setting Graduation Date 2018

Discussion:

To date, Wednesday, June 20th is the last day of school. Legally, the graduation date can be set in April at the first Board meeting that month.

7.E. General Update

Discussion:

The roofing project is moving along. The timeline is tight, but work should be completed for the start of school in the fall. The Joel and Eliot offices will relocate to Morgan while work is completed.

8. Reports

8.A. Board of Education Subcommittees and Special Committees

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

Discussion:

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 21st at 6 p.m. The agenda will focus on budget cuts. E. Gelven urged all Board members to attend in order to share their priorities of what to keep and what not to fund, and to build a consensus to present to the Board of Selectmen.

All school administrators are revisiting their budgets to look for more cuts.

Regarding negotiations, communication is expected from the union representative for the paraeducators. M. O'Donnell would like to set up a time to discuss components of the Terms of Employment contract in order to make decisions and communicate to staff.

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

Discussion:

No report.

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

Discussion:

No report.

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

Discussion:

No report.

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

Discussion:

The committee is looking to streamline and simplify the policies by deleting unnecessary ones and updating any outdated ones. This might save some money as well.

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

Discussion:

S. Luke and M. O'Donnell met to discuss Facebook.

E. Gelven will craft a response for the Harbor News so that falsehoods regarding the budget do not go unchallenged.

E. Gelven urged any Board member inspired to write to the media to forward it first to her and M. O'Donnell for review.

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

Discussion:

The wellness policy is almost finished. The committee's name will be changed to reflect more accurately what it handles. A meeting should take place in late April or early in May. Medical professionals will be invited to attend.

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

Discussion:

No report.

8.B. Town of Clinton Committees

8.B.1. Capital Expenditure Committee

Discussion:

No report.

8.B.2. Morgan Building Committee

Discussion:

Work is ongoing. The committee met to pay some bills.

During repair of some piping, the vendor caused some damage to the Morgan roof which will be repaired but is causing some leakage. A temporary fix has been put in place.

The HVAC commissioning is progressing. The commissioning was supposed to move forward on March 15th but could not due to snow. However, all necessary parties are still 'at the table' and closure should occur soon.

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

Discussion:

No report.

9. Field Trip Update

Discussion:

There will be a field trip to Six Flags on June 1st.

10. Personnel Items

10.A. Resignations/Retirement/Termination

10.A.1. Retirement of Classified Staff - Para-Educator at Eliot

Motion Passed: To accept the retirement of paraeducator Jane Matteis effective June 2018, passed with a motion by Lois Ruggiero and a second by Peter Giannotti.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

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

10.A.1.a. Addition of Agenda Item

Motion Passed: To add item 10.A.2 to the agenda regarding a personnel issue passed with a motion by Lois Ruggiero and a second by Sandra Luke.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

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

10.A.2. Resignation of Classified Staff - Para-Educator at Morgan

Motion Passed: To accept the resignation of Donnamarie Buffington from the position of paraeducator at Morgan effective March 30, 2018, passed with a motion by Lois Ruggiero and a second by Sandra Luke.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

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

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

10.B.1. Appointment of Extra-Duty Staff - JV Girls Lacrosse at Morgan

Motion Passed: To appoint Kimberly Driscoll to the position of JV Girls Lacrosse coach at Morgan, stipend \$2,505 passed with a motion by Peter Giannotti and a second by Sandra Luke.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

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

10.C. Transfers

10.C.1. Transfer to Math Intervention for the 2018-19 school year

10.D. Information

Discussion:

Stephanie Quarato will be transferring from the position of math teacher to math interventionist.

11. Financial Items

11.A. Bills Payable

12. Adjournment

Motion Passed: To adjourn at 9:39 p.m. passed with a motion by Lois Ruggiero and a second by Todd Pozefsky.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

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

Sandy Luke, Board Secretary

Allison Friday, Board Recorder