



*Empowering learners to embrace
and influence the future with
courage and compassion.*

Clinton Board of Education Updates & Information – October 2017

- **DISTRICT MISSION & PRIORITIES REVISED** – The Board began its work in July with revision to the district mission and establishing Strategic Priorities and specific initiatives for the school year. Click [here](#) to view.
- **STRATEGIC PLANNING** – This year the Superintendent and Board of Education are embarking on a Strategic Planning process that will include a review of the mission and priorities and culminate in a 3-year Strategic Action Plan for the district that will guide the work and decision-making in the district for the next several years. The process will include a review of our current status, surveys to various groups, in-person discussion groups, Board of Ed review, and a final plan to be produced in June 2018. Planning will include looking at programming, resources, and facilities. Please consider participating and providing input along the way. Surveys will be distributed next month.
- **BOARD OF ED SUBCOMMITTEES** – Subcommittees have begun work and generally meet outside of Board of Ed meetings 1-2 times per month. Each subcommittee chairperson's email is listed below. Focus areas for this year include:
 - **Budget and Finance** – state and local budget monitoring and planning, transportation contract, and employee negotiations ([Annaliese Spaziano](#))
 - **Building and Grounds** – review of district facilities; planning for Capital Expenditure Budget (10-year plan) ([Lois Ruggiero](#))
 - **Instruction** – review of programming; involvement in strategic planning ([Annaliese Spaziano](#))
 - **Policy** – analysis and updates of policy manual; revision of wellness policy and other legislative changes and mandated revisions ([Peter Giannotti](#))

- **Public Relations** – development of new communication strategies including Weekly Blasts from each school ([Sandy Luke](#))
- **School Nutrition** – review and monitoring of School Nutrition program; development of wellness policy ([Erica Gelven](#))
- **Technology** – setting initiatives; review of programming; budgeting for sustainable technology through capital expenditures ([Lois Ruggiero](#))
- **STATE BUDGET UPDATE** – The State of Connecticut is operating under Governor Malloy's Executive Order which results in a significant reduction in state funding for education in Clinton. The Board is closely monitoring the situation and its potential impacts on the district budget as we plan for this year and the future. As it currently stands, the Governor's Budget represents a significant cut and burden on the town. This is concerning for its potential impact on our ability to provide quality basic programming for our students. We are hopeful that the legislators will reach a compromise that mitigates the reduction and negative impact on Clinton.

NEW INITIATIVES IN 2017-2018

- **MEASURING STUDENT PROGRESS**
 - Students in grades 3-8 have been given the MAP Growth test from NWEA to determine their instructional level in mathematics and reading. Students will take this assessment once in the fall, winter, and spring to measure academic growth throughout the school year.
 - MAP Growth tests are unique in that they adapt to a student's level of learning. As a student answers a question correctly, the next question is more challenging. If they answer incorrectly, the next one is easier. This results in a detailed picture of what students know and are ready to learn.
 - Any questions can be sent to Assistant Superintendent, [Marco Famiglietti](#)
- **HOMEWORK POLICY** – The District's newly revised [Homework Policy](#) has been shared with parents during school-based open houses and with all staff at recently-held faculty meetings. Teachers and administrators are now working on making sure that homework is both meaningful and manageable for all students.
- **FOUNDATION SKILLS & COMPETENCIES** – Click [here](#) to see our new list of core skills that all students must be taught, develop, practice, apply, and master prior to graduating from Morgan. In Clinton, our teachers plan and develop lessons that are based on established curriculum standards AND include opportunities to practice and develop these skills. Each skill has a newly developed set of descriptors of what it means to master each of the skills. Students in grades 6-12 will utilize these in class to reflect on their attainment and growth related to these skills.