

Board of Education  
August 23, 2022 – Regular Meeting  
Via Zoom

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

**ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:** Interim Superintendent Dr. Thomas McDowell, Business Director Rachel Linkkila, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Charles Hewes, Director of Human Resources Shannon Ramsby, Director of Technology Darren Smith, Director of Educational Operations Mario Hurtado, Interim Director of Pupil Services and Special Education Glenn McGrath, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education Director Amy Emory, Assistant Director of Pupil Services and Special Education Elisa Fabiszak.

## **1. MEETING OPENING**

### **1.1 Meeting Opening**

Chair Alexander Oliphant called this meeting to order at 6:01pm.

### **1.2 Roll Call**

Chair Oliphant did a roll call to establish a quorum.

### **1.3 Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Oliphant led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **2. RECOGNITIONS**

### **2.1 National Honor Society Community Service**

Bacon Academy's National Honor Society, comprised of 22 members, completed **717 service hours this school year.**

The vast majority of these hours were all done within the town of Colchester through a number of service projects including: NHS Peer tutoring program K-12, Bacon to Bacon trash clean up, courtyard preservation and beautification, Red Cross blood drives, Harrington Court holiday drive, childcare at PTO meetings, and even students supporting our staff as teacher assistants.

Dr. Hewes said he was impressed with the number of hours and thanked the students for their service.

## **3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Evan Evans commented on the special education being for students at both ends of the spectrum and on the registration process for new students.

## **4. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Thomas Y. McDowell, Interim Superintendent, said the convocation is scheduled for 8:00 am at Bacon Academy on Monday, August 29, 2022 and all board members are invited. An orientation with Attorney Anne Littlefield will be scheduled for September 14 and 15. A committee has been established to interview candidates for the Bacon Academy principal position.

Dr. McDowell met last week with M. Gignac to discuss getting more information out to the public through FaceBook. They will start with video introductions of the Central

Office Staff. Dr. McDowell a report to members for a proposal for Special Education and Dr. McDowell and would like to discuss the proposal this evening.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

5.1 Approval of July 26, 2022 BOE Special Meeting Minutes

**Motion by:** C. Rivers

to approve the July 26, 2022, Special Meeting Minutes as read.

**Second by:** M. Gignac.

**Vote:** Unanimous to approve.

**6. PERSONNEL DISCUSSION**

6.1 Director of Human Resources Shannon Ramsby shared an update of new hires.

There have been 20 new hires since the last meeting. This year there were 42 resignations/retirements and 18 transfers.

A discussion began regarding the Special Education changes but it was determined that this item should be discussed further on a future agenda.

**7. CURRICULUM DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

7.1 Request for Disposal: End of Life IT Equipment and Electronic Waste

**Motion by:** M. Tomasi

to approve the request from IT to have UPYCLE USA recycle end of life IT equipment and electronic waste.

**Second by:** M. Millington.

**Vote:** Unanimous to approve.

**8. FINANCIAL DISCUSSION**

8.1 Business Director Update

New Business Director Rachel Linkkila noted that there is an update to the Munis System and at this time she is working on closing out the year end items. Reports for June, July and August will be presented to the Board in September.

8.2 Facilities Use Fee Schedule for 2022-2023

Director of Educational Operations Mario Hurtado presented the facilities fee schedule for 2022-2023 with a 2.5% increase from last year.

**Motion by:** M. Tomasi

to approve the recommended update for the Facilities Use Fee Schedule for 2022-2023.

**Second by:** R. Gignac.

**Vote:** Unanimous to approve.

8.3 To approve the AGParts Worldwide buyback proposal regarding HP and Lenovo Laptops

IT Director D. Smith noted that there will be another buyback or general recycling in January.

**Motion by:** C. Rivers

to approve the AGParts Worldwide buyback proposal or general recycling.

**Second by:** M. Tomasi.

**Vote:** Unanimous to approve.

## **9. POLICY DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

### **9.1 3541.44 Transportation of Students by School Employees**

This is a second reading of this policy.

**Motion by:** D. Antonacci

to approve this policy as presented.

**Second by:** R. Gignac.

**Vote:** Unanimous to approve.

### **9.2 6146.2 Enrollment in an Advanced Course or Program and Challenging Curriculum** As this is a first reading, no action was taken.

## **10. OTHER ACTION ITEMS**

### **10.1 Discussion and Possible Action on the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO Local 1302-77 of Council #4 (Custodians) Contract** (discussion proposed for Executive Session)

### **10.2 Discussion and Possible Action on Local 818 of Council #4 AFSCME - AFL-CIO** (Cafeteria Supervisors) Contract (discussion proposed for Executive Session)

**Motion by:** D. Antonacci

to go into Executive Session.

**Second by:** M. Gignac.

**Motion by:** Donna Antonacci

to amend the motion to go into executive session for discussion concerning **Item 10.1** the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO Local 1307-77 of Council #4 (Custodians) contract and **Item 10.2** the Local 818 of Council #4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO (Cafeteria Supervisors) contract and to include Dr. Thomas Y. McDowell, Interim Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Charles Hewes, Assistant Superintendent and Shannon Ramsby, Director of Human Resources.

**Second by:** Margo Gignac

**Roll Call:** Donna Antonacci, Rosemary Gignac, Margo Gignac, Mary Tomasi, Michelle Millington, Christopher Rivers, Alexander Oliphant

**Vote:** Unanimous to approve.

Executive session entered into at 7:12 pm.

Public session entered back into at 7:30 pm.

Mary Tomasi, Vice Chair, took over the meeting. Chairman Oliphant was not present as he had lost power due to a storm. All other members were present.

**Motion by:** Donna Antonacci

to approve the contract between the Colchester Board of Education and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO Local

1307-77 of Council #4 (Custodians) (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023).

**Second by:** Margo Gignac

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Roll Call:** Christopher Rivers, Michelle Millington, Margo Gignac, Donna Antonacci, Rosemary Gignac, Mary Tomasi.

**Motion by:** Christopher Rivers

to approve contract between the Colchester Board of Education and Local 818 of Council #4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO (Cafeteria Supervisors).

**Second by:** Michelle Millington

**Vote:** Unanimous to approve.

**Roll Call:** Rosemary Gignac, Margo Gignac, Donna Antonacci, Christopher Rivers, Michelle Millington, Mary Tomasi.

#### **11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments were received.

#### **12. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Oliphant adjourned this Regular Meeting at 7:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade  
Recording Secretary