

The Board of Education Town of Vernon

30 Park Street – PO Box 600
Vernon, Connecticut 06066

Anne Fischer, Chairperson
Mason Thrall, Vice Chairperson
Patricia Buxton, Secretary
Paul Grabowski
Karen Colt
Mark Kalina
Stephen Linton
Deborah Rodriguez
Kristiana Wintress

January 23, 2023

APPROVED MINUTES BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

A meeting of the Vernon Board of Education was held in-person and via Zoom Webinar at the Administration Building on Monday, January 23, 2023.

1.0 Establish Quorum

Roll call was taken at 7:05 p.m.

There was a quorum. Board members present: Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Thrall, Dr. Buxton, Mr. Grabowski, Ms. Colt, Mr. Linton, Mrs. Rodriguez and Ms. Wintress. Mr. Kalina was absent.

Student Representatives present: Aedan Ruddock and Anaya Tolton were absent.

Administration present: Superintendent Dr. Joseph Macary, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Robert Testa and Director of Business and Finance Mr. William Meier III.

2.0 Call to Order

Chairperson Fischer called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance

4.0 Recognitions and Presentations

4.1 Presentation by Northeast School Students (BOE Goal #1, #2)

Due to the impending storm, the students were asked to postpone their presentation until the February 13, 2023 Board of Education meeting.

4.2 Poetry Presentation by RHS Senior Tovah Oslovich (BOE Goal #1, #2)

Due to the impending storm, Ms. Oslovich was asked to postpone her presentation until

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the February 13, 2023 Board of Education meeting.

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

Due to the impending storm, Aedan Ruddock and Anaya Tolton were excused from reporting at this evening's meeting.

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 (Individual speakers shall be limited to five minutes and the total time for public forum shall be limited to 15 minutes.)

No one addressed the Board.

7.0 Consent Agenda

7.1 Consent Agenda

(a) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Special Meeting – Budget Presentation held on January 9, 2023

(b) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Regular Meeting held on January 9, 2023

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

SECOND: Mr. Linton

VOTE: Unanimous

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8.0 Personnel

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

Mrs. Fischer asked that this item be moved to the end of the meeting.

9.0 Teaching and Learning

9.1 Elementary Math Intervention Program Presentation (BOE Goal #2)

Assistant Superintendent Mr. Robert Testa introduced Mrs. Melissa Trantolo, Director of Teaching and Learning, Elementary. Mrs. Trantolo prepared a brief presentation on the Math Intervention Program for Elementary students that supports and sets goals for those students needing additional help. She spoke of the three tiers within the Math Program:

- Tier 1 = Core Instruction
- Tier 2 – Additional support in small groups
- Tier 3 = Extended help

The Intervention program targets students in Tiers 2 and 3, focusing on the “why” so kids understand and retain much longer. She provided a “Student Intervention Success Plan” handout which is used to assess students’ individual needs in Tiers 2 and 3. The plan records the level of intervention the student is currently in, areas of focus, goals to achieve and progress monitoring. Students can return to Tier 1 core instruction once they no longer require additional help, but can once again take advantage of Tiers 2 and 3 when additional help is needed. This plan follows the student where ever they go within the District. The Math Interventionist is the “go to” person. Their role is a school-wide instructional leader who supports and assesses students, while meeting regularly with building administrators to discuss student growth and progress toward SIP indicators. They meet with small groups of students 4 days a week. On the 5th day, they discuss progress monitoring of students’ personalized learning goals through review of the Student Intervention Success Plans and collaborate planning with grade level teams.

During Mrs. Trantolo’s presentation, Central Office lost power due to an electrical fire a block away from our building. Eversource reported that they needed to shut down power in the area to replace a transformer that had caught fire.

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10.0 General Business

10.1 Student Expulsions Update (BOE Goal #2) (Executive Session Anticipated)

Due to the power outage, this item will be moved to the February 13, 2023 Board of Education meeting.

10.2 Approval of the “Seymour Ballos Scholarship” Scholarship Establishment Request (BOE Goal #2)

Director of Business and Finance Mr. William Meier III reviewed the reasons for the establishment of this scholarship and asked the Board for their approval.

MOTION: Mr. Linton moved that the Board approve the “Seymour Ballos Scholarship” Scholarship Establishment Request as presented.

SECOND: Mr. Thrall

VOTE: Unanimous

10.3 Student-Centered Funding (BOE Goal #2)

Superintendent Dr. Macary reviewed the Student-Centered Funding PowerPoint provided on January 13, 2023 to the Board and discussed the key components of the proposal. Based on the information provided and previous discussions held on the subject, he asked for their consideration in signing-on to the Statement of Support for Student-Centered Funding.

MOTION: Mr. Thrall moved that the Board sign-on to the Statement of Support for Student-Centered Funding as presented.

SECOND: Mr. Linton

VOTE: Unanimous

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

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Mr. Linton attended the Maple Street School PTO meeting, held immediately after school dismissed. He noted that attendance was very good and there was lots of enthusiasm at the meeting. They have lots of fundraising ideas planned.

11.0 Review and Update Board of Education Calendar

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

No updates were made.

Dr. Macary reminded everyone of the Budget Meeting scheduled for this Wednesday evening.

12.0 Opportunity for Questions from the Press Regarding Agenda Items

No one from the Press was in attendance.

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

Although there was no power in the building, the Board chose to review this request and not go into Executive Session as the request was in line with the VEA contract.

MOTION: Mr. Linton moved that the Board of Education approve item 8.1, the request for an unpaid leave of absence submitted by Danielle Sullivan, for the reasons discussed and authorize the Superintendent to inform the employee of the Board's decision and the reasons therefore.

SECOND: Dr. Buxton

VOTE: Unanimous

13.0 Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Linton made a motion to adjourn at 7:33 PM

SECOND: Ms. Colt

VOTE: Unanimous

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Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Buxton, Board Secretary