



**Board of Education Regular Meeting**

Monday, November 15, 2021 7:00 PM

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

Attendance Taken at 7:00 PM.

Catherine Staunton: Present  
Christopher Passante: Present  
Erica Gelven: Present  
Jason Adler: Present  
Kimberly Russo: Absent  
Michael Hornyak: Present  
Peter Nye: 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 was no public participation.

**3. Minutes - Approval - Regular Meeting of November 1, 2021**

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 1, 2021. Carried with a motion by Peter Nye and a second by Catherine Staunton.

Catherine Staunton: Yea  
Christopher Passante: Yea  
Erica Gelven: Yea  
Jason Adler: Yea  
Kimberly Russo: Absent  
Michael Hornyak: Yea  
Peter Nye: Yea  
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

#### **4.Communications**

M. Hornyak read a thank you note from the Clinton Education Foundation for a donation from the Board of Education members made in memory of J. Reynolds.

#### **5.Report of Student Representatives**

The student representatives reported on happenings at each of the schools. At The Morgan School, discussions are being held about providing input to updating the dress code policy and 90-minute classes on Wellness Wednesdays. New members were inducted into the National Honor Society and both the boys and girls soccer teams won the Shoreline Conference. At Eliot, student government is organizing a food drive, a bake sale is being held to raise money for field trips, and the ski club is starting up. At Joel, each grade is working on specific goals for students. Veterans Day celebrations were held at each of the schools. The events were videotaped and are available online.

#### **6.Administrative Reports**

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

###### **1.General Update**

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

###### **1.General Update**

M. Famiglietti reported on the NEASC accreditation visit at Morgan and thanked Board members for their involvement on November 14. He also spoke about his and Morgan teacher John Madura's participation on a CT State of Education University discussion panel regarding advanced topics in math, college and career readiness, and outreach to local school districts.

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

###### **1.Bills Payable**

There were no questions regarding bills payable.

###### **2.General Update**

C. Dickey provided an update on her office's activities. Budget information is being collected. The auditors' work continues and their report should be issued in January 2022.

#### **7.Superintendent's Report**

##### **A.Superintendent Advisory Council**

M. O'Donnell gave an update on the first meeting of the newly formed advisory council. The council provides a student-oriented point of view and involves a broad spectrum of participants. The council is looking for more meeting dates and would eventually like to include Eliot students.

## **B. Screen & Stay**

M. O'Donnell reviewed the newly released *Screen & Stay* COVID-19 protocols and the process for implementing them. A question was posed about winter sports guidance and protocols. M. O'Donnell said the CIAC guidance is expected soon.

## **C. NESDEC Enrollment Projection Report**

M. O'Donnell reviewed the annual enrollment projection report from The New England School Development Council (NESDEC). Enrollment projections will be used in planning during the upcoming budget season.

## **D. General Update**

C. Passante was congratulated on his recent election to the Town Council and commended for his diligence, advocating for students, and service to the Board. Jack Scherban, a newly elected Board member, was congratulated as were all re-elected Board members. J. Scherban will be sworn in this week and will be seated at the December 6 Board meeting.

## **8. Reports of Board of Education Subcommittees and Special Committees**

### **A. General Updates**

The Budget and Finance subcommittee met to review budget drivers and the process/timeline for developing the 2022-23 budget. Meetings have already been held with the Town to develop goals and strategies.

The Policy subcommittee is meeting on November 29 at 5:30.

On November 9, the Buildings & Grounds subcommittee met to work on the Capital Expenditure plan. A number of upcoming projects were reviewed.

Minutes from the recent Public Relations and Buildings & Grounds meetings were included in the Board packet.

## **9. Review and Possible Approval of 2022-23 Capital Expenditure Plan**

The Superintendent provided an overview of the one-year and ten-year capital expenditure plans. A number of projects were referenced, including tennis court upkeep, refinishing the gym floors at Eliot and Joel, and PA system upgrades district-wide.

Motion: To approve the 2022-23 Capital Expenditure Plan as presented. Carried with a motion by Jason Adler and a second by Peter Nye.

Catherine Staunton: Yea  
Christopher Passante: Yea  
Erica Gelven: Yea  
Jason Adler: Yea  
Kimberly Russo: Absent  
Michael Hornyak: Yea  
Peter Nye: Yea  
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

**10. Discussion re: 2022-2023 School Year Calendar**

M. O'Donnell shared information regarding regional plans as well as an overview of the discussion of the Public Relations subcommittee related to the school calendar. The calendar will be on the agenda for Board approval in December. Questions related to decisions about extending the February break to a full week were raised. Pros and cons were discussed as was the possibility of a parent/teacher survey on the subject. This topic will be sent back to the Public Relations subcommittee for additional discussion.

**11. Approval of Early Childhood Grant Expenditures**

M. O'Donnell reviewed planned improvements for the Joel PK playground. Funding from the newly awarded Early Childhood Stabilization grant will be used.

MOTION: To approve expenditures from the Early Childhood Stabilization Grant for the PreK playground as described. Carried with a motion by Michael Hornyak and a second by Peter Nye.

- Catherine Staunton: Yea
  - Christopher Passante: Yea
  - Erica Gelven: Yea
  - Jason Adler: Yea
  - Kimberly Russo: Absent
  - Michael Hornyak: Yea
  - Peter Nye: Yea
- Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

**12. Review of ARP IDEA Grant Allocations & Additional Grant Funds for Special Education**

M. O'Donnell reviewed the allocation plans for additional grant funding received through the ARP IDEA Grant . The list includes a special education outside area at Eliot, a PK paraeducator, iPad replacement, and tuition money for post-secondary transition student.

**13. Review and Possible Approval of Sabbatical Leave Request**

A request by Joel reading interventionist Lauren Devin for sabbatical leave for the 2022-23 school year was discussed. The Board decided to table the item until the December 6 Board meeting.

**14. Executive Session Anticipated re: Pending Claim or Litigation**

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session at 8:30 PM and invite Superintendent O'Donnell to discuss a pending claim or litigation. Carried with a motion by Peter Nye and a second by Michael Hornyak.

- Catherine Staunton: Yea
  - Christopher Passante: Yea
  - Erica Gelven: Yea
  - Jason Adler: Yea
  - Kimberly Russo: Absent
  - Michael Hornyak: Yea
  - Peter Nye: Yea
- Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:37 PM.

**15. Personnel Information**

A personnel update was included in the Board packet.

**16. Adjournment**

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM Carried with a motion by Peter Nye and a second by Christopher Passante.

Catherine Staunton: Yea

Christopher Passante: Yea

Erica Gelven: Yea

Jason Adler: Yea

Kimberly Russo: Absent

Michael Hornyak: Yea

Peter Nye: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

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Michael Hornyak, Board Secretary

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Allison Friday, Board Recorder