



Board of Education Regular Meeting

November 05, 2018 7:30 PM

Board Meeting Room

Administrative Offices

137-B Glenwood Road

Clinton, CT 06413

Attendance Taken at 7:30 PM:

Present Board Members:

Erica Gelven
Michael Hornyak
Sandra Luke
Lois Ruggiero
Kimberly Russo
Catherine Staunton

Absent Board Members:

Doug Traynor

1. Opening Exercises

Discussion:

1.A. Roll call

Discussion:

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

Student representatives Kayla Pellegrini, Daniel Radka, and Sarah Auletta were present as well.

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion:

All stood for the pledge.

2. Public participation/recognition

Discussion:

No public participation.

3. Minutes - Approval - Regular Meeting of October 15, 2018 and Special Meeting of October 23, 2018

Discussion:

Motion Passed: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 15, 2018, (with the addition of "Superintendent O'Donnell chose to have talented and gifted the topic of discussion." added to Item 7B) passed with a motion by Lois Ruggiero and a second by Sandra Luke.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Erica Gelven Yes

Michael Hornyak	Yes
Sandra Luke	Yes
Lois Ruggiero	Yes
Kimberly Russo	Yes
Catherine Staunton	Yes
Doug Traynor	Absent

Motion Passed: To approve the minutes of the special meeting of October 23, 2018, passed with a motion by Lois Ruggiero and a second by Kimberly Russo.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Erica Gelven	Yes
Michael Hornyak	Yes
Sandra Luke	Yes
Lois Ruggiero	Yes
Kimberly Russo	Yes
Catherine Staunton	Yes
Doug Traynor	Absent

4. Communications

Discussion:
No communications.

5. Report of Student Representatives

Discussion:

E. Gelven welcomed the two new student representatives, senior Daniel Radka and junior Sarah Auletta.

K. Pellegrini reported on a variety of events at Morgan including Spirit Week, Homecoming, and the double win of the Shoreline Conference Championship by Morgan boys and girls soccer teams.

D. Radka reported on Eliot's rescheduling of a student assembly Sandy Hook Promise: Say Something to November 29th. Eliot teachers are sharing results of fall MAP testing with students.

S. Auletta noted several upcoming Joel field trips as well as a new Joel motto, "Go Be Awesome". October's Monster Mash was a success.

The Board requested schedules for Veterans' Day.

On behalf of the Board, E. Gelven welcomed the newest Board member, Catherine Staunton.

6. Consideration and Possible Action on the Recommendation of the Clinton Community Committee on Facility Needs on School Closing and Grade Reconfiguration

Discussion:

The Board discussed the online and written submissions received regarding the possible closing of Pierson School. There were 37 online submissions and 2 submitted in hard copy to Central Office. All 39 were provided to the Board for review. Board members discussed the input and it was noted that only 9 of the 39 indicated a desire to keep Pierson open. Other submissions asked questions, shared thoughts, and commented on the process and things that should be considered in the next phase of programming and

transition planning. Some of these included comments on teaming in 5th grade, Talented and Gifted programming, recess, opportunities for after-school experiences, preparing students for the school transition, cost-savings, and plans for use of the building when it is returned to the town.

The Board noted that although the recommendation to close the school was not easy to make, it was the most responsible path to take.

The Superintendent assured the Board that the timeline for closing Pierson was aggressive but achievable.

Financial details will not be available until the programming and planning has occurred. The budget for the 2019-2020 school year will include an outline of the savings.

After the vote, E. Gelven offered the Board's appreciation to the people who served on the committee.

Motion Passed: To accept the recommendation of the Clinton Community Committee on Facility Needs to close Abraham Pierson Elementary School and to realign our schools beginning in the 2019-2020 school year so that Lewin G. Joel Elementary School will consist of grades prekindergarten through 4th, and Jared Eliot Middle School will consist of grades 5th through 8th passed with a motion by Lois Ruggiero and a second by Sandra Luke.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Erica Gelven	Yes
Michael Hornyak	Yes
Sandra Luke	Yes
Lois Ruggiero	Yes
Kimberly Russo	Yes
Catherine Staunton	Yes
Doug Traynor	Absent

Motion Passed: To authorize the Superintendent and Administration to develop and implement the transition plan related to program, schedule, and moving, as well as the closure of Abraham Pierson School and return of the building to the Town passed with a motion by Lois Ruggiero and a second by Michael Hornyak.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Erica Gelven	Yes
Michael Hornyak	Yes
Sandra Luke	Yes
Lois Ruggiero	Yes
Kimberly Russo	Yes
Catherine Staunton	Yes
Doug Traynor	Absent

7. Administrative Reports

7.A. Administrators, Program Directors and Teachers

7.A.1. General Update

7.B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

7.B.1. General Update

Discussion:

On October 24th, high school members of the District Curriculum Advisory Team (DCAT) met to address the upcoming New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation visit.

Members of the science department will attend the next Board meeting to discuss the shifts being made in the science curriculum.

7.C. Business Manager's Report

7.C.1. General Update

Discussion:

The Business Office is in the process of updating and verifying accounts. Salaries, transportation, special education, etc. are being reviewed in preparation for the upcoming budget season.

The Board was informed that a proposed amendment to the 403(b) plan is being worked on. The amendment would allow staff to apply for and receive loans against their investments. A third-party administrator would need to be hired to manage it.

The final revised pension document will also need approval. People's Bank representatives will be present at a future meeting to introduce themselves and discuss investment strategies.

Questions followed regarding the actuarial process and auditors' reviews related to the Board's contributions to the non-certified pension.

8. Superintendent's Report

8.A. Update on Roof and Building Projects

Discussion:

The Superintendent and her administrative assistant, Cassie Cannamela, have received training on new software from the State for reimbursable projects which include the Morgan building project and the Eliot and Joel roofing projects. Once final documentation from the contractors is received, the Board will need to pass a resolution and the Superintendent will submit the projects for final reimbursement.

8.B. General Update

Discussion:

The Sandy Hook Promise community program will need to be rescheduled.

DEEP, and the Army Corp of Engineers have approved emergency plans to repair the culvert, land, and bridge at Morgan damaged by recent flooding in order to stabilize it for the upcoming months. Temporary repair plans have been granted by the Army Corp of Engineers and DEEP. The repairs will go out to bid for 10 days. There is a possibility that the damage caused by this rain event could result in FEMA reimbursement to the costs for repair.

Questions regarding the design, temporary fixes, cost, and responsibilities were discussed.

The HVAC issues are almost resolved. The manufacturer of a defective component has agreed to replace it. Work will cause rerouting of buses for a week.

9. Reports of Board of Education Subcommittees and Special Committees

9.A. General Updates

Discussion:

A Policy subcommittee meeting will be held on November 19th.

The Public Relations subcommittee is meeting on November 8th at 11:00 a.m.

The Buildings and Grounds subcommittee will meet on November 8th from 4:15 - 5:15 p.m.

The Superintendent distributed a packet of policies for review.

10. First Reading of Policies

10.A. 9000 Series

Discussion:

The 9000 series of policies (Board Bylaws) was submitted for a first reading.

11. Field Trip Update

12. Personnel Items

12.A. Staff Appointments

12.B. Information

13. Financial Items


13.A. Bills Payable

14. Adjournment

Motion Passed: To adjourn at 8:36 p.m. passed with a motion by Lois Ruggiero and a second by Sandra Luke.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Erica Gelven	Yes
Michael Hornyak	Yes
Sandra Luke	Yes
Lois Ruggiero	Yes
Kimberly Russo	Yes
Catherine Staunton	Yes
Doug Traynor	Absent



Sandy Luke, Board Secretary



Allison Friday, Board Recorder

