

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Mary Tomasi, Vice Chair Chris McGlynn at 6:07 pm, Amy Domeika, Suesen Hickey, Jessica Morozowich, Joanne Rose.

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 Human Resources Shannon Ramsbury, Chief Financial Officer M. Cosgrove.

1. MEETING OPENING

1.1 Call to Order

Chair Mary Tomasi called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 pm with a roll call to establish a quorum.

2. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

2.1 PJ Day Acknowledgement

Superintendent Burt requested the addition of PJ Day Acknowledgement to the agenda as Item 3.4.

Motion by: J. Morozowich

to approve the addition of PJ Day Acknowledgement to the agenda as Item 3.4

Second by: A. Domeika.

Vote: Unanimous to approve by those present.

3. RECOGNITIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

3.1 Kendra Dickinson

Kendra Dickinson, District English Language Learner Coordinator, has been selected, based upon her experience working with English Learners, to participate on a State level project led by Janet Stuck regarding the assessment of English learners with significant cognitive disabilities. Kendra will be attending after-school meetings with this team that will lead to the development of guidance for districts to be published some time in 2023. Congratulations Kendra, and thank you for representing Colchester in such an innovative way!

3.2 JJIS Day of Kindness

JJIS students participated in many kindness activities including beautification projects, kindness notes, flower pots for the Senior Center, and more!

3.3 National Geographic: Tracy Butterick

William J Johnston Middle School Social Studies Teacher Tracy Butterick shared this exciting update:

“When I heard that National Geographic wanted to use my video in part of a new class they were creating, I felt incredibly honored, but figured that it would be one of many other examples to be shown. Imagine my surprise to see that my video was being used in full as THE example showing the integration of the QFT and Geo-Inquiry Processes. They

introduced me and the school in an introductory write-up. I have included screenshot images and the video (again) as attachments here. I think that what I find most exciting is that this video is being used in an INTERNATIONAL online class for teachers meaning that the students' message of saving pollinators is being shared far beyond their original expectations.”

3.4 PJ Day Acknowledgement

A thank you letter was received from Tara Wesoloskie and Family, Founders of PJ Day for Kids. Funds go to Children’s Hospital Cancer Center to help to support families financially and emotionally.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Karen Monteleone spoke on behalf of the Colchester Choir and Orchestra stating that the group is very grateful for the use of the school and equipment for practice and concerts. The choir and orchestra are looking forward to beginning again.

Jeff Koonankeil said after a comment by his child, he was concerned when a review of the program material was found to be very one-sided but was pleased with the teacher’s response to his comments.

Evan Evans expressed concern over the recent unpredictable bus schedule, as much as an hour and a half on one day.

C. McGlynn arrived during the Public Comments.

5. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

5.1 Pandemic/Vaccinations Update

In reference to the bus situation, Superintendent Burt met with the bus company and the delays are due to staffing shortages. Text messages are being sent to parents as soon as a delay is known.

A recent in school vaccination clinic was not well attended. Students 16, 17, and 18 years of age need parental permission but the younger students need a parent with them. At this time, there is no plan to offer another clinic as there are multiple places where vaccinations are easily available.

5.2 Federal Grants Update

Superintendent Burt received an update on the Elementary and Secondary Emergency School Relief Fund Under the American Rescue Plan (ARP ESSER) grants. The amount of the grant is \$2,279,789. There are guidelines for a safe return plan that is due in June and the grant application is due in August. These funds may be used over a three year period.

5.3 2021-2022 Budget Updates

The Board of Finance will accept the budgets at their May 12, 2021, meeting and set a date that night for a May 26, Town Meeting to vote to send the budgets to referendum on June 3, 2021.

The Board of Finance has asked the BOE to reduce their budget by \$275,000.

5.4 Communications

Several email letters were received and are available on *go.boarddocs.com*.

6. POLICIES/REGULATIONS FOR FIRST READING

6.1 0521P Nondiscrimination (Community/Board Operations)

6.2 2111P Equal Employment Opportunity

6.3 4118.11P Nondiscrimination (Personnel)

6.4 5124.1P Student Privacy Policy (PPRA)

6.5 5145.4P Nondiscrimination (students)

As these are first readings, no action was taken.

7. PRIORITY DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

7.1 June 2021 Calendar

The month of June needs adjustment to balance cohorts for Bacon Academy. Due to a closure at CES earlier this year, CES students will attend school on June 1, but WJMS and BA will have that day off. The last day of school is scheduled to be June 17, 2021. WJMS promotion day will be June 16 and BA graduation June 19, 2021.

Motion by: J. Rose

to approve the changes to the school calendar.

Second by: S. Hickey.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

7.2 Discussion and Potential Approval of School Resource Officer MOU

Discussion followed over the Memorandum of Understanding for the resource officer.

Motion by: C. McGlynn

to approve the School Resource Officer MOU as presented.

Second by: J. Rose.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

7.3 Colchester Civic Orchestra Agreement

The Board discussed the draft of the Colchester Choir and Orchestra (CCO) agreement to clearly identify the roles and responsibilities of each party.

Motion by: A. Domeika

to approve the agreement with the Colchester Choir and Orchestra.

Second by: S. Hickey.

Vote: Abstaining: J. Morozowich (J. Morozowich is a member of the CCO).

In favor: All others. Approved.

7.4 Long-range Preschool Plan

Superintendent Burt presented a plan for universal pre-school primarily for four year old students. The cost to the budget, class sizes, lottery, tuition were presented for discussion. This plan covers school year 2021-2022 through 2023-2004. The consensus of the Board members was to go forward with planning for the preschool plan.

7.5 Discussion of Potential Solar Power Plan

The Board discussed the potential for the use of solar panels on certain CPS schools.

The Letter of Intent is a non-binding agreement that acknowledges that Colchester is participating in the SolarMAP program, that Green Bank is proposing their PPA for the projects and the Town is supportive of Green Bank continuing to develop the proposed projects. By signing the LOI, Green Bank would secure these utility incentives needed for each project as well as include them into the RFP for a construction partner, which will include other Connecticut towns that are also participating in the SolarMAP program. The Letter of Intent does not commit the Town to signing a future PPA for the proposed projects.

Motion by: A. Domeika

to recommend that the First Selectman, or designee, sign the Letter of Intent with the Connecticut Green Bank

Second by: J. Morozowich.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

7.6 Board Goals Update

Board members read the updated Goals and Indicators dated May 4, 2021, and are looking for further member input.

7.7 Proposal for Diversity of Thought Committee

Concerns were expressed that classes are not receiving a balance of resources. Superintendent Burt stated students should be provided resources to research a subject, not be given answers. Dr. Hewes and Superintendent Burt review sample lessons. If a concern arises, it will be addressed. There are public curriculum committee meetings for information and at this time, with the other diversity committees in place, it was felt it is not necessary to add another committee.

8. GRANTS/OTHER FINANCIALS

8.1 Budget Transfer Over \$5,000: Contingency

8.2 Budget Transfer Over \$5,000: Special Education Testing

8.3 Budget Transfer Over \$5,000: Special Education Tutoring

8.4 Budget Transfer Over \$5,000: Bacon Academy Choral Shells

Motion by: S. Hickey

to approve Items 8.1 Reallocation of Funds to Contingency- \$40,000, 8.2 Special Education Testing-\$7,000, 8.3 Special Education Tutoring \$11,000, 8.4 Bacon Academy Choral Shells-\$9779.

Second by: J. Morozowich.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

8.5 Competitive School Readiness Grant

This grant supports the school readiness component of Colchester's early childhood initiative. It provides tuition for students to attend preschool in local programs. The tuition amount requested is \$150,000 and the corresponding administrative funds request is \$7,500. Additionally, this application includes a request for \$3,881 in Quality Enhancement funds to be used to support quality component standards in area preschool programs as well as to meet legislative mandates for supervision of sites. Request to authorize the Superintendent to sign the application as required.

Motion by: C. McGlynn

to approve Item 8.5 Competitive School Readiness Grant and the request to sign as required.

Second by: S. Hickey.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

8.6 Project SHARE Grant

This is a Hot School Grant in the amount of \$4,500.

Motion by: A. Domeika

to approve the request for the Project SHARE Grant.

Second by: C. McGlynn

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

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

10. POLICIES/REGULATIONS FOR A SECOND READING

10.1 4115.3P Athletic Coaches

10.2 4117.31P Return to Work Program

10.3 4118.14P Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act & Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1999

10.4 4118.15P Civility/Respectful Communications and Actions

10.5 4132P Professional Development

10.6 4134P Tutoring

10.7 4152.6P Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

10.8 4151.71P Emergency/Personal Leave

Motion by: A. Domeika

to approve Policy Items 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.5, 10.6, 10.7 and 10.8.

Second by: J. Rose.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

Motion by: J. Morozowich

to approve 10.3 Policy 4118.15P deleting the paragraph entitled “Optional Language for Fragrances and Chemical Sensitivities” to find another location for that item and correcting the address for Director of Pupil Services and Special Education.

Second by: A. Domeika.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

11. NON-SUBSTANTIVE POLICIES – None at this time.

12. CONSENT AGENDA

12.1 Approval of March 30, 2021 BOE Minutes

Motion by: S. Hickey

to approve the minutes of March 30, 2021, BOE Minutes with a correction to Item 7.3 Discussion of Possible Change to the BOE Approved 2021 (Budget) to read, ‘to reinstate the position in the 2021-2022 budget, the amount would be \$86,401 plus \$395 for a telephone for a total of \$86,795.’”

Second by: A. Domeika.

Vote: Unanimous to approve the March 30, 2021, minutes with the correction as stated.

12.2 Approval of April 22, 2021 BOE Special Meeting Minutes

12.3 Approval of April 27, 2021 BOE Special Meeting Minutes

12.4 Approval of April 1, 2021 Tri-Board Meeting Minutes

Motion by: J. Rose

to approve Consent Agenda Items 12.2, 12.3 and 12.4 as read.

Second by: J. Morozowich.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

13. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

13.1 Policy – No report

13.2 Budget – J. Morozowich reviewed several budget area and noted there will be no summer lunch program this year.

13.3 Personnel – A. Domeika said the next meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2021.

13.4 Ad-Hoc Curriculum – No report

13.5 Ad-Hoc Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion- J. Rose noted the members have been attending training sessions and have not been having meetings during that time. Next meeting will be in July.

14. REPORTS FROM BOARD LIAISONS

14.1 Listing of Board Liaisons – No report

BA Project Grad Liaison – No report

Board of Finance Liaison – No report

Board of Selectmen Liaison – No report

Building Committee Liaison – No report

Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3) Liaison

Commission on Aging – M. Tomasi attended the CoA on Monday, May 10, 2021, and gave the members information on the budget and noted that the BA graduation is scheduled for June 19, 2021.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Liaison – No report

Fire Department Liaison – No report

Parks & Recreation Liaison – No report

Police Commission Liaison – No report

PTO Collaborative Liaison – No report

School readiness Council Liaison – No report

Senior Center Liaison – No report

Youth & Social Services Liaison – No report

15. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION

15.1 Budget Calendar (updated April 28, 2021)

15.2 Next Meetings

MEETING	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Policy Committee	May 20, 2021	5:30 PM	Virtual
Budget Committee	June 3, 2021	9:00 AM	Virtual
Personnel Committee	June 7, 2021	5:30 PM	Virtual
Board of Education	June 8, 2021	6:00 PM	Virtual
DEI Committee	TBD		Virtual

15.3 Monthly Student Enrollment for May is 2,216 students

Board of Education

May 11, 2021 – Regular Meeting

15.4 Approved Committee Meeting Minutes

15.5 Monthly Budget Reports

15.6 Cafeteria Fund

15.7 Budget Transfers Under \$5,000

15.8 Notices of Retirement/Resignation

15.9 Regulations (none at this time)

Information only, no action taken.

16. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were received.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Tomasi adjourned this Regular Meeting at 9:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade

Recording Secretary