



Board of Education Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 3, 2023 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: Present (arrived at 7:01 PM)

1. Opening Exercises

A. Roll call

Also in attendance were Superintendent Maryann O'Donnell, Assistant Superintendent Marco Famiglietti, Business Manager Carolyn Dickey, and Student Representative to the Board Caroline King. Participants were reminded that the meeting was being recorded.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood for the pledge.

2. Public participation/recognition

There was no public participation.

3. Minutes - Approval - Regular Meeting of December 5, 2022

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 5, 2022. Carried with a motion by Jack Scherban and a second 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

4.Communications

There were no communications.

5.Report of Student Representatives

C. King provided a report on the happenings at all three schools. At Morgan, Human Rights Day was a success. The Spanish and French Honor Societies recently inducted new members. On December 8 and 14, the Morgan choir and band held their respective winter concerts. The Interact club raised \$700 at their winter benefit. Spirit week was held December 19 through 22 and was very successful.

At Eliot, activities before winter break included "Guess the Mascot" and "Decorate the Door". On January 18, Eliot's Winter band concert will be held. C. King continued by reading S. Davis' report regarding his two visits to the Joel school in December, including what each grade is working on academically. PreK information night is scheduled for January 11, and early dismissal will take place on January 15.

M. O'Donnell commented that the Human Rights Day projects she viewed were powerful, reflective, and well-received.

6.Administrative Reports

A.Administrators, Program Directors and Teachers

1.General Update

B.Assistant Superintendent's Report

1.2022 Next Generation Accountability System Results

M. Famiglietti reviewed the district's Next Generation Accountability System report for the 2021-2022 school year. He provided some historical perspective, including the fact that, due to the pandemic, there has been no report since 2019. He talked about the purpose of the report, and discussed the twelve factors used in the report including academic achievement, chronic absenteeism, access to the arts, the percentage of high school students going to college, and academic growth. Schools are rated and can be identified as needing extra support, or commended for their growth in various areas. Clinton has made strides to improve the skills of English language learners' (ELL). M. Famiglietti also expressed pride in The Morgan School's 4- and 6-year graduation rates and other indicators.

The Board had questions regarding some of the indicators and discussed the systemic flaws of the reporting tool. M. Famiglietti agreed that the district's internal assessments are more helpful than this report but said that one benefit is the opportunity to network with and learn from other districts.

2.General Update

C.Business Manager's Report

1.Bills Payable

J. Scherban asked about payments for teacher training that is included when purchasing a new program.

2.General Update

C. Dickey reported that audit results will be presented to the Clinton Town Council on January 4 and again at the February 6 Board meeting. The presentation is comprised of three sections, the comprehensive report, a section of federal and state single audits for grants, and a recommendation letter.

Work continues on the 2023-24 budget with challenges faced regarding increases in utilities, insurances, and pension numbers.

7.Superintendent's Report

A.Safe Return to School Plan Update

M. O'Donnell presented the Safe Return to School Plan with updates as required by the ARP ESSER grants. She shared minor language revisions and updated links to state guidance with no major adjustments to current district protocols. Discussion followed regarding other districts' statistics, weekly Covid-19 updates, and optional mask-wearing.

B.NESDEC Enrollment Projection Report

M. O'Donnell reviewed the NESDEC enrollment projections including a broad overview, historical numbers, and updated projection enrollment numbers. The district will keep an eye on the increase in birth rate numbers. The district will use these updated projection numbers in the 2023-24 budgeting process.

C.Mid-Year Strategic Plan Update

M. O'Donnell presented on progress in the first year of the new strategic plan. She provided details of work being done related to each of the four strategic objectives. Another progress update is scheduled for the end of the school year. She also noted that this plan is a guide for budgeting and influences the decisions related to budget proposals.

D.Initial Budget Overview

M. O'Donnell, while striving to hold a budget increase to 2.5%, stated that initial budget needs and requests are around 5% given the increase in electricity and other utility costs, and an anticipated rise of 12% in health insurance costs. All line items are being reviewed carefully prior to presentations to the Board. Transportation costs are being negotiated and nursing programming and staffing are being discussed.

The administration will continue to work with the Town Manager to look at reducing costs. Board members provided some suggestions and thoughts related to controlling costs for the district.

The Board was reminded of Budget & Finance Subcommittee meetings scheduled for January 10, 12 and 17.

E.General Update

8.Reports of Board of Education Subcommittees and Special Committees

A.General Updates

E. Gelven noted the sets of minutes attached to the Board packet and reminded members of the multiple Budget & Finance subcommittee meetings scheduled in January. M. O'Donnell noted that a Buildings & Grounds subcommittee meeting would need to be scheduled to further discuss a lighting project.

9.Discussion and Possible Action re: 2022-23 School Year Calendar

M. O'Donnell explained that due to the timing of school closure on December 23, 2022 and with half of staff having already reported to work, it is recommended that the Board adjusts the 2022-23 school calendar so that the day is not made up for students and it will count as a contractual work day for staff.

MOTION: To adopt the revised 2022-23 school year calendar that reflects 182 student days. Carried with a motion by Jason Adler and a second by Alan Samet.

Jason Adler: Yea
Erica Gelven: Yea
Michael Hornyak: Absent
Peter Nye: Absent
Alan Samet: Yea
Jack Scherban: Yea
Catherine Staunton: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

10.First Reading of Policies

The Board was provided policies for review before possible action on them at the February 6 Board meeting. The policy changes are either mandated and/or minor.

A.#2200 Retention of Electronic Records and Information

B.#4300 Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Reports of Sexual Assault of Students by School Employees

C.#4306 Employee Use of the District's Computer System

D.#4323 Emergency Action Plan for Interscholastic and Intramural Athletic Events

E.#4324 Exertional Heat Illness Awareness for Intramural and Interscholastic Athletics

F.#5116 Physical Activity, Undirected Play and Student Discipline

G.#5157 Student Use of the District's Computer System

H.#5158 Use of Private Technological Devices by Students

I.#5166 Policy to Improve Completion Rates of the FAFSA

J.#6321 Advanced Course or Program/Challenging Curriculum

K.#6322 Equitable Identification of Gifted and Talented Students

11. Personnel Information

The Board reviewed the personnel update. The announcement of teacher Bev Bowen's retirement and service to the district was recognized.

12. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:41 PM. Carried with a motion by Jason Adler and a second by Alan Samet.

Jason Adler:	Yea
Erica Gelven:	Yea
Michael Hornyak:	Absent
Peter Nye:	Absent
Alan Samet:	Yea
Jack Scherban:	Yea
Catherine Staunton:	Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2	

Michael Hornyak, Board Secretary

Allison Friday, Board Recorder