

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

June 28, 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, June 28, 2021.

1.0 Establish Quorum

Roll call was taken at 7:00 p.m. Board members present in person: Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Kalina, Mr. Linton, Dr. Buxton, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Rodriguez, Mr. Thrall and Ms. Wintress. There was a quorum.

Student Representatives present via Zoom: no one was present due to Summer break

Administration present in person: Superintendent Dr. Joseph Macary, Assistant Superintendent Robert Testa, Interim Director of Business and Finance Michael Santogatta

2.0 Call to Order

Chairperson Fischer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance

4.0 Recognitions and Presentations

4.1 Recognition of Vernon Police Chief James Kenny (BOE Goal #1, #3)

Dr. Macary congratulated Police Chief James Kenny on his retirement from the Vernon Police Department and recognized him for his many years of service to the Vernon community. Chief Kenny has been very supportive of the Board of Education, especially with our SRO Program. Dr. Macary said he was very grateful for Chief Kenny's

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relationship with the Board of Education over the years and said he will truly be missed. A gift was presented to the Chief by the Board of Education. Chief Kenny then spoke to the Board, thanking them as well as the Superintendent for their support. It was a collaborative effort and he enjoyed working with everyone. Dr. Macary noted that Chief Kenny was always available to participate in school events and that the relationship has been a terrific partnership. Chief Kenny then went around the room to say goodbye to everyone present.

4.2 Recognition of Fire Prevention Poster State Contest Winner Chase Kopcza (BOE Goal #1)

Fire Marshall Daniel Wasilewski introduced Chase Kopcza, a 4th Grade student at Lake Street School, who was selected as the statewide winner of the annual Fire Prevention Poster Contest. He spoke of the contest and the required criteria to enter and then showed a framed version of Chase's poster which will be displayed in the State Legislative Building during Fire Prevention Week in October of this year. Chase was then presented with two contest awards, one for \$150.00 and one for \$750.00. He was also presented with a framed reproduction of his own poster. Dr. Macary asked Chase if he wanted to say anything. He spoke to the Board about why he did the poster, how much he enjoyed the experience and his love for the woods and animals. Mrs. Fischer thanked Chase for his efforts and for being the State winner of the contest.

5.0 Secretary's Report

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

No agenda items were added or deleted.

5.2 Rockville High School Student Representative Report

There were no reports due to students being on Summer break.

6.0 Community Forum

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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)

Felicity Gounaris, 4th Grade student at Lake Street School, addressed the Board. She expressed that she has not been happy having to wear a mask in school and that it has caused her to have physical and emotional pain. She is also being verbally and emotionally berated by her peers. She asked that the mask requirement be removed from the Re-Opening Plan for the 2021-2022 School Year. Mrs. Fischer thanked Felicity for being brave to address the Board and said that we are waiting for additional guidance from the CDC before a final decision can be made. She also asked Felicity if the Board could have a copy of her speech. Felicity said she will email it to the Superintendent's Office.

7.0 Consent Agenda

7.1

- (a) Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held on June 14, 2021
- (b) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Policy Committee Meeting held on June 9, 2021
- (c) Approval of Reviewed Board Policy #3313 - Relationships with Vendors
- (d) Approval of Reviewed Board Policy #3313.1 - Local Purchasing
- (e) Approval of Revised Board Policy #3320 – Purchasing Procedures
- (f) Approval of Deleted Board Policy #3321 – Requisitions for Goods and Services
- (g) Approval of Revised Board Policy #3323 – Soliciting Prices/Bidding Requirements
- (h) Approval of Revised Board Policy #3324 – Purchase Orders and Contracts
- (i) Approval of Reviewed Board Policy #3326 – Paying for Goods and Services
- (j) Approval of Revised Board Policy #3326.1 – Payroll Procedures and Authorized Signatures

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- (k) Approval of Revised Board Policy #3432 – Financial Records and Reports
- (l) Approval of Revised Board Policy #3434 – Periodic Audit
- (m) Approval of Revised Board Policy #3435 - Accounts
- (n) Approval of Reviewed Board Policy #3440 - Inventories
- (o) Approval of Revised Board Policy #3450 – Monies in School Buildings
- (p) Approval of Reviewed Board Policy #3453 – School Activity Funds
- (q) Approval of Revised Board Policy #3510 – Operation and Maintenance of Plan
- (r) Approval of Revised Board Policy #3511 – Compliance with 504 Regulations
- (s) Approval of Reviewed Board Policy #3513.1 – Energy Conservation
- (t) Approval of Revised Board Policy #3514 – Equipment
- (u) Approval of Revised Board Policy #3515 – Facilities Use
- (v) Approval of Revised Board Policy #3516 – Safety

Mrs. Fischer asked to pull Consent Agenda Items #7.1 (h), (k) and (p).

Regarding Consent Agenda Item #7.1(h) on page 25, “Approval of Revised Board Policy #3324 – Purchase Orders and Contracts”, she noted that under the “Affirmative Action” section, the quotations should be removed from the beginning of the first line and the end of the last.

Regarding Consent Agenda Item #7.1(k) on page 28, “Approval of Revised Board Policy #3432 – Financial Records and Reports”, she noted that on line item 6, the policy number should be changed from “3321” to “3323”.

Regarding Consent Agenda Item #7.1(p) on page 33, “Approval of Reviewed Board Policy #3453 – School Activity Funds”, she noted that in line item 2, the words “his/her” should be removed. On page 34, the word “Reviewed” should be changed to “Revised”.

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MOTION: Mr. Linton moved to approve Consent Agenda Items #7.1 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (i), (j), (l), (m), (n), (o), (q), (r), (s), (t), (u) and (v).

SECOND: Dr. Buxton

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: Mr. Linton moved to approve Consent Agenda Items #7.1(h), (k) and (p) as amended.

SECOND: Mrs. Rodriguez

VOTE: Unanimous

8.0 Personnel

8.1 Non-Affiliated Staff Salaries (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3) (Executive Session Anticipated)

This item was moved to the end of the meeting

9.0 Teaching and Learning

9.1 i-Ready Reading and Mathematics (BOE Goal #2)

Mr. Testa spoke of the i-Ready Reading and Mathematics Diagnostic Results with the Board. He reviewed the charts in the report and explained what the “Tiers” and “Placement by Domain” areas represented. He said that we use this data to identify those students in need of support. This gives us the ability to start our intervention program on day one of the school year. Some concerns were raised about what measures are in place to improve the results and will we use ESSER funds to boost the tier 2 & 3 levels to level 1. Mr. Testa said that we need to do a better job, especially in Vocabulary at the

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Elementary Level, by embedding in our units. Dr. Macary said that we are hiring interventionists and at least 20% of the ESSER III funds will be set aside for learning loss.

10.0 General Business

10.1 Resolution for the 2021 CABE Delegate Assembly (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Dr. Macary stated that we would like the date for entry into Kindergarten to be five years of age on or before September 1st. Mrs. Rodriguez asked if other boards are asking for this and could we team up with them. Are there any delegates? Dr. Macary said they were meeting tomorrow and their convention is this Friday. Mrs. Fischer noted that other towns were in favor of this; if we approached as a group, it may help our cause. Dr. Macary recommended that the Board submit a resolution to CABE and draft a letter to our legislator stating that this is what we want as a bill. We will try to get other towns on board as well. Mr. Kalina asked if there is a reason CABE has not promoted this in the past. Dr. Macary said that CABE does add this as a resolution, but then selects the top 5 out of all resolutions presented. For some reason, this one never seems to make it to the top 5.

MOTION: Mr. Thrall moved to submit a resolution to the CABE Government Relations Committee and draft a letter to our legislator as discussed and presented

SECOND: Mr. Kalina

VOTE: Unanimous

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

There were no liaison reports, but all agreed that the RHS Graduation the VCMS Evening of Excellence were wonderful events.

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11.0 Review and Update Board of Education Calendar

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

No changes were made to the calendar. Mrs. Fischer reminded everyone that the next Board of Education meeting will take place on August 23, 2021.

12.0 Opportunity for Questions from the Press Regarding Agenda Items

There were no questions from the press.

8.0 Personnel

8.1 Non-Affiliated Staff Salaries (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3) (Executive Session Anticipated)

MOTION: Mr. Linton moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Non-Affiliated Staff salaries at 7:38 PM and invite Superintendent Dr. Macary and Assistant Superintendent Mr. Testa

SECOND: Ms. Wintress

VOTE: Unanimous

The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:58 PM

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MOTION: Mr. Thrall moved to approve salary increases for Non-Affiliated Staff for the 2021-2022 school year as discussed in Executive Session

SECOND: Ms. Wintress

VOTE: Unanimous

13.0 **Adjournment**

MOTION: Mr. Linton motioned to adjourn for the Summer at 8:00 p.m.

SECOND: Mr. Brown

VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen Linton, Board Secretary