

# 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  
Jennifer Buckler  
Kevin Brown  
Deborah Rodriguez  
Mason Thrall  
Kristiana Wintress

April 5, 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, April 5, 2021.

### **1.0 Establish Quorum**

Roll call was taken at 7 p.m. Board members present in person: Ms. Wintress, Mr. Linton, Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Kalina, Dr. Buxton, Mr. Thrall, and Mr. Brown.

Board members present via Zoom: Mrs. Buckler

Board members absent: Mrs. Rodriguez

Student Representatives present via Zoom: James Wheeler and Allison Blume

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 Approval of Donation of Personal Protective Equipment from Ocean State Job Lot (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)**

Ocean State Job Lot of Vernon donated two pallets of personal protective equipment to Vernon Public Schools. The donation includes face shields, antibacterial and disinfecting hand wipes and hand sanitizer. The donation was valued at over \$20,000.

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Dr. Macary welcomed Ms. Paola Pagliano from Ocean State Job Lot to the meeting. Ms. Pagliano shared that Ocean State Job Lot likes to give back to their community. She also resides in Vernon and the store wanted to give back to Vernon Public Schools. She was amazed how quick Vernon Public Schools responded back about the donations and came very quickly to the store to pick up the donation with two bulldozers. To her this was a big statement about the schools and it showed the appreciation. She noted how Ocean State Job Lot would like to continue a partnership with the schools and continue to pay it forward.

Both Dr. Macary and Mrs. Fischer consider Ocean State Job Lot a partner in the schools and thanked them for their generosity.

MOTION: Mr. Kalina moved that the Board accept and approve, with gratitude, the donation of two pallets of personal protective equipment to Vernon Public Schools.  
SECOND: Mr. Linton  
VOTE: Unanimous

## 5.0 Secretary's Report

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

MOTION: Mr. Kalina moved to add Agenda Item #10.7 "Request from the Vernon Board of Education for Deposit to Capital and Non-Recurring Education Account"  
SECOND: Mr. Linton  
VOTE: Unanimous

### 5.2 Rockville High School Student Representative Report

Student Representative Allison Blume reported the following:

- On Thursday the RHS Varsity Baseball Team will be away at South Windsor for their second scrimmage.

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- Flocking will begin in mid April. For a \$10.00 donation to RHS Project Graduation, you can order a flock of flamingos to be left on a Rockville High School senior's yard. A note explaining how flamingos can be removed or flocked forward will be left at the RHS Graduate's house. All money collected will go towards RHS Project Graduation. Flocking is popular in surrounding towns. If you get flocked you want to keep the chain going.
- On 4/21 Grades 9 and 10 will be taking the PSATs.
- The Creative Writing students will be going on a field trip on 5/7 to Hillstead Museum.
- Spring sports are under way. 200 students are participating in spring sports. The regular season and games begin on Saturday.
- Live stream will be up and running for sports. People should subscribe to the Youtube Channel link for viewing. It can be found on the RHS website.

Student Representative James Wheeler reported the following:

- Senior Sarah Cove has been named a guest playwright in the Eugene O'Neill Young Playwriting Competition. Sara will spend a week working collaboratively with a professional creative team to bring her play to life.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter has come to a close.
- RHS seniors are starting to plan the details for their prom.
- There was a RHS Varsity baseball scrimmage against RHAM High School and the team was very excited for their first win.

## 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 Consent Agenda

7.1

(a) Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held on March 22, 2021

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(b) Approval of the Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting (Focus Group) held on March 24, 2021

Mr. Linton asked to pull Consent Agenda Item #7.1(b).

MOTION: Mr. Kalina moved to approve Consent Agenda Item #7.1(a).  
SECOND: Mr. Thrall  
VOTE: Unanimous

Mr. Linton noted that on Consent Agenda Item #7.1(b) – Draft Minutes – Board of Education Special Meeting – Focus Group, there is a typo on the name “*Jeremiah brown*” that needs to be corrected. The last name needs to be capitalized to read “*Jeremiah Brown*”.

MOTION: Mr. Linton moved to approve Consent Agenda Item #7.1(b).  
SECOND: Dr. Buxton  
VOTE: Unanimous

## 8.0 Personnel

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

The Board will review and may take action on an employee’s request for Unpaid Leave of Absence.

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

## 9.0 Teaching and Learning

### 9.1 Agricultural Science and Technology Education Program Enrollment Update (BOE Goal #1, #2)

Assistant Superintendent Mr. Robert Testa gave the Board an updated enrollment in the Agricultural Science and Technology Education Program. He gave an updated view of the last 5 years. If you compare the 17/18 school year we had 80 students and for the 20/21 school year we have 94 students. We have 9 partner towns and 7 are participating. Next year we will have 56 students enrolled from Vernon and 55 students from partner towns. We are pleased to see the increase in enrollments. We are offering classes in animal

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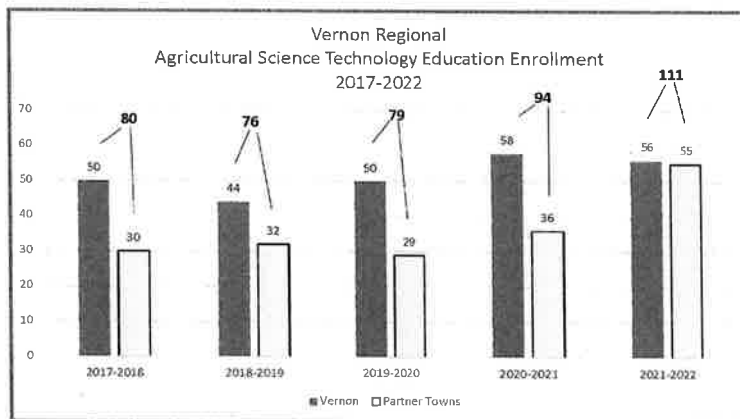
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science, plant science and agriculture mechanics. There are 3 keys factors in the increased enrollment:

1. We are invested in the curriculum.
2. We replaced staff with 2 new staff members.
3. We also are investing in the facilities.



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#### Partner Towns

Bolton  
East Windsor  
Ellington  
Manchester  
Somers  
South Windsor  
Stafford  
Tolland  
Union

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## 10.0 General Business

### 10.1 Approval of Program Enhancement Projects (PEP) Grants for Vernon Regional Adult Based Education (VRABE) (BOE Goal #1, #2)

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Vernon Regional Adult Based Education (VRABE) is requesting Board of Education approval to apply for five (5) Program Enhancement Projects Grants through the Connecticut State Department of Education:

1. Workforce Readiness (Workforce Preparation) - up to \$40,000
2. Transition to Postsecondary Education and/or Training – up to \$40,000
3. Expansion of the National External Diploma Program (NEDP) – up to \$30,000
4. Family Literacy Services – up to \$50,000
5. Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education (EL/Civics) – up to \$100,000

Dr. Macary noted that VRABE Director Mr. Rockett is doing a great job with VRABE. Mrs. Fischer commended Mr. Rockett.

MOTION: Mr. Thrall moved that the Board approve VRABE's application for five (5) Program Enhancement Projects Grants through the Connecticut State Department of Education.

SECOND: Mr. Kalina

VOTE: Mr. Thrall, Mr. Kalina, Mr. Linton, Dr. Buxton, Mrs. Buckler, Mr. Brown, and Ms. Wintress voted in favor of the motion. Dr. Buxton abstained. The motion carried.

## 10.2 Discussion of Rockville High School Graduation Date (BOE Goal #1, #2)

The Board discussed and was asked to approve the Rockville High School graduation date.

Superintendent Dr. Macary is recommending Thursday, June 10, 2021 as the Rockville High School Graduation date. He shared with the Board that they have had a similar motion in the past. The last day of school is Friday, June 11, 2021. Project Graduation will be held at Sonny's Place this year and Friday, June 11, 2021 is already booked with another school district. Vernon is above the required attendance dates so June 10<sup>th</sup> is good. As for the graduation ceremony, we don't know yet about capacity. We are capped right

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now at 200 and we may have to hold two ceremonies. Different venues besides Rockville High School are being considered (such as Yard Goats stadium).

MOTION: Dr. Buxton moved that the Board approve and set the Rockville High School graduation date for Thursday, June 10, 2021.

SECOND: Mr. Thrall

VOTE: Unanimous

10.3 Request from the Board of Education to Designate Funds from the Capital and Non-  
Recurring Education Account (BOE Goal #3)

The Board was asked to take action and approve a resolution indicating that the Superintendent request that the Vernon Town Council approve a designation in the amount of \$1,129,462 from the Capital and Non-Recurring Education Account to be used for the Rockville High School Turf Field Construction.

MOTION: Mr. Linton moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the Vernon Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to request that the Vernon Town Council approve a designation in the amount of \$1,129,462 from the Capital and Non-Recurring Education Account to be used for the Rockville High School Turf Field Construction.

SECOND: Mr. Kalina

VOTE: Unanimous

Board members had a brief discussion regarding the Rockville High School Turf Field project.

10.4 COVID-19 Update/Vaccination (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Superintendent Dr. Joseph Macary gave the Board a COVID-19/Vaccination update. The district held their second dose vaccination clinic and it went very, very well. There will be a vaccination clinic at Rockville High School for students who are 18 years old. It will be the Johnson & Johnson vaccination. Their parents will be allowed to receive the

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vaccination also. It will be held either this Thursday or Friday. Plans are being made for the Pfizer vaccination for the 16-17 year old students.

In addition, the plan is that starting on April 26, 2021 students will be attending the middle school and high school 4 days/week. Students who want to attend virtually full-time will still be able to. The district will be leaving Wednesday totally virtual. It's not a perfect solution but a step towards normalcy for September. The high school and middle school principals will be sending out a survey to parents regarding this.

## 10.5 Update on Budget Presentation to the Vernon Town Council (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Superintendent Dr. Joseph Macary shared an update on the budget presentation to the Vernon Town Council.

He thanked the Board members that attended the budget presentation. He presented virtually for 90 minutes. It went very well and the Town Council had good questions. It was very positive and he received a lot of compliments. The Town of Vernon meeting is going to be held on Tuesday, 4/27, at Rockville High School and he thinks it will be virtual.

Dr. Buxton reiterated the fact that the Board of Education is fiscally responsible and the budget came in lower than the contractual obligations.

## 10.6 Board of Education Business and Finance Report (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Ms. Angela Wang, Director of Business and Finance, gave the Board an updated report including the Year-to-Date Budget. We are on track on spending down the budget. Ms. Wang also reviewed general business items, food and nutrition services report, and logistics.

The Board was asked to take action on the following items:

1. Budget Amendment Request
2. New Scholarship Request "Artzerounian Family Basketball Scholarship"
3. New Scholarship Request "Jennifer L. Ganley AFMS Foundation Scholarship"



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4. Healthy Food Certification 2021-2022
5. Asset Disposal Request

MOTION: Mr. Kalina moved that the Board approve the Budget Amendment Request as presented in Exhibit E.

SECOND: Mr. Linton

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: Mr. Linton moved that the Board approve the Artzerounian Family Basketball Scholarship as presented.

SECOND: Ms. Wintress

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: Mr. Brown moved that the Board approve the Jennifer L. Ganley AFMS Foundation Scholarship as presented.

SECOND: Dr. Buxton

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: Mr. Thrall moved that the Board approve the Healthy Food Option: **Healthy Food Option:** Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

SECOND: Mrs. Buckler

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: Mr. Kalina moved that the Board approve the Food & Beverage Exemptions:

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**Food & Beverage Exemptions:** The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.

SECOND: Mr. Thrall  
VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: Dr. Buxton moved that the Board approve the Asset Disposal Request as presented in Exhibit L (Rockville High School and Vernon Public Schools – Pupil Personnel Services)

SECOND: Mr. Thrall  
VOTE: Unanimous

## 10.7 Request from the Vernon Board of Education for Deposit to Capital and Non-Recurring Education Account

Dr. Macary shared that the Board just approved a motion to allocate \$1.1 million and the Capital and Non-Recurring Education Account does not have \$1.1 million. At the last Board meeting the Board allocated \$50,000 for the Center Road School Roof Project and that leaves \$900,000. There is a deficit in that account of \$352,849. This money is coming from the transportation account which has \$352,000. The district will be in a good place this school year and the Board needs to transfer the money into that account now. Dr. Macary shared that the district will also have \$200,000 available to cover special education costs due to the tuition deficit. The funds are available in the transportation account due to 26% of our students attending virtually.

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MOTION: Mr. Kalina moved to approve the Superintendent to request that the Vernon Town Council transfer the amount of \$352,849 from the Board of Education account to the Capital and Non-Recurring Education Account.

SECOND: Mr. Linton

VOTE: Unanimous

**11.0 To Review and Update Board of Education Calendar**

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

No changes were made to the calendar.

**12.0 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 8:06 PM inviting the Superintendent to discuss the request for an unpaid leave of absence. Mr. Thrall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:26 PM.

Mr. Thrall made the motion to deny the request for an unpaid leave of absence submitted by Jennifer Jeffreys 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 and it passed unanimously.

**13.0 Adjournment**

Mr. Linton made the motion to adjourn at 8:27 PM. Mr. Thrall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen Linton, Board Secretary