

Board of Education
August 17, 2020 – Regular Meeting
Colchester Elementary School – Cafeteria
315 Halls Hill Road

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mitch Koziol, Jessica Morozowich.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Superintendent Jeffrey Burt, Principal Colchester Elementary School Principal Judy O'Meara, Jack Jackter Intermediate School Principal Elise Butson, Director of Teaching and Learning Charles Hewes, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education Kathleen Perry, Director of Education Operations Mario Hurtado, Director of Human Resources Shannon Ramsby, Darren Smith Director of Digital Learning and Innovation, Chief Financial Officer Maggie Cosgrove.

1. MEETING OPENING

1.1 Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Mary Tomasi called this meeting to order at 6:04 pm and led the Board members in the pledge of allegiance.

2. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None requested.

3. CELETRATIONS

3.1. Acknowledging Karen Hobbes

Community member Karen Hobbes has provided over 600 masks for students; Food Services and Youth have been distributing these masks at meals pick-up.

3.2. Acknowledging Karla Staubach

Karla Staubach, Paraprofessional at WJJMS, has organized a donation from Staples of 160 face shields for Colchester Public Schools for Colchester Public Schools.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Caplet spoke to the Board members advocating for more information and support for the "At-Home" option.

5. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

5.1 Communications

An email has been received from L. Johnson thanking the Board for creating the Diversity Committee.

An email was received from D. Ferrigno stating he supports the August 31 start date for school.

5.2. Reopening Planning Update

Superintendent Burt reviewed the current plan for reopening with a new start date of September 8, 2020. This will be a hybrid model with one group of students attending school on Monday and Tuesday, an at home or half day for all on Wednesday and the

second group attending on Thursday and Friday. This will allow deep cleaning on Wednesday, ease child care concerns and allow for collaborative groups. Teachers will be on call. At-home students will be assigned a classroom.

C. Hewes will be creating videos to help parents with lessons, detailed documents are being developed to make sure students are successful. Time is needed for planning and the Administration is waiting to see how many of the staff members will be returning. The survey results are also being finalized.

5.3. 2020-2021 Budget Update

The Superintendent is looking at additional requests for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) due to the virus and possible additional training for the hybrid model. Transportation will be looked at and substitutes will not be needed on Wednesdays but may be used in other ways.

5.4. 2019-2020 District Closure Budget Update

There is \$160,000 remaining, part of this will be used to make the cafeteria fund whole. K-8 grades will be served lunch in classrooms. Approximately 110-130 meals were provided daily through the summer months.

Pre-School tuition was previously set at \$250 per month and Superintendent Burt is recommending reducing it to \$125 per month. There will be no at-home schooling for the pre-school children. It is not known at this time how many children may opt out of the class. Places will not be held but students may be drawn from the waiting list.

Motion by: J. Rose

to reduce the pre-school tuition to \$125 per month or \$1250 for the ten month school year.

Second by: S. Hickey.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

6. POLICIES/REGULATIONS FOR FIRST READING

None at this time.

A. Domeika left the meeting at this point in the agenda.

7. PRIORITY DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

7.1. Temporary Suspension of Bylaw 9311: Policies

Action temporarily suspends Bylaw 9311 on Policies to allow COVID-19 related policies to be approved on the first reading of the BOE. Bylaw 9311 will be reinstated after the October 2020 BOE meeting.

Motion by: S. Hickey

to temporarily suspend, until October 14, 2020, Bylaw 9311 on Policies to allow for adoption of temporary Covid-19-related policies and regulations on a first reading of the BOE.

Second by: J. Rose.

Vote: Unanimous to approve by those present.

7.2. Adjustment of 2020-201 School Year Calendar

Moving the start of school date will allow for additional planning for a safe school opening.

Motion by: C. McGlynn

to adjust the 2020-21 School Year Calendar for a first day of school on September 8, 2020.

Second by: J. Rose.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

7.3 Staff Mutual Aid

Allowing Staff members' students to attend Colchester Public Schools will ease the burden of childcare for Staff.

This item will be sent to the Policy Committee for further review.

7.4 School Readiness Grant Application

This grant in the amount of \$159,375 for the 2020-21 school year is used to support the School Readiness program (tuition and Administration costs). The additional \$3,881 for the Quality Enhancement component will be forthcoming. This grant is funded by the State Office of Early Childhood.

Motion by: J. Rose

to approve the 2020-21 Competitive School Readiness Grant Application and for the First Selectman/Superintendent to sign the application.

Second by: S. Hickey.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

7.5 Diversity Committee

The Board members need to make the determination of whether the new Diversity Committee is a Standing Committee or an Ad-Hoc Committee.

This item will be on a future agenda to allow time for review.

8. GRANTS/OTHER FINANCIALS

8.1 Budget transfer Over \$5,000: Food Service Program

Cafeteria revenues were significantly reduced due to school closure.

Motion by: C. McGlynn

to approve the budget transfer in the amount of \$13,761 for the Food Service Program.

Second by: S. Hickey.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

8.2. Security Funding

Additional security funding will allow priority security improvements to take place particularly at Bacon Academy. The BA fire Alarm System Upgrades are \$8,377.00. BA Access Controls - \$15,654 and CES Access Controls is \$7,300 and \$50,000 for a comprehensive camera project at BA for a total of \$81,331 from the unexpended BOE reserve account.

Motion by: S. Hickey

to approve moving a request of \$81,331 to the Board of Finance for Security Funding

Second by: C. McGlynn.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

9. CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION/ASSESSMENT

None at this time.

10. CONTINUE DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

10.1 WJJMS Building Project Update

Superintendent Burt and M. Hurtado brought the Board members up to date. Remediation work in being done to the concrete issue, the fields are looking good, and the sewer issue has been resolved.

11. TEMPORARY COVID-19 RELATED POLICIES/REGULATIONS FOR ACTION

11.1 1000.1T Green Cleaning Programs

This policy is a temporary COVID-19 related update of our existing policy.

11.2 1000.2T Use of School Facilities

This policy is a temporary COVID-19 related update of the existing policy.

11.3 1000.3T Volunteers, Student Interns, and Other No-employees

This is a temporary COVID-19 related update of the existing policy.

11.4 4000.1T. Employment Checks

This policy is a temporary COVID-19 related update of the existing policy.

11.5 5000.1T Health Assessments

This policy is a temporary COVID-19 related update of the existing policy.

11.6 5000.2T Student Discipline

This policy is a temporary COVID-19 related update of the existing policy

11.7 5000.3T Transportation

This policy is a temporary COVID-19 related update of the existing policy.

Motion by: S. Hickey

to approve temporary COVID-19 related policies in Item 11.1 through 11.7 as a block.

Second by: J. Rose.

Vote: Unanimous to approve the COVID-19 related update of above policies.

12. CONSENT AGENDA

12.1 July 23, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes

12.2 July 14, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion by: J. Rose

to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented.

Second by: C. McGlynn.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

13. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

13.1. Policy

13.2. Budget

13.3 Personnel

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13.4. Ad-Hoc Curriculum

13.5. Ad-Hoc Consolidation

No reports at this time.

14. REPORTS FROM BOARD LIAISONS

Chair Tomasi reported that the Commission on Aging meeting noted that the Senior Center Building Committee has approved a 14,000 square foot building design and that the Norton Park Committee is moving along with their park design and fundraising.

No other reports.

15. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS

15.1. Next Meetings

MEETING	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Ad Hoc Curriculum Comm. A	August 18, 2020	4:30pm	Virtual
Ad Hoc Curriculum Comm. B	August 19, 2020	5pm	Virtual
Budget Committee	September 3, 2020	9am	BOE
Board of Education	September 8, 2020	6pm	CES
Personnel Committee	September 14, 2020	5:30pm	BOE
Policy Committee	September 21, 2020	6pm	BOE

15.2. Enrollment Report (None at this time)

15.3. Regulations (None at this time)

15.4. Approved Committee Meeting Minutes

15.5. Monthly Budget Reports

15.6. Cafeteria Fund

15.7 Budget Transfer Under \$5,000 (None at this time)

Information items only, no action taken.

16. INFORMATION ITEMS: NON-SUBSTANTIVE POLICY CHANGES

None at this time.

17. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments received.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Tomasi adjourned this Regular Meeting at 8: 20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Recording Secretary