



COLCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Colchester, CT

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, May 23, 2023
6:00 PM
The Commons (Black Box Theater)
William J. Johnston Middle School
360 Norwich Avenue, Colchester

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Alexander Oliphant, Vice Chair Mary Tomasi, Secretary Margo Gignac, Rosemary Gignac, Michelle Millington

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Superintendent Daniel P. Sullivan, III

OTHERS PRESENT: Business Director Rachel Linkkila, Director of Digital Learning and Innovation Darren Smith, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Clerk Heather Petit

1. MEETING OPENING

1.1 Call to Order

Chair Oliphant called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

1.2 Roll Call

Chair Oliphant conducted a roll call of the Board.

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

2. STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS REPORT

2.1 Student Board Member Report

Ryan Moores gave the student board member report. Mr. Moores said that the Bacon Academy Choir and class officers helped to run the service for Founder's Day at Old Bacon Academy. Mr. Moores reminded everyone to come out to the Memorial Day Parade on Sunday, May 28, 2023. Mr. Moores stated that the Bacon Academy Marching Band as well as other student groups will take part in the parade. Mr. Moores also

reported that the environmental science class and life skills class at Bacon Academy partnered to create a herb garden and composting system.

3. *ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

3.1 New Agenda Items
None.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

4.1 For Public Comments, Please See Bylaw on Meeting Conduct
None.

5. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

5.1 Discussion on Solar Opportunity
Erik Nelson from Silver Brook Solar gave a presentation on a solar opportunity for the District. Superintendent Sullivan recommended that before moving forward with a contract, the Board get clarification from the town on where the refund dollars would go.

6. *CONSENT AGENDA

6.1 *Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2023
6.2 *Smith Scholarship Donation from \$1,000 from Patricia Smith
6.3 *Lions Club Donation of \$500 to JJIS Robotics Team

Motion by: M.Millington

To approve the consent agenda as presented.

Second: R.Gignac

Roll call: All in favor

Vote: Motion carried

7. *PRIORITY DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

7.1 *Maternity Leave Proposal
Superintendent Sullivan and Colchester Public Schools teacher Kerry Zrenda discussed a collaborative maternity leave proposal. The proposal included up to 12 calendar weeks of maternity leave. Additionally, if a teacher has used all of their available sick and personal days, they may elect to receive the difference between their regular salary per diem and that of their substitute for a maximum of twenty (20) additional school days, subject to certain conditions.

Motion by: M.Tomasi

To approve the maternity leave proposal as a pilot for two years.

Second: M.Millington

Roll call: All in favor

Vote: Motion carried

8. POLICIES – FIRST READ

8.1 3542.4 Meal Charging

Mary Tomasi spoke in regard to the first read of the Meal Charging policy which is a legal update requirement.

9. REPORTS FROM BOARD LIAISONS / COMMITTEES

9.1 Reports from Board Liaisons

- Board of Selectmen: Donna Antonacci
None.
- Board of Finance: Christopher Rivers
None.
- P&R Commission: Margo Gignac
None.
- PTO Collaborative: Margo Gignac
None.
- C3 Collaborative: Rosemary Gignac
None.
- Commission on Aging: Mary Tomasi
None.
- Youth & Social Services: Michelle Millington
Ms. Millington reported that the bathroom vape detector installation is still ongoing at Bacon Academy.

9.2 Reports from Board Committees

- Budget Finance Committee
None.
- Policy Committee
Mary Tomasi stated that the Policy Committee met and reviewed the Meal Charging Policy. Going forward the Committee will be reviewing all of the Board Bylaws.
- Curriculum Committee
None.
- Facilities Committee
None.

10. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS

10.1 Next Meetings

- Budget Finance Committee: Wednesday, June 7, 2023
- Policy Committee Meeting: Thursday, June 8, 2023
- BOE Regular Meeting: Tuesday, June 13, 2023

10.2 Personnel Report

10.3 Enrollment Report

The District currently has 2251 students enrolled.

- 10.4 Notices of Retirement/Resignation
Brianna Alessio
Christopher Petersen
Marissa Browning
Elisa Fabiszak

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

- 11.1 For Public Comments, Please See Bylaw on Meeting Conduct
None.

12. *EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 12.1 *Discussion and Possible Action on Employee Non-Renewal (discussion
proposed for executive session)

Motion by: M.Tomasi

To go into executive session at 6:56 PM inviting Superintendent Daniel Sullivan and Heather Petit for the purpose of discussing an employee non-renewal.

Second: R.Gignac

Roll call: All in favor

Vote: Motion carried

Returned to public session at 7:03 PM.

Motion by: M.Gignac

To approve the non-renewal as presented due to budgetary reasons.

Second: R.Gignac

Roll call: All in favor

Vote: Motion carried

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: A.Oliphant

To adjourn the meeting at 7:03 PM.

Second: M.Gignac

Roll call: All in favor

Vote: Motion carried