

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Alexander Oliphant, Vice Chair Mary Tomasi, Donna Antonacci, Maguerite Gignac, Rosemary Gignac, Jessica Morozowich, Christopher Rivers.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Superintendent Jeffrey Burt, Bacon Academy Principal Matt Peel, Colchester Elementary School Principal Judy O'Meara, 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 Technology Darren Smith, Director of Education Operations Mario Hurtado, Chief Financial Officer M. Cosgrove.

1. MEETING OPENING

1.1 Call to Order

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

2. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

2.1 New Agenda Items

No additions or changes were requested.

3. RECOGNITIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

3.1 Welcome New Board Member Christopher Rivers

Superintendent Burt welcomed C. Rivers to the Board.

3.2 Colchester Senior Center Thanks JJIS Students

A letter was received from Senior Center Director Patricia Watts thanking the students at JJES for their generous donations to the Holiday Box Project.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Seth Breitmaier commented on the upcoming decision regarding masks.

Patrick Walsh commented on the time it took for an investigation of an incident that happened about three months ago.

Joseph Torneo commented on data availability in reference to wearing masks.

5. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

5.1 Pandemic Update

Superintendent Burt said the Board will hold a Special Meeting soon to discuss the direction for masks and will share all the communications that have been received in reference to wearing masks. Information is being sent by the Department of Health.

5.2 Grants Update

Dr. Hewes reviewed the various grants the district receives noting the amount, the award period and the expenditures from those grants.

5.3 2022-23 Budget & CIP Update

A review of the budget revealed reductions in some areas such as employee insurance, and increase in costs in others such as oil, transportation.

5.4 Communications

Correspondence was received regarding a complaint filed with the state regarding a student's program.

6. POLICIES/REGULATIONS FOR FIRST READING

6.1 6141.2PR Recognition of Religious Holidays

6.2 6145.6P Travel and Exchange Programs

6.3 4111.1P Equal Employment Opportunity

Motion by: M. Tomasi

to approve with changes discussed.

Second by: D Antonacci.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

6.4 9271B Code of Ethic/9272B Code of Conduct

No action was taken on Items 6.1, 6.2 or 6.4. These items will be on the next agenda for a second reading.

7. PRIORITY DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Revise BOE Committee Assignments

C. Rivers will chair the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee, be a member of the Budget Committee and a Liaison to the Parks & Recreation Commission. M. Gignac will be a member of the Personnel Committee and J. Morozowich will be the Liaison to C3.

7.2 Underground Storage Tank at BA

M. Hurtado is researching the possibility of an underground tank due to physical restrictions for an above ground tank. If approved, the tank should be installed this summer.

7.3 Discussion on Heating Oil Purchasing

Oil prices are locked in for the year and a decision to lock in now or wait was discussed.

7.4 Revised Preschool Long-Range Plan

Superintendent Burt reviewed the revised configuration of the preschool classrooms.

7.5 BA Jazz Band Field trip to UMASS Amherst Jazz Festival

Motion by: M. Tomasi

to approve the Bacon Academy field trip request for the Jazz Band to attend the UMASS Amherst Jazz Festival on Saturday April 9, 2022.

Second by: M. Gignac.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

7.6. Robotics Team Field Trip to Western NE University for First Robotics Competition

Motion by: M. Tomasi

to approve the field trip for the Bacon Academy Robotics Team to Western New England University for the First Robotics Competition March 18-20, 2022.

Second by: M. Gignac.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

8. GRANTS/OTHER FINANCIALS

8.1 Set Tuition Rate

The Board of Education permits non-resident students from other school districts to attend local schools when they can be accommodated in existing classes. The students or their sending district shall pay a tuition fee to be established annually by the Board of Education. Superintendent Burt is recommending keeping the tuition the same as last year.

Motion by: J. Morozowich

to set the tuition rate for the 2022-2023 school year at \$12,200.

Second by: M. Tomasi.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

8.2 Budget Transfers over \$5,000 (none)

8.3 Donation from Carolina Precision Technologies

Principal Peel noted that this is a very competitive program. The Robotics Team is not funded through the budget and is a very expensive program. Teams need materials, work long days that includes food as well as food, lodging and uniforms for competitions.

Motion by: M. Tomasi

to accept the \$1,000 donation from Carolina Precision Technologies to the Bacon Academy Robotics Club

Second by: C. Rivers.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

9. CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION/ASSESSMENT

None at this time.

10. POLICIES/REGULATIONS FOR A SECOND READING

10.1 1120P Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings

Motion by: M. Tomasi

to approve Policy 1120P Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings.

Second by: R. Gignac.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

11. POLICIES RECOMMEND FOR REMOVAL

11.1 5000.3T Transportation

This policy was a temporary policy for Covid-19 related issues.

Motion by: M. Gignac

to remove Policy 5000.3T Transportation

Second by: J. Morozowich.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

12. NON-SUBSTATIVE POLICIES

12.1 4118.5P Employee Use of District's Computer System

This is only a number change to the Policy.

13. CONSENT AGENDA

13.1 Approval of January 11, 2022, BOE Regular Meeting

13.2 Approval of January 13, 2022, BOE Special Meeting

13.3 Approval of January 18, 2022, BOE Special Meeting

Motion by: M. Tomasi

to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Second by: D. Antonacci.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

14. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

14.1 Policy – No further report

14.2 Budget – No further report

14.3 Personnel - No report

14.4 Ad-Hoc Curriculum

14.5 A Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – No date has been set.
No further reports from the above committees.

15. REPORTS FROM BOARD LIAISONS

15.1 Reports from Board Liaisons

BOF Liaison M. Gignac stated a forum will be held February 9, 2022, for the budget discussion and there is a survey regarding the budget on the Town website.

CoA Liaison M. Tomasi noted the Commission on Aging is moving ahead with the Community Health Fair to be held at WJMS in May.

16. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION

16.1 Next Meetings

Board of Education	March 8, 2022	6:00 PM	Virtual
Policy Committee	February 16, 2022	5:30 PM	Virtual
Budget Committee	March 3, 2022	9:00 AM	Virtual
Personnel Committee	February 28, 2022	5:30 PM	Virtual
Ad-Hoc Curriculum Committee	May 3, 2022	6:00 PM	Virtual

16.2. Monthly Student Enrollment for February is **2272** students.

16.3 Approved Committee Meeting Minutes

16.4 Monthly Budget Reports

16.5 Cafeteria Fund

16.6 Regulations (None at this time)

16.7 Budget Transfer Under \$5,000

16.8 Notices of Retirement/Resignation

Information items only, no action taken.

17. PUBLIC COMMENT

Board of Finance Liaison M. Eagan noted the budget meetings for the Board of Finance will be February 23, to discuss the BOS budget and March 15 and March 22 to discuss the Board of Education budget.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

18.1 Staff Request for Leave of Absence

Motion by: M. Tomasi

to go into Executive Session to hear a Staff Request for Leave of Absence and to invite Superintendent Burt.

Second by: M. Gignac

Vote: Unanimous to approve. Time: 7:51 pm.

Chair Oliphant brought the Board out of Executive Session at 7:54 pm.
See below for action.

19. POSSIBLE ACTION OF LEAVE REQUEST

Motion by: M. Gignac

to approve the staff request for unpaid leave of absence.

Second by: M. Tomasi.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

20. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Oliphant adjourned this meeting at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Recording Secretary