



## Board of Education Regular Meeting

Monday, February 6, 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:	Present
Peter Nye:	Absent
Alan Samet:	Present
Jack Scherban:	Present
Catherine Staunton:	Present

### 1. Opening Exercises

#### A. Roll call

Also in attendance were Superintendent Maryann O'Donnell, Assistant Superintendent Marco Famiglietti, and Business Manager Carolyn Dickey. They were joined by student representatives Abel Rodriguez, Caroline King, and Sean Davis. Attendees 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 January 23, 2023

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 23, 2023. Carried with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Alan Samet.

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

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

#### 4. Communications

There were no communications.

#### 5. Report of Student Representatives

A. Rodriguez reported on happenings at The Morgan School including Into the Future, Morgan Family Feud, cap and gown week, and Random Acts of Kindness. The Morgan musical production, *Damn Yankees*, will open on March 24, Junior Portfolios will be presented on April 6, and everyone was encouraged to purchase 'pura vida' bracelets to raise funds for student government.

C. King provided details regarding Eliot's activities. A teachers-versus-eighth-graders dodge ball tournament took place on January 13. The Eliot musical, *Willy Wonka*, is in rehearsal. The 100th Day Celebration took place on February 2, and Pasta Night is scheduled for March 9. Students are enjoying the diversity of the After Hours program. The Eliot Student Council had suggestions for lunch offerings and M. O'Donnell suggested they communicate with Food Services Director Jon Siciliano to discuss their options. In sports, girls and boys basketball have great seasons going; the girls are 8-1, and the boys are 7-4.

S. Davis gave a brief rundown of events and studies at Joel. Kindergarten report cards went out on January 27, and report cards for grades 1 through 4 will go out on March 1. Family Math Night was successful as always. A WTNH meteorologist will be on hand on February 8 to discuss weather-related topics with students. Upcoming spirit days are Super Bowl Friday on February 10, and Wear Red Day on February 14. Students are focused on writing projects, specifically opinion writing in grades 3 and 4.

#### 6. Review and Possible Action re: 2023-2024 Budget

The Superintendent's proposed budget represented an increase of 2.93%. Since that presentation, an \$11,500 reduction to Snow Removal/Sanding was made. The Superintendent is proposing a second adjustment to remove the funding for the reading program materials at Joel and Eliot with the intent of purchasing these materials from the current 2022-23 operating budget. These adjustments bring the total 2023-24 proposed budget to \$35,446,476, which is an increase of 2.59%.

The Board thanked M. O'Donnell, M. Famiglietti, and C. Dickey for their work. The budget books will be posted online and presented to the Town Council on February 16. The Town Council will hold a budget workshop on March 2 at 6 PM to discuss the BOE budget.

MOTION: To approve the 2023-24 operating budget in the amount of \$35,446,476, which represents an increase of 2.59%. Carried with a motion by Jack Scherban and a second by Catherine Staunton.

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

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

#### 7. Administrative Reports

##### A. Administrators, Program Directors and Teachers

##### 1. General Update

None

## **B. Assistant Superintendent's Report**

### **1. Review of 2022 PSAT/NMSQT Assessment Results and Winter NWEA MAP Universal Screening Results**

M. Famiglietti presented data regarding the NWEA assessments (grades 3-8) and the fall PSAT (grades 9-11). He explained the benefits of NWEA testing and how the results are used to inform classroom instruction. All grade levels exceeded projected achievement levels. For the large majority of grade levels, this year's numbers indicate that Clinton is meeting or exceeding higher than average growth and achievement in both math and language arts. Administration will work on making the transition smoother for grade 6 students. High-needs students continue to lag behind in some areas, while in certain cases some showed more growth than their non-high-needs peers.

Regarding the PSATs, results indicate reading scores were better and surpassed the state average in grades 9, 10, and 11. While the College Board does not send PSAT scores to colleges and universities, the 11th grade scores are used to identify National Merit Scholars and award merit scholarships. The results will be used to flag students for academic interventions, make curriculum decisions, and to help teachers embed SAT-style questions into their instruction.

Discussion followed regarding paying for SATs, the ASVAB, and how Clinton compared to similar districts in the state.

### **2. General Update**

M. Famiglietti detailed his participation in a state literacy group, traveling with Joel teachers to Hartford to work with other small school districts to observe and discuss the science of reading. WTNH meteorologists will be visiting Morgan for the filming of a "What's Right with Schools" segment. On February 1, State Representative Chris Aniskovich visited Morgan's Advanced Manufacturing department. Aniskovich will be looking for state-level grants in the area of advanced manufacturing that could benefit Morgan.

## **C. Business Manager's Report**

### **1. Bills Payable**

There was a question regarding accounts payable from J. Scherban and C. Dickey clarified the item and its payment.

### **2. Emergency Repairs Update**

C. Dickey detailed recent HVAC emergency repairs at Joel and Morgan and an emergency septic repair at Eliot. Since the repairs were of an urgent nature, applicable competitive bidding/quote processes were waived per policy #3200. The cost of the repairs will be absorbed into the current budget. Discussion followed regarding the Eliot emergency repair and it was noted that it was only one early dismissal on one day. The repairs occurred primarily over the weekend and there was no damage to the sidewalk during the repair due to the careful work of the contractor.

### **3. Audit Report**

C. Dickey reviewed the audit report with the Board. There are three parts to the report; the Annual Financial Report, the Federal and State audits, and a letter of recommendations that identifies "opportunities to strengthen internal control, improve operating efficiency or upgrade policies and procedures to best practices." The Board was pleased with the results. C. Dickey commented on the good working relationship with the new auditors and with the Town.

**4. Quarterly Expenditure & Revenue Reports**

C. Dickey reviewed the revenue and expenditure reports for the second quarter of the fiscal year.

**5. General Update**

**8. Superintendent's Report**

**A. General Update**

M. O'Donnell noted that districts are waiting for the governor to put his budget out. House Bill 5003, which has some momentum in the state legislature, would accelerate Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funding for districts while reducing ECS funding for a number of towns, including Clinton.

**9. Reports of Board of Education Subcommittees and Special Committees**

**A. General Updates**

Budget and Finance Subcommittee minutes were included in the Board packet.

**10. Discussion and Possible Action re: Football Cooperative**

Athletic Director Meagan Sears discussed the proposed Old Saybrook/Westbrook/Clinton football cooperative. She presented the current realities of the program, data on existing co-op programs in the Shoreline conference, the benefits of a co-op (including sustainability/stability, more opportunities for success, increased pride in community), and discussed some of the considerations that would have to be made (logistics, transportation, uniforms). Discussion followed regarding mascots, uniforms, timing, and cost savings.

MOTION: To approve the Clinton, Old Saybrook, and Westbrook football cooperative as proposed. Carried with a motion by Jack Scherban and a second by Jason Adler.

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

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1, Abstain: 1

## 11. Review and Possible Approval of Electricity Rate Agreement

C. Dickey reviewed the steps taken by the district to examine electricity charges and identify a supplier to lock rates at a lower cost.

MOTION: To allow the Superintendent to enter into a contract for electricity at the best available rate while meeting the following requirements: no fees, no penalty for early termination, a multi-year contract, and a fixed rate. Carried with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Jason Adler.

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

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

## 12. Executive Session Anticipated for Discussion re: Transportation Contract

MOTION: To enter into executive session at 8:54 PM and invite M. O'Donnell and C. Dickey for purposes of discussion of the transportation contract. Carried with a motion by Catherine Staunton and a second by Alan Samet.

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

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:11 PM.

## 13. Second Reading and Possible Approval of Policies

MOTION: To adopt revised policies 2200, 4300, 4306, 5116, 5157, 5158 and 6321 and new policies 4323, 4324, 5166 and 6322 as presented. Carried with a motion by Jason Adler and a second by Alan Samet.

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

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

### 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

Board Chair E. Gelven thanked J. Adler for his leadership in revising the policies.

14. **Personnel Information**

15. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:12 PM. Carried with a motion by Catherine Staunton and a second by Jason Adler.

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

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

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Michael Hornyak, Board Secretary

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Allison Friday, Board Recorder