



Board of Education Regular Meeting

Monday, March 20, 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: Present
Alan Samet: Present
Jack Scherban: Present
Catherine Staunton: Present

Attendance Update Taken at 7:45 PM.

Jason Adler: Absent

Attendance Update Taken at 7:47 PM.

Jason Adler: 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

William Frick, a resident of Clinton who will be attending a magnet school next year, read a statement requesting the Board change its policy and allow out-of-district students to participate in extra-curricular activities at district schools. He spoke about the benefits for the district and students if out-of-district students were allowed to participate in sports, clubs, and bowls. Resident Karin Gosselink also spoke and requested the Board's consideration. The Board noted that the item will be on the policy subcommittee's next agenda.

3.Minutes - Approval - Regular Meeting of March 6, 2023

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 6, 2023. Carried with a motion by Peter Nye and a second by Jack Scherban.

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

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Abstain: 1

4.Communications

There were no communications.

5.Report of Student Representatives

A. Rodriguez reported on happenings at The Morgan School including NGSS testing for juniors on March 14, *Swish for Change* on March 16, Junior Portfolios on April 6, and SAT Day on March 22. The Morgan musical production, *Damn Yankees*, will open on March 24.

C. King discussed a large number of Eliot's activities. Pasta Night and Read Across America were both big successes. The musical *Willy Wonka* will be presented on April 21 and 22. Nature's Classroom takes place the week of April 24, and socials for the lower and upper academies are scheduled for May 24 and 25, respectively. The band is working on music for the Memorial Day parade and parent/teacher conferences are March 23.

S. Davis gave a brief rundown of events and studies at Joel. Morgan students helped out at the Read Across Joel event. Kindergarten is studying weather; first graders are focused on reading; second grade is working on math and research; third graders are delving into the subject of area and perimeter; and fourth graders are focused on functions and results.

6.Review and Possible Approval of Field Trip

M. O'Donnell presented a field trip request on behalf of Morgan teacher Laura Luther. She provided the rationale and overview for the proposed trip to Costa Rica in April 2024. M. O'Donnell, who had previously chaperoned the trip, complimented the tour operator for its responsiveness and professionalism. The Board discussed pricing and how to make the trip available to all eligible students.

MOTION: To approve a field trip to Costa Rica in April 2024 as outlined. Carried with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Jack Scherban.

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

7. Administrative Reports

A. Administrators, Program Directors and Teachers

1. General Update

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

1. General Update

M. Famiglietti noted that NWEA Map testing for grades three through eight has begun. Eleventh grade Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) testing started March 14 and SAT Day is March 22. Also on March 22, *Science of Reading* (early literacy) professional development will take place. The Board discussed ChatGPT and the complexities of students using the artificial intelligence chatbot. Its use will be examined at the next Instruction subcommittee meeting.

On March 23, Joel School will hold a professional development session on Science of Reading (SOR). Joel School principal Angela Guarascio has announced her retirement at the end of the current school year. A hiring committee is being formed and Board members are invited to serve.

C. Business Manager's Report

1. Bills Payable

J. Scherban had a question regarding an entry on the accounts payable report which C. Dickey clarified as a reimbursement to the Town.

2. General Update

The Business Office is starting a review of student activity funds at each school and working on the migration of those funds to be managed within the SunGard finance system. C. Dickey's department is working with Special Services on reporting and preparation for the IDEA grant.

8. Superintendent's Report

A. 2023-2024 Budget Update

Work is ongoing to create a newsletter summarizing the budget.

B. School Security Grant Update

The Board reviewed the School Security (SSGP) and Multi-Media (MMSSGP) Grant Programs. M. O'Donnell explained that the district will be applying for reimbursement for eligible purchases of cameras, a software upgrade, and a public address system at Eliot that related to improved school security.

C. Notification of Donation: Water Bottle Filling Stations

Board members were notified that the district has been awarded a grant by CT Water for two water bottle filling stations. One unit will be installed at Joel and one at Eliot, most likely in April. The Board thanked CT Water.

D. General Update

In honor of Board Member Appreciation Month, the Board members were given small gifts of appreciation. They were recognized for their commitment and thanked for always putting students at the center of their work.

9. Reports of Board of Education Subcommittees and Special Committees

A. General Updates

Board members reviewed a draft list of spring subcommittee meeting dates and the topics and dates were reviewed. Board members were asked to communicate any conflicts to the Superintendent.

10. Review and Possible Action re: Healthy Food Certification

MOTION: Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Clinton Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups. Carried with a motion by Peter Nye 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

11. Review and Possible Action re: Food & Beverage Exemptions

MOTION: The Clinton Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales. Carried with a motion by Catherine Staunton and a second by Peter Nye.

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. Personnel Information

The personnel update was reviewed.

13. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:04 PM. Carried with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Catherine Staunton.

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