



Board of Education Regular Meeting

May 06, 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:

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

Absent Board Members:

Kimberly Russo

1. Opening Exercises

1.A. Roll call

Discussion:

Superintendent O'Donnell, Assistant Superintendent Famiglietti, and Business Manager Dickey were present as were student representatives Kayla Pellegrini and Daniel Radka.

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion:

All stood for the pledge.

2. Public participation/recognition

Discussion:

No public participation.

3. Minutes - Approval - Regular Meeting of April 1, 2019 and Special Meeting of April 10, 2019

Motion Passed: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 1, 2019, and the special meeting of April 10, 2019, passed with a motion by Sandra Luke and a second by Catherine Staunton.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays - 1 Abstained.

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

4. Communications

Discussion:

No communications.

5. Recognition of Invention Convention Winners

Discussion:

Teachers Kate Martorelli and Dana Skidmore gave a quick introduction to the Invention Convention program and the student winners, Addyson Beck, Addison Reed, Isabella Lee, and James Aronson.

The students provided demonstrations of their inventions to the Board as well as a recounting of their experiences at the state-level competition at UConn. One of the students, Isabelle Lee, has already garnered several awards for her invention and will be competing at the national level.

The Board provided the students with certificates of appreciation for their work and the parents and teachers were thanked for their energy and enthusiasm.

6. Report of Student Representatives

Discussion:

The Board heard about upcoming events at all four schools from K. Pellegrini and D. Radka. At Joel, the Friends of Joel has an ice cream social on May 16th. The chorus will be performing on May 14th, and the sports-a-thons are coming up at the end of the month.

At Pierson, Marine Science day for the 4th graders will be held on May 30th. Morgan Marine Science students will be joining them for the day.

At Eliot, a dodgeball tournament is being held on May 10th. Two field trips, one to Mystic Seaport and the other to Goodspeed Opera House are taking place this month. A trip to Holiday Hill is scheduled for the beginning of June.

At Morgan, the Technology Education National Honor Society held an induction ceremony earlier in the evening. Advanced Placement testing takes place this week. The chorus will be performing on May 7th. The senior and junior proms will be held on May 24th and 17th, respectively, and the Creative Arts Expo will take place on May 23rd.

7. Administrative Reports

Discussion:

No reports.

General Update

Discussion:

No reports.

7.B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

7.B.1. General Update

Discussion:

Mr. Famiglietti reported on Morgan's hosting of a four-member New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) team at the end of April. The NEASC team's visit was in preparation for the next NEASC visit that will take place in two years to determine accreditation.

The NEASC committee had positive comments in several areas including school climate, the Junior Portfolio, the level of social-emotional health, and the integration of technology. A suggested area of improvement was in curriculum development. A week-long curriculum academy with department chairs led by Mr. Famiglietti will start on June 17th.

Mr. Famiglietti expressed his appreciation of the coordinating committee's work on the planning and execution of the NEASC visit.

The state summative assessments, (Smarter Balanced) in grades 3 through 8 and NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) in grades 5 and 8, are taking place this month. Results from the School Day SATs will be provided once make-up testing is completed.

The MAP Growth testing for grades 3 through 8 is complete. This is the first year MAP results have informed instruction. Results are better than expected in math and reading in most grade levels. The results of MAP testing should be a good indicator of Smarter Balanced state testing results. As mentioned earlier, the Morgan department chairs will be working on curriculum in June with assistance from an ACES' (Area Cooperative Educational Services) representative.

As part of the district reorganization and subsequent increased instructional time, the technology education, music, art, world language, library/media, and physical education/health teachers will meet at the end of the school year to revise their curriculum.

The physical education/health teachers met with High 5 Learning Adventure Center representatives to review Project Adventure safety and to discuss K-8 programming.

7.C. Business Manager's Report

7.C.1. Bills Payable

Discussion:

There were no questions regarding bills payable.

7.C.2. Capital Request for Extension

Discussion:

The district will request that the Board of Finance carry forward three capital project accounts (which are due to expire on June 30th) into the 2019-20 fiscal year. Administration believes the money in these accounts will be expended by the end of the summer.

Funds allocated for a slate roof at Pierson will be returned to the town since the building is being closed.

7.C.3. Current Year Budget Update

Discussion:

The Business Office is reviewing encumbrances and working to ensure that transition projects are finished by June 30th.

End-of-year health insurance numbers won't be finalized until all June payouts are made. Any shortfalls will need to be made up at that time.

7.C.4. General Update

Discussion:

The transition to the new state health insurance plan is in the works. Representatives from the state presented to and answered questions from about 60 employees on May 3rd. All relevant links are posted on the district website.

Blended rates for active and retired employees should be available by May 8th and sign-up by employees needs to take place by May 15th in order to process accounts and make sure insurance cards are available to employees by July 1st.

Despite the increase in rates to the new health insurance plan, flat rates or savings to the district and employees will still be realized since the base cost of old plan was greater and the percentage increase was projected to be higher.

Ms. Dickey noted that the state health care plan representatives have been supportive and responsive to administration and expects that level of service to extend to employees once the plan is in place.

People's Bank will present the investment policy draft on May 13th. Board approval will be requested on May 20th.

8. Superintendent's Report

8.A. Legislative Update

Discussion:

The Superintendent discussed the changes made by the appropriations committee to the governor's budget. Although the district would not lose as much ECS (Educational Cost Sharing) money as originally proposed by the governor, Clinton will still lose about \$500K over the next 2 years. In addition, the state is suggesting towns share in funding the Teachers' Retirement Board. For Clinton, that would mean a possible contribution of \$106,099.

A discussion followed regarding the Democratic state budget and proposed taxes.

8.B. District Reorganization

Discussion:

The Pierson Community Celebration Day on Saturday, May 4th was a big success. About 600 people attended and took tours of the building while also enjoying food trucks, games, and raffles.

Links to photographs of the day as well as Pierson's "Blast from the Past" celebration are on the district website.

M. Hornyak noted that he will be serving on the Future Use Committee for the Pierson building.

8.C. General Update

Discussion:

The bridge behind Morgan is open again. An easement for Connecticut Water to rebuild the berm has been granted.

Immunization rates for Clinton that were printed in the Hartford Courant were not accurate. They did not account for religious exemptions. The correct MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) vaccination rate for the district is 99.5%. The state has allowed broad ability in authorizing parents to claim religious exemption from vaccinations.

Board members were invited to attend the annual staff celebration on May 23rd from 3-5 p.m. at Morgan. Wednesday, May 8th, is the budget referendum.

9. Review and Acceptance of IDEA Grant

Motion Passed: To accept the IDEA Grant as presented passed with a motion by Lois Ruggiero and a second by Sandra Luke.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

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

10. Acceptance of Roofing Projects as Complete

Motion Passed: To accept the roof replacement project #027-0063 at Lewin G. Joel, Jr. School and the roof replacement project #027-0064 at Jared Eliot Middle School as complete, and direct the Superintendent to take appropriate action to close out the project and request state reimbursement for the town passed with a motion by Lois Ruggiero and a second by Sandra Luke.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

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

11. Reports of Board of Education Subcommittees and Special Committees

Discussion:

11.A. General Updates

Discussion:

The next Budget & Finance meeting will take place on May 13th.

Mr. Famiglietti will poll Board members about a good date for the next Instruction subcommittee meeting. The next Policy meetings will be held on May 20th, June 3rd, and June 17th.

Mr. Famiglietti reviewed the minutes from the last Instruction subcommittee meeting including the Joel schedule and potential changes to the looping structure at Joel. Reasons for not continuing the looping structure included considerable math and science professional development by the teachers, fewer parents requesting the program, and the model being diluted with non-looping students.

The issue can be revisited in the future if demand for the program returns. Seventy percent of the current looping class want to continue, so they will remain together for the 2019-20 school year.

12. Field Trip Update

Discussion:

The Board was made aware of the following field trips:

Culinary Institute of America, New York: May 8, 2019
Freedom Trail, Boston: May 23, 2019

13. Personnel Items

13.A. Staff Appointments

13.A.1. Appointment of Certified Staff - Mathematics at Morgan

Motion Passed: To appoint Julien Milcent as a Mathematics Teacher at The Morgan School beginning with the 2019-2020 school year passed with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Lois Ruggiero.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

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

13.B. Information

Discussion:

Discussion about the position of athletic advisor took place. The Superintendent noted that a slightly different model may be proposed, and she is currently evaluating district athletic needs and a potential timeline and process for filling the position.

14. Adjournment

Motion Passed: To adjourn at 8:52 p.m. passed with a motion by Lois Ruggiero and a second by Sandra Luke.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

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

Sandy Luke, Board Secretary

Allison Friday, Board Recorder