



Board of Education Regular Meeting

Monday, January 5, 2026 7:00 PM

Board Meeting Room

Administrative Offices

137 B Glenwood Road

Clinton, CT 06413

Attendance Taken at 7:00 PM.

Thomas Danehy: Present

Jason Feeney: Present

Erica Gelven: Present

Matthew Guarnieri: Present

Lawrence Pilcher: Present

Alan Samet: Present

Catherine Staunton: Present

1. Opening Exercises

A. Roll call

Also in attendance were Superintendent Maryann O'Donnell, Assistant Superintendent Marco Famiglietti, Business Manager Charles Carey, and student representatives Sophia Serviss and Bianca Nascimento.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

All participants stood and recited the pledge.

2. Public participation/recognition

3. Minutes - Approval - Regular Meeting of December 1, 2025

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 1, 2025. Carried with a motion by Catherine Staunton and a second by Thomas Danehy.

Thomas Danehy: Yea

Jason Feeney: Yea

Erica Gelven: Yea

Matthew Guarnieri: Yea

Lawrence Pilcher: Yea

Alan Samet: Yea

Catherine Staunton: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

4. Communications

5. Report of Student Representatives

S. Serviss and B. Nascimento reported that winter athletics are in full gear and high school midterms are coming up in a few weeks. Morgan held a Winterfest prior to the holiday break with games and activities occurring during advisory and ending the day with a pep rally. Also prior to the holiday break, Eliot recognized the first quarter honor roll students, and staff and students participated in a state-wide pajama day to raise funds for CT Children's Medical Center. After-hours programs start this week and an *Eliot's Got Talent* show will be held later this month. At Joel, parent-teacher conferences were held in December and students showcased their talents with performances that included a sing-along by PK students and a kindergarten sign language show. All school chorus and band programs held concerts in December that were well-attended, and the student performances were excellent.

6. Administrative Reports

A. Administrators, Program Directors and Teachers

1. General Update

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

1. School Climate Improvement Plans

M. Famiglietti presented an overview of the school climate improvement plans for each school. He described the recent adjustment at the state level to move to a comprehensive, proactive approach to improving school climate and that existing school-based climate committees have been revamped with specific areas of focus. M. Famiglietti reviewed highlights of each school climate improvement plan and noted that all plans are posted on each school website and on the district website. He also displayed the district landing page that houses school climate information and related information for staff, students, and families. Brief discussion occurred regarding supervision during unstructured time and student use of cell phones.

2. General Update

M. Famiglietti noted that the number of students participating in band and chorus has increased significantly within the past several years and that students performed their December concerts in front of full audiences. NWEA MAP assessments and high school PSATs were recently conducted and M. Famiglietti will report on the results in February. Last month, the library-media specialists worked on curriculum units of instruction related to Artificial Intelligence at all levels.

C. Business Manager's Report

1. Financial Report

C. Carey reviewed the expenditures by object and noted that he is watching utilities closely. He is currently working with a broker to examine electricity rates as the current supplier agreement expires in March. He continues to monitor special education tuition, but noted it is trending positively.

2. General Update

C. Carey reported that the audit has been complete and there should be no formal recommendations included when the auditors formally present their report to the Town Council. He expressed his appreciation to Town Finance Director Bob Tait and all the

assistance provided during the audit. The recent emergency repair at Eliot for a broken pipe and leak was efficiently managed by Director Gonzalo Carrion and the maintenance staff and the cost is being managed within the operating budget. The Town Council recently approved a resolution to form a School Building Committee for the Eliot Window/Unit Heater Project and the committee will meet in the next several weeks to review bids for architectural services.

7. Superintendent's Report

A. Initial Budget Overview

M. O'Donnell noted the major increases for the 2026-27 budget remain in salary and benefits. Cost center presentations will occur over the next two weeks and lines will be scrutinized prior to the formal presentation of the Superintendent's recommended budget on January 20.

B. Mid-Year Strategic Plan Update

M. O'Donnell provided a mid-year update regarding the focus areas, action steps, and accomplishments related to the 2025-2027 strategic plan.

C. General Update

M. O'Donnell reported that she attended reunification training, which is a current focus of the School Crisis Advisory Board. An article highlighting next generation leadership at all levels is being drafted for the next Clinton Events publication.

8. Reports of Board of Education Subcommittees and Special Committees

A. General Updates

T. Danehy is the new liaison to LEARN and will be attending Board of Directors meetings as the Clinton representative. E. Gelven encouraged all members to attend upcoming Budget & Finance subcommittee meetings that will be focused on 2026-27 budget development.

9. First Reading of Policies

E. Gelven noted policies for first reading and asked members to review prior to the second reading.

A. #3100 Board Budget and Line Item Transfers

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

C. #4309 Family and Medical Leave

D. #5114 Student Discipline

E. #5125 Confidentiality and Access to Education Records

F. #6301 Curricular Exemptions

G. #6305 Parental Access to Instructional Materials

10. Executive Session Anticipated for Purpose of Discussion re: Pending Litigation

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session at 8:08 PM and invite M. O'Donnell for the purpose of discussion re: pending litigation.

AMENDED MOTION: To enter into Executive Session at 8:08 PM and invite M. O'Donnell and C. Carey for the purpose of discussion re: pending litigation. Carried with a motion by Thomas Danehy and a second by Alan Samet.

Thomas Danehy: Yea

Jason Feeney: Yea

Erica Gelven: Yea

Matthew Guarnieri: Yea

Lawrence Pilcher: Yea

Alan Samet: Yea

Catherine Staunton: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:19 PM.

11. Personnel/Staffing

A. Review and Possible Action re: Leave of Absence Request

M. O'Donnell reviewed the leave of absence request and recommended Board approval.

MOTION: To grant a leave of absence as presented. Carried with a motion by Lawrence Pilcher and a second by Thomas Danehy.

Thomas Danehy: Yea

Jason Feeney: Yea

Erica Gelven: Yea

Matthew Guarnieri: Yea

Lawrence Pilcher: Yea

Alan Samet: Yea

Catherine Staunton: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

12. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:22 PM. Carried with a motion by Catherine Staunton and a second by Thomas Danehy.

Thomas Danehy: Yea

Jason Feeney: Yea

Erica Gelven: Yea

Matthew Guarnieri: Yea

Lawrence Pilcher: Yea

Alan Samet: Yea

Catherine Staunton: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Respectfully submitted by Cassie Gambrell