

Board of Education
September 13, 2022 – Regular Meeting
Via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Alexander Oliphant, Vice Chair Mary Tomasi, Donna Antonacci, Margo Gignac, Christopher Rivers, Rosemary Gignac, Michelle Millington.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Interim Superintendent Dr. Thomas McDowell, Director of Technology Darren Smith, Interim Director of Pupil Services Glenn McGrath, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education Director Amy Emory, Assistant Director of Pupil Services and Special Education Elisa Fabiszak, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Heather Petit.

1. MEETING OPENING

1.1 Call to Order

Chair Alex Oliphant called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

1.2 Roll Call

A roll call was done to establish a quorum. All present.

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Oliphant led the Board members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

M. Tomasi requested adding Communications and the Board of Education FaceBook page as Item 5.9.

Motion by: M. Tomasi

to add Item 5.9 Communications and Board of Education FaceBook page to the agenda.

Second by: M. Millington.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Susie Milner shared concerns regarding the Title IX9 investigation regarding the football team.

4. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

4.1 Discussion and Possible Action on the Pupil Services and Special Education Supervisor Position.

Motion by: D. Antonacci

to approve the Administration's recommendation for a Pupil Services and Special Education Supervisor position.

Second by: R. Gignac.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

5. PRIORITY DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Board of Education Liaison Appointments

Liaisons were appointments:

Policy – D. Antonacci

Personnel – M. Tomasi

Budget – C. Rivers

Student Wellness – M. Millington

Curriculum – M. Gignac

5.2 Discussion Regarding Board Meeting Location (In Person/Zoom)

Discussion followed with pros and cons for each and it was decided to wait until the hybrid system is completed at town hall and to be further discussed in October.
Dr. McDowell stated he will find out when the hybrid system is due to be installed.

5.3 AGIREPAIR MacBook Buyback Proposal

Darren Smith reviewed the last buyback proposal for MacBook equipment.

Motion by: M. Tomasi

to approve the proposal for AGIREPAIR to buyback the MacBooks.

Second by: C. Rivers.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

5.4 JJIS Request for Donation from the Barnes Foundation

Motion by: M. Tomasi

to approve the donation of \$8,000 from the Barnes Foundation.

Second by: C. Rivers.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

5.5 BA Fundraiser Request for Colchester Youth Soccer Camp

5.6 BA Fundraiser Request for BA Cheerleading

5.7 BA Fundraiser Request for the Fencing Team

Motion by: M. Gignac

to approve Items 5.5, 5.6, 5.7 fundraiser requests for soccer, cheerleading and fencing.

Second by: R. Gignac.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

5.8 JJIS Material Removal Request: Worn and Damaged Library Books

Motion by: M. Gignac

to approve the removal request for the worn and damaged library books.

Second by: R. Gignac.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

5.9 Communications

M. Tomasi asked about the status of the FaceBook page and about the response to email correspondence. The Superintendent, Board Chair and Board Secretary are working together to respond to correspondence. Members requested to be copied on responses so they know it has been addressed.

M. Gignac, A. Oliphant and Dr. McDowell meet to decide what to post to Facebook.

Concern was expressed about pictures on Facebook of students. Parents are asked to sign releases for photos to be used. Facebook will be used to introduce staff and to celebrate school activities.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A change was asked to be made to the minutes: at the August meeting, Chair Oliphant lost power and the meeting was adjourned by Vice Chair Mary Tomasi.

Motion by: M. Gignac

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to accept the minutes of August 23, 2022, with the correction to read, meeting adjourned by Vice Chair Mary Tomasi.

Second by: M. Millington.

Vote: Unanimous to approve with correction.

7. REPORTS FROM BOARD LIAISONS

Board of Selectmen: Donna Antonacci – No report

Board of Finance: Margo Gignac – No report

P&R Parent Commission: Christopher Rivers – No report

PTO Collaborative: Margo Gignac – M. Gignac and Heather Petit are working to set up a Meeting that will most likely occur within the next month.

C3 Collaborative: *Vacant*

Commission on Aging: Mary Tomasi – Senior Center is out to bid and if the bid is accepted, a groundbreaking ceremony will be planned.

Youth & Social Services: Rosemary Gignac – No report

Changes were made to the liaisons as follows:

Board of Selectmen: Donna Antonacci

Board of Finance: Chris Rivers

P&R Parent Commission: Margo Gignac

PTO Collaborative: Margo Gignac

C3 Collaborative: Rosemary Gignac

Commission on Aging: Mary Tomasi

Youth & Social Services: Michelle Mllington

8. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

8.1 Next Meetings

The next Board of Education Regular Meeting is Tuesday, September 27, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

8.2 Monthly Enrollment report – 2,232 Students enrolled as of September .

8.3 Notices of Retirement/Resignations:

Paula Beaudoin

Mallory Boulay

Kimberly Doyle

Catherine Fahrenholz

Corinna Faulkner

Krystin Lattarula

Sandra Onderdonk

Lauren Parsons

Emily Sheehan

Susan Urbowicz

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comments were received prior to the Executive Session so the community members would not have to wait until after the session.

Ryan Hurlock asked if the Board had a plan at this time for his daughter.

No other comments were received.

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9. LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST

9.1 Discussion and Possible Action Regarding an Employee Leave of Absence Request

Motion by: M. Gignac

to go into Executive Session to discuss a request for a leave of absence and to invite Dr. McDowell and Judy O'Meara into the session.

Second by: R. Gignac.

Vote: Unanimous to approve. Time: 7:19 pm.

Chair Oliphant brought the Board out of Executive Session at 7:37 pm.

Motion by: M. Gignac

to deny the employee's request for further unpaid leave for the 2022-2023 school year.

Second by: D. Antonacci.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Oliphant adjourned this Regular Meeting at 7:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Recording Secretary