

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 26, 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 26, 2021.

1.0 Establish Quorum

Roll call was taken at 7:06 p.m. Board members present in person: Mrs. Rodriguez, Ms. Wintress, Mr. Linton, Mrs. Fischer, Dr. Buxton, Mr. Thrall, and Mr. Brown.

Board members present via Zoom: Mrs. Buckler, Mr. Kalina

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 7:08 p.m.

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance

4.0 Recognitions and Presentations

4.1 Recognition of Town of Vernon Vaccination Clinic Team (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Superintendent Dr. Joseph Macary and the Board recognized and thanked Mayor Daniel Champagne, Town Administrator Michael Purcaro, Lieutenant William Meier, and Dr. Daksh Rampal for their significant contributions to the Vernon Public Schools community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their sacrifice and efforts to provide teacher and staff vaccination clinics have made a difference to our schools.

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The Mayor shared that the first thing the Town of Vernon wanted to do was to get the town and school employees vaccinated. He noted that this was the greatest team effort he has seen and he is happy that things are starting to get back to normal. Mr. Purcaro thanked the Board for their partnership. Dr. Rampal shared that he is lucky to have partnered with the Town and has met so many good people. He thanked everyone who has touched his life in the past few months. He asked that people come and get vaccinated. Lt. Meier echoed their sentiments. He shared that Nurse Supervisor Michelle Harlow was there right from the beginning and handled the schedules and the nurses. Other groups came and volunteered and staffed the clinics at the hospital and call center. They couldn't have done this without everyone.

4.2 Recognition of Business and Finance Director Angela Wang (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Superintendent Dr. Joseph Macary and the Board recognized and thanked Director of Business and Finance Angela Wang for her years of service. Angela is resigning and this is her last week. She is leaving for family reasons. Dr. Macary noted that she has completed a huge binder/guide book for the business office. The Board presented her with a small token of appreciation.

Ms. Wang thanked Dr. Macary for his leadership. She thanked Mr. Testa for his support and help. She also thanked the Board members and let them know that she felt supported by all of them and that it has been a pleasure to work with them. Leaving was a hard decision for her but she had to make it for her family. She will be working as the Payroll Director for the City of Springfield, MA (for both the Board and the Town).

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

Student Representative Allison Blume reported the following:

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- Boys Varsity Volleyball will have their Senior Night on Wednesday. They will be playing New Britain.
- On Sunday, 5/2, there will be a Scholar Athlete Presentation on Fox 61 at 6:30 p.m. where two RHS students will be recognized.
- Creative Writers will take a trip to Hillstead Museum on 5/7.
- Senior Prom will be held on the RHS Football Field on 5/21. No students from out-of-town or underclassmen can attend. Tickets are on sale next week.
- The senior students continue to be flocked until 6/3. Allison thanked Dr. Macary and the Board for getting flocked. She was coming home and it was night time. She saw these things in her yard and then realized she had been flocked. It was a great surprise. She took a photo of it and saved it.

Student Representative James Wheeler reported the following:

- Students can now place an order for a custom salad or vegetarian lunch.
- Students Caroline Bartolotta, Eve Broulliard, Sara Cove, and Cali Miville, have been selected as four of Hill-Stead Museum's Fresh Voices Finalists for 2021.
- Boys Varsity Baseball have played 8 games and won 6 and lost 2.
- Boys Varsity Volleyball have played 7 games and won 3 and lost 4.
- Girls Varsity Lacrosse have played 4 games and won 1 and lost 3.
- Girls Varsity Softball have played 7 games and won 4 and lost 3.
- Spring sports are off to a great start.

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 April 5, 2021
- (b) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Finance Committee Meeting held on

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- (c) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Policy Committee Meeting held on March 31, 2021
- (d) Approval of Revised Board Policy #1251.1 Weapons and Other Prohibited Instruments
- (e) Approval of Revised Board Policy #1300.1 Community Engagement
- (f) Approval of Revised Board Policy #1311.1 Political Activities of School Employees
- (g) Approval of Revised Board Policy #1312 Requests from Public for Problem Resolution
- (h) Approval of Revised Board Policy #1321 Public Performances by Students
- (i) Approval of Revised Board Policy #1322 Student Contests and Competitions
- (j) Approval of Revised Board Policy #1324 Soliciting Funds from or by Students
- (k) Approval of Revised Board Policy #1325 Advertising and Promotions/Distribution of information
- (l) Approval of Revised Board Policy #1330 Use of School Facilities
- (m) Approval of Revised Board Policy #1331 Smoke Free Environment
- (n) Approval of Revised Board Policy #6159 Individualized Education Program/Special Education Program
- (o) Approval of Revised Board Policy #6171 Special Education

MOTION: Mr. Linton moved that the Board approve the items listed on the Consent Agenda for April 26, 2021.

SECOND: Dr. Buxton

VOTE: Unanimous

8.0 Personnel

8.1 Acceptance of Administrator Resignation (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Director of Business and Finance Angela Wang submitted her letter of resignation effective April 30, 2021. The Board was asked to accept her resignation.

MOTION: Mr. Linton moved that the Vernon Board of Education accept the resignation of Director of Business and Finance Angela Wang effective April 30, 2021.

SECOND: Mr. Thrall

VOTE: Unanimous

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8.2 Approval of Job Descriptions (BOE Goal #2)

(a) Interventionist

The Board was asked to review and approve the job description for Interventionist.

MOTION: Mr. Linton moved that the Board approve the job description for Interventionist as discussed and presented.

SECOND: Mrs. Rodriguez

VOTE: Unanimous

(b) Instructional Coach K-12

The Board was asked to review and approve the job description for Instructional Coach.

It was asked that the description be clarified by noting the position is for providing instruction with adults and not students.

MOTION: Mrs. Rodriguez moved that the Board approve the job description for Instructional Coach K-12 as discussed and presented.

SECOND: Mr. Brown

VOTE: Unanimous

9.0 Teaching and Learning

9.1 “History Day” Presentation (BOE Goal #2)

Gifted and Talented Teacher Mrs. Regina Lee and teacher Cynthia McManaman gave the Board an overview of “History Day” and shared with the Board the topics and projects that their History Day students recently completed and competed at in the Mansfield Regional History Day Contest. This year’s theme “Communication in History: the Key to Understanding” is fitting for 2021. Mrs. Lee is proud of these students for persevering through challenging research circumstances and sharing their passion through their chosen topics and project format.

History Day is a Year-long academic program for 6th to 12th grade students. It is

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Inquiry-based and supports CT ELA & Social Studies Standards. It is centered around historical research, interpretation, and creative expression. This year it was held virtually. Projects are evaluated by Historical Quality (80%): and Clarity of Presentation (20%). Vernon has had students at the state contest seven years in a row and were national competitors last three years. Vernon had two teacher winners of the Patricia Behring Award for Connecticut. Student projects were selected for Smithsonian Exhibition and two students were awarded special prizes at the state contests for medical and aviation history. This year's state contest results will be held on Monday May 3, 5:00 pm LIVE.

9.2 Review of Profile and Performance Reports (PPR) for School Year 2019-2020 (BOE Goal #2)

Assistant Superintendent Mr. Robert Testa reviewed and discussed the Profile and Performance Reports for School Year 2019-2020 with the Board. He shared that in light of the cancellation in 2019-20 of assessments and accountability due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there are no achievement, growth, or Next Generation Accountability System results in these reports. The reports he reviewed with the Board give a snapshot of Student Enrollment, Chronic Absenteeism and Suspension/Expulsion data, Educators by Race/Ethnicity, Instruction and Resources, Students with Disabilities, Expenditures, Cohort Graduation, etc. The Board reviewed and discussed the reports.

10.0 General Business

10.1 Approval of Liberty Landscapes, LLC Contract (BOE Goal #3)

Superintendent Dr. Joseph Macary reviewed the Liberty Landscapes, LLC contract and general conditions between Vernon Public Schools and Liberty Landscapes, LLC regarding the design/build of the Rockville High School turf field and running track replacement with the Board. The Board was asked to approve the contract.

Mr. Linton noted that a correction needs to be made. In the contract it states the word "Massachusetts". It should be corrected to read "Connecticut".

Mrs. Fischer thanked everyone that came out to vote last week.

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MOTION: Mr. Linton moved that the Board approve the contract and general conditions between Vernon Public Schools and Liberty Landscapes, LLC for the design/build of the Rockville High School turf field and running track replacement as presented.

SECOND: Mr. Thrall

VOTE: Unanimous

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

Superintendent Dr. Joseph Macary gave the Board a COVID-19 update. Last Thursday, some students and parents were vaccinated and they will be coming back in three weeks. Rockville High School and Vernon Center Middle School have gone to in-person learning 4 days a week. More students have come back. There are still virtual students as some parents feel more comfortable with kids at home. It's their personal choice. There were no parent complaints or phone calls received. There are 7 weeks of school left. The last day is June 11th. Dr. Macary reported that he has a conference call regarding the end-of-year activities tomorrow. Mr. Brown noted that Ellington Public Schools is dropping the virtual option next year. Dr. Macary noted that right now it is dictated by state law and the Governor's Executive Order. We are waiting to hear more.

10.3 Board of Education Awards Ceremony Date Moved to May 17, 2021 (BOE Goal #1, #2)

The Board of Education Awards Ceremony was originally scheduled for May 10, 2021. A new proposed date for the Awards Ceremony is May 17, 2021.

Dr. Macary noted that in November the Board of Education Awards Ceremony was not held. The Board should be able to do a separate virtual Awards Ceremony on May 17th, which will include Superintendent Awards, student awards, etc. It's not the same or the best way to do it, but the students should be recognized. Mrs. Fischer recommended a start time of 6 p.m. They will use the Zoom Webinar feature.

MOTION: Dr. Buxton moved that the Vernon Board of Education approve the new date of May 17, 2021 for the Board of Education Awards Ceremony.

SECOND: Mrs. Rodriguez

VOTE: Unanimous

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

There were no reports from Board of Education liaisons regarding attendance at organization/committee meetings.

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.

It was noted that Graduation is on June 10th. The last day of school is June 11th.

12.0 Opportunity for Questions from the Press Regarding Agenda Items

There were no questions from the press.

13.0 Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Linton moved to adjourn at 8:46 p.m.

SECOND: Mr. Thrall

VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen Linton, Board Secretary