

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
Michele Arn
Kevin Brown
Latasha Hyatt
Deborah Rodriguez
Mason Thrall

August 24, 2020

APPROVED MINUTES BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

A meeting of the Vernon Board of Education was held via Zoom Meeting on Monday, August 24, 2020.

Chairperson Fischer called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Present (via Zoom Meeting) when the meeting was called to order were: Mr. Kalina, Mr. Linton, Dr. Buxton, Ms. Arn, Mr. Brown, Ms. Hyatt, Mr. Thrall, and Mrs. Rodriguez.

Student Representatives present (via Zoom Meeting): Allison Blume was absent.

Administration present: Superintendent Dr. Joseph Macary, Assistant Superintendent Robert Testa. Director of Business and Finance Angela Wang (all via Zoom Meeting)

1.0 Recognitions and Presentations

1.1 Introduction of New Teachers (BOE Goal #2)

The new teachers/certified staff members were introduced:

Travis Berry is a Mathematics Teacher at Rockville High School. Previously he was a student teacher at Manchester High School and did his Master's Internship at E.O. Smith High School. He received his BA, MA from UConn in 2019/2020. His hobbies include playing with his dog, taking care of his home, and riding his motorcycle. He resides in Willimantic. His family includes his girlfriend Erin and his dog Teddy.

Jennifer (Jenny) Clark is a 5th Grade Teacher at Skinner Road School. She previously taught 1st grade in New Haven (5 years). She has a BA in Human Development and Family Studies from UConn. She received her MA from Johns Hopkins University. She enjoys travelling, outdoor activities, reading, happy hour, and watching movies. She resides in Middletown. Her Fiancé is Mike.

Maxine Cunningham is an Art Teacher (Photography) at Rockville High School. She previously taught art at RHAM High School in Hebron for 5 years. She received her BFA from UConn, Art Education Program from CCSU, and MA

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from Wesleyan University. Her hobbies include gardening, being a bird nerd, photography and cooking. She resides in South Windsor with her husband Mark and two cats – Hunter and Cora.

Brett Distasio is a Rockville High School Special Education Teacher. He previously worked at Tyrrell Middle School in Wolcott for 5 years. He also worked as a Special Education Teacher and middle school Athletic Director. He earned his business degree from Nichols College in MA and teaching degree and MA in Educational Leadership from Central CT State University. His hobbies include playing sports, going to the beach and spending time with his amazing family. His family includes his brother Tony, sister Heather, and two wonderful parents – Patricia and Tony. He resides in Southington.

Yvonne Farino is a World Language Teacher (Spanish) at Vernon Center Middle School. She has taught for 17 years at the public school level and 10 years in higher education teaching as a teacher educator and Spanish instructor. She attended the University of MA (Amherst) and received her Spanish Major/Education Minor/Latin American Certificate; MA in Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, and her Ed.D. in Applied Linguistics and Cognition. Her hobbies are traveling to Spanish-speaking countries, crafts, reading and walking with her dogs. She resides in Chicopee, MA. She has a big family and “wherever mom lives it’s like a revolving door where we all visit...up until the beginning of this year”.

Dominique Fox is a Director of Teaching & Learning (Secondary). She was previously employed as Principal at Tolland High School (10 years), Assistant Principal (1 year) at Bristol Central, and Curriculum Specialist for Mathematics (5 years) at Bristol Public Schools. She received her BA in Finance from Clemson University, her MA in Education from UConn, and her Sixth Year – 093 Certification from Central Connecticut State University. She enjoys golf, cooking, reading, and traveling. She resides in Ellington with her husband Paul, children Nicole (28), Victoria (20) and Andrew (18).

Mayra Fox is a World Language Teacher (Spanish) at Rockville High School. She was previously employed at Windham Public Schools and Hebron Public Schools. She received her Bachelor’s Degree in Business from the University of Guadalajara, Master’s Degree – Curriculum and Instruction, Bilingual Multicultural Education and her 6th Year/092 from UConn.

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Erick Knickerbocker is a Social Studies Teacher at Rockville High School. He was previously employed for 10 years at Windsor Locks Middle School as a Social Studies Teacher and Instructional Specialist. He received his BA from Central Connecticut State University and his MA from American College of Education. His hobbies include coaching (football and track), fitness, fishing, sports fan (Giants, Celtics, Sox), Beach, and Star Wars nerd. He resides in Ellington with his wife Christina, son Jayden (7), and daughter Brooklynn (4).

Erica Kunkel is a 4th Grade Teacher at Skinner Road School. She previously was the building substitute at Northeast School for grades K-5. She was also a long-term substitute in 4th grade at Skinner Road School. She graduated from Keene State College in May 2019 with a degree in elementary education and psychology. Her hobbies include hiking with her 2 dogs Wesley and Maxine and traveling with friends and family. She enjoys cooking and baking in her free time and trying out new recipes. She resides in Glastonbury and her family includes her mother Lisa, father Tom, sister Amanda and her significant other Matthew Tanner.

Melissa Luke is an Assistant Principal at Vernon Center Middle School. She was previously employed as the Math Department Supervisor at Henry James Memorial School in Simsbury for 2 years. She received her BS in Marketing from Central Connecticut State University, Masters in Middle Level Education from University of Saint Joseph, and 6th Year in Educational Leadership from Central Connecticut State University. Her hobbies include mountain biking, hiking and reading. She resides in Hebron with her husband David.

Taylor Parker is an Assistant Principal/Teacher at Center Road School. She was previously employed at Ellington Public Schools (5 years), East Granby Public Schools (2 years) and Trinity School (Windsor) for 2 years. She received her BSED in Mathematics from Central Connecticut State University, MS in Teaching and Learning from Colorado State University, and her 6th Year Educational Leadership from Central Connecticut State University. Her hobbies include reading, watching game shows, and playing with her kids. She resides in Tolland with her husband Josh and kids Cali (5) and Levi (3).

Julie Rotatori is a Speech and Language Pathologist at Lake Street School. This is her first year working as a Speech and Language Pathologist. She received her BA from the University of Rhode Island and her MA from the University of MA (Amherst). She enjoys hiking, swimming, drawing and baking. Julie resides in

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Ellington with her boyfriend Brian. Her family includes her twin sister and two older sisters.

Janet Slesinski is a Mathematics Teacher at Rockville High School. She previously taught Mathematics at Colchester High School in Vermont, and Mathematics and Computer Science/Mathematics Department Chair in Lausanne Collegiate School in Memphis, TN. Her educational background includes: University of Vermont 2010: Bachelor of Science (Math) /Arts (Physics) /Science (Education) Triple Major; Saint Michael's College 2015: Masters of Science in Curriculum; and Christian Brothers University 2019: Certificate in Educational Leadership. She likes to run, hike, cook, ski, play field hockey, and do many other things. She considers herself a jack of all trades, master of none. She resides in West Hartford with her husband Phil.

Jacqueline (Jacki) Sweeney is an Art Teacher at Center Road School. She was an Art Teacher previously at Manchester Public Schools for 5 years. She also taught PK-12 and most recently 5th-6th grade at Bennet Academy. She was also a student teacher with Patty Bengtson at Rockville High School and was a substitute throughout the Vernon district. She received her BFA in Drawing, Minor in Art History from Hartford Art School at University of Hartford and her Post-Bacc. Art Ed. Certification from Central Connecticut State University. Her hobbies include being a drawing and painting instructor, house hunting, and walking her dog Shirley. She resides in Manchester.

Lina Taweh is a French Teacher at Rockville High School. She was previously employed as a French Teacher in Region 10 and 13 and most recently at Simsbury High School. She received her BA in Management Information Systems at St. Joseph University Beirut Lebanon; Alternate Rte. to Certification and Masters in Educational Leadership at Central Connecticut State University. She enjoys travel/cultures/languages, kayaking and horseback riding. She resides in Farmington with her husband George, and children Omar, Noor, and Leila.

Elizabeth Taylor is a School Psychologist at Skinner Road School. She was previously employed as a School Psychologist in Chicopee Public Schools for 10 years and Westfield Public Schools for 2 years. She received her MA and CAGS in School Psychology and her PhD in General Psychology. Her hobbies include tennis and downhill skiing. She resides in Feeding Hills, MA with her husband and 4 year old daughter and 2 year old son.

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1.2 Recognition of Gifted and Talented Teacher Regina Lee for nomination for the 2020 Patricia Behring Award (BOE Goal #1, #2)

The Board recognized Gifted and Talented Teacher Regina Lee for her nomination for the 2020 Patricia Behring Award. In the past, Mrs. Lee has brought her History Day students to the BOE meetings to share their work. The students have always found great topics to research and it always excites the students. “Quality teachers are critical to student success. National History Day (NHD) recognizes their outstanding work and dedication to their students. Mrs. Patricia Behring, a passionate NHD supporter, sponsors the Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award for all middle school teachers. The winners of the national awards were selected from among the affiliate nominees. Each affiliate nominates one teacher in the junior division and senior division. The national winners each received \$10,000. For all nominees at both the middle and high school levels, Mrs. Behring is extending her generosity and awarding each nominee \$500. The awards were announced at the 2020 NHD National Contest.”

Mrs. Fischer noted that there is a new Board member that was just sworn in this morning: E Mason Thrall III. She welcomed him to the Board and the meeting. He is replacing Linda Gessay’s spot on the Board.

2.0 Consent Agenda

- (a) Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held on June 22, 2020
- (b) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Athletic Ad Hoc Committee Meeting held on July 15, 2020
- (c) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Special Meeting (Workshop) held on July 20, 2020
- (d) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Special Meeting held on August 12, 2020
- (e) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Special Meeting (Workshop) held on August 17, 2020.

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- (f) Donation to Rockville High School from the Stop & Shop “A+ School Rewards Program”
- (g) Donation to Rockville High School from the Aetna Foundation

Mr. Kalina pulled Consent Agenda Item #1.1(d).

Mrs. Fischer pulled Consent Agenda Item #1.1(a).

MOTION: Mr. Kalina moved to approve Consent Agenda Items #1.1(b), (c), (f), and (g).
SECOND: Mrs. Rodriguez
VOTE: Mr. Kalina, Mrs. Rodriguez, Mr. Linton, Dr. Buxton, Ms. Arn, Mr. Brown, Ms. Hyatt voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Thrall abstained. The motion carried.

Mrs. Fischer noted on Consent Agenda Item #1.1(a) that on page 8, 1st paragraph, 3rd line it reads “...*work to be done and the focus is now on Maple Street School and...*” It should read “...*work to be done and the focus is now on Vernon Center Middle School and...*”

MOTION: Mr. Kalina moved to approve Consent Agenda Item #1.1(a).
SECOND: Mr. Linton
VOTE: Mr. Kalina, Mr. Linton, Mrs. Rodriguez, Dr. Buxton, Ms. Arn, Mr. Brown, and Ms. Hyatt voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Thrall abstained. The motion carried.

Mr. Kalina noted that on Consent Agenda Item #1.1(d), page 22, he asked the following question: “*Is there procedure in place for students and staff that have contracted COVID and have subsequently recovered and are eligible to return to school.*” He asked to have that added to the minutes. Dr. Macary noted the response is that we are following the DPH guidelines and if staff or students have passed quarantine then they can return to school.

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MOTION: Mr. Kalina moved to approve Consent Agenda Item #1.1(d).
SECOND: Mr. Linton
VOTE: Mr. Kalina, Mr. Linton, Mrs. Rodriguez, Dr. Buxton, Ms. Arn, Mr. Brown, and Ms. Hyatt voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Thrall abstained. The motion carried.

2.0 Secretary's Report

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

No agenda items were added or deleted.

2.2 Rockville High School Student Representative Report

Student Representative Allison Blume was absent.

3.0 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 community members addressed the Board.

5.0 Personnel

5.1 New Staffing (BOE Goal #1, #2)

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Robert Testa gave the Board an update on new staffing for 2020-2021.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>
Albert, Patricia	Nurse-Floater	
Beebe, Andrea	Para	LSS
Flores, Jasmin	Nurse	RHS
Gagliardi, Katelyn	Secretary	VCMS

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Kennedy, Daniel	Building Sub	VCMS
Luke, Melissa	Administrator	VCMS
Manganella, Kimberly	FSCP - Secondary Coordinator	CO
Parker, Taylor	Administrator	CRS
Ramos, Sasha	Para	SRS
Rosati, Joseph	Building Sub	CRS
Yarusewicz, Sherry	Secretary	RHS-AE

Mrs. Fischer welcomed the new staff also and thanked them for joining Vernon Public Schools.

6.0 Teaching and Learning

6.1 Disaggregation of Student Performance Data by Race/Ethnicity Sub-Groups (BOE Goal #1, #2)

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Robert Testa gave the Board a Disaggregation of Student Performance Data by Race/Ethnicity Sub-Groups. He reviewed the data from 2014-2019 and highlighted the following reports:

October 1st Enrollment 2014-2019: This data showed that the Hispanic/Latino population is increasing and the population is becoming more diverse. There is an increasing population of students in high needs categories (ELA, Eligible for Free/Reduced Meals, Students with Disabilities) The district now has allocated resources for math interventionists, literacy interventionists, instructional coaches, and social workers. Professional learning has focused on trauma informed strategies and equitable practices.

Chronic Suspension/Expulsion: This data showed that the chronic suspension/expulsion rates have all decreased. This is due to school and district school climate specialists. In the Aspen database the reasons for suspensions and expulsions are reported so that administration can look at it and it's helpful to have that data. The data is trending in the

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right direction. We have not yet reached our goal of 6.7% but we are less than 1% away from state average.

DPI – English Languages Arts (ELA) Grades 3-8: This data shows that the average performance went up and is improving in the right direction. Schools have instructional coaches, technology integration, coaches, K-8 curriculum revision in ELA, job embedded professional learning and use of common assessments aligned with Smarter Balance Assessments. This allows classrooms to have the support needed. The district is always looking to improve growth.

DPI – Mathematics Grades 3-8: This data shows that student performance is increasing due to curriculum, job embedded professional development and use of assessments. More progress was made in ELA than mathematics. There was a change from Eureka math just last year so there was a major shift. The trend is positive.

DPI – Science (Grades 5, 8, 11): In 2017/18 there was no data; it was the pilot year for Next Generation Science. There are two different assessments to compare. Performance gains were made.

SAT ELA: Every student took the SAT. Black or African American students exceeded the scores for the state.

SAT Mathematics: The data is similar to ELA where student performance had small increases.

11th Graders Enrolled in College and Career Readiness Courses during High School; 12th Graders Enrolled in College and Career Readiness Courses during High School: These classes include AP, technical education, workplace experience, and dual enrollment courses.

11th and 12th Graders Meeting Benchmark on at least One College Readiness Exam: The students are meeting benchmark.

Cohort Graduation: Four Year: Graduation is trending in the right direction. The cohort graduation rate is not available yet in categories we want.

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Educators by Race/Ethnicity: Minority teacher recruitment is the key. This is an uphill battle and there is a limited pool. The state percentage rate is not any better.

Board members discussed and questioned the data.

It was observed that overall the district is trending in the right direction, some significantly, though there are some data points that remain flat or show minimal increase. Many strategies have been implemented (teacher coaches, reading interventionists, reading interventionists, social emotional learning for staff etc.) with hopes of attaining improved results. This data clearly shows that strides have been made but there is still room for improvement. During budget deliberations, the Board should consider what other resources could be added to enhance growth for our students.

Dr. Macary shared the major five (5) take aways:

1. Race is not a predictor of achievement.
2. There is an achievement gap in Vernon and in Connecticut.
3. We are making progress and pockets of excellence. We need to focus on high needs.
4. We need to make sure that there are no systemic obstacles.
5. We need to focus on minority teacher recruitment.

7.0 General Business

7.1 Approval of American Eagle Financial Credit Union Grant (BOE Goal #1, #2)

The Board was asked to approve the \$1,000 grant from American Eagle Financial Credit Union Fund held at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. The purpose of this grant is to help Vernon Public Schools purchase and provide classroom supplies to students and teachers for the 2020-2021 school year.

MOTION: Mr. Kalina moved that the Board approve the \$1,000 grant to Vernon Public Schools from American Eagle Financial Credit Union Fund held at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

SECOND: Mrs. Rodriguez

VOTE: Unanimous

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7.2 Approval of “First Book” Award from Hartford Foundation for Public Giving (BOE Goal #1, #2)

The Board was asked to approve the “First Book” Award from Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, the LEGO Group, the LEGO Foundation and First Book teamed up to address the digital divide across Connecticut, including awards to six school districts: East Hartford, Manchester, Windsor, Windsor Locks, Bloomfield and Vernon for use among children in need.

The award is meant to support the educational success of thousands of children and address the learning loss resulting from COVID-19 school closures and extended summer learning loss. The award is for 365 Chromebooks for elementary students and home internet in partnership with the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, LEGO and First Book. The Award also includes a \$4,000 stipend to provide internet access for these students. According to First Book proprietary research, 40% of students in Title 1 schools do not have device or internet access, making distance learning impossible.

MOTION: Mr. Kalina moved that the Board approve the “First Book” Award from Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

SECOND: Mr. Linton

VOTE: Unanimous

7.3 School Re-Opening Plan (BOE Goal #2)

- (a) Elementary Schools
- (b) Middle School
- (c) High School

Superintendent Dr. Macary reviewed and highlighted with the Board the School Re-Opening Plan. The district is still on track to reopen with 20% of students choosing virtual learning. Presently, we have 17 virtual elementary classrooms. The decision for sports will be made by the CIAC by the end of the week.

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Elementary K-5 Parent Guide to Instruction During Covid-19

Vernon Public Schools has decided to move forward with a hybrid learning environment to begin the year. This plan follows the strict guidance provided by the Connecticut State Department of Education and VPS.

Hybrid Learning Environment (50% Capacity Model)

- Students will attend school either Monday and Tuesday or Thursday and Friday. On Wednesdays, all students attend classes via virtual learning. This will reduce the number of students in each class. The building will be deep cleaned on Wednesdays.
- Your elementary school will notify you of the days your child/children will be attending. Siblings will attend on the same days.
- Students will remain in their classrooms for all their core classes. Art, Music and PE teachers will travel to their homerooms.
- Students will follow social distancing guidelines and wear masks in school and on the bus.
- Students are asked to bring in their own labeled personal water bottle.
- Classes will go outside. Teachers are encouraged to take advantage of the nice weather and bring classes outside for instruction and/or mask and movement breaks when appropriate.
- Students that are not in the building are expected to work on their assignments. These assignments will either utilize our learning platforms, Seesaw or Google Classroom, or will be paper and pencil tasks.
- All students will need a personal device. If you need a device for your child please reach out to your child's school.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Group A In-Person Group B Teacher assigned tasks	Group A In-Person Group B Teacher assigned tasks	ALL Virtual Sessions and Teacher assigned tasks	Group B In-Person Group A Teacher assigned tasks	Group B In-Person Group A Teacher assigned tasks

Virtual Learning Environment

VPS understands that some families may opt for a 100% virtual learning environment. If you are choosing this option please notify your building's principal. Based on numbers, the district will pool staff resources across all elementary schools. Any changes to your child's learning environment should be communicated to your school. At any time if you decide to return to school, you must notify your child's school prior to returning. Students will be able to return approximately one week from the date of notification.

Virtual Learning

- Students will follow the virtual learning schedule provided by their assigned virtual learning teacher.
- Entering the building is strictly prohibited.
- Students will need to sign in for live lessons at their scheduled time.
- Students are expected to engage in all virtual learning that occurs through Google Classroom, Seesaw, Google Meets, and/or Zoom.
- During Google Meet or Zoom sessions, all student videos must be on or students will be considered absent.
- Students must remain muted, to avoid background noise, unless they have a question or are asked a question from the teacher.
- Students will be responsible for all assigned work.
- Students should engage in appropriate behaviors and follow the dress code guideline in the elementary handbook.

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ROCKVILLE

High School

Jason D. Magao
Principal
(860) 870-6050 ext. 4003

Jeffrey Farrell
Athletic Director
(860) 870-6050 ext. 4022

Daniel C. Pichette
Assistant Principal
(860) 870-6050 ext. 4012

Allayne C. Sundt
Assistant Principal
(860) 870-6050 ext. 4009

ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL REOPENING PLAN 2020

We would like to share information regarding our plan to safely reopen Rockville High School. We have been communicating with our families and staff to develop a plan to have the safest educational environment with the smallest impact on our students and families. We are asking that all RHS families complete a survey to inform us on your intentions for your students for the upcoming school year. Please visit the following link to complete the survey: <https://forms.gle/q5wE7Jb2mnp7UVJ6>

50% CAPACITY MODEL – (HYBRID)

Because we believe that in school instruction is best for students academically, socially and emotionally, VPS has decided to move forward with a 50% capacity plan to begin the year. The plan for RHS is as follows:

- Mondays and Tuesdays all students with last names beginning with A through L will be present in school.
- Thursday and Friday all students with last names beginning with M through Z will be present in school.
- All students at home will be required to follow their daily schedule and participate in the lesson on their computer.
- On Wednesdays, all classes will be held virtually and will be shortened in length.
- Students are expected to participate in all Zoom or Google sessions (teacher discretion) during their assigned class times.

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Rotating A/B Schedule	Student Last Name A-L (In-School)	Blocks 1-4 (In person)	Blocks 5-8 (In person)	Blocks 1-8 Short Blocks (Virtually)	Blocks 1-4 (Virtually)	Blocks 5-8 (Virtually)
	Student Last Name M-Z (In-School)	Blocks 1-4 (Virtually)	Blocks 5-8 (Virtually)	Blocks 1-8 Short Blocks (Virtually)	Blocks 1-4 (In person)	Blocks 5-8 (In person)
	Student Last Name A-L (Virtual Learning)	Blocks 1-4 (Virtually)	Blocks 5-8 (Virtually)	Blocks 1-8 Short Blocks (Virtually)	Blocks 1-4 (Virtually)	Blocks 5-8 (Virtually)
	Student Last Name M-Z (Virtual Learning)	Blocks 1-4 (Virtually)	Blocks 5-8 (Virtually)	Blocks 1-8 Short Blocks (Virtually)	Blocks 1-4 (Virtually)	Blocks 5-8 (Virtually)

Students with IEPs will receive additional synchronous supports and related services, as necessary. Student may receive a combination of remote services through live video instruction/interaction between student(s) and teacher(synchronous) and posted learning activities (asynchronous).

VIRTUAL LEARNING (AT HOME LEARNING)

We do understand the need for some families to make the decision to keep their children home during the COVID 19 crisis. To support these students and their learning, we have developed the following plan:

- We will require students who are learning from home to login to either Zoom or Google (teacher discretion) during their assigned class times to learn remotely yet synchronously (live sessions) with their classmates.
- On Wednesdays all classes will be held remotely, so we can deep clean our building. We will have shorter blocks in the morning. Students will be logging onto Zoom or Google (teacher discretion) during their assigned class times.

Students with IEPs will receive additional synchronous supports and related services, as necessary. Student may receive a combination of remote services through live video instruction/interaction between student(s) and teacher (synchronous) and posted learning activities (asynchronous).



The Vernon Public Schools, in partnership with family and community, is committed to provide a quality education, with high expectations, in a safe environment where all students become independent learners and productive contributors to society.

1 Loveland Hill Road + Vernon, CT 06066 + (860) 870-6050 + Fax: (860) 870-6314 + www.vernonpublicschools.org

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50% CAPACITY MODEL- (HYBRID)

We believe that in-person instruction is best for kids academically as well as for their social emotional well-being and growth and have decided to move forward with a 50% capacity plan to begin the year. This plan was developed by school staff with an intense focus on providing our staff and students with the safest learning environment possible, one where our kids can receive the highest level of instruction possible. The safety of our staff and students are the priority and each aspect of the plan reflects our commitment to this effort. The plan follows the strict guidance provided by the Connecticut State Department of Education and VPS.

MAIN OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS																
COHORTS																
<p>Each student will be assigned to a "cohort" on their academic team (their homeroom). Each team will have approximately 5 cohorts of 20-25 students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students in the same cohort will have the same class schedule. A small percentage of students will "break cohort" to receive supplemental support/specialized instruction. All 5 academic team classrooms will be on the same floor next to each other to limit hallway travel to classes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upon arrival to school students will report to their assigned cohort classroom (Homeroom). Students will rotate to their 6 daily classes following safe hallway guidelines and expectations. Students will not have access to lockers, they may carry their belongings or use a backpack/bag. 	<p>Middle school life includes socializing throughout the day. We are taking steps to allow for appropriate social distancing while managing the number of personal contacts each student has per day to reduce the risk of virus transmission and improve our ability to perform contact tracing if necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Halls have been re-organized by grade level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bottom floor—Grade 6 Middle floor—Grade 7 Top Floor—Grade 8 Students will have scheduled movement/mask breaks throughout the day. Students in the same cohort will have lunch at the same tables in the cafeteria (students will be spaced out no more than 3 students per table to allow for maximum distance between students). 															
STUDENT SCHEDULE																
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half of each cohort will report to school on Monday and Tuesday for in person instruction (<i>we will inform each student what day they are to report to school</i>). The other half of the cohort will report to school on Thursday and Friday for in person instruction. Each Wednesday, ALL students will follow an abbreviated school schedule and participate in all classes virtually. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students opting for full time virtual learning will be expected to follow their daily schedule of classes and participate virtually. All students at home will be required to follow their daily schedule and participate in the lesson on their computer. The school will receive a "Deep Clean" on Wednesdays. Each student will attend 5 CORE classes and one Unified Arts class per day with their cohort. Each student desk will be cleaned in between classes. <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center; font-size: small;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #e0e0e0;"> <th>Monday</th> <th>Tuesday</th> <th>Wednesday</th> <th>Thursday</th> <th>Friday</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">Blue Group In-Person</td> <td style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">Blue Group In-Person</td> <td style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">All Students (Yellow & Blue Groups) participate in virtual learning</td> <td style="background-color: #ffff00;">Yellow Group In-Person</td> <td style="background-color: #ffff00;">Yellow Group In-Person</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #ffff00;">Yellow Group participates at home virtually</td> <td style="background-color: #ffff00;">Yellow Group participates at home virtually</td> <td style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">Blue Group participate in virtual learning</td> <td style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">Blue Group participates at home virtually</td> <td style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">Blue Group participates at home virtually</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Virtual Learning" is different than it was this past spring. Students will be required to participate on their computers for every class at its assigned time each day. Grading—traditional grading will be implemented 	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Blue Group In-Person	Blue Group In-Person	All Students (Yellow & Blue Groups) participate in virtual learning	Yellow Group In-Person	Yellow Group In-Person	Yellow Group participates at home virtually	Yellow Group participates at home virtually	Blue Group participate in virtual learning	Blue Group participates at home virtually	Blue Group participates at home virtually
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CLASS STRUCTURES																
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing of materials will be significantly limited and cleaned in between uses. Unnecessary furniture will be removed from classes to maximize floor space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small group instruction and partner work will be structured in alternative ways to allow for collaboration while social distancing. Students with an IEP will receive additional supports and related services as necessary and may receive a combination of remote services through live video instruction and posted learning activities. 															
SAFETY PRECAUTIONS																
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitors will not be allowed in the building without administrative approval and will be required to follow CDC guidelines while in the building. We have protocols in place for safe entry/exit of the building, hallway travel, and mask/movement breaks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff and students will be required to wear a face mask covering the mouth and nose while in the building. Cohorts will be developed to limit personal interactions during the school day. 															

Do What's Right...

7.4 Strategy and Negotiations with Respect to Pending Claims and Litigation (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3) (Executive Session Anticipated)

The Board will discuss, in Executive Session, strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and litigation.

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
Michele Arn
Kevin Brown
Latasha Hyatt
Deborah Rodriguez
Mason Thrall

August 24, 2020

This agenda item will be moved to the end of the meeting.

7.5 Strategy and Negotiations with Respect to Collective Bargaining Agreements (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3) (Executive Session Anticipated)

The Board will discuss, in Executive Session, strategy and negotiations with respect to collective bargaining agreements.

This agenda item will be moved to the end of the meeting.

8.0 To Review and Update Board of Education Calendar

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

No changes were made to the calendar.

Mrs. Rodriguez asked if the elementary school Board representatives will remain the same this year. It was noted that yes they are remaining the same.

9.0 Opportunity for Questions from the Press Regarding Agenda Items

There were no questions from the press.

Mrs. Rodriguez made the motion at 9:19 PM to go into Executive Session inviting the Superintendent to discuss Strategy and Negotiations with Respect to Pending Claims and Litigation as well as Collective Bargaining Agreements. Mr. Kalina seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Board suspended Executive Session to make a motion to extend curfew.

Mr. Linton made the motion to extend curfew until all business was complete. Mr. Brown seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Board returned to Executive Session.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:17 PM.

The Board of Education Town of Vernon

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Mr. Linton made the motion to adjourn at 10:18 PM. Mrs. Rodriguez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

To view the entire video of the Board of Education Meeting held on August 24, 2020, please visit our website: <https://www.vernonpublicschools.org/board-of-education/meetings-broadcasts> and link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1J6u3H2N9sFBdUWprsCraVVebnRTRYiSz/view>

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Linton, Board Secretary