

Board of Education  
April 20, 2020 – Special Meeting  
Remote Zoom Meeting

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Mary Tomasi, Vice Chair Chris McGlynn, Suesen Hickey, Amy Domeika at 4:26 pm., Jessica Morozowich, Joanne Rose.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mitchell Koziol.

**ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:** Superintendent Jeffrey Burt, Bacon Academy Principal Matthew Perry, Bacon Academy Assistant Principal Melissa Cyr, William J. Johnston Middle School Principal Chris Bennett, William J. Johnston Middle School Assistant Principal Dr. Stacy Ewing, Jack Jackter Intermediate School Principal Elise Butson, Colchester Elementary School Principal Judy O'Meara, Director of Teaching and Learning Charles Hewes, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education Kathleen Perry, Assistant Director of Special Education Rebecca Lopes, Information Technology Director of Digital Learning and Innovation Darren Smith, Director of Education Operations Mario Hurtado, Director of Human Resources Shannon Ramsby, Chief Financial Officer Maggie Cosgrove.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** First Selectman Mary Bylone, Board of Finance Chairman Robert Tarlov.

## **1. MEETING OPENING**

### **1.1 Call to Order**

Chair Tomasi called this Special Meeting to order at 4:06 pm. A roll call was held to establish attendance – Chair M. Tomasi, C. McGlynn, S. Hickey, J. Morozowich. J. Rose. were in attendance for a quorum.

## **2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

2.1 Citizens were invited to address the Board by emailing [boardquestions@colchesterct.org](mailto:boardquestions@colchesterct.org) or in written form to Colchester Board of Education, 127 Norwich Avenue, Suite 202, Colchester, Connecticut 06415. Public questions entered at least one hour prior to the start of the meeting were addressed if in regard to an agenda item. Other questions were answered in writing and added to the minutes of the meeting.

No comments were received.

## **3. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT**

### **3.1 Update on Distance Learning**

Superintendent Burt provided an update on how distance learning is being received and the impact on students and teachers. Students are engaged and teachers are reaching out to their students. Discussions have been held on the long term impact and what the long term plan is for the future. A link has been set up with the digital backpack for feedback.

A. Domeika joined the meeting during the update.

#### **4. PRIORITY DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

##### **4.1 Approval to received PEGPETIA Technology Grant**

Public Education and Governmental Programming and Education Technology Investment Account Program Pursuant to Public Act 07-253

The District applied and received a grant from the above State program in the amount of \$64,700. This grant will go towards an equipment upgrade to the audio system at Bacon Academy auditorium and an audio system for Board of Education meetings.

**Motion by:** A. Domeika

that the Colchester Public School Board of Education accept the PEGPETIA Technology Grant fund in the amount of \$64,700.

**Second by:** J. Rose.

**Vote:** Unanimous to approve by those present.

##### **4.2 Discussion of Proposed 2020-2021 Education Budget**

Superintendent Burt stated after four months of work the Board of Education presented the 2020/2021 BOE budget to the Board of Finance last week as a 2.99% increase over the current budget. Amid uncertain times with economic concerns, Superintendent Burt would like the Administration to take time to further review the budget. It may be necessary to move amounts around while waiting for financial information from the State and Town. Information is needed from the transportation companies as well. Superintendent Burt suggested the Board give a percentage or amount to work with to redo the budget.

Superintendent Burt presented Proposed and Priority Reductions to the Board members for discussion. The Proposed and Priority Reductions are attached.

**Motion by:** J. Morozowich

to request the Administration to reduce the proposed 2020/2021 budget from a 2.99% increase to a 1.43% increase over the 2019/2020 Board of Education budget.

**Second by:** C. McGlynn.

**Vote:** Unanimous to approve by roll call vote by those present.

#### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Tomasi adjourned this Special Meeting at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade  
Recording Secretary