

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Mary Tomasi, Vice Chair Chris McGlynn, Amy Domeika, Suesen Hickey, Jessica Morozowich, Joanne Rose, Student Members Shannon Hickey, Evelyn Toennes.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mitch Koziol.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Superintendent Jeffrey Burt, Bacon Academy Principal Matt Peel, Colchester Elementary School Principal Judy O'Meara, Jack Jackter Intermediate School Principal Elise Butson, William J. Johnston Middle School Principal Chris Bennett, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education Kathleen Perry, Director of Teaching and Learning Charles Hewes, Director of Education Operations Mario Hurtado, Director of Technology Darren Smith, Chief Financial Officer M. Cosgrove.

1. MEETING OPENING

1.1 Call to Order

Chair Mary Tomasi called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:02 pm with a roll call to establish a quorum.

2. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent Burt is requesting the following items be added to the agenda:

2.1 School Resource Officer Position Discussion

Motion by: C. McGlynn

to add School Resource Officer Position Discussion to agenda as Item 7.2.

Second by: A. Domeika

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

2.2 Discussion of Possible Change to BOE-approved 2021-2022 Budget

Motion by: J. Morozowich

to add Discussion of Possible Change to BOE-approved 2021-2022 Budget as Item 7.3.

Second by: S. Hickey.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

2.3 Donation of Food

Motion by: C. McGlynn

to add Donation of Food Discussion to the agenda as Item 7.4.

Second by: J. Rose.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

2.4 Donation of Musical Instruments from Smarthunts, Inc

Motion by: S. Hickey

to approve the addition of donation of 30 sets of boomwhacker instruments as Item 7.5.

Second by: A. Domeika.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

3. RECOGNITIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

3.1 BOE Appreciation Videos

Video: Bacon Academy Student Council

Video: Thank you BOE, from C3

My Favorite Things at CES

Video: Mrs. Desrocher's 5th Grade Class

The videos were made for Board Appreciation Month.

Chair Tomasi requested moving item 7 Priority Discussion/Action Items to be heard after Item 5.
No objections to move.

3.2 Charline Records, CES Special Services Teacher

CES Special Services Teacher Charline Records reached out to Meghan Amado and I during the summer of 2020 to share a 3-year school improvement plan for Social Emotional Learning. In partnership with Anne Lemke, Charline has been an instrumental teacher leader for helping CES grow in SEL. She plans for and hosts a monthly meeting with a team of staff and has been instrumental in providing us with many resources to grow and learn. Charline always reminds us to take care of ourselves as educators as our well-being affects the children we support. We are thankful for her leadership. Here is a quote she shared at one of our meetings:

“Studies of effective early childhood and school environments confirm that academic skills in the first years of schooling are entwined with the ability to regulate emotions and behavior and to engage in positive social interactions with peers and adults, and that academic behaviors in the later years (e.g., attendance) are closely tied to students’ social, emotional, and behavioral functioning.”
(Stephanie M. Jones & Jennifer Kahn, 7)

3.3 JJES Students Food Drive

Upon learning that the Colchester Food Bank was running low of food items, JJIS grade 4 students, Abbie Barthel, Kyra Walter, Elizabeth Vance and Delaney Scholl jumped into action. They presented their proposal to hold a food drive at Jack Jackter Intermediate School. They shared their idea with the entire school and encouraged students to donate nonperishable food items. The food drive was a major success! In just under one week, students collectively donated more than 15 times the anticipated goal of 220 food items. More than 3,169 nonperishable food items were donated and brought to the Colchester Social Service Department. Students took a great deal of pride knowing their initiative inspired fellow students to truly make a difference in their community.

The students who proposed the drive spoke to the Board thanking them for allowing them to do have the food drive.

3.4 Poster Contest Winner: Leah Balser, Junior at Bacon Academy

Bacon Academy Junior Leah Balser placed 3rd in a poster contest by the Connecticut Council of Language Teachers. A student of Sra. Denay Johnston, Leah’s exceptional talent and message of “Languages Celebrate Our Differences” can be seen in the attached files. Congratulations, Leah!

Principal Peel said this is a yearly competition and Leah Balser placed 3rd out of 150 students state wide. Teacher Denay Johnson congratulated Leah and said her poster will be framed and hung in the hallway for students to see. Leah noted that the poster was made during Covid and the people represented in the poster wore masks with flags representing their country.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None received.

5. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

5.1 Pandemic/Vaccinations Update

Superintendent Burt noted that a number of staff experienced side effects after receiving the first vaccination causing CES to be closed for one day. This day will be made up in June using an ‘inclement weather day’ for CES students only.

It has been reported that one third of all Colchester adults have received the vaccine. While there are no statistics on the staff, it is a significant number. The vaccination is not a requirement. An update on Friday from the State Health Department noted that there is an uptick in the 16-24 year old population. Schools are continuing with mitigation strategies.

5.2 Student Social/Emotional Health Reports: CES, JJIS, WJJMS

Principal O’Meara said CS student work on a breathing strategy, share videos with greetings and morning announcements. Staff members are working with parents and supporting families as needs arise.

Principal Butson said JJIS is having virtual town meetings, music and art are continuing and teachers are working closely with families to support the students.

Principal Bennett said a pilot program is being developed to live stream volunteer at home students in the fall. WJJMS is having after school tutoring, has students attending the Youth Services Learning Lounge for studying after school that provides adult supervision. Principal Bennett is hoping to have Spring Track begin soon and a Live Band Performance is in the planning stage for the end of the school year.

5.3 Current Instructional Model Update

Superintendent Burt said there are no changes at the elementary level. At this time there is an uptick in the virus and variants but it is likely the schools will reopen after April. Close attention is being paid to the virus numbers and the variants. Results of a survey of Students, teachers, and parents is being reviewed. There are no cohorts at Bacon Academy as at the elementary schools. At this time, no determination to move forward has been made.

5.4. Federal Grants Discussion

The Esser II Grant is in process with final adjustments. The new ARPA-Esser Grant is \$2.3 million but waiting on guidelines. The Bacon Academy training center for manufacturing that was discussed two years ago will also be revitalized.

5.5 Communications – None received.

7. PRIORITY DISCUSSION/ACTION INFORMATION

7.1 Shared Services Agreement with East Haddam is for a Transition Program to meet the needs of students ages 18 to 21 of the respective Districts.

Motion by: J. Rose

to approve the shared services agreement with East Haddam.

Second by: A. Domeika.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

7.2 School Resource Officer Position Discussion

Chair Tomasi said she and Superintendent Burt met with First Selectman and Chief of Police M. Bygone, State Trooper Sgt. Rondinone, Colchester Police Sgt. Edwards, Board Secretary A. Domeika and Executive Secretary A. Trinnaman to discuss revitalizing the Resource Officer position.

Motion by: J. Morozowich

to reinstate the School Resource Officer Position in the 2021-2022 budget.

Second by: C. McGlynn.

Vote: Abstaining: J. Rose

In favor: All others present. Approved.

7.3 Discussion of Possible Change to the BOE - Approved 2021-2022

To reinstate the position in the 2021-2022 budget, the amount would be \$86,401 plus \$395 or a telephone for a total of \$86,795. Due to the approval of reinstating the School Resource Officer, the increase to the 2021-2022 BOE budget will bring the total to \$42,466,230, or 2.7% increase over the 2020-2021 BOE budget.

Motion by: C. McGlynn

to approve the increase to bring the total budget to \$42,466,230.

Second by: A. Domeika.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

7.4 Donation of Food Discussion

District Nutrition Program Coordinator/Cafeteria Manager Leanne Ranheim shared that between the four kitchens, there is a total of 67 - 4 lb cans of tuna, ordered by the previous supervisor. The cans have an expiration date of August 2021. The USDA contact at the CSDE said we can give it to another school district, soup kitchens, food pantries, etc. The soup kitchen in Norwich has indicated they can definitely use it.

Motion by: S. Hickey

to approve donating the cans of tuna.

Second by: J. Morozowich.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

7.5 Donation of Musical Instruments from Smarthunts, Inc.

Principal O'Meara explained Joe Groves and Smarthunts, Inc. have donated 30 sets of boomwhacker percussion instruments to CES with a value of \$900.

Motion by: J. Rose

to accept the generous donation of the percussion instruments.

Second by: A. Domeika.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

6. POLICIES/REGULATIONS FOR FIRST READING

6.1 4115.3P Athletic Coaches

6.2 4117/31P Return to Work Program

6.3 4118.14P Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act & title II of the Americans with Disabilities act of 1990

6.4 4118.15P Civility/Respectful Communications and Actions

6.5 4131P Professional Development

6.6 4134P Tutoring

6.7 4152.6P Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

6.8 4151.71P Emergency/Personal Leave

As these policies are the first reading, no action was taken.

8. GRANTS/OTHER FINANCIALS

8.1 Budget transfer Over \$5,000: Fire Pump at Bacon Academy

The fire pump that supports the sprinkler system at BA is not working properly and must be replaced. It cannot be repaired as parts are no longer available. The 2021-2022 budget includes \$20,000 for repairs, this request will be needed for installation of the replacement pump.

Motion by: C. McGlynn

to approve the budget transfer in the amount of \$14,000 for a new fire pump at Bacon Academy.

Second by: S. Hickey.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

9. CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION/ASSESSMENT (None at this time)

10. POLICIES/REGULATIONS FOR A SECOND READING

10.1 1312P General Complaint Procedures

10.2 4214P Transfer/Reassignment

10.3 4212.43P Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers

10.4 5111P Admissions/Placement

10.5 5145.14P On-Campus Recruitment

Motion by: A. Domeika

to approve the above stated policies.

Second by: J. Morozowich

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

11. NON-SUBSTANTIVE POLICIES

11.1 4112.4P Health Examinations. No action needed.

12. CONSENT AGENDA

12.1 Approval of minutes from March 9, 2021 BOE meeting.

12.2 Approval of minutes from March 16, 2021 BOE meeting

12.3 Approval of minutes from March 23, 2021 BOE meeting

Motion by: C. McGlynn

to approve the Consent Agenda as presented

Second by: J. Rose.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

13. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

13.1 Policy – Next meeting is April 19, 2021

13.2 Budget – Next meeting is April 1, 2021

13.2 Personnel – No report

13.4 Ad-Hoc Curriculum – No report

13.5 Ad-Hoc Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion –

J. Rose reported that the Committee met with a representative from The National Conference for Community and Justice and will invite youth workers and administrators to a virtual presentation.

14. REPORTS FROM BOARD LIAISONS

- 14.1 BA Project Grad Liaison
- 14.2 Board of Finance Liaison
- 14.3 Board of Selectmen Liaison
- 14.4 Building Committee Liaison
- 14.5. Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3) Liaison
- 14.5 Commission on Aging
- 14.7 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Liaison
- 14.8 Fire Department Liaison
- 14.9 Parks & Recreation Liaison
- 14.10 Police Commission Liaison
- 14.11 PTO Collaborative Liaison
- 14.12 School Readiness Council Liaison
- 14.13 Senior Center Liaison
- 14.14 Youth & Social Services Liaison – S. Hickey said Youth & Social Services have filled the Coalition Grant Coordinator position.
No reports for 13.1 through 14.13.

15. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION ITEMS

- 15.1 Budget Calendar
- 15.2 Next Meetings

MEETING	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Budget Committee	April 1, 2021	9:00 AM	Virtual
DEI Committee	April 7, 2021	5:00 PM	Virtual
Policy Committee	April 19, 2021	5:30 PM	Virtual
Board of Education	May 11, 2021	6:00 PM	Virtual
Personnel Committee	June 7, 2021	5:30 PM	Virtual

- 15.3 Monthly Student Enrollment
Student Enrollment for March is 2204 students.
- 15.4 Approved Committee Meeting Minutes
Ad Hoc DEI Committee Minutes from March 10, 2021.
- 15.5 Monthly Budget Reports – None at this time.
- 15.6 Notification of Resignation
- 15.7 Cafeteria Fund – (No report at this time)
- 15.8 Budget Transfers Under \$5,000 (None at this time)
Information items only, no action taken.

16. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ron Goldstein spoke in support of restoring the Resource Officer.
Mike Egan, BOF member, commended the Board with doing a great job and for presenting a well thought out budget.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Tomasi adjourned this Regular Meeting at 7:48 pm.
Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Recording Secretary