

# The Board of Education Town of Vernon

30 Park Street – PO Box 600  
Vernon, Connecticut 06066

Anne Fischer, Chairperson  
Mark Kalina, Vice Chairperson  
Stephen Linton, Secretary  
Patricia Buxton, Treasurer  
Kevin Brown  
Deborah Rodriguez  
Mason Thrall

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VERNON TOWN CLERK  
21 FEB -3 AM 8:46

January 25, 2021

## APPROVED MINUTES BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

A meeting of the Vernon Board of Education was held via Zoom Webinar and in person on Monday, January 25, 2021.

### **1.0 Establish Quorum**

Roll call was taken at 7 p.m. Board members present in person: Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Kalina, Mr. Linton, Dr. Buxton, Mr. Brown. Board members present via Zoom: Mrs. Rodriguez, Mr. Thrall. There was a quorum.

Student Representatives present via Zoom: James Wheeler. Allison Blume was absent.

Administration present in person: Superintendent Dr. Joseph Macary, Assistant Superintendent Robert Testa, Director of Business and Finance Angela Wang

### **2.0 Call to Order**

Chairperson Fischer called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

### **3.0 Pledge of Allegiance**

### **4.0 Recognitions and Presentations**

#### **4.1 Recognition of Fire Prevention Poster Contest Winners (BOE Goal #1, #2)**

Shawn Parrot, 8, a third-grader at Skinner Road School, and Chase Kopcza, 9, a fourth-grader at Lake Street School, were the Vernon winners in the annual Fire Prevention Poster Contest. The annual poster contest is sponsored by the Connecticut Fire Marshals Association, the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association, the State Fire Marshal, the Connecticut Department of Education Connecticut Fair Plan, an insurance provider. The Board recognized them for this award. Fire Marshal Daniel Wasilewski congratulated the students and also announced that Chase Kopcza has also won the Tolland County Fire Prevention Poster Contest and has moved on to the state level competition.

### **5.0 Secretary's Report**

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

Dr. Macary asked the Board to add an agenda item: “Center Road School Roof Project – Educational Specifications” (BOE Goal #3)

MOTION: Mr. Linton moved to add “Center Road School Roof Project – Educational Specifications” (BOE Goal #3) to the agenda as item #10.1(a).

SECOND: Mr. Kalina

VOTE: Unanimous

## 5.2 Rockville High School Student Representative Report

Student Representative James Wheeler reported the following:

- Quarter 2 has come to a close and on 1/21 the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester began. The 2<sup>nd</sup> semester will give students a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance.
- Report cards will be mailed to parents on 1/28.
- Winter sports began and the hockey team had practice on 1/23 in Bolton.
- The cheer team is hard at work with conditioning drills while practicing social distancing.
- There are 150 students participating in winter sports.
- Creative Writing students have won many awards in the 2021 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards - 35 awards this year including 5 Gold Keys, 10 Silver Keys, and 20 Honorable Mentions.
- Winter sports games begin on 2/9.
- Registration for spring sports starts next week.

## 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 (limited to 15 minutes)

No one addressed the Board.

## 7.0 Personnel

### 7.1 Leave of Absence Request (BOE Goal #2) (Executive Session Anticipated)

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The Board will review and may take action on an employee's request for Leave of Absence in Executive Session.

This agenda item was moved to the end of the meeting.

## 8.0 Consent Agenda

- 8.1 (a) Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held on January 11, 2021
- (b) Approval of the Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting (Committee of the Whole) held on January 11, 2021
- (c) Approval of the Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting (Ad Hoc Committee) held on January 13, 2021
- (d) Approval of the Minutes of the Vernon Town Council and Vernon Board of Education Virtual Joint Special Meeting held on January 5, 2021

MOTION: Mr. Kalina moved to approve the items on the Consent Agenda.

SECOND: Mr. Thrall

VOTE: Unanimous

## 9.0 Teaching and Learning

### 9.1 Vernon Center Middle School Instructional Coaching Framework (BOE Goal #2)

Vernon Center Middle School Instructional Coaches Mr. Michael Savignano and Mrs. Alison Jedidian shared an overview of instructional framework at Vernon Center Middle School. The framework was created by Mr. David Cormier, district consultant, with input from Mrs. Jedidian, Mr. Savignano, and Principal David Caruso.

Instructional coaching is one of four practices that create a climate/culture focused on improving student growth. The middle school wanted to create a culture where feedback leads to continuous growth and improvement in teacher practices and student learning.

The purpose of the Instructional Coaching Framework supports school-wide continuous growth and improvement. The framework broadens the scope of coaching practices

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beyond individual coaches and their interactions to an overall climate/culture that places feedback and growth at the center of improvement practices.

#### The Four Goals of Instructional Coaching:

1. To engage in one to one coaching interactions
2. To support curriculum development and implementation
3. To facilitate ongoing professional learning & development
4. To support the facilitation of data organization, analysis, and discussions

#### Essentials for Effective Instruction:

1. Positive & Productive Learning Environment
2. Engaging & Student - Centered Learning Approaches
3. Intentional & Targeted Instructional Design

#### The core of the VCMS Instructional Coaching Framework is the professional learning cycle:

1. Observe | Classroom visits, videos of instruction, student work
2. Confer | Analysis of data, reflection conferences, PLC meetings
3. Learn | Lesson development, modeling and co-teaching, real-time feedback, professional learning sessions
4. Apply | Teaching

With this round/cycle just ending, their last step is to meet and reflect on the progress that was made, analyzing student outcomes and identify “What’s Next”.

Professional Learning was conducted online. The sessions are on-line on the middle school website.

Along with the Directors of Teaching and Learning, they developed and piloted an Instructional Coaching Rubric.

#### Overall Coaching Philosophy:

Instructional coaching is characterized by the following:

- Sustained over time
- Job embedded/relevant

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- Actively engaging
- Criterion-based
- Focused on practice

This will make teachers go from good to great and great to even better.

## 10.0 General Business

### 10.1 Center Road School Roof (BOE Goal #3)

The Board was asked to authorize Administration to request that the Town of Vernon Town Council approve the following motions (below) pertaining to the roof replacement project at Center Road School. The total estimated cost of \$1,500,000 is offset by State of Connecticut School Construction Grants estimated payment of \$1,028,550 at an assumed reimbursement rate of 68.57%.

MOTION: Mr. Kalina moved that the Board authorize Administration to request that the Town of Vernon Town Council approve the following motion pertaining to the roof replacement project at Center Road School:

#### Proposed Resolution #1:

Resolved, the Vernon Town Council does hereby authorize the expenditure of 100% of project revenues or \$1,500,000 to complete the Center Road School Roof Replacement Project.

SECOND: Steve Linton

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: Mr. Kalina moved that the Board authorize Administration to request that the Town of Vernon Town Council approve the following motion pertaining to the roof replacement project at Center Road School:

#### Proposed Resolution #2:

Resolved, in accordance with Section 10-283(d) of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Vernon Town Council does hereby authorize the financing of the local share or \$471,450 for the Center Road School Roof Replacement Project cost, pursuant to the funding requirements as outlined in the town charter.

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SECOND: Mr. Kalina  
VOTE: Unanimous

10.1

(a) Center Road School Roof Project – Educational Specifications (BOE Goal #3)

The Board reviewed, discussed and was asked to approve the Educational Specifications for the Center Road School Roof Project. These specifications are required and gives an outline to the state about the project rationale and plans. The specifications are similar to what was required for the Vernon Center Middle School roof. The goal for the Center Road School roof replacement is for the summer of 2021.

A typographical error on page 5 was noted “...*typical of a middle school...*” and will be corrected to read “...*typical of an elementary school...*”

MOTION: Mr. Kalina moved that That the Board approve the Educational Specifications for the Center Road School Roof Project as presented.  
SECOND: Mr. Linton  
VOTE: Unanimous

10.2 COVID-19 Update (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Dr. Macary gave an update on COVID-19. Right now approximately 30% of Vernon students are virtual. Elementary students attend school five days per week while the middle school and high school have a hybrid plan. We have established a vaccination committee for our staff. The vaccination guidelines have come in and have changed. Phase 1b is scheduled for over 1 million people and right now the priority is vaccinating people over the age of 75. School staff will be part three of Phase 1b. We have gathered information of which staff would like to be vaccinated and we are waiting for the guidelines and date from the state. The Town of Vernon has vaccination sites at Rockville General Hospital and at the Senior Center. The Town of Vernon have asked for some volunteers from our staff. Four of our school nurses volunteered at the Senior Center on Friday. That was a remote day of learning in all of the schools. We continue to let parents and staff know when we have confirmed cases. We are in a good position at this point.

10.3 Approval of Working Agreement Between Vernon Board of Education and Local 1303-35 of Council 4, American Federation of State, County and municipal Employees, AFL-CIO,

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Custodians, Maintenance Staff, Secretaries and Clericals July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023 (BOE Goal #2, #3) (Executive Session Anticipated)

This agenda item was moved to the end of the meeting.

10.4 Reports from Board of Education Liaisons Regarding Attendance at Organization/Committee Meetings (BOE Goal #1)

Mr. Brown reported that the Center Road School PTO Meeting was held last week. There was a reading challenge around holidays and it was a huge hit. If students read a book they received a snowflake and were able to put these snowflakes around the building to create a blizzard. The student council did some school values videos. The students are conducting a coat drive run by student council. There is a potential for a read-a-thon. They are always looking for ways for fundraising for virtual events.

10.0 To Review and Update Board of Education Calendar

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

No changes were made to the calendar.

11.0 Opportunity for Questions from the Press Regarding Agenda Items

There were no questions from the press.

Mr. Linton made the motion to go into Executive Session at 8:02 PM, inviting the Superintendent to discuss Agenda item #7.1 (Leave of Absence Request) as well as Agenda item #10.3 (Working Agreement between the Vernon Board of Education and Local 1303-35 of Council 4, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, Custodians, Maintenance Staff, Secretaries and Clericals July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023). Dr. Buxton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:44 PM.

Mr. Thrall made the motion to deny the request for leave of absence submitted by Jessica Golas for the reasons discussed in executive session and authorize the Superintendent to inform the employee of the Board's decision and the reasons therefore. Dr. Buxton seconded the motion. Those in favor of the

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motion were: Dr. Buxton, Mr. Kalina, Mr. Linton, Mrs. Rodriguez, and Mr. Thrall. Those opposed to the motion were Mr. Brown. The motion carried.

Mr. Kalina made the motion to approve the working Agreement between the Vernon Board of Education and Local 1303-35 of Council 4, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, Custodians, Maintenance Staff, Secretaries and Clericals, July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023 as discussed and presented. Mr. Linton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

## 12.0 Adjournment

Mr. Linton made the motion to adjourn at 8:46 PM. Mr. Thrall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen Linton, Board Secretary