

Board of Education
October 12, 2021 – Regular Meeting
Zoom Meeting

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Suesen Hickey, Mitch Koziol.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Superintendent Jeffrey Burt, Bacon Academy Matthew Peel, William J. Johnston Middle School Principal Chris Bennett, Colchester Elementary School Principal Judy O'Meara, Jack Jackter Intermediate School Principal Elise Butson, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education Kathleen Perry, Director of Teaching and Learning Dr. Charles Hewes, Director of Education Operations Mario Hurtado, Director of Human Resources Shannon Ramsby, Chief Financial Officer M. Cosgrove.

1. MEETING OPENING

1.1 Call to Order

Chair Mary Tomasi called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:02 pm with a roll call of members to establish a quorum.

2. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

No additions or changes were requested.

3. RECOGNITIONS/ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

3.1 BA Student Named Commended Student in National Merit Scholarship

Bacon Academy Senior Michael Barnett has been named a Commended Student in the National Merit Scholarship competition, based on junior year PSAT scores. Of 3.4 million test takers nationwide, 34,000 high scorers will be named Commended Students and will receive *Letters of Commendation* in recognition of their outstanding academic promise.

Michael Barnett stated he will attend college to pursue a degree in computer science.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were received.

5. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

5.1 Pandemic Update

Superintendent Burt reported the Covid numbers are dropping. JJIS has had several cases that are not related. Students that are non-symptomatic do not have to quarantine if vaccinated. Non-vaccinated staff are testing once a week, 97% of the staff is fully vaccinated. The Governor's mandate for masks has been extended to February. At this time the school facilities are open for outside groups to use.

5.2 Transportation Update

Transportation continues to see the same issues. There has been no information from the State to remediate the situation. M&J Bus Company is seeking new drivers. This is not a Colchester issue but a statewide one. The combined bus runs do receive a credit.

5.3 Capital Improvement Plan Update

The School Resource Officer, Resident State Trooper and Director of Education Operations M. Hurtado have reviewed the safety plans and an update is necessary for the school buildings, except WJMS. There is an inspection each year but this will be a look into the future and in the updated long range improvement plan.

5.4 Communications

A letter was received from Seth Breitmaier stating support for extending the mandatory mask use in Colchester schools.

6. POLICIES/REGULATION FOR FIRST READING

6.1 0521P Nondiscrimination (Community/Board Operations)

6.2 1800P Green Cleaning Programs

6.3 1330P Use of School Facilities

6.4 1212P Volunteers, Student Interns, and Other Non-Employees

6.5 12 50P Visitors and Observations in Schools

6.6 4112.5P Employment Checks

6.7 4118.11P Nondiscrimination (Personnel)

6.8 4118.112P Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace (Personnel)

6.9 3541P Transportation

6.10 5124.1P Student Privacy Policy (PPRA)

6.11 5131.911P Bullying Prevention and Intervention

6.12 5145.4P Nondiscrimination (Students)

6.13 5145.5P Policy Regarding Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972-Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students)

Above policies were reviewed. As this is the first reading, no action was taken.

7. PRIORITY DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Proposed BOE Meeting Dates for 2022

Superintendent Burt presented a proposed list of meeting dates for 2022 for review.

Motion by: J. Rose

to approve the proposed list of dates for 2022.

Second by: J. Morozowich.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

7.2 Goodwin University Early College Advanced Manufacturing Pathway (ECAMP)

Superintendent Burt presented a proposal from Goodwin University to form a partnership with Goodwin to develop a manufacturing course offering a certificate program.

7.3 Budget Process Update

Superintendent Burt would like to engage in the budget process early this year looking at needs, savings areas, efficiencies, being transparent, discussing the needs of the district.

7.4 Budget Priorities

A draft of the 2022-2023 budget priorities was discussed.

7.5 October Enrollment

Enrollment numbers were presented and in each class numbers were slightly above the projected numbers.

7.6. Superintendent Evaluation Process Discussion

The Superintendent's goals will be set to line up with the Board's goals. An evaluation is scheduled at the end of the year.

8. GRANTS/OTHER FINANCIALS (None at this time)

9. CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION/ASSESSMENT

9.1 Test Scores Presentation

Dr. Hewes reviewed the test scores of 2017, 2018, 2019, no tests in 2020. Progress was being made prior to the pandemic and the scores for this year show that the pandemic has had an impact, especially with the younger students. Continued support is needed for these students.

10. POLICIES/REGULATION FOR A SECOND READING (None at this time)

11. POLICIES RECOMMENDED FOR REMOVAL

11.1 1000.1T Green Cleaning Programs (1800P)

11.2 1000.2T Use of School Facilities (1300P)

11.3 1000.3T Volunteers, Student Interns, and Other Non-employees (1212P)

11.4 4000.1T Employment Check

11.5 5000.3T Transportation (3541P)

The above policies were temporary policies to deal with the pandemic and will be removed when the new policies are approved.

12. NON-SUBSTANTIVE POLICIES (None at this time)

13. CONSENT AGENDA

13.1 Approval of September 14, 2021 BOE Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion by: C. McGlynn

to accept the minutes of the September 14, 2021, meeting, as read.

Second by: A. Domeika.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

13.2 Field Trip: Bacon Academy Chamber/Women's Choir to Ogunquit, Maine

Motion by: J. Morozowich

to approve the BA Chamber/Women's Choir to Ogunquit, Maine.

Second by: A. Domeika.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

14. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

14.1 Policy – No further report.

14.2 Budget – J. Morozowich noted that the food service company has suspended produce deliveries due to the supply shortage. Produce will be purchased from a another company for market value having to pay out of pocket, not being able

to use USDA government funds. Usually, USDA funding runs out in early spring and the switch is made then. It is hoped that the supply situation will be resolved and the USDA funding will be used at that time. This is a country-wide issue.

14.3 Personnel – A. Domeika said the committee is looking at revising the exit interview

14.4 Ad-Hoc Curriculum – Superintendent Burt said a meeting is planned for November.

14.5 Ad-Hoc Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – J. Rose said a meeting will be held tomorrow.

15. REPORTS FROM 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
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 reports at this time.

16. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION ITEMS

16. Next Meetings

MEETING	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
DEI Committee	October 13, 2021	5:00 PM	Virtual
Policy Committee	October 18, 2021	5:00 PM	Virtual
Budget Committee	November 4, 2021	9:00 AM	Virtual
Board of Education	November 9, 2021	6:00 PM	Virtual
Personnel Committee	December 6, 2021	5:30 PM	Virtual

16.2 Monthly Student Enrollment for October is 2246.

16.3 Approved Committee Meeting Minutes

16.4 Monthly Budget Reports

16.5. Cafeteria Fund

16.6 Budget Transfers Under \$5,000 (None at this time)

16.7 Notices of Retirement/Resignation

1. Lawrence Paterno
2. Jill Leonard
3. Linda Kurczy
4. Barbara Stiles
5. Melanie Wehrenberg
6. Katherine Jesmonth

16.8 Regulations (None at this time)

Information items only, no action taken.

17. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments received.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

18.1 Staff Request for Leave of Absence

18.2 Superintendent's Goal Setting

18.3 Personnel Discussion

Motion by: C. McGlynn

to go into Executive Session to discuss 18.1, 18.2 and 18.3 and to invite Superintendent Burt to all sessions but to invite Director of Human Resources Shannon Ramsby to discuss Item 18.1 Staff Request for Leave of Absence.

Second by: A. Domeika.

Vote: Unanimous to approve. Time: 7:55 pm.

Chair Tomasi brought the Board out of Executive Session at 9:02 pm.
See below for action.

19. POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by: A. Domeika

to approve the leave of absence as requested.

Second by: C. McGlynn.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

No action was taken on Item 18.2 and Item 18.3.

20. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Tomasi adjourned this meeting at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Recording Secretary