



Board of Education Regular Meeting

Monday, March 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: Absent
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, 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

There were no public comments.

3. Minutes - Approval - Regular Meeting of February 7, 2022

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 7, 2022. Carried with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Jack Scherban.

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

4.Communications

There were no communications.

5.Report of Student Representatives

J. Flanagan, K. Robinson, and A. Rodriguez provided reports on activities at each of the schools. J. Flanagan reported that she, along with Assistant Principal Chris Luther and student Caroline King, met with the Board's policy subcommittee last week to present proposed adjustments to the dress code policy. At Morgan, Dodge for a Difference and Swoosh for Change will be taking place again this year. Members of the student government have also met with Director of Food Services J. Siciliano to discuss adding more gluten-free and vegetarian options to school meal offerings. Two students, Kyra Savage and Oliver Baker, achieved All-State honors in fencing. Spring sports registration is currently open. An assembly was held recently to review class selection for grades 9-11 and the counseling department is coordinating job shadow programs for upperclassmen. College decisions are being released and the senior trip will be to Six Flags. This year's Morgan Musical, Little Shop of Horrors, is scheduled to run March 31-April 3.

At Eliot, the boys and girls basketball seasons have concluded, with the girls team being undefeated. Wellness Wednesdays have been implemented and Spanish versions of the popular game, Wordle, are being used in class to expand vocabulary. The month of March features various spirit themes to raise funds for charity. The students are pleased the Nature's Classroom trip is coming up and planning is underway for a social and class trip for 8th grade.

At Joel, students recently participated in the 100-day celebration, with many donations collected for local charities. Many classes are participating in virtual field trips, with 4th graders recently viewing a program at the Eli Whitney Museum. Read Across Joel is happening next week with guest readers from the community.

6.Administrative Reports

A.Administrators, Program Directors and Teachers

1.General Update

B.Assistant Superintendent's Report

1.General Update

M. Famiglietti reported that he and M. O'Donnell participated in a webinar hosted by the CT Department of Education that outlined the recently released remote learning guidelines, which provide that schools may offer remote learning to students in grades 9-12. At this point, the district is gathering information and exploring options.

The district is hoping to offer a Summer SAIL program and to coordinate an afternoon recreational component with the YMCA like last summer. M. Famiglietti is in the coordination and planning phase, which is depending upon grant funding and partnership with the YMCA. Students in grades 3-8 are participating in NWEA MAP testing this week.

Also this week, M. Famiglietti and student representative A. Rodriguez will be meeting to discuss how to further support and embrace EL families in our school community.

Next week, Joel School will hold parent-teacher conferences and Eliot and Morgan schools will hold professional development sessions. Those sessions will be focused on acceleration. A committee has been formed, and a consultant from Goodwin University secured, to review and ensure vertical articulation of a comprehensive K-12 computer science curriculum.

C.Business Manager's Report

1.Review and Possible Approval re: Joel HVAC Engineering & Design Proposal

C. Dickey reviewed the proposal for Joel HVAC design and engineering, which addresses the first priority area identified in the recent study of the HVAC systems. This proposal focuses on the cafeteria, freezer storage, music rooms, lighting and windows at Joel. The vendor is part of the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) and therefore has been vetted and meets criteria related to bidding requirements. C. Dickey noted that this proposal is just to develop the plans and that the district can choose to use this company to carry out the work or go out to bid, if desired.

MOTION: To approve the expenditure of \$19,560 for HVAC design and engineering at Joel School. Carried with a motion by Catherine Staunton and a second by Jack Scherban.

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

2.Bills Payable

There were no questions regarding the bills payable.

3.General Update

C. Dickey stated that her office is gearing up for end of year reporting and other reporting related to covid-relief grants. She has had discussions with the state regarding the final reimbursement related to the Joel and Eliot roof projects and provided additional information and clarification.

7.Superintendent's Report

A.2022-23 Budget Update

M. O'Donnell reported that the Town Council approved the Board's operating budget, with no adjustment, at their most recent meeting. The capital budget was adjusted to utilize current year operating funds or remainders in other capital accounts for some planned projects per recommendation of the Town Manager. At the next meeting, the Board will be asked to formally approve the expenditures recommended from this year's operating budget. The total Board of Education budget, including operating, debt, and the capital budget adjustment, is now a 1.73% increase. On April 6th, a public hearing will be held and the annual budget meeting is on May 4th.

B.COVID-19 Update

M. O'Donnell gave an update in light of the recent decision to support the wearing of masks, but not require them. The district health offices are continuing to track positive cases and report to the local health district. M. O'Donnell will be updating the current Safe Return Plan to indicate the option for mask wearing. Discussion was held regarding other mitigation strategies, such as social distancing during lunch waves, and the slow transition away from those additional measures.

C.Update on Naloxone Implementation

M. O'Donnell provided an overview of recent discussions by the School Crisis Advisory Board and the Policy Subcommittee related to the storage of naloxone in the schools. Donna Frechette, School Nurse Supervisor, discussed the physical storage location, training to be provided, and answered questions from the Board. Mike Neff, Emergency Management Director, explained that while first responders carry naloxone as well, having it available within the school buys time for first responders to arrive. D. Frechette has been in contact with a local non-profit who will be donating the kits to the district. The policy to allow for the storage of naloxone within the schools is up for first reading this evening.

D.General Update

M. O'Donnell provided an update on the district's Employee Assistance Plan (EAP). The current provider, Behavioral Health Consultants (BHC), will be merging with KGA, Inc. M. O'Donnell explained that there are some additional benefits to the plan and she will be updating staff on the transition. She suggested that a representative from KGA, Inc. could attend a future personnel subcommittee meeting to discuss the components of the EAP plan.

M. O'Donnell also noted that she is keeping an eye on the current legislative session, with particular attention to proposed ECS funding.

8.Reports of Board of Education Subcommittees and Special Committees

A.General Updates

The Instruction subcommittee scheduled for this evening was canceled and will be rescheduled within a few weeks. The Public Relations subcommittee will meet on March 14th and the Buildings & Grounds subcommittee on March 15th. The Policy and Wellness subcommittees will also be setting meeting dates for early April.

9.Review and Possible Approval of Field Trip Request: Nature's Classroom

The Board has been aware of the planning for Nature's Classroom and it is now presented for formal approval for the 6th and 7th graders to participate on March 28-April 1, 2022.

MOTION: To approve the Nature's Classroom field trip as presented. Carried with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Alan Samet.

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

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

10. First Reading of Policies

E. Gelven encouraged members to read and bring any items for discussion at the second reading.

A.#5114 Student Discipline

B.#5125 Confidentiality and Access to Student Records

C.#5141 Administration of Student Medications in the Schools

D.#5148 Child Sex Abuse and Assault Response and Reporting

E.#5157 Student Use of the District Computer Systems

F.#5158 Use of Private Technology Devices by Students

G.#6300 Credit for Online Courses

H.#6303 IDEA Alternative Assessments

I.#6310 Parent-Teacher Communication

11. Personnel Information

The Board was provided with a personnel update. M. O'Donnell noted that the district will be contracted with a Board Certified Behavior Analyst to provide services since a qualified candidate has not been found.

12. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:53 PM. Carried with a motion by Catherine Staunton and a second by Jack Scherban.

Jason Adler: Absent

Erica Gelven: Yea

Michael Hornyak: Yea

Peter Nye: Absent

Alan Samet: Yea

Jack Scherban: Yea

Catherine Staunton: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

Michael Hornyak, Board Secretary

Cassie Cannamela, Board Recorder