

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

May 22, 2023

APPROVED MINUTES BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

A meeting of the Vernon Board of Education was held in-person and via Zoom Webinar at Rockville High School in the Library/Media Center on Monday, May 22, 2023.

1.0 Establish Quorum

Roll call was taken at 7:00 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: Anaya Tolton and Aedan Ruddock.

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 7:01 p.m.

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance

4.0 Recognitions and Presentations

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

Skinner Road School Principal Bryan Kerachsky introduced Science Teacher Ms. Karen Eckblom, who has been doing some great things through STEM and 3-D printing with the students at Skinner Road School. Ms. Eckblom mentioned that they worked with the First Seed Foundation and SpaceX to send tomato seeds in the Dragon Spaceship, where the seeds stayed for 5 weeks at the space station. When the seeds returned from space, the 3rd Grade students each planted one seed from space and one that had remained on earth, not

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knowing which was which (Ms. Eckblom does know which is which). They will monitor the growth of each seed and will share the results with SpaceX. They will also report their findings back to the Board in the Fall. Mr. Kerachsky then had the students in attendance introduce themselves before they spoke about their projects. Ms. Eckblom and the students spoke about the 3-D printer process they learned of and how they put the process into practice when creating their projects. They experienced some failures, but figured out how to work around them in order to produce a completed 3-D object. They then showed their projects to the Board members. Everyone was quite impressed with their creations.

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

Aedan Ruddock reported the following:

- On May 18th, 159 students in grades 9-11 were honored at the Undergraduate Awards Night.
- Mrs. Oaks' Entrepreneurship Class had another successful School Store Sale on May 12th. The sale generated an additional \$350.00. They're continuing to build the Marketing and Entrepreneurship pathway at RHS.
- Rock the Arts will take place on May 25th

Anaya Tolton reported on the following:

- Senior Awards Night will take place at 6:00 PM on June 1st in the RHS Auditorium
- The Biology team will be starting their Evolution unit with some new and exciting lab opportunities that involve being outside.
- The Chemistry team has been studying chemical reactions which have involved tons of wet experimental labs.
- The teachers have begun the process of cleaning out the cabinets in the lab as they prepare for the lab renovations.
- League tournaments are this week.
- The NCCC championship for track will take place at Suffield on 5/23 at 10:00 AM

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- The NCCC Girls' tennis tournament will take place at Rockville on 5/24 at 9:00 AM
- The NCCC Boys' tennis tournament will take place at Suffield on 5/24 at 9:00 AM
- The CVL Boys' volleyball tournament will take place at Rockville on 5/24. The time is TBD.
- The NCCC Baseball tournament vs. Coventry will take place at Suffield on 5/25 at 11:00
- The NCCC Softball tournament vs. Ellington will take place at Suffield on 5/25 at 2:00
- The NCCC Golf tournament will take place at Tallwood on 6/1

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 Finance Committee Meeting held on May 8, 2023
- (b) Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held on May 8, 2023
- (c) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Facilities Committee Meeting held on May 15, 2023
- (d) Approval of Revised Board of Education Policy #5156 – Students – Research Involving Students
- (e) Approval of Deleted Board of Education Policy #5157 – Students – Non-

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Discrimination

- (f) Approval of Revised Board of Education Policy #6115 – Instruction – Separation of Church and State
- (g) Approval of Reviewed Board of Education Policy #6121 – Instruction – Non-Discrimination in the Instructional Program
- (h) Approval of Revised Board of Education Policy #6141 – Instruction – Curriculum Design and Development
- (i) Approval of Reviewed Board of Education Policy #6141.312 – Instruction – Migrant Students
- (j) Approval of Revised Board of Education Policy #6141.326 – Instruction – Internet/Computer Networks Use
- (k) Approval of Revised Board of Education Policy #6141.328 – Instruction – Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) and Protocol for the Use of Technology in the Schools
- (l) Approval of Reviewed Board of Education Policy #6141.8 – Instruction – School Readiness
- (m) Approval of Reviewed Board of Education Policy #6142 – Instruction – Basic Instruction Program

Mrs. Fischer asked to pull Consent Agenda items 7.1(a), however, at the time of typing these minutes, it was discovered to actually be Consent Agenda item 7.1(b). Mrs. Fischer noted that, on page 5, “Signing Day” should be changed from May 8th to May 18th; “Senior Awards and Scholarship Night” should be changed from June 12th to June 1st.

MOTION: Mr. Thrall moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 7.1(a), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m) and Consent Agenda Item 7.1 (b) as amended
SECOND: Mrs. Rodriguez
VOTE: Unanimous

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8.0 Personnel

8.1 Approval of Revised Job Description for Custodians (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Mr. Testa spoke of the revised job description presented this evening for Board approval. There is just one change on page 2: the addition of the following statement “Must possess and maintain a Connecticut driver’s license”.

It was noted that there are a few grammatical errors that need to be corrected. On page 1, 4th bullet under “Essential Functions”, a comma should be placed after “hazards”. On page 2, 4th bullet under “Additional Working Conditions”, “Occasional pushing and/or pushing” should be changed to “Occasional pushing and/or pulling”. Mr. Testa will make these changes.

MOTION: Mrs. Rodriguez made a motion to approve the Revised Job Description for Custodians as amended

SECOND: Ms. Colt

VOTE: Unanimous

8.2 Approval of New Job Description for Technical and Marketing Coordinator for VRABE (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Mr. Testa presented a new job description for a Technical and Marketing Coordinator for VRABE. It was noted that there is an error on page 1, 5th bullet down under the “Essential Functions” section: change “Investigate and makes recommendations” to “Investigate and make recommendations”.

MOTION: Mr. Thrall made a motion to approve the new job description for a Technical and Marketing Coordinator for VRABE as amended

SECOND: Ms. Wintress

VOTE: Unanimous

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9.0 Teaching and Learning

9.1 Summer Learning Program (BOE Goal #2)

Mr. Testa introduced Directors of Summer Learning Alicia McEvila (Elementary) and Hanna Steed (Secondary) to the Board. They presented their Summer Learning Program, which will take place this year at Vernon Center Middle School from June 26th through July 27th. The program is free for all students and will focus on ELA and Math. Breakfast and lunch will be provided to all students and transportation is also available. The Elementary Program will cover grades Pre-K through 7, while the Secondary Program will cover grades 9-12. Students must have a grade average of 50 or higher to attend summer school. They also spoke of a summer learning pilot program in partnership with the Indian Valley Family YMCA and Vernon Public Schools. The program takes place from June 26th through July 28th from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM and is open to Vernon students entering grades 5 & 6 in the 2023-2024 school year. The focus will be on Academic Programming and Enrichment. This program is grant funded. Should it be a success, there will be enough funding within the grant for multiple years of the program. Mr. Testa said he will update the Board in the Fall on how the pilot program went. A question was asked about why 8th graders are not included in the summer school program. It was explained that the program for 8th graders, known as the “Bridge Program”, could not take place this year due to the construction taking place at RHS over the summer. Therefore, there is no high school experience that the 8th graders could take part in at VCMS. Currently, approximately 20 students have signed up for summer school in each of the Elementary grade levels. There will be about 150 high school students participating as well. It was also noted that Ms. Piscottano has about 15 students in her pilot Pre-K to K Program.

10.0 General Business

10.1 Donation to Cornerstone Foundation (BOE Goal #1)

Director of Business and Finance William Meier III announced that the Cornerstone Foundation has asked if the Board would consider a donation of the recently approved asset disposal of a floor mixer. They need this equipment and would kindly ask for Board approval of their request.

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MOTION: Mr. Grabowski moved to approve the donation of a disposed floor mixer to the Cornerstone Foundation as presented

SECOND: Mr. Linton

VOTE: Unanimous

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

Mrs. Rodriguez attended a meeting at Lake Street School via Zoom. They spoke about yearbooks, the 5th Grade Trip to Boston and the Book Fair in April. They also mentioned that Bingo Night went well. Mrs. Fischer noted that the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony and the Undergraduate Awards at Rockville High School went very well.

11.0 Review and Update Board of Education Calendar

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

No updates were made.

12.0 Opportunity for Questions from the Press Regarding Agenda Items

No one from the Press was in attendance.


13.0 Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Linton made a motion to adjourn at 7:55 PM

SECOND: Mrs. Rodriguez

VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Buxton, Ed.D., Board Secretary