

Board of Education
August 10, 2021 – Regular Meeting
ZOOM Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Mary Tomasi, Vice Chair Chris McGlynn, Jessica Morozowich, Joanne Rose.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Suesen Hickey, Mitch Koziol.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Superintendent Jeffrey Burt, 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 Education Operations Mario Hurtado, Director of Human Resources Shannon Ramsby, Chief Financial Officer M. Cosgrove, Youth and Social Services Director Valerie Geato, Coalition Coordinator Charity Benedict, District Nutrition Program Coordinator Leanne Ranheim.

1. MEETING OPENING

1.1 Call to Order.

Chair Mary Tomasi called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:05 pm with a roll call to establish a quorum.

2. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent Burt requested the following additions to the agenda:

Final Draft of BOE Goals as Item 7.6, Office Professionals Contract as Item 7.7, IT Request for Disposal as Item 13.4, CES Request for Disposal as Item 13.5, Regular Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2021, as Item 13.6, and Special Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2021, as Item 13.7.

Motion by: C. McGlynn

to add Items to the agenda as requested.

Second by: J. Rose.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

3. RECOGNITIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

3.1 Welcome our new SRO: Craig Scheel

School Resource Officer Craig Scheel was introduced to the Board members.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments received.

5. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

5.1 Pandemic Update

Superintendent Burt stated there will be full day classes for all, no voluntary at home learners this year. Tutors will continue if a student has to be isolated. Vaccination is not required nor proof of vaccination for school. Masks will be required on the buses, and at this time until September 30, masks will be required in the classroom. Classroom spacing is down to three feet from six feet. It is hoped that students will be back in the cafeteria at the elementary level but the high school will take more planning.

5.2 Meals Update for School Year 2021-2022

Leanne Ranheim, noted that the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has approved free meals again for all students for the 2021-2022 school year. Last year saw a large increase in breakfast and lunch numbers.

5.3 CPS DEI Committee Update

J. Rose noted that Colchester Public Schools Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee submitted a proposal to the Board of Selectmen and it has been approved to move forward to a Town meeting.

5.4 Communications

A message from ‘Unmask Our Kids’ was received as well as one email in favor of wearing masks and one against wearing masks.

6. POLICIES/REGULATIONS FOR FIRST READING

6.1 Summary of Policy Updates since 2018

The Board of Education (BOE) has reviewed and updated 163 out of 288 (57%) policies and Bylaws since September 2018.

6.2 1700P Possession of Deadly Weapons or Firearms

As this policy is a first reading, no action was taken.

7. PRIORITY DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Approval of Addendum to Purchasing Policy – Federal Uniform Guidance Requirements

This is an addendum that must be followed when using federal grant monies.

Motion by: C. McGlynn

to approve the Purchasing Policy (3320P) addendum and the procurement standards document as an appendix.

Second by: A. Domeika.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

7.2 Youth First Student Surveys

RE: SEARCH Institute’s Developmental Assets Program. BOE members/School Administration were involved in the planning for the Drug Free Communities grant (back in 2018-2019). The plan was to administer a Developmental Assets survey in four grades every two years. The developmental assets program is closely tied in with social emotional learning. Youth First received funding to administer the survey to 1000 students. V. Geato and C. Benedict reviewed the survey process.

Motion by: A. Domeika

to approve administration of Youth First Student Surveys.

Second by: J. Morozowich.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

7.3 Approval of Registered Behavior Technician Position Description.

The Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) is a paraprofessional who practices under the close, ongoing supervision of the district’s Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). The draft of a job description was reviewed by the Board.

Motion by: J. Morozowich

to approve the Registered Behavior Technician position description.

Second by: A. Domeika.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

7.4 Paraprofessional Contract Discussion Regarding Health Insurance

This contract was reviewed and will move forward to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) process and then brought back to the Board for action.

7.5 Contracts Review Regarding Maternity Leave Requests

This contract has been updated and will be brought back to the Board as an MOU for action.

7.6 Final Draft of Board of Education Goals

Minor changes were presented and reviewed for BOE goals for 2021-2023. A Special Meeting may be called in October to review the goals to date.

7.7 Office Professionals Contract

This contract was ratified by the union last week and will be effective on day of Board approval through June 30, 2024.

Motion by: A. Domeika

to approve the Office Professionals Contract effective August 10, 2021, through June 30, 2024.

Second by: J. Rose.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

8. GRANTS/OTHER FINANCIALS

8.1 ARPA Grant Update

Superintendent Burt held two workshops for feedback and prepared a video to highlight the grant. Response was sparse and the paperwork has been submitted for the grant.

8.2 Budget Transfer Over \$5,000 – Food Service

A transfer is being requested of \$43,305 to cover the losses in the Food Service Department due to the pandemic.

Motion by: J. Morozowich

to approve the budget transfer in the amount of \$43,305 to over the losses in the Food Service Department due to the pandemic.

Second by: C. McGlynn.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

9. CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION/ASSESSMENT (Not at this time)

10. POLICIES/REGULATIONS FOR A SECOND READING

10.1 9325B Meeting Conduct

Minor changes recommended by Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE).

Motion by: J. Rose

to approve revisions to 9325B Meeting Conduct.

Second by: C. McGlynn.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

11. POLICIES RECOMMENDED FOR REMOVAL

11.1 9400B Monitoring Products and Processes

As this policy is redundant, it was recommended to be removed.

Motion by: J. Morozowich

to remove Bylaw 9400B Monitoring Products and Processes.

Second by: A. Domeika.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

12. NON-SUBSTANTIVE POLICIES (Not at this time)

13. CONSENT AGENDA

13.1 Bacon Academy Request for Disposal (Business textbooks)

13.2 Bacon Academy Request for Disposal (FCS program)

13.3 Bacon Academy Request for Disposal (Social Studies textbooks)

13.4 Tech Request for Disposal (Tech items)

13.5 CES Request for Disposal (Grade 1 Science materials)

13.6 July 13, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

13.7 July 13, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion by: J. Morozowich

to table Item 13.6 Regular Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2021, and approve the remaining items on the Consent Agenda as presented.

Second by: A. Domeika.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

14. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

14.1 Policy - None

14.2 Budget - None

14.3 Personnel - None

14.4 Ad-Hoc Curriculum - None

14.5 Ad-Hoc Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – J. Rose -next meeting is September 8, at 5:00 pm.

15. REPORTS FROM BOARD LIAISONS

15.1 Listing of Board Liaisons

1. BA Project Grad Liaison

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 said the Town AdHoc DEI Committee recommendations were approved by the Board of Selectmen to move to a Town Meeting

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

No other reports at this time.

16. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION ITEMS

16.1 Next Meetings

MEETING	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Policy Committee	August 19, 2021	5:00 PM	Virtual
Budget Committee	September 2, 2021	9:00 AM	Virtual
Personnel Committee	September 13, 2021	5:30 PM	Virtual
Board of Education	September 14, 2021	6:00 PM	Town Hall
DEI Committee	TBD		Virtual

16.2 Monthly Student Enrollment -

16.3 Approved Committee Meeting Minutes

16.4 Head Start Program Letter

16.5 Monthly Budget Reports - None at this time.

16.6 Cafeteria Fund – None at this time.

16.7 Budget Transfers Under \$5,000 – None at time.

16.8 Notices of Retirement/Resignation

16.9 Regulations – None at this time.

Information items only, no action taken.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by: J. Morozowich

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

Second by: A. Domeika.

Vote: Unanimous to approve. Time: 7:59 pm.

Chair Tomasi brought the Board out of Executive Session at 8:04 pm.
See below for action.

18. POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by: A. Domeika

to approve the staff request for a Leave of Absence.

Second by: C. McGlynn.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

19. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments received.

20. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Tomasi adjourned this meeting at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Recording Secretary