

Board of Education  
October 13, 2020 – Regular Meeting  
Zoom Meeting

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Mary Tomasi, Vice Chair Chris McGlynn at 6:32 p.m., Joanne Rose, Suesen Hickey, Jessica Morozowich, Mitch Koziol.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Amy Domeika,

**ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:** Superintendent Jeffrey Burt, Bacon Academy Principal Matt Peel, William J. Johnston Middle School Principal Chris Bennet, 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, Chief Financial Officer Maggie Cosgrove.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Board of Selectmen Liaison Denise Mizla.

## **1. MEETING OPENING**

### **1.1 Call to Order**

Chair Mary Tomasi called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:03 pm with a roll call to establish a quorum.

## **2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

No additions were requested.

## **3. CELEBRATIONS**

### **3.1 Ty Wissler named State Grade-Level Winner in Handwriting Contest**

Ty Wissler has been named State Grade-Level Winner of the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest. Over 280,200 students participated in this year's contest!

### **3.2 Caitlin Bagdasarian: National Merit Commended student**

Bacon Academy Senior Caitlin Bagdasarian was named a "Commended Student" by National Merit Scholarship for scoring in the top 3% nationally on the PSAT's last year.

Caitlin joined the meeting and said she has applied to colleges to pursue a Mechanic Engineering education

## **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Michael DuBreuil read a letter to the Board endorsing going back to school fulltime.

## **5. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT**

### **5.1 Communications**

Letter from M. DuBreuil as noted in Item 4 – Public Comment

### **5.2 Draft Long-Range Instructional Recovery Plan**

Superintendent Burt and Dr. Hewes shared a draft of the Long-Range Instructional Recovery Plan. This is a three tiered plan using guidance from the State Health Department and the State Department of Education. Superintendent Burt has been in contact with other districts sharing thoughts, has had feedback from teachers, and is working with daycare providers.

There is serious concern about the balance of the loss education of the children and concern

over the safety of the staff. As this is budget season, there is also an impact on the budget from the virus.

C. McGlynn joined the meeting during this discussion.

## **6. POLICIES/REGULATIONS FOR FIRST READING (None at this time)**

## **7. PRIORITY DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

### **7.1 Approval of 2021 BOE Meeting Dates**

The Board of Education meeting dates for 2021 were presented for approval with the location to be determined and the meeting time set for 6:00 pm.

**Motion by:** J. Morozowich

to approve the proposed 2012 BOE meeting dates as presented.

**Second by:** S. Hickey.

**Vote:** Unanimous to approve.

### **7.2 Addition of 1.0 Office Professional in Pupil Services and Special Education**

This position works with Medicare reimbursements, other legal matters to do with Pupil Services and Special Education. Filling in with long-term substitutes has not worked. This is a necessary position to fill.

**Motion by:** J. Morozowich

to approve the addition of 1.0 Office Professional in Pupil Services and Special Education.

**Second by:** M. Koziol.

**Vote:** Unanimous to approve by those present.

### **7.3 2020-2021 Budget Update**

Superintendent Burt met with First Selectman M. Byline and Finance Board Chair R. Tarlov for an overview of priorities for next year.

### **7.4 October 1<sup>st</sup> Enrollment**

October 1st 2020

CES.	498	
JJIS.	442	
WJMS	499	
BA	732	
BAAE	4	
CTAC	4	TOTAL: 2179

Superintendent Burt noted that 48 students have withdrawn for home schooling. Another 180 are doing at home learning.

## **8. GRANTS/OTHER FINANCIALS**

### **8.1 ESSER Grant**

The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund) was established as part of the Education Stabilization Fund in the CARES Act. State educational agencies (SEAs) will award subgrants to local educational agencies (LEAs) to address the impact that the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2029 (Covid-19) has had, and continues to have,

on elementary and secondary schools across the nation. This grant was mistakenly reported to be for \$189,000, and is actually \$211,529.

**Motion by:** S. Hickey  
to approve the ESSER Grant in the amount of \$211,529.

**Second by:** C. McGlynn

**Vote:** Unanimous to approve.

8.2 Barnes Foundation Grant

The Barnes Foundation Grant will focus on playwriting at JJIS.

**Motion by:** J. Rose  
to accept the Barnes Foundation Grant in the amount of the \$8,000 for playwriting at JJIS.

**Second by:** M. Koziol.

**Vote:** Unanimous to approve.

8.3 2021-2022 Budget Priorities

Superintendent Burt reviewed the draft of the 2021-2022 year budget priorities.

**Motion by:** J. Morozowich  
to approve the draft presented for the 2021-2022 budget.

**Second by:** S. Hickey.

**Vote:** Unanimous to approve.

8.4 Allowance of Rollovers: 403b Plans

This is a plan to allow employees enrolled in previous employers' plans to roll over to the available 403b plan available in Colchester.

**Motion by:** M. Koziol  
to approve the amendment to the 403b plan documents is allow for rollovers.

**Second by:** C. McGlynn.

**Vote:** Unanimous to approve.

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

**10. CONTINUED DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

10.1. WJMS Building Project: Vote to accept project as complete.  
This item was tabled.

10.2 Pandemic impact Update

This update will be a standing item at each meeting.

At this time, the impact on the cafeteria fund and pay to play are concerns.

**11. CONSENT AGENDA**

11.1 Notifications of Retirement

Letters for notification of retirements have been received.

11.2 Minutes from September 8, 2020 BOE Meeting

**Motion by:** J. Morozowich  
to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

**Second by:** S. Hickey.

**Vote:** Unanimous to approve.

## **12. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES**

12.1 Policy - C. McGlynn stated the next meeting for the Policy Committee is October 26, 2020, to prioritize new legislation and complete the 5000 series.

12.2 Budget - J. Morozowich reported on the concern for the cafeteria fund due to loss of revenue, an expected insurance increase, winter weather may have an impact, so the budget is being watched carefully. There is \$13000 -\$15000 in the Stop & Shop donation account that will pay for a program to allow sports and other activities to be viewed through a subscription program.

12.3. Personnel – no report

12.4 – Ad-Hoc Committee – no report

12.5 – Diversity Committee – J. Rose noted that the Ad-Hoc Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Committee meets every two weeks and has completed a mission statement. The focus group is gathering information from other agencies.

## **13. REPORTS FROM BOARD LIAISONS**

S. Hickey noted that Colchester Collaborative for Children (C3) has revealed a new logo and is continuing their puzzle fundraiser. Youth First has a Learning Lounge to support WJMS student study. Discussion is ongoing at Youth and Social Services for a prevention council on vaping and the Trick or Trunk Halloween program is scheduled to be held.

No other reports at this time.

## **14. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION ITEMS**

14.1 Next Meetings

MEETING	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Policy Committee	10/26/2020	5:30 PM	Virtual
Budget Committee	11/5/2020	9:00 AM	Virtual
Board of Education	11/10/2020	6:00 PM	Virtual
Personnel Committee	12/7/2020	5:30 PM	Virtual

14.2 Enrollment Report

The total enrollment for October is 2179 students.

14.3 NEASC 2 Year Report

14.4. Approved Committees Meeting Minutes

14.5. Monthly Budget Reports

14.6 Cafeteria Fund

14.7 Health Insurance Reserve

14.8 Regulations – none at time

14.9 Budget Transfer under \$5000 - none at this time

No action on information items.

**15. INFORMATION ITEMS: NON-SUBSTANTIVE POLICY CHANGES** – None at this time

**16. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments received.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Tomasi adjourned this meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade  
Recording Secretary