

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

August 23, 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, August 23, 2021.

1.0 Establish Quorum

Roll call was taken at 7:01 p.m. Board members present in-person: Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Kalina, Mr. Linton, Dr. Buxton, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Buckler, 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 and Director of Business and Finance William Meier III.

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 RHS Student on National History Day Contest (BOE Goal #1, #2)

Dr. Macary introduced RHS student Clarissa Halpryn, who finished in 9th place in the Senior Group Performance at the National History Day Contest. Clarissa spoke about why she chose the topic for her paper and her partnering with another Vernon student, John Margelony, who attends Art at the Capitol Theater Magnet School. Although the experience was a bit different this year due to the pandemic, she had a great time and plans to participate in the contest again this year. Her topic will be focused on “agreements between countries; leaving all differences at the door and focusing instead on scientific discoveries”. Dr. Macary read aloud a letter from the State Coordinator of Connecticut

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History Day congratulating Clarissa and John. Mrs. Fischer expressed how proud she was of Clarissa.

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

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 June 28, 2021

(b) Request for Approval of Donation from CT Fair Plan for Lake Street School

MOTION: Mr. Kalina moved to approve Consent Agenda Items #7.1 (a) and (b)

SECOND: Mrs. Rodriguez

VOTE: Unanimous

8.0 Teaching and Learning

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8.1 Presentation of Vernon Youth Voices Count Survey Results 2021 (BOE Goal #1, #2)

Michelle Hill, Director of Youth Services for Vernon, spoke of a survey conducted in the spring of 2021 with students in grades 6-12. This survey focused on youth lifestyles, substance abuse, mental health, bullying, related risk and protective factors as well as the impacts of COVID-19. This survey was completely anonymous and no identifying information was collected. Out of the 1,590 students in grades 6-12, 1,274 (80.13%) participated. Michelle then introduced Bonnie Smith of B. Weyland Smith Consulting, who shared the results of the survey through a PowerPoint presentation. Mrs. Fischer thanked the team for conducting the survey.

9.0 Personnel

9.1 Resignation of TRP Candidate (BOE Goal #2)

Dr. Macary announced that Lake Street School's Teacher Residency Program candidate Ariana Nieves-Matias has resigned from the program due to an unexpected life event. We were unable to find someone to replace her, so the program will not go on for this school year.

9.2 Approval of the Agreement between Vernon BOE and VEA (Administrators' Contract) 2022-2025 (BOE Goal #2) (Executive Session Anticipated)

This item was moved to the end of the meeting

10.0 General Business

10.1 Request for Extension of Maternity Leave (BOE Goal #2) (Executive Session Anticipated)

This item was moved to the end of the meeting

10.2 Adjustment of VPS 2021-2022 Calendar (BOE Goal #1, #2)

Dr. Macary noted an error in calculating the number of PD days on the VPS 2021-2022 calendar. As a result of this error, the last day of school should be June 13, 2022, not

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June 14, 2022.

MOTION: Mr. Linton moved to approve the Adjustment of VPS 2021-2022 Calendar, moving the last day of school from June 14, 2022 to June 13, 2022

SECOND: Dr. Buxton

VOTE: Unanimous

10.3 ESSER III Grant (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Mr. Testa spoke of the 4 million in ESSER III funding coming to Vernon Public Schools over the next 2 years and the positive impact these funds will have. Mr. Testa noted that there are 5 required “buckets of use” for these funds:

- Learning Acceleration, Academic Renewal and Student Enrichment
- Family and Community Connections
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health of the Students and of our School Staff
- Strategic Use of Technology, Staff Development and the Digital Divide
- Building Safe and Healthy Schools

20% of the funds will go towards academics; we will be hiring interventionists for all three levels for the first time. Additional teachers can be employed over the two years. We will enhance our HVAC systems and Science Labs will be upgraded. Board members asked what will happen to the additional staff after the two years once the funds have been expended. Mr. Testa said that, if there is a positive impact, we would need to consider the impact on the budget. For example, IEPs could be reduced with this additional staff, thus reducing the need for other services.

11.0 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

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There were no questions from the press.

Dr. Macary took a moment before Executive Session to welcome Bill Meier to his first official Board meeting as the Director of Business and Finance. Bill thanked everyone for their kind words and said he looks forward to working with the Board. Having been a Vernon Police Officer for 19 years, he has already worked with so many people in the Town of Vernon and looks forward to his new role with Vernon Public Schools.

Dr. Macary also introduced Joe LeRoy, who will be interning with him through CCSU. Joe spoke to the Board, noting his 17+ years as an educator in East Hartford. He welcomes this opportunity to follow Dr. Macary.

9.0 Personnel

- 9.2 Approval of the Agreement between Vernon BOE and VEA (Administrators' Contract) 2022-2025 (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3) (Executive Session Anticipated)

10.0 General Business

- 10.1 Request for Extension of Maternity Leave (BOE Goal #2) (Executive Session Anticipated)

MOTION: Mr. Kalina moved to go into Executive Session at 8:24 PM to discuss the Approval of the Agreement between Vernon BOE and VEA (Administrators' Contract) 2022-2025 and the Request for Extension of Maternity Leave, inviting Superintendent Dr. Macary and Mr. LeRoy.

SECOND: Mr. Thrall

VOTE: Unanimous

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:34 PM

MOTION: Mr. Thrall moved to approve the Agreement between Vernon BOE and VEA (Administrators' Contract) 2022-2025 as discussed in Executive Session

SECOND: Dr. Buxton

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VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: Mr. Brown moved to approve the Request for Extension of Maternity Leave as discussed in Executive Session

SECOND: Mr. Kalina

VOTE: Unanimous

13.0 Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Linton motioned to adjourn at 8:38 p.m.

SECOND: Mr. Thrall

VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen Linton, Board Secretary