

The Board of Education

Town of Vernon

30 Park Street – PO Box 600
Vernon, Connecticut 06066

Anne Fischer, Chairperson
Mason Thrall, Vice Chairperson
Patricia Buxton, Secretary
Karen Colt
Kevin Brown
Mark Kalina
Stephen Linton
Deborah Rodriguez
Kristiana Wintress

Date: October 4, 2022

APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING – AD HOC SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

A Vernon Board of Education Ad Hoc Scholarship Committee meeting was held in-person on Tuesday, October 4, 2022.

1.0 Call to Order

Chairperson Kevin Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Board members present: Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Linton and Mr. Brown.

Also present were William Meier III, Director of Business and Finance; Rita Courtois, School Counseling Secretary at Rockville High School, Diane Ritchotte, Executive Assistant to Dr. Macary and Nina Prajzner, Administrative Assistant to Mr. Meier. Dr. Macary, Superintendent of Schools, was unable to attend.

2.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3.0 Update on Actions Taken

Mr. Meier reviewed exhibit 3.0, an email sent to Committee members on June 29, 2022, in which an update was provided of all actions taken since our last meeting on April 19, 2022.

- **RHS Scholarship Loan Fund**: A living relative of the benefactor was contacted and agreed to request a transfer of the dormant funds into a new scholarship called the “Vernon Teachers’ Scholarship”. This request was presented to the Board of Education for approval and was granted at their meeting on September 12, 2022.
- **Doss Memorial Athletics Fund**: Jeff Doss, grandson of Mr. Doss, was contacted regarding the dormant funds. He would like to submit a new scholarship establishment request form to convert the long-dormant funds into the new “Bruno Doss Scholarship”. This scholarship will award \$500.00 annually to a Rockville High School senior who will attend the Goodwin University CNC Operator or Welding program. The request will be presented

to the Board of Education for their approval.

- **Legal Notice Responses:** We placed a legal notice in the Journal Inquirer on 5/2/22, 5/9/22 and 5/16/22. We received one response from Carol Nelson of the Town of Vernon's Cemetery Office. She had information on the E. Stevens Henry Bequest Trust Fund and sent us a snapshot of the entry in the Ellington Probate records, Vol. 39, page 489. The information is a bit skewed due to the tight binding of the book, but it did say the funds were to be used for students at Rockville High School. No other responses were received regarding any dormant accounts advertised in the legal notices.

4.0 BOE Trust Funds Held by TOV

Mr. Meier reviewed exhibit 4.0 and updated the Committee on his conversations with the Probate Judge as well as the former Treasurer of the Town of Vernon.:

- The Elsie Sykes Phelps Trust Fund is a Town account and must remain there
- The Mariette Fitch Trust Music Fund and Mariette Fitch Trust Fund are Town accounts and must remain there
- The remaining BOE trust accounts are available to us for whatever the Committee decides should be done. Some of these accounts have certain stipulations that state only the interest earned is available for awards. Mr. Meier will follow-up with the Town to see if the principal can possibly be transferred to the BOE as well, since there were no responses to the legal notices regarding these accounts.
- The Committee decided to take the remaining funds and establish a new scholarship called the "Vernon Board of Education Scholarship". They will establish the criteria for the award and will submit a scholarship establishment request form to be presented to the full Board of Education for approval.

5.0 Remaining Dormant Accounts

Mr. Meier asked the Committee for their thoughts regarding all remaining dormant account funds listed on exhibit 3.0 and asked whether they would be agreeable to adding them to the new Vernon Board of Education Scholarship. They thought that was a good plan.

6.0 Scholarship Establishment Form

The Committee review the DRAFT of the new scholarship establishment form and gave their comments.

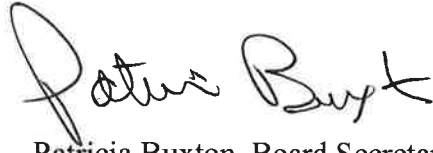
7.0 Charter Update

Rita Courtois noted that she reaches out to all scholarship benefactors each December as she prepares for the Spring Awards. She asks each benefactor if they still wish to award the same amount, and if their scholarship funds are about to be depleted, she asks them for their thoughts on what to do with the remaining funds. All scholarships going forward will have charters and will not be established without one.

8.0 Adjournment

Chairperson Kevin Brown adjourned the meeting at 7:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Buxton". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Patricia Buxton, Board Secretary