



Board of Education Regular Meeting

Monday, February 7, 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:	Present
Peter Nye:	Present
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, Business Manager Carolyn Dickey, and student representatives Jessica Flanagan, Katherine Robinson, and Abel Rodriguez.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood for the pledge.

2. Public participation/recognition

Eighth grader Rayna Vanderwood spoke on behalf of the 8th grade class regarding field trip opportunities in place of Nature's Classroom which they missed out on due to Covid-19 restrictions in 6th grade. With about \$2,000 in their student activity fund, she suggested a field trip to Washington, D.C. or Cape Cod. Whatever the outcome, she requested involvement in the planning.

3.Minutes - Approval - Regular Meeting of January 24, 2022

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 24, 2022. Carried with a motion by Peter Nye and a second by Michael Hornyak.

Jason Adler: Yea
Erica Gelven: Yea
Michael Hornyak: Yea
Peter Nye: Yea
Alan Samet: Yea
Jack Scherban: Yea
Catherine Staunton: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

4.Communications

No report.

5.Report of Student Representatives

J. Flanagan, K. Robinson, and A. Rodriguez provided reports on activities at each of the schools. At Morgan, students participated in community outreach through Random Acts of Kindness, the Soup Kitchen, and the Food Pantry. The senior class at Morgan is gathering opinions and discussing whether or not to make graduation gowns all the same color. Track and Field had success in the Shorelines and the musical this year is *Little Shop of Horrors*.

At Eliot, students were able to explore Goodwin University's advanced manufacturing bus when it arrived on campus. The Ski Club is excited about starting up again. There is a band concert on February 16th and *Annie Jr.* has been selected as this year's musical. Students are longing for social interaction and events under consideration are a dance, Fun Fridays, and a beach party for graduation. In the ASPIRE class, one student is working on reducing Eliot's carbon footprint.

At Joel, school-wide sing-a-longs were held during the holiday season. About \$1,400 was raised for the CT Children's Hospital during a state-wide pajama day. Joel's 100 Day Celebration will take place on February 11th and, on January 10th, the 4th graders celebrated National Fourth Graders Day.

6.Presentation re: Partners in Community Survey Data

Kelley Edwards, Prevention Coordinator at Partners in Community (PiC) thanked the Board for 11 years of collaboration. She will be moving on to the state's department of mental health. The Superintendent thanked her for encouraging the Clinton community to look at substance abuse and mental health issues. Ms. Edwards introduced Sara Carey, 11th grader at Morgan, and assistant prevention coordinator Shelby Mehmet, both from PiC. They provided the Board with an overview of their biennial survey results gathered in October from students in grades 7-12 regarding a wide range of topics including how they spend their time, their perceptions of school and community life, and their participation in risky behaviors such as alcohol or marijuana use. Anxiety, depression, and alcohol use climbed during the pandemic, and peer approval continues to play a driving force in student choices. PiC will continue its campaigns and its outreach to students with the goals of strategic prevention and empowering young people. The Board had questions regarding trends in Clinton and other towns, and parent/community outreach.

7.Review and Possible Action re: 2022-2023 Budget

Chairperson E. Gelven opened the floor for discussion before a motion was made. The Board asked if there had been any changes to the budget since the last Board meeting. There have been none. E. Gelven thanked the administration and Board for their diligence, hard work, and commitment to the proper funding of the district.

MOTION: To approve the 2022-23 operating budget in the amount of \$34,552,204, which represents an increase of 1.89%. Carried with a motion by Jack Scherban and a second by Jason Adler.

- Jason Adler: Yea
 - Erica Gelven: Yea
 - Michael Hornyak: Yea
 - Peter Nye: Yea
 - Alan Samet: Yea
 - Jack Scherban: Yea
 - Catherine Staunton: Yea
- Yea: 7, Nay: 0

8.Administrative Reports

A.Administrators, Program Directors and Teachers

1.General Update

B.Assistant Superintendent's Report

1.PSAT and Mid-Year MAP Assessment Update

M. Famiglietti provided an overview of the mid-year MAP assessment. He explained how the universal screen tracks achievement and growth in math and reading over time. In general, the third through eighth graders being tested have rebounded from an interrupted school year. Due to the hard work of teachers and the commitment of our students this year, the district is now in the position of meeting and exceeding growth.

M. Famiglietti also provided the background and overview of the PSAT results which were taken by 9th, 10th, and 11th graders in the fall. Although students met and/or exceeded state and national averages, math remains an area of focus. Interventionists will use the test results to provide extra help to flagged students. The Board was pleased with the MAP test results and there was a suggestion they be included in the budget presentation to the Town. There was discussion regarding the PSAT and SAT as administered by the College Board and those used in district, such as MAP, and the pros and cons of each assessment.

2.General Update

M. Famiglietti announced that on January 27, the district received a Haas milling machine at Morgan as part of the district's advanced manufacturing initiative. A couple of the local manufacturers have discussed contracting with Morgan to produce parts that could be used in their regular lines. An open house will be held to showcase the manufacturing options.

NEASC has provided a preliminary report on The Morgan School following its fall visit. A final report will be issued and presented to the Board. The Signs of Suicide (SOS) lessons are being incorporated into the curriculum.

C. Business Manager's Report

1. Bills Payable

There were no questions regarding bills payable.

2. Quarterly Report

C. Dickey presented the quarterly expenditure and revenue reports.

3. General Update

The Board and Town have received a notice of intent to sue in regard to a slip-and-fall student incident. The district's insurance carrier has been notified.

9. Superintendent's Report

A. Notification of Donation: Scholarship Funds from the Estate of Kimberly Neri Simoncini

The District is in receipt of \$30K from the estate of Kimberly Neri Simoncini. The money will be used to create an annual student scholarship of \$1,500. The Superintendent expressed her appreciation and noted that the guidance department will set up the guidelines for awarding the scholarship. Discussion followed regarding where and how the money would be invested.

B. COVID-19 Related Executive Order Update

M. O'Donnell discussed the impact of the Governor's announcement regarding his Executive Orders including the school mask mandates which were set to expire on February 15th. Two areas that critically impact the district would be the lifting of the mandatory vaccination/weekly testing and an extension to the mask mandate to February 28th. Discussion followed regarding metrics, how to proceed, whether or not the Board would impose it's own restrictions, and communications from the DPH. The Superintendent shared data from the district website regarding the decline in Covid-19 cases. The Board will wait for final guidance from the DPH the governor, and other legislation. Discussion occurred regarding the impact of masks on teaching and learning and other mitigation strategies the district could employ.

C. Discussion re: Naloxone in Health Offices

The Board discussed the potential storage of Naloxone in schools as well as the protocols for administration in emergency situations. Also discussed were best practices regarding the safety of, access to, and storage location of the drug. The Board gave consent for the administration to explore the concept and suggested an expert on the subject be brought in to answer questions before any decisions were made.

D. General Update

The Superintendent referenced upcoming school trips and planning for end-of-year events. Student Rayna Vanderwood's public comment was mentioned and she was applauded for being a strong advocate for the 8th grade class. The schools are planning their typical end-of-year activities.

Westbrook and Old Saybrook school districts have approached Clinton to discuss collaboration in several areas, most notably football. The pros and cons of such a collaboration were discussed.

10. Reports of Board of Education Subcommittees and Special Committees

There were no subcommittee reports. Buildings & Grounds, Personnel, and Policy subcommittees are meeting in the near future.

A. General Updates

On February 9, an overview of the Board's budget will be presented at a Town Council meeting. On February 24, the Board's budget will be discussed at the Town Council Budget workshop.

11. Review and Possible Approval of Purchase of Curriculum Development Materials

As previously discussed at Budget/Finance meetings, it was proposed that Grade 3 Foundations materials and Morgan Health textbooks be purchased from the current operating budget.

MOTION: To approve the expenditure of \$17,479 for Grade 3 Foundations and Morgan Health textbooks from the 2021-22 operating budget. Carried with a motion by Catherine Staunton and a second by Alan Samet.

Jason Adler: Yea
Erica Gelven: Yea
Michael Hornyak: Yea
Peter Nye: Yea
Alan Samet: Yea
Jack Scherban: Yea
Catherine Staunton: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

12. Review and Possible Approval of Memorandum of Understanding re: School Resource Officer

Legal counsel has not yet completed review of the proposed MOU.

MOTION: To table the motion regarding the Memorandum of Understanding between the Clinton Board of Education and the Clinton Police Department regarding the School Resource Officer as presented. Carried with a motion by Peter Nye and a second by Michael Hornyak.

Jason Adler: Yea
Erica Gelven: Yea
Michael Hornyak: Yea
Peter Nye: Yea
Alan Samet: Yea
Jack Scherban: Yea
Catherine Staunton: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

13. Personnel Information

The Board was provided with a personnel update.

14. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM. Carried with a motion by Peter Nye and a second by Michael Hornyak.

Jason Adler: Yea
Erica Gelven: Yea
Michael Hornyak: Yea
Peter Nye: Yea
Alan Samet: Yea
Jack Scherban: Yea
Catherine Staunton: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Michael Hornyak, Board Secretary

Allison Friday, Board Recorder