

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

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 the Board of Education meeting to order at 6:00 pm with a roll call to establish a quorum.

2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions were requested.

3. RECOGNITIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

3.1 Honoring Our Retirees

School Principals introduced and extended appreciation to the following retirees from Colchester Public Schools:

COLCHESTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

Frances Bysko
Mary Gagnon
Anne Lemke

WILLIAM J. JOHNSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Sharon Hatch-Duffy
Les Kershner
Cynthia Riordan
Suzanne Windsor

BACON ACADEMY:

Carol Johansen
Christopher Juhl
Diana Matsuzaki
Nancy VanZander

The retirees were surprised earlier with flowers and gifts from the Board of Education.

- #### **3.2 CPS welcomes Elisa Fabiszak as Assistant Director of Pupil Services and Special Education.**
- Jeffrey Burt, Superintendent of the Colchester Public Schools, is pleased to announce the appointment of Elisa Fabiszak as the next Assistant Director of Pupil Services and Special Education for the Colchester Public Schools. "I am grateful that Mrs. Fabiszak will be joining our team of dedicated administrators. She and Director Kathleen Perry will make an

outstanding Pupil Services and Special Education team, working collaboratively to support instructional staff and provide exceptional programming for all of our students,” said Mr. Burt. Elisa has been an educator for more than 13 years, and brings a variety of experiences to Colchester. She began working in Glastonbury Public Schools as a School Psychologist in 2008. In her role, she supports teachers in creating inclusive classrooms where students are inspired, think critically, and work collaboratively with their peers in order to problem solve with a growth mindset.

Throughout her career, she has supported special education students at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels. She has extensive background and understanding of special education law and 504 plans, as well in-depth knowledge of academic and social/emotional development for students with a wide range of disabilities.

In addition to direct classroom experience, Elisa also has extensive experience, in both private practice and hospital inpatient settings, supporting families and students with significant mental health needs and disabilities.

Mrs. Fabiszak holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Central Connecticut State University, a Masters of Science degree and a 6th Year certificate in School Psychology from the University of Hartford, and an 092 certificate in Intermediate Administration and Supervision from Sacred Heart University.

Mrs. Fabiszak will start as Colchester Public Schools’ new Assistant Director of Pupil Services and Special Education on July 1, 2021. Mrs. Fabiszak will replace Rebecca Lopes, who will begin her role as Director of Pupil Services and Special Education in Putnam Public Schools.

3.3 Honoring Bacon Academy’s Valedictorian, Salutatorian Gilbert Lamb Essayist
Congratulations to the following Bacon Academy students:

Valedictorian Sara Rosenthal will be attending the University of Connecticut.
Salutatorian Ashley Clark will be attending Thomas Jefferson University.
Gilbert Lamb Essayist Shannon Hickey will be attending Marist College.

The Colchester Board of Education wished all the best to the students in their future endeavors.

3.4 Recognition of Graduating Student BOE Member Shannon Hickey

The Board of Education extends their gratitude to Shannon Hickey for her outstanding contribution to the Board of Education and Colchester Public Schools. Thank you, Shannon! Shannon will be attending Marist College in the Fall. The Board wished Shannon all the best.

3.5 Welcoming New Student BOE Member: Ryan Moores

The Board of Education is so pleased to welcome Bacon Academy Sophomore Ryan Moores as the new student member of the Board. Ryan will be serving on the BOE alongside rising Senior Evelyn Toennes. The Board welcomed Ryan.

3.6 Janice Passacantando's Award for Continuing Education

The Continuing Education Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association has granted a 1st Award for Continuing Education. Mrs. Janice E. Passacantando joins a select group of individuals who have made a concerted, personal effort to continue professional learning beyond an academic degree.

3.7 Madeline Ives' Winning Video

WJJMS student Madeline Ives won the Best in State prize for the best video in Connecticut for her video, "Save Our Planet: Reduce Our Carbon Footprint."
She was awarded this prize through the *World of 7 Billion* student video contest.

3.8 Ethan LoVetere's Coding Competition Win

WJJMS's Ethan LoVetere was selected as a Round 1 Winner in the "Voice Is Power" Coding Competition. The experience lets students examine how music, computer science, and entrepreneurship pathways promote racial equity. He used his Python programming skills to mix a song that encourages social change.

Ethan was the only winner from Connecticut and will be getting an Amazon gift card for his winning entry.

3.9 Matthew Parsons, District Tutor Coordinator

Colchester Public Schools responded swiftly to the demand for student support caused by the impact of COVID19 by developing, from scratch, a district-wide virtual tutoring program for students in grades K-12. Mr. Matthew Parsons, math teacher at Bacon Academy, in his role of District Tutor Coordinator, worked with the administrative team to develop a tutoring system that included 26 tutors serving more than 70 students.

From February to May, our tutors met consistently with these students for nearly two hours each week to provide an intensive supplement to our core curriculum. Under Mr. Parson's leadership, tutors were trained to work alongside students and the faculty to pre-teach or supplement instruction in order to "accelerate learning". In all cases, our tutors were innovative in their approach, finding ways to connect with students virtually, designing learning experiences that supported the individual needs of students, and to create a bridge between school and home that supported the child.

With overwhelmingly positive feedback from parents, the tutoring program assisted our students get "back-on-track" with their learning, and close gaps caused by interruptions to instruction between March 2020 and January 2021. Colchester Public Schools is proud to celebrate the leadership of Mr. Parsons and the innovation and dedication of each and every tutor on our team.

Heather Petit, Teaching & Learning Office Professional, was instrumental in facilitating District tutoring efforts.

The Board thanked M. Parsons and H. Petit for all that they have done to support students.

3.10 JJIS Courtyard Beautification

The BOE recognized the following members of the CPS/Colchester community for donating time and materials for the JJIS courtyard beautification project:

Board of Education
June 8, 2021 – Regular Meeting

- Melinda Machalick- Wind chimes
- Mrs. Festa- flowers, dirt and gloves
- Shannon Baier- slate and mulch
- Cheryl Whipple- pots, water cans, knee pads
- Annamarie Cwikla- various garden decorations
- Karen Serrenho- chair plant holders, garden décor
- Diane Cook- clay pots, wind chimes, bird feeder
- Sylvia Delson- spider plants
- Jane Forcellina Willson- plastic pots
- Megan Lapointe- bricks
- Janet Kizer- birdseed
- Deborah Pothier- garden kit
- Jennifer Magrey- fertilizer, soil, knee cushion
- Mrs. Guinan- garden décor, potting soil
- Jacqueline Lucco- chair cushions
- Annette Gauthier Parker- wood signs
- Theresa Eldrege Cleary- garden supplies

3.11 Book Fairs

Sales data from the JJIS Book Fair:

Total Sales: \$9424.61

Books Sold: 1521

Cash Profit: \$2250

Scholastic Dollars Earned: \$212.31

Sales data from the CES Book Fair:

Profit for the school: \$2500

Scholastic money made: \$900

144 books were purchased for the school between the classrooms and the library.

50 Free books (last year's profits) were given to kids.

3.12 Bacon Academy Courtyard Beautification

Bacon Academy students Shannon Hickey, Jamie Greene, Victoria Violette, and Abigail Burke beautified the Bacon Academy courtyard with help from Colchester Garden Club President Katherine Kosiba and BOE member Suesan Hickey.

3.13 Bacon Academy National Honor Society Recognized by Connecticut Association of Schools

Bacon Academy National Honor Society Students **Shannon Hickey, Jamie Greene, and Victoria Violette** received a citizenship award from the Connecticut Association of Schools The State Student Advisory Council on Education and the Commissioner of Education selected “Bacon Academy NHS Gives Back” as a statewide winner in the **Challenge to Educational Citizenship Award Program**

Bacon Academy’s chapter of the National Honor Society creates enthusiasm for scholarship, promotes leadership, develops character, and most importantly kindles a desire to serve our community. This past school year, our chapter of 25 students has collectively completed a total of 271.5 hours of service and supported 1,000 individuals throughout Colchester. Projects we have pursued include: a tutoring program for students

district-wide, organizing trash-cleanups along Norwich Ave, advocating for a local small business, supporting a local nursing home by organizing a holiday gift drive (200 gifts, wrapped and delivered). Additionally, we are currently completing a courtyard cleanup project.

3.14 CPS Custodian Appreciation

Director of Education Operations read a letter written to the Board commending the custodial staff for their work and commitment to the students and staff throughout the last year.

3.1 CPS Cafeteria workers Appreciation

Director of Education Operations read a letter written to the Board thanking the cafeteria workers for working long hours even through the summer months cooking and serving meals.

3.16 JJIS/CES Music and Visual Arts Department-concert

A short video was shown to the Board members with a full version available on the website.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Koonankeil spoke about an incident that happened in school with his child that he mentioned last month and commented on diversity.

Lisa Johnson spoke about the work being done with the Ad-Hoc Diversity Committee and is asking for a serious commitment to this committee's work.

5. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

5.1 Pandemic Update

Superintendent Burt stated he has had no further update. Weekly health department meetings will be winding down and it will be status quo for now. The return to normal will depend on the vaccination rate and at this time Superintendent Burt is waiting for guidance for the beginning of school in the fall.

5.2 Federal Grants Update

Elementary and Secondary Emergency School Relief Fund Under the American Rescue Plan known as the ESSER-ARP is for \$2,270,789 in total. There is specific guidance for use of these funds. At this time, information is being gathered for development of the grant.

5.3 2021-2022 Budget Updates

Superintendent Burt noted that the budget referendum is set for June 15, 2021.

5.4 Communications

Michael Dubreuil sent two letters regarding students use of masks outside.

6. POLICIES/REGULATIONS FOR FIRST READING -None at this time

7. PRIORITY DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

7.1 2021-2022 Budget Adjustment

The BOE budget was reduced by the BOF in the amount of \$275,000 and \$364,175, for a total of \$639,175. The BOE previously discussed possible areas of reduction for \$275,000 at a special meeting in April 2021. The Superintendent presented additional suggestions for reductions for the \$364,175 additional amount.

Motion by: J. Morozowich

to approve recommendation of the 2021-2022 budget adjustments.

Second by: J. Rose.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

7.2 Additional Kindergarten Teacher

Based on enrollment projections for Kindergarten of 174 students the approved BOE budget for 2021-22 raised the number of K sections from 8 to 9. At this time it is likely the Kindergarten enrollment will exceed the maximum number of students for 9 sections of 180 and an additional section, for a total of 10, is recommended at this time. This addition may be temporarily funded by a grant if necessary.

Motion by: C. McGlynn

to approve the hiring of an additional Kindergarten teacher.

Second by: M. Koziol.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

7.3 Paraprofessionals Position Description

This position description has been updated by Dr. Hewes.

Motion by: A. Domeika

to approve the updated Paraprofessionals Position Description as presented.

Second by: S. Hickey.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

7.4 Long-Range Capital Improvement Overview

The Superintendent and the Director of Educational Operations presented a long-range capital improvement plan that focuses on major mechanical systems and roofing amounts

7.5 Human Resources Software Improvements

This item was tabled.

7.6 Stipend positions under APRA Grant

This item was tabled.

8. GRANTS/OTHER FINANCIALS

8.1 Budget Transfer Over \$5,000: Curriculum (CES Wonders Reading Program)

Motion by: J. Rose

to approve the budget transfer request for \$24,568 for the reading program from the electrical account.

Second by: A. Domeika.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

8.2 Budget Transfer Over \$5,000: CES Roofing

8.3 Budget Transfer Over \$5,000: JJIS Roofing

8.4 Budget Transfer Over \$5,000: WJJMS Long-Range Maintenance

8.5 Budget Transfer Over \$5,000: Bacon Academy Building Repairs

These transfers are possible due to savings in electricity because of reduced usage during the pandemic.

Motion by: S. Hickey

to approve the above requested transfers – CES roofing \$50,000, JJIS Roofing \$50,000, WJJMS Long Range Maintenance for \$10,000 to the reserve account

Second by: J. Morozowich.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

8.6 1330 Use of School Facilities: Fee Schedule for 2021-2022

Motion by: C. McGlynn

to approve 1330 Use of School Facilities: Fee Schedule for 2021-2022 as presented.

Second by: A. Domeika.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

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

10. POLICIES/REGULATIONS FOR A SECOND READING

10.1 3240P Tuition Fees

This policy will be revised to allow for minor clarifications and be on a future agenda for action.

11. NON-SUBSTANTIVE POLICIES – None at this time

12. CONSENT AGENDA

12.1 Bacon Academy Library Media Center (LMC) Request for Disposal

Motion by: J. Rose

to approve the request from Bacon Academy LMC for Disposal of Obsolete Materials.

Second by: M. Koziol.

Motion and second rescinded.

Motion by: J. Rose

to approve the request from Bacon Academy LMC for Disposal of Obsolete Materials offering the materials to teachers, students and donations to ReRead Books.

Second by: M. Koziol.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

13. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

13.1 Policy – no report

13.2 Budget- J. Morozowich reported that the Cafeteria fund was a net loss of \$65,000 but with end of year savings, the fund will be made whole with a clean slate for next year.

13.3 Personnel – no report

13.4 Ad-Hoc Curriculum – no report

13.5 Ad-Hoc Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – J. Rose said the last of five training sessions, thanking the Board for funding the sessions that were well attended. Meetings will resume in July.

14 REPORTS FROM BOARD LIAISONS

1. BA Project Grad Liaison

Board of Education
June 8, 2021 – Regular Meeting

2. Board of Finance Liaison
3. Board of Selectmen Liaison
4. Building Committee Liaison
5. Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3) Liaison
6. Commission on Aging
7. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Liaison – J. Rose noted the Town Diversity Ad-Hoc Committee is preparing a proposal to present to the BOS in July.
8. Fire Department Liaison
9. Parks & Recreation Liaison
10. Police Commission Liaison
11. PTO Collaborative Liaison
12. School Readiness Council Liaison
13. Senior Center Liaison
14. Youth & Social Services Liaison – S. Hickey said Youth First is offering training for a grant.

15. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION ITEMS

15.1 Budget Calendar (updated May 19, 2021)

15.2 Next Meetings

MEETING	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Budget Committee	June 17, 2021	9:00 AM	Virtual
Board of Education	July 13, 2021	6:00 PM	Virtual
Policy Committee	TBD (July)	5:30 PM	Virtual
Personnel Committee	September 13, 2021	5:30 PM	Virtual
DEI Committee	TBD		Virtual

15.3 Monthly Student Enrollment for June 2021 is **2203**.

15.4 Approved Committee Meeting Minutes

1. Policy Committee: April 22, 2021
2. Budget Committee: May 6, 2021
3. Personnel Committee: March 1, 2021

15.5 Monthly Budget Reports

15.6 Cafeteria Funds

15.7 Budget Transfers Under \$5,000 – None at this time

15.8 Notices of Retirement/Resignation

- Diana Matsuzaki
- Carol Johansen

15.9 Regulations – None at this time

16. PUBLIC COMMENT – no comments received.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by: J. Morozowich

to go into Executive Session to discuss a Request for a Leave of Absence and to invite Superintendent Burt and Director of Human Resources Shannon Ramsby into the session.

Second by: C. McGlynn.

Vote: Unanimous to approve. Time: 8:41 pm.

Chair Tomasi brought the Board out of Executive Session at 8:45 pm.

Action below.

18. POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTION

Motion by: M. Koziol
to approve the Leave of Absence request.

Second by: A. Domeika.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

19. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Tomasi adjourned this Regular Meeting at 8:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Recording Secretary