



## **Board of Education Regular Meeting**

Monday, July 19, 2021 7:00 PM

Board Meeting Room  
Administrative Offices  
137 B Glenwood Road  
Clinton, CT 06413

Attendance Taken at 7:00 PM.

Catherine Staunton:	Absent
Christopher Passante:	Absent
Erica Gelven:	Present
Jason Adler:	Present
Kimberly Russo:	Present
Michael Hornyak:	Present
Peter Nye:	Present

### **1. Opening Exercises**

#### **A. Roll call**

Also in attendance were Superintendent Maryann O'Donnell, Assistant Superintendent Marco Famiglietti, and Business Manager Carolyn Dickey.

#### **B. Pledge of Allegiance**

All stood for the pledge.

### **2. Public participation/recognition**

Several community members, including residents Allison Vece, James Doherty, and Lisa Hicks, as well as a Morgan student, spoke in favor of eliminating the requirement to wear a mask in school. They cited lack of air conditioning at schools, sports program interruptions, and social-emotional and health reasons. They requested information on reopening plans and if federal/state funding was affected by compliance with guidance/mandates from the Governor, the CT State Department of Health, and/or the State Department of Education.

### 3.Minutes - Approval

#### A.Special Meeting of June 21, 2021

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes of the special meeting of June 21, 2021. Carried with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Kimberly Russo.

Catherine Staunton: Absent  
Christopher Passante: Absent  
Erica Gelven: Yea  
Jason Adler: Abstain  
Kimberly Russo: Yea  
Michael Hornyak: Yea  
Peter Nye: Yea  
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 2, Abstain: 1

#### B.Regular Meeting of June 21, 2021

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 21, 2021. Carried with a motion by Kimberly Russo and a second by Michael Hornyak.

Catherine Staunton: Absent  
Christopher Passante: Absent  
Erica Gelven: Yea  
Jason Adler: Abstain  
Kimberly Russo: Yea  
Michael Hornyak: Yea  
Peter Nye: Yea  
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 2, Abstain: 1

### 4.Communications

M. Hornyak shared thank you notes from two recent retirees, Susan Dest and Merle Hart. The Board wished them the very best on their retirement.

### 5.Administrative Reports

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

##### 1.General Update

No report.

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

###### 1.Civil Rights Compliance Review Report

M. Famiglietti reported on the recent Civil Rights Compliance review that was conducted by the CT State Department of Education. He noted complete compliance with federal and state requirements. He thanked the teachers, students, and staff for the preparation work which made the review much easier.

J. Adler asked if the results protected the district from further review. M. Famiglietti responded that if there are any complaints in the future, the state has the most recent documentation to show compliance.

## 2. General Update

The summer SAIL program has begun with over 80 students from grades K to 8, attending four days a week. The YMCA camp portion of the program has also been well-received. On July 21, WTNH will film SAIL students and staff for its "What's Right with Schools" segment to be aired at a later date.

Smarter Balanced and Next Generation Science Standards assessment results were recently provided to school district, but are not yet public and the administration is reviewing results at the student level. Once the CT Department of Education releases the district and state averages, M. Famiglietti will present his findings at a Board meeting in September.

Joel math interventionists Heidi Hayes and Kate Madura continue to host virtual math nights on Tuesdays in an effort to keep students engaged during the summer.

## C. Business Manager's Report

### 1. Bills Payable

There were no questions regarding bills payable.

### 2. Extension for Use of Flex Spending Account Funds

C. Dickey reported that the latest COVID relief bill contains provisions for extensions and requested the Board approve a modification to the employee Flexible Spending Account (FSA), giving users an additional year to spend down their health and dependent care savings accounts. There is no cost to the district.

**MOTION:** To modify the district's existing Flex Spending Account (FSA) plan to align with federal allowances for funds to be spent by August 30, 2022. Carried with a motion by Peter Nye and a second by Jason Adler.

Catherine Staunton:	Absent
Christopher Passante:	Absent
Erica Gelven:	Yea
Jason Adler:	Yea
Kimberly Russo:	Yea
Michael Hornyak:	Yea
Peter Nye:	Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

### 3. End of Year Budget Projection Update

C. Dickey provided 2020-21 end-of-year savings projections. Currently, she is estimating approximately a 2% savings within the 2020-21 operating budget. These savings are attributable to object categories such as transportation, athletics, salaries, benefits, and utilities. Grant offsets and COVID impacts have also been a factor. M. O'Donnell added that an expenditure/revenue report for the 4th quarter will be presented in August.

### 4. General Update

Auditors were in the district in July and will be back in August and October. The Eliot roof project for the annex area is substantially complete and under budget.

## 6. Superintendent's Report

### A. Bonnie B. Carney Award of Excellence for Educational Communications

The district has received the Bonnie B. Carney Award of Excellence for Educational Communications. Clinton was the winner in two categories: Social Media for the district's Facebook page, and District Budget for the budget book and corresponding webpage. Kudos went to M. Famiglietti for the Facebook page and to Cassie Cannamela, C. Dickey, and M. O'Donnell for the budget book and website. The awards are an acknowledgement of major initiatives in the district's strategic plan.

### B. School Reopening Update

M. O'Donnell reported that although guidance regarding school reopenings was expected from the state by mid-July, none has been received, and the last superintendents' meeting was cancelled. The Department of Public Health is expected to provide guidance to districts. In the meantime, the district is planning for all eventualities. Administrators are working at each of the buildings, planning for a normalized schedule and transportation. The mask decision will influence a lot of other operational decisions and, as soon as it is received, will be communicated to families.

Discussion followed regarding the lack of guidance and the decision around mask-wearing in our schools for the 2021-22 school year.

### C. Discussion and Possible Action re: ARP ESSER Grant Submission

Superintendent O'Donnell shared the proposed categories for ARP ESSER grant funding and the links to the priorities established by the state, as well as outlined the flexibility and the short- and long-term implications of the funding allocations. A grant needs to be submitted based on a needs assessment and input from stakeholders. There is flexibility for rewriting the grant after it is submitted. The proposal aligns with what has already been discussed at subcommittee meetings and is based on the district needs assessment and input from stakeholders.

The high school support center redesign was discussed. The decision was made, after careful analysis, to hire two clinicians and maintain the program internally instead of contracting services with an outside provider. A two-year plan is in place to help students transition back, strengthen the program, and provide for the social-emotional needs of all students at Eliot and Morgan. It will be reviewed after one year and reevaluated.

Discussion followed regarding reopening and mitigation strategies and whether operational and board decisions could impact the availability of grant funding. M. O'Donnell will investigate and advise the Board if these are impacts.

**MOTION:** To approve the submission of the ARP ESSER Grant as presented. Carried with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Kimberly Russo.

Catherine Staunton:	Absent
Christopher Passante:	Absent
Erica Gelven:	Yea
Jason Adler:	Yea
Kimberly Russo:	Yea
Michael Hornyak:	Yea
Peter Nye:	Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

## D. General Update

The administrators met over three days to plan and prepare for the new school year. There was a greater focus on team-building at this year's administrative retreat, especially given new additions to the team and the experiences over the past two years due to COVID and isolation.

The Superintendent shared some slides from the ThoughtExchange in which community members participated and shared thoughts related to the question: *What do you value most about the Clinton Public Schools and what can we do to improve?* Participation was good and users shared their feelings about the schools and where we want to go as a district.

On July 21, the Morgan building project will be officially complete. A meeting will be held with the Town Council to present it as complete and accept it. An official motion will be held at the Board's August meeting to formally accept the building.

## 7. Reports of Board of Education Subcommittees and Special Committees

### A. General Updates

The minutes from the July 12 Budget & Finance Subcommittee meeting were included in the Board packet. Negotiations subcommittees are looking for dates and Shipman & Goodwin will provide materials for review.

August 19 was proposed as a date for the Board's retreat. E. Gelven encouraged members to consider on which subcommittees they would like to serve.

P. Nye requested the July 12 Budget & Finance minutes be amended as he was not in attendance at the meeting.

## 8. Acceptance of Roof Projects as Complete

**MOTION:** To accept the roof replacement project #027-0065 RR at Lewin G. Joel, Jr. School and the roof replacement project #027-0066 RR at Jared Eliot Middle School as complete, and direct the Superintendent to take appropriate action to close out the project and request state reimbursement for the town. Carried with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Peter Nye.

Catherine Staunton: Absent

Christopher Passante: Absent

Erica Gelven: Yea

Jason Adler: Yea

Kimberly Russo: Yea

Michael Hornyak: Yea

Peter Nye: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

## 9. Personnel Information

The Superintendent shared where the district is in regard to hiring.

**A. Anticipated Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussion re: Negotiations and Contract Adjustments**

**MOTION:** To enter into executive session at 8:20 PM and invite Superintendent O'Donnell for the purpose of discussion re: negotiations and contract adjustments. Carried with a motion by Kimberly Russo and a second by Jason Adler.

Catherine Staunton: Absent  
Christopher Passante: Absent  
Erica Gelven: Yea  
Jason Adler: Yea  
Kimberly Russo: Yea  
Michael Hornyak: Yea  
Peter Nye: Yea  
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

**B. Possible Action re: Employment Contracts for Non-Bargaining Unit Administrators & Directors**

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:50 PM.

**MOTION:** To extend a three-year contract for the Assistant Superintendent and the Director of Technology covering the years 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24, and set the salary increase as 2.5% in each of the first two years, and health insurance cost share at 21.5% in 2021-22. Carried with a motion by Kimberly Russo and a second by Jason Adler.

Catherine Staunton: Absent  
Christopher Passante: Absent  
Erica Gelven: Yea  
Jason Adler: Yea  
Kimberly Russo: Yea  
Michael Hornyak: Yea  
Peter Nye: Yea  
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

**MOTION:** To extend a three-year contract for the Director of Buildings & Grounds covering the years 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24, and set the salary increase as 3.0% in each of the first two years; to add an annuity of \$2,500 in the first year and \$5,000 in the second year; to increase the life insurance coverage to \$100,000, and to include vacation rollover of ten (10) days into the subsequent fiscal year, and health insurance cost share at 20% in 2021-22. Carried with a motion by Kimberly Russo and a second by Jason Adler.

Catherine Staunton: Absent  
Christopher Passante: Absent  
Erica Gelven: Yea  
Jason Adler: Yea  
Kimberly Russo: Yea  
Michael Hornyak: Yea  
Peter Nye: Yea  
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

**MOTION:** To extend a three-year contract for the Business Manager covering the years 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24, and set the salary increase as 2.0% in each of the first two years and to include vacation rollover of ten (10) days into the subsequent fiscal year and health insurance cost share at 21.5% in 2021-22. Carried with a motion by Kimberly Russo and a second by Jason Adler.

Catherine Staunton: Absent  
Christopher Passante: Absent  
Erica Gelven: Yea  
Jason Adler: Yea  
Kimberly Russo: Yea  
Michael Hornyak: Yea  
Peter Nye: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

**MOTION:** To approve a salary increase for the Director of Food Service in the amount of 3.0% in 2021-22 and 3.0% in 2022-23. Carried with a motion by Jason Adler and a second by Kimberly Russo.

Catherine Staunton: Absent  
Christopher Passante: Absent  
Erica Gelven: Yea  
Jason Adler: Yea  
Kimberly Russo: Yea  
Michael Hornyak: Yea  
Peter Nye: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

#### 10. **Adjournment**

**MOTION:** To adjourn at 8:54 PM. Carried with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Jason Adler.

Catherine Staunton: Absent  
Christopher Passante: Absent  
Erica Gelven: Yea  
Jason Adler: Yea  
Kimberly Russo: Yea  
Michael Hornyak: Yea  
Peter Nye: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

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Michael Hornyak, Board Secretary

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Allison Friday, Board Recorder