



Board of Education Regular Meeting

January 28, 2019 7:00 PM

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

Attendance Taken at 7:00 PM:

Present Board Members:

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

Absent Board Members:

Omar Francis

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 Sarah Auletta and Daniel Radka.

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion:

All stood for the pledge.

2. Public participation/recognition

Discussion:

Dawn Paradis, a Family and Consumer Science (FCS) teacher at Eliot, spoke about understanding the economics of ending the FCS program at Eliot but lamented the loss of the program and the impact to the students.

The Board thanked Ms. Paradis for her heartfelt plea and expressed its appreciation for all that she has contributed to the district's culture and climate, and the incredible impact she has made during her tenure.

Heather Moore, a parent, thanked the Board for proposing a variety of changes to the Talented and Gifted (TAG) program and emphasized the need to ensure training for staff related to TAG.

Laura Colebank, Vice President of the PTA, expressed her appreciation for the hard work that has been done regarding the scheduling revision at Eliot and asked when more information regarding changes at Joel would be announced. The Board responded that the information should be presented mid-February and every effort will be made to keep the public abreast of any changes.

3. Minutes - Approval - Special Meeting of January 7, 2019

Motion Passed: To approve the minutes of the special meeting of January 7, 2019, passed with a motion by Sandra Luke and a second by Kimberly Russo.

4 Yeas - 0 Nays - 2 Abstained.

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

4. Superintendent's Proposed 2019-2020 Budget

Discussion:

The Board received copies of the Strategic Plan, Projected Tuition for 2019-20, the 2019-20 Proposed Budget by Object report, the 2019-20 Proposed Budget, and a hard copy of the Superintendent's presentation.

M. O'Donnell noted that the Mission Statement, Strategic Priorities, and Budget Principles guide, anchor, and prioritize the work on the budget. She described how the budget was constructed and how it differs from past years due to the adoption of the Strategic Plan and the Facilities Committee's decision to close Pierson School.

The Superintendent detailed the four big budget drivers of the operating budget, including the Strategic Plan, the district reorganization, the closing of Pierson, and the cost of health insurance.

She provided a cost analysis on the closing of Pierson with a projected cost savings of \$834,841. She stated that health insurance costs remain a moving target. While currently budgeted for a 14% increase, the administration is hopeful for a significant reduction instead. More solid numbers should be available in April.

At present, the Proposed Operating Budget stands at \$33,262,126, an increase of \$605,452, or 1.85%. Mrs. O'Donnell provided more detail on the increasing costs as well as cost savings and containment. Mrs. O'Donnell acknowledged the work her administrative team, and business/central office staff have provided. She thanked the Board for all of its support.

Questions followed regarding medical insurance, transportation, and tuition. The Board emphasized the process it used of looking at the Strategic Plan and listening to what the community has said it wants and needs to develop the 2019-20 budget.

On February 4th, the Board will meet again to vote on the budget. Any questions from the Board should be directed to E. Gelven or M. O'Donnell.

5. Adjournment

Motion Passed: To adjourn at 8:15 p.m. 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

Sandy Luke, Board Secretary

Allison Friday, Board Recorder