



Board of Education Regular Meeting

Monday, January 3, 2022 7:00 PM

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

Attendance Taken at 7:00 PM.

Jason Adler: Present
Erica Gelven: Present
Michael Hornyak: Absent
Peter Nye: Absent
Alan Samet: Present
Jack Scherban: Present
Catherine Staunton: Absent

1. Opening Exercises

A. Roll call

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

B. Pledge of Allegiance

All participants stood and recited the Pledge.

2. Public participation/recognition

Mrs. Heather Moore spoke from a parent perspective regarding recent changes at the state level regarding contact tracing and isolation guidelines and expressed concern about the high number of positive cases in the Clinton community. She also noted that midterms were coming up and that freshmen and sophomores will be taking them for the first time. As such, they may be experiencing additional stress and anxiety and she is hoping that there will be a plan in place to guide students and lessen the pressure.

3. Minutes - Approval - Regular Meeting of December 6, 2021

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 6, 2021. Carried with a motion by Alan Samet and a second by Jack Scherban.

Jason Adler: Yea
Erica Gelven: Yea
Michael Hornyak: Absent
Peter Nye: Absent
Alan Samet: Yea
Jack Scherban: Yea
Catherine Staunton: Absent
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

4. Communications

There were no communications.

5. Report of Student Representatives

Abel Rodriguez and Jessica Flanagan emailed information to E. Gelven and she reported to the Board on their behalf. Eliot students were pleased to hold their winter concerts before the break and the food drive that began in December is being continued into this week. After hours clubs and activities will begin on January 11 and the boys and girls basketball teams play Westbrook this week and will face Hale Ray and John Winthrop next week. At Morgan, Spirit Week was held the week before the holiday break and students returned this week refreshed and ready for the new year. The Student Council is considering various options for fundraising and have also begun the Random Acts of Kindness campaign. Juniors have started college planning while seniors are finalizing their post-graduation plans. While students are grateful for in-person learning and the current mitigation strategies, there are some that have concerns regarding the uptick in community cases.

6. Administrative Reports

A. Administrators, Program Directors and Teachers

1. General Update

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

1. General Update

M. Famiglietti reported that the second round of MAP Growth assessments were conducted before the break. The Board will be given an overview of recent assessments at a future meeting.

District Talented & Gifted Coordinator Emily Kelsey is currently working on identifying students in grades 3-5. In addition to the administration of the OLSAT assessment, parents and teachers may complete a nomination form.

Next Friday during PD, the school counseling department will meet to look at the state's framework to review the implementation of what is measured in the framework. With the addition of a K-5 counselor this year, this is the first opportunity the department has had to conduct a comprehensive K-12 review.

Before the December break, M. Famiglietti attended a virtual meeting of the Economic Development Commission where he, along with members of the Clinton Manufacturing Coalition, discussed the recent and current efforts to support and encourage students to take advantage of the technology education and engineering department offerings. He also noted that the Haas milling machine for Morgan is being built and is expected to be delivered in February. Once the machine is received and set up, there are plans to conduct an open house specifically for the department to showcase their course offerings, equipment, and vision.

C. Business Manager's Report

1. Bills Payable

There were no questions regarding bills payable.

2. General Update

C. Dickey reported that the audit was complete and there were no findings and no new recommendations for either the Board or Town. The firm who conducted the audit will be presenting the formal report to the Town Council this Wednesday at 8AM. C. Dickey also noted that the SunGard software update would be happening on Tuesday and she is expecting a seamless transition of information and processes. Work on the 2022-23 budget development continues and specifics will start being shared at the upcoming Budget & Finance subcommittee meetings.

7. Superintendent's Report

A. Use of Grant Funding to Address HVAC Needs

M. O'Donnell reported that the Buildings & Grounds subcommittee has met twice to review the recent HVAC study reports of Joel and Eliot. The first meeting included a representative from Colliers who explained the findings and the second meeting was to determine the next steps. At Joel, the highest priority areas are the cafeteria and music rooms. Bids will be sought for professional design services so that a concept can be developed and costs can be determined. At Eliot, further study is needed as the heating and cooling functions in that school are more complex. In addition to grant funding set aside for the HVAC study itself, there is approximately \$926,000 for the design and work for HVAC improvements. It is the subcommittee's intent to fold the additional study recommendations for improvement into future capital planning once grant funding is exhausted.

B. Initial Budget Overview

M. O'Donnell provided an overview of the 2022-23 budget development. She has met with administrators and conducted a line by line review of their requests. At this time, the increase is in the mid 2% range and she expects that to lower as requests are continually refined. Cost center presentations that provide connections to strategic priorities and goals, as well as an overall idea of increases and decreases, will be given at the Budget & Finance subcommittee meetings on January 6 and 11. On January 18, the subcommittee will meet again for a holistic budget discussion. M. O'Donnell encouraged Board members to send questions or areas for more details to her, E. Gelven, and J. Scherban.

C. Mid-Year Goals Update

M. O'Donnell provided an overview of the goals set by the Board for this school year and the steps taken to date in relation to each of those goals. She noted that the Board will hear administrators reference these goals in their budget presentations.

D. General Update

M. O'Donnell updated the Board on the recent guidance issued by CSDE on New Year's Eve in relation to mitigation strategies, contact tracing, and quarantine protocols. There is an increased emphasis on mitigation strategies and that students and staff exhibiting symptoms should stay home. The district will receive a limited number of home testing kits to be distributed to students and staff who are symptomatic as determined by the health offices. The administrative team met this weekend to review the updated guidance. As mentioned earlier, mid-terms are coming up, and the high school administration will be encouraging teachers to reengage/reinforce lessons to try and

alleviate anxiety some students may be feeling. Department chairs are meeting on Tuesday and faculty meetings are being held at all schools on Thursday where the new guidance and any necessary adjustments will be discussed. Discussion ensued on mid-term percentages towards final grades and the use of paid leave for staff members that are out of work.

8. Reports of Board of Education Subcommittees and Special Committees

A. General Updates

E. Gelven noted that minutes were included from recent meetings of the Instruction, Personnel and Buildings & Grounds subcommittee meetings and specifically noted the upcoming Budget & Finance subcommittee meetings on January 6, 11 & 18.

9. Second Reading and Possible Approval of Policies

J. Adler noted that the substantial revisions in these policies were related to legislative changes and are necessary for the district to be in compliance with current requirements.

MOTION: That the Board adopt revised policies #1400, #4302, #4303, #4316, #4319, #5130, #5146, #5147, #5151, #5152, #5156 and #5160 as presented. Carried with a motion by Jack Scherban.

Jason Adler:	Yea
Erica Gelven:	Yea
Michael Hornyak:	Absent
Peter Nye:	Absent
Alan Samet:	Yea
Jack Scherban:	Yea
Catherine Staunton:	Absent
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 3	

A.#1400 Nondiscrimination

B.#4302 Sex Discrimination/Sexual Harassment

C.#4303 Nondiscrimination

D.#4316 Employment and Student Teacher Checks

E.#4319 Evaluation, Termination and Non-Renewal of Athletic Coaches

F.#5130 Bullying Prevention and Intervention

G.#5146 Health Assessments/Screenings and Oral Health Assessments

H.#5147 Immunizations

I.#5151 Title IX/Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment

J.#5152 Nondiscrimination

K.#5156 Student Privacy

L.#5160 Transportation

10. Review and Possible Action re: Sabbatical Request

The Board tabled this item at a previous meeting for further review by the Personnel subcommittee. It was noted that the objection to the sabbatical leave was the associated financial impacts to the district.

MOTION: To approve a sabbatical leave for Lauren Devin in the 2022-23 school year. Failed with a motion by Jason Adler and a second by Alan Samet.

Jason Adler: Nay
Erica Gelven: Nay
Michael Hornyak: Absent
Peter Nye: Absent
Alan Samet: Nay
Jack Scherban: Nay
Catherine Staunton: Absent
Yea: 0, Nay: 4, Absent: 3

11. Personnel Information

E. Gelven noted new hires to the district and thanked those who exited for their service, specifically Christine Comiskey who will be retiring at the end of this school year.

12. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:12 PM. Carried with a motion by Alan Samet.

Jason Adler: Yea
Erica Gelven: Yea
Michael Hornyak: Absent
Peter Nye: Absent
Alan Samet: Yea
Jack Scherban: Yea
Catherine Staunton: Absent
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

Michael Hornyak, Board Secretary

Cassie Cannamela, Board Recorder