

Board of Education
March 10, 2020 – Regular Meeting
Colchester Elementary School Cafeteria
315 Halls Hill Road

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Mary Tomasi, Vice Chair Chris McGlynn, Amy Domeika, Suesen Hickey, Jessica Morozowich, Joanne Rose, Mitch Koziol; Student Members Nick Janus and Shannon Hickey.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Superintendent Jeffrey Burt, Principal Colchester Elementary School Principal Judy O'Meara, Jack Jackter Intermediate School Principal Elise Butson, Director of Teaching and Learning Charles Hewes, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education Kathleen Perry, Director of Education Operations Mario Hurtado, Director of Human Resources Shannon Ramsby, Chief Financial Officer Maggie Cosgrove.

OTHERS PRESENT: Board of Selectmen Liaison Denise Mizla.

As this is Board of Education Member Appreciation Month, prior to the meeting the WJMS Jazz Combo and WJMS Jazz Quartet played for the Board members. Refreshments were available and the students made cards and posters to show their appreciation for work done by Board members.

1. MEETING OPENING

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Mary Tomasi called this Regular Meeting to order at 7:06 pm. Students from Mrs. Cannata's class led the Pledge of Allegiance: Michael Intrieri, Kaydence Bedner, Joshua Hunt, Elizabeth Coats, and Lochian Fabry.

Chair Tomasi presented each of the students with a pledge card for their participation.

2. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent Burt requested adding Amendment to 403(b) Plan Document – Eligibility and Hardship Distributions to the agenda as Item 8.8.

Motion by: M. Koziol

to add Item 8.8 as requested.

Second by: C. McGlynn.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

3. CELEBRATIONS

3.1 JJIS Students Honored by CT Association of Schools

JJIS Grad 5 students Darareksmey Disher and Sophie Cimbaro were honored at the Connecticut Association of Schools' Elementary Arts Recognition Festival on February 10th.

3.2 Innovator of the Month: Deborah Bigelow at Bacon Academy

March's Innovator of the Month is from Bacon Academy: Deborah Bigelow, Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher.

Interior Design's foray into more than the upcycling of garments, but a conscientious recycling of a garment into another useful tool, breathing new life into items, creating a positive environmental impact, while students use contemporary elements of style. This project was envisioned jointly with the Environmental Club's collection of unwanted jeans and the Interior Design's skill

set to create a usable item. Students showed the members one of the tote bags that were made from the jeans.

3.3 Recognition of Steering Committee

The following people served on the district's Steering Committee to develop district goals:

Alexis Jados
Amy Begue
Charles Hewes
Chris McGlynn
Jennifer Bricher
Jessica Morozowich

Judy O'Meara
Kara Pac
Kathleen Perry
Mary Tomasi
Allison Anderson
Joy Orlando

Chair Tomasi presented the Steering Committee members with Certificates of Recognition.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Several parents spoke about the recent decision to cancel all field trips until the end of April after the Governor declared a State of Emergency due to Covid-19. The Board announced they will hold a Special Meeting on Monday, March 16, 2020, at 7:00 pm at CES to discuss alternatives to cancelling all field trips at this time. Parents are invited to attend or to meet with the Superintendent in smaller groups.

5. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

5.1 Communications

No communications were received.

5.2 JJIS Student Communications see google docs

Principal Butson introduced Karah Pensa and Ella Jeffries. The students prepared a letter stating why they believe middle school students should have recess.

5.3 Budget 2020-21 Update

The Board of Education approved the Superintendent's Budget at a BOE meeting on March 3, 2020. Board members will be meeting with various groups to present the budget.

5.4 Budget Freeze Update

The Superintendent has instituted a hard freeze and purchase order requests will be approved for essential items only, non-essential vacancies will not be filled on a case by case basis. Potential school closures due to Covid-19 would have effects on the budget.

5.5 Advanced Manufacturing Program

Superintendent Burt has had conversations with a university interested in holding adult classes at Bacon Academy with university staff. This program would have benefits in many ways to Bacon as well as to the community. New equipment would be installed by the university that could be used by Bacon students. This

would be advanced manufacturing allowing students to work toward an Associates Certificate, with Pell Grant availability.

Board members felt Superintendent Burt should continue to look into the advanced manufacturing program suggested by this university.

5.6 Discussion of Last Day of School and Bacon Academy Graduation

The decision will be held off until April as any potential closing could delay the end of school by two weeks or more.

5.7 April 28, 2020 Election Day

Bacon Academy is the voting site and cannot be changed by state regulations. An early dismissal for the high school would entail an additional bus run. All schools will have an early dismissal and the time will be used for professional development.

5.8 Presentation: Accountability

Dr. Hewes presented the Colchester Public Schools Next-Generation Accountability Report 2018-19

6. POLICIES/REGULATION FOR FIRST READING (NONE)

7. PRIORITY DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 Signs of Suicide Program (Youth Services)

Director of Youth and Social Services Val Geato reviewed the program that would be presented to 7th and 9th grade students.

School is a natural and effective place to deliver suicide prevention programming. Schools can create a safe environment to teach students the signs and symptoms of depression and suicidal thinking, while also training faculty and staff to respond to concerns. The SOS program includes a video, a classroom discussion and the sharing of additional resources for support.

Specifically, the Signs of Suicide middle school video, *Time to ACT*, is approximately 20 minutes in length and features three dramatizations and roundtable discussions of common middle school scenarios such as online bullying and self-injury. The video also includes a Q&A between a high school student and school counselor that addresses common questions surrounding depression and suicide, and their related risk factors.

The Signs of Suicide high school video, *Friends for Life*, is approximately 25 minutes in length and features three real-life stories including a suicide attempt survivor, a story of family and friends who lost a loved one to suicide, and a story of hope about a girl who found help after struggling with depression and alcohol use. The video also includes four dramatizations addressing substance use and threats of school violence.

Motion by: J. Morozowich

to approve Youth Services' request to utilize the Signs of Suicide screening program at William J. Johnston Middle School and Bacon Academy.

Second by: A. Domeika

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

7.2 2020-21 Healthy Food Certification Compliance (ED-099)

Colchester is in full compliance with the state requirements. This report is filed through the state's online reporting system.

Motion by: C. McGlynn

to certify that the Colchester Public Schools Food Service Program meets Connecticut Nutrition Standards for public schools.

Second by: J. Rose.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

7.3 2020-21 School Year Calendar Adjustment

March 12, 2021 was incorrectly entered as a 1/2 day for students and teacher training for the second 1/2 of the day. It should be no school for students and a full day teacher training in regional professional development.

Motion by: J. Morozowich

to approve the revised School Year 2020-21 Calendar.

Second by: S. Hickey.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

8. GRANTS/OTHER FINANCIALS

8.1 Statement of Assurances for Perkins Grant

The Perkins Supplemental Enhancement Grant is a competitive CT grant that is intended to further support students develop skills in Career, Technical Education. Bacon Academy's 2020 proposal requests \$46,250 to be used to purchase industry-standard machinery, train faculty, and write curriculum for a Manufacturing 3 course. This course will provide students who excel in the field of manufacturing with an advanced elective option, expanding their post-secondary employment/training opportunities. The CSDE requires minutes from board of education meetings that illustrate a board's commitment to sustained programming in Career Technical if that community is to be a recipient of the grant.

Motion by: A. Domeika

to approve Colchester Public Schools' plans to continue its full support of the Career Technical Education program at Bacon Academy by maintaining its building facilities, staffing levels, course offerings, and supplies for the proposed 2020/21 budget.

Second by: M. Koziol.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

8.2 Acceptance of \$3,200 Grant for C3 from People Empowering People

Motion by: J. Rose

to accept the grant for C3 from People Empowering People in the amount of \$3,200.

Second by: J. Morozowich

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

8.3 Local Early Childhood Collaboration Grant

This grant is entitled Strengthening Local Early Childhood Collaboration, and is provided through the Connecticut Council on Philanthropy. Operational support will assist C3 with building capacity of staff through training opportunities.

Motion by: J. Morozowich

to accept the grant to C3 in the amount of \$15,876 from the T Early Childhood Funder Collaborative.

Second by: C. McGlynn.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

8.4 Tuition at Bacon Academy

In order to remain a viable option for Norwich Public Schools and potential partner districts, it is recommended that the tuition rate be set at \$12,200 for the 2020-21 school year.

Motion by: C. McGlynn

to approve the proposed tuition rate of \$12,200 for the 2020-21 school year.

Second by: J. Rose.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

8.5 CTAC 18021 Program Rent/MOU

A preliminary relationship has been established with East Haddam Public Schools to explore a collaborative 18-21 program.

The Board members felt Superintendent Burt should continue to develop a shared program with East Haddam for this program and establish a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a formal relationship.

8.6 Budget Transfer Over \$5,000: Contingency

Transfer funds identified as available to offset projected budget deficit to Contingency.

Motion by: J. Morozowich

to approve the budget transfer of \$41,804 from various accounts into Contingency.

Second by: A. Domeika.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

8.7 Budget Transfer Over \$5,000: Contract

Funds budgeted for union contract settlements included in the District-wide Contract Settlements line.

Motion by: J. Rose

to approve the budget transfer of \$5,534 for Nurse's contract settlement.

Second by: S. Hickey.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

8.8 Amendment to 403(b) Plan Document – Eligibility and Hardship Distributions

As a result of regulation changes involving eligibility requirements for part-time employees, as well as amendments to the regulations surrounding hardship distributions, the District's 403(b) Plan Document needs to be amended.

Motion by: M. Koziol

to approve the amendment to 403(b) Plan Document as presented.

Second by: C. McGlynn.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

9. CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION/ASSESSMENT (NONE)

10. CONTINUED DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

10.1 WJMS Building Project Update

Superintendent Burt noted there are punch list items and a sewer problem that must be addressed before the project can be closed out.

11. POLICIES/REGULATIONS FOR SECOND READING (NONE)

12. CONSENT AGENDA

12.1 Approval of February 11, 2020 Minutes

12.2 Approval of February 18, 2020 Minutes

12.3 Approval of February 25, 2020 Minutes

12.4 Approval of March 3, 2020 Minutes

12.5 Approval of February 20, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes

12.6 Approval of February 11, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes

12.7 Approval of February 25, 2010 Special Meeting Minutes

12.8 Field trip: Bacon Academy Biology Students to NYC

12.9 Retirements/Resignations

12.10 IT Request for Disposal of Obsolete Technology

Motion by: J. Morozowich

to approve the Consent Agenda items with the exception of Item 12.8 Field Trip to be tabled for further discussion.

Second by: S. Hickey.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

13. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

Personnel – A. Domeika noted that several job descriptions have been completed and will be sent to the Board.

No other reports were received.

14. REPORTS FROM BOARD LIAISONS

No reports at this time.

15. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION ITEMS

15.1 Next Meetings

Meeting	Meeting Time	Date	Location
Policy Committee	6:30PM	March 23, 2020	BOE Conference Room
Budget Committee	9:00AM	April 2, 2020	BOE Conference Room
Board of Education	7:00PM	April 7, 2020	CES Cafeteria

- | |
|---|
| 15.1 Enrollment Report March 2020 BOE Meeting - Enrollment at 2293 students |
| 15.2 Regulations (None at this time) |
| 15.3 Approved Committee Meeting Minutes |
| 15.4 Monthly Budget Reports |
| 15.5 Health Insurance Reserve Analysis |
| 15.6 Budget Transfer Under \$5,000 |
| 15.7 JJIS Donation to Miracle League Southeast CT |

16. INFORMATION ITEMS: NON-SUBSTANTIVE POLICY CHANGES (NONE)

17. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NEW ISSUES RAISED OR SUBJECT DEVELOPED

No comments received.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Tomasi adjourned this meeting at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Recording Secretary