

The Board of Education

Town of Vernon

30 Park Street – PO Box 600
Vernon, Connecticut 06066

Paul Grabowski, Chair
Kristiana Wintress, Vice Chair
Karen Colt, Secretary
Anthony Bedlack
Patricia Buxton
Susan Jablonecki
Kriste Nucci
Simone Sewell
Mason Thrall

August 26, 2024

APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

A meeting of the Vernon Board of Education was held in-person and via Zoom Webinar at the Administration Building on Monday, August 26, 2024.

Roll call was taken at 7:01 PM

There was a quorum. Board members present: Mr. Grabowski, Ms. Wintress, Mr. Bedlack, Dr. Buxton, Mrs. Jablonecki, Ms. Nucci and Mr. Thrall. Ms. Colt and Ms. Sewell were absent.

Administration present: Superintendent Dr. Joseph Macary, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Robert Testa and Director of Business and Finance Mr. William Meier III.

2.0 Call to Order

Board Chair Mr. Grabowski called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance

4.0 Recognitions and Presentations

4.1 Introduction of New Teachers (BOE Goal #2)

Assistant Superintendent Robert Testa introduced the new teachers for the 2024-2025 school year who were able to attend tonight's meeting. He asked them to stand as their name was announced. The Board welcomed them to their new roles and thanked them for taking time out of their busy schedules to be here this evening. Dr. Macary asked each of them to share what they have learned about Vernon Public Schools in their first 3 days attending PD sessions. They all agreed that they felt very welcomed by their teams and like the values they have witnessed so far. They also were drawn to Vernon Public Schools due to the success our District has experienced in student academic growth.

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5.0 Secretary's Report

5.1 Opportunity for Board of Education to add/delete urgent agenda items

No agenda items were added.

6.0 Community Forum

Opportunity for comments on agenda items, potential future agenda items, or general information provided to the Board from citizens and community organizations (Individual speakers shall be limited to five minutes and the total time for public forum shall be limited to 15 minutes.)

No one addressed the Board.

7.0 Consent Agenda

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- (a) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Finance Committee Meeting held on June 10, 2024
- (b) Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held on June 10, 2024
- (c) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Special Meeting – Ad Hoc 10-Year Facility Study and Master Plan Committee Meeting held on June 24, 2024

MOTION: Mr. Thrall moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 7.1(a), (b) and (c)
SECOND: Mrs. Jablonecki
VOTE: Unanimous

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8.0 Personnel

8.1 New Teacher Hires & Transfers (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Assistant Superintendent Robert Testa shared a list of 35 new teachers hired for the 2024-2025 school year. He also spoke of the hiring of a new Assistant Principal at Rockville High School and 8 transfers of teachers from last year. As of 8/21/2024, there were 6 teaching positions still needing to be filled. As of today, three of those positions have been filled, leaving 3 remaining to be filled. Those positions are in the final stages of the hiring process and should be filled within the next week or so.

9.0 Teaching and Learning

9.1 Teacher Professional Development Schedule for August 26, 27 and 28, 2024 (BOE Goal #2)

Assistant Superintendent Robert Testa shared the Professional Development schedules for Teachers and Paras, which takes place on August 26th, 27th & 28th. The teacher schedule is packed with team/staff meetings and sessions about School Culture/Equity, the new Teacher Evaluation Plan, Personal Learning Time and Building a Foundation for Success. The Para schedule takes place on Wednesday, August 28th and includes Vector Training/Mandated DCF Child Trafficking Training, PMT Refresh for select Paras and Collaboration with Programs (PreK/ABL/Renaissance).

10.0 General Business

10.1 2023-2024 Annual Town Report (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Superintendent Dr. Joseph Macary shared the Annual Town Report provided by the BOE to the Town of Vernon. This report is requested annually and gives a snapshot of the previous school year. Each school is required to provide details of happenings during their school year. The report also lists current school data such as enrollment numbers, annual budget total, our Mission Statement, who the current Administration and Board members

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are, our Core Beliefs, Diversity Statement, District Goals, Vision Statement as well as the goals of our Curriculum Dept. The report wraps up with an appendix from the Superintendent detailing District-wide accomplishments. Dr. Macary suggested it might be a good idea to post this report on our website and asked the Board for their thoughts. All agreed that we should. We will post the report to our “District Information” page.

10.2 Approval of the NCERT Education Technology, Research and Leadership Practices Agreement (BOE Goal #2)

Superintendent Dr. Joseph Macary announced that we were previously members of District Management Group at the local level and would now wish to be members of a national network called NCERT (National Center for Education Research and Technology, Inc.). He is asking the Board for their approval to enter into an agreement with NCERT for Educational Technology, Research and Leadership Practices. He feels it would be beneficial to be connected nationally and is the best option for Central Office Administration, the Superintendent and Board of Education members.

MOTION: Dr. Buxton moved to approve the NCERT Education Technology, Research and Leadership Practices Agreement as discussed and presented.

SECOND: Mrs. Jablonecki

VOTE: Unanimous

10.3 Summary of Education-Related Legislation Enacted in the 2024 Regular Session (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Superintendent Dr. Joseph Macary shared a document titled “Summary of Education-Related Legislation Enacted in the 2024 Regular Session”, prepared by Shipman & Goodwin, LLP. This document summarizes changes to the statutes that affect public education in Connecticut, effective July 1, 2024. He noted one example; there was a change to expulsion hearing notices, where we will now be required to provide a 5-day notice to all parties.

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10.4 Approval of a Revision to the 2024 BOE Meeting Calendar (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Superintendent Dr. Joseph Macary presented a proposed change to the Board of Education meeting calendar for 2024. Now that the Board meets only once per month, we would like to suggest holding the November Board meeting here in Central Office on November 11, 2024, rather than offsite at VCMS. We would then hold the Student Awards Ceremony on November 18, 2024 at VCMS. This would allow more time for students, their families and Board members to enjoy the awards ceremony without having to rush on to a Board meeting at 7:00 PM in the VCMS library.

MOTION: Mr. Thrall moved to approve the revision to the 2024 BOE Meeting Calendar as discussed and presented.

SECOND: Ms. Nucci

VOTE: Unanimous

10.5 Increasing Educator Diversity Plan Update (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Assistant Superintendent Robert Testa provided an update on the status of the Increasing Educator Diversity Plan submitted to the State back in March 2024. He was pleased to announce that our plan was approved in June and the first meeting of the Committee will take place in September. Dr. Macary noted that the submitted plans of 30 districts in CT were denied. CAPSS has asked us for our plan to share with those districts that were not approved.

11.0 Review and Update Board of Education Calendar

<https://www.vernonpublicschools.org/district-information/district-calendar>

No updates were made. Dr. Macary reminded Board members that there are many Committee meetings scheduled during September & October. The next Finance Committee meeting will be a joint meeting with the Facilities Committee.

12.0 Opportunity for Questions from the Press Regarding Agenda Items

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No one from the Press was in attendance.

13.0 Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Thrall made a motion to adjourn at 7:32 PM
SECOND: Ms. Wintress
VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Colt, Board Secretary