

Board of Education Regular Meeting

October 15, 2018 7:30 PM Board Meeting Room Administrative Offices 137-B Glenwood Road Clinton, CT 06413

Attendance Taken at 7:30 PM:

Present Board Members:
Lois Ruggiero
Erica Gelven
Michael Hornyak
Sandra Luke
Kimberly Russo

Absent Board Members:

Doug Traynor

1. Opening Exercises

1.A. Roll call

Discussion:

Administrators in attendance were Superintendent Maryann O'Donnell, Assistant Superintendent Marco Famiglietti, and Business Manager Carolyn Dickey.

Student representative Kayla Pellegrini attended as well.

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion:

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public participation/recognition

Discussion:

There was no public participation.

3. Minutes - Approval - Meeting of October 1, 2018

Motion Passed: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 1, 2018, passed with a motion by Lois Ruggiero and a second by Sandra Luke.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Lois Ruggiero Yes
Doug Traynor Absent
Erica Gelven Yes
Michael Hornyak Yes
Sandra Luke Yes

Kimberly Russo Yes

4. Communications

Discussion:

No communications.

5. Report of Student Representatives

Discussion:

K. Pellegrini reported on current and upcoming events at Morgan. Submissions for the Scholastic photo competition are being accepted until January 1st. Project Graduation is hosting the Harlem Wizards on November 20th, and Homecoming is scheduled for November 10th.

The Board looks forward to having the new student representatives join the Board. They are anticipated to start serving in November.

6. Administrative Reports

Discussion:

6.A. Administrators, Program Directors and Teachers

6.A.1. General Update

6.B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

6.B.1. Presentation on Number Corner and Bridges

Discussion:

Elementary math interventionists Heidi Hayes and Kate Madura provided the Board with an overview and success stories regarding Number Corner, a supplemental math program being implemented this year. The program provides "daily practice as well as continual encounters" with math concepts. Bridges, another math program being piloted this year, will take the place of Envisions math in 2019-20.

6.B.2. October Professional Development Plans

Discussion:

M. Famiglietti reviewed plans for upcoming professional development for teachers. On October 18th, half of the time for elementary teachers will be spent on Number Corner, and the other half will be spent on literacy instruction.

At Eliot, teachers will learn about behavioral supports and SRBI, strategies to ensure students are fully engaged in the learning process, and literacy strategies in content areas.

At the high school, Foundation Skills and Competencies will be the focus of professional development as they are the centerpiece of the Junior Portfolio.

The Assistant Superintendent expressed his appreciation for the continuous professional development opportunities spaced throughout the year.

6.B.3. Web and Social Media Presence Update

Discussion:

As of today, a new mobile app for the new school website(s) is available online. Also, the district's Facebook presence has steadily gained in popularity. Mr. Famiglietti thanked Allison Friday and Frank Rossi for their assistance in implementing the new site(s).

6.B.4. NEASC Visit Overview

Discussion:

The Assistant Superintendent gave a presentation of the purpose and process of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation visit coming in the spring of 2019 and in 2021. Morgan representatives will provide more information at a future Board meeting.

6.B.5. General Update

6.C. Business Manager's Report

6.C.1. General Update

Discussion:

Mrs. Dickey reported on the auditors' last week completing work in-district. Business Office focus will now shift to work on the 2019-20 budget.

Funds for the non-certified pension were transferred earlier in the day to People's Bank and retirees should start receiving their checks from People's on November 1st.

7. Superintendent's Report

7.A. Second Reading and Adoption of 2019 Regular Meeting Schedule

Motion Passed: To table a motion on the second reading and adoption of the 2019 regular Board meeting schedule passed with a motion by Lois Ruggiero and a second by Sandra Luke.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Lois Ruggiero Yes
Doug Traynor Absent
Erica Gelven Yes
Michael Hornyak Yes
Sandra Luke Yes
Kimberly Russo Yes

7.B. Host Site for November District Management Group Connecticut Meeting

Discussion

Superintendent O'Donnell will be the host for the District Management Group's meeting on November 1st. Approximately ten Connecticut superintendents are members of this professional network and they meet quarterly to discuss and share strategy related to district concerns and issues.

7.C. Sandy Hook Promise "Know the Signs" Violence Prevention Program

Discussion:

The Superintendent reviewed upcoming events regarding a violence prevention program with members of Sandy Hook Promise, the PTA, and Clinton Youth & Family Services. Two daytime assemblies will take place on November 1st, as well as a panel discussion to help parents understand what security measures and programs are in place to keep students safe in our schools and community.

M. Hornyak informed the Board about a free app, ReThink, which combats cyberbullying by allowing children to pause and review messages in every app they use.

7.D. Security Grant Application

Discussion:

Security grant applications are due to the State on November 4th and would provide reimbursement funds for installing and implementing security measures in our schools.

The Superintendent will be meeting with the School Crisis Advisory Board to identify potential security improvements. She will also be discussing the grant with town leaders as it will require town funding if awarded.

7.E. General Update

Discussion:

On October 23rd, the Clinton Community Committee on Facility Needs will give a full presentation on its findings at a special meeting of the Board. Board members were strongly urged to attend.

8. Reports of Board of Education Subcommittees and Special Committees 8.A. General Updates

Discussion:

E. Gelven asked Board members to contact her regarding committees on which they would like to serve.

9. First Reading of 2019-2020 School Year Calendar

Discussion:

The initial draft calendar was presented for Board review. The Superintendent would like to have the calendar approved by December.

10. Field Trip Update

Discussion:

No updates.

11. Personnel Items

11.A. Staff Appointments

11.A.1. Appointment of Varsity Wrestling Coach at Morgan

Motion Passed: To approve the appointment of Darren Hicks as Varsity Wrestling Coach at Morgan passed with a motion by Sandra Luke and a second by Kimberly Russo.

4 Yeas - 0 Nays - 1 Abstained.

Lois Ruggiero Abstain
Doug Traynor Absent
Erica Gelven Yes
Michael Hornyak Yes
Sandra Luke Yes
Kimberly Russo Yes

11.B. Information

12. Financial Items 12.A. Bills Payable

13. Adjournment

Motion Passed: To adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. passed with a motion by Lois Ruggiero and a second by Sandra Luke.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Lois Ruggiero Yes
Doug Traynor Absent
Erica Gelven Yes
Michael Hornyak Yes
Sandra Luke Yes
Kimberly Russo Yes

Sandy Luke, Board Secretary

Allison Friday, Board Recorder