

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 8, 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, May 8, 2023.

1.0 Establish Quorum

Roll call was taken at 7:00 p.m.

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

Mrs. Fischer called for a moment of silence for Mr. Bryan Flint, Deputy Director of the Cornerstone Foundation in Vernon, who lost his life in a tragic car accident on Sunday morning in Tolland. Bryan was well known for his service to the town of Vernon as well as area children, the less-fortunate and the homeless. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

4.0 Recognitions and Presentations

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

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Rockville High School's Assistant Principal Kate Howard-Bender brought along several students who recently traveled to Barcelona, Spain and Paris, France to speak to the Board about their trip and why it's important to be exposed to new cultures and environments. Every student had the chance to speak and share their personal experiences. They all agreed that this was an amazing opportunity and were so appreciative of the chance to experience the culture of two European countries. They showed a slide presentation of the many pictures they took and explained what each photo represented. They thanked the Board and Dr. Macary for their support and for the opportunity to travel abroad.

4.2 Recognition of RHS Art Students' Exhibits at Central Office (BOE Goal #1, #2)

RHS Art Teacher Stephanie Symkowicz thanked the Board for supporting the following students who have their art displayed in the 3rd floor lobby of Central Office:

- Max Fluckiger
- Madelyn Geyer
- Lauren Haddad
- Clarissa Halpryn
- Ariana McClellan
- Cameron McCrystal
- Emma Millett
- Jevon Osborne
- Alexis Real
- Olivia Reguin
- Arielle Shivers
- Theodore Yarusewicz

Many of the students were not able to attend this evening to receive their certificate of recognition due to sport commitments, but those who were able to attend were presented with their certificate by Board Chair Anne Fischer. Ms. Symkowicz reminded everyone of the "Rock the Arts" event coming up on May 26th. All are invited to attend.

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4.3 Presentation of Vernon Youth Voices Count Survey Results 2023 (BOE Goal #3)

Michelle Hill, Director of Youth Services in Vernon, introduced herself to the Board and spoke of the Vernon Rocks Coalition, which assists Vernon youth with prevention of using drugs and alcohol. She introduced Bonnie Weyland Smith, the evaluator of the Vernon Rocks Coalition, who will present to the Board the results of the “Vernon Youth Voices Count” survey that was conducted in March of this year. Because a similar survey was conducted two years ago, Bonnie was able to speak about trends and summary outcomes. They had an 84% response rate with those students offered the survey in grades 6 – 12. The survey was completely anonymous; no identifying information was collected. Bonnie provided survey result statistics on alcohol and marijuana use, mental health issues such as depression and thoughts of suicide, bullying and related risk and protective factors. This presentation was a brief overview of the results. The full survey report includes analysis of demographic differences among those students surveyed.

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.

Board members and Administration who attended the Wizard of Oz Production at RHS noted that the performance was amazing! The students did a fantastic job and it was nice to see Elementary students included in the production.

5.2 Rockville High School Student Representative Report

Aedan Ruddock reported the following:

- Juniors had their prom this past weekend on April 22nd
- Girls’ Lacrosse earned their first win of the season last week
- Boys’ Volleyball is off to a great start with a record of 7-1
- Golf has had some great rounds
- Girls’ tennis is off to a great start with a record of 5-1. Boys’ tennis earned their first win last week
- Softball has a record of 6-2

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- Baseball is off to a 6-3 start
- Both the Boys' and Girls' track teams are undefeated and individuals are qualifying for the State meet.
- There are about 300 athletes participating in the spring season
- The School Store Spring Sale made over \$600.00.

Anaya Tolton reported on the following:

- Seniors had their prom on April 29th
- AP exams have started up this week
- The May calendar raffle for the National Honor Society has begun. Tickets are \$10.00.
- The National Honor Society has their induction ceremony coming up this Thursday at 6:00 PM.
- May 5th was the last day for Senior demonstration projects. The Seniors are relieved!
- Progress reports for Q4 are being pulled on Monday, May 15th
- The Undergraduate Awards Evening will take place on Thursday, May 18th at 6:00 PM in the RHS Auditorium.
- Signing Day for athletes will be May 18th right after school at 2:00 PM. 16 athletes are moving on to play sports in college.
- ROCK the Arts Night will take place on Thursday, May 25th at 6:00 PM in the RHS Auditorium.
- Senior Awards and Scholarship Night will take place on Thursday, June 1st at 6:00 PM in the RHS Auditorium.
- The Top 10 Luncheon will take place at 12:45 PM on Monday, June 12th.
- RHS successfully surpassed their goal in the grant-funded FAFSA Challenge this year.

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.)

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No one addressed the Board.

7.0 Consent Agenda

7.1 Consent Agenda

- (a) Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held on April 24, 2023
- (b) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Policy Committee Meeting held on May 1, 2023
- (c) Approval of Reviewed Board of Education Policy #6000 – Instruction – Priority of Instructional Program
- (d) Approval of Revised Board of Education Policy #6010 – Instruction – Goals and Objectives
- (e) Approval of Revised Board of Education Policy #6111 – Instruction – School Calendar
- (f) Approval of Revised Board of Education Policy #6112 – Instruction – School Day – Grades K – 12
- (g) Approval of Deleted Board of Education Policy #6112.1 – Instruction – Opening Exercises, Observations, Ceremonies, Programs
- (h) Approval of Revised Board of Education Policy #6113 – Instruction – Class Size
- (i) Approval of Revised Board of Education Policy #6114 – Instruction – Emergency and Disaster Preparedness
- (j) Approval of Revised Board of Education Policy #6114.3 – Instruction – Bomb and Toxic Substances Threats

Mrs. Fischer pulled Consent Agenda items 7.1(b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (h) and (i).

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MOTION: Mr. Linton moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 7.1(a), (g) and (j)
SECOND: Mrs. Rodriguez
VOTE: Unanimous

Mrs. Fischer asked for the following changes on pulled Consent Agenda items 7.1(b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (h) and (i):

On page 9, Policy 6112.1, the next to the last line should read as follows: “Ms. Wintress made the motion that we recommend to the full Board for approval the deletion of this policy as well as the addition of some of this policy’s language to policy #6115 as suggested”. On page 11, Policy #5141.7, the second line should be changed from “tp” and begin with “to”. On page 13, the second paragraph, 6th line should begin with “revisions”, not revision. On page 16, the formatting needs to be adjusted in the numbered lines. On page 27, repeat item #6 in the Secondary Schools section as well. On page 33, remove the * in the 3rd line of the Bomb Threats section and insert the word “guide”

MOTION: Dr. Buxton moved to approve Consent Agenda Item 7.1(b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (h) and (i) as amended
SECOND: Mr. Kalina
VOTE: Unanimous

8.0 Personnel

8.1 Vernon Public Schools Teacher Vacancies (BOE Goal #1, #2)

Mr. Testa shared the current teacher vacancies as of May 3rd with the Board. We hired a Grade 5 Teacher today and hope to fill the remaining positions very soon.

9.0 Teaching and Learning

9.1 Update on RHS College Career Pathways (BOE Goal #2)

Dr. Macary spoke of how Rockville High School has moved towards a Career Pathways Model this year. They have created 4 “Academies”:

- Agricultural Science & Technology Education (ASTE)

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- Advanced Science & Technology
- Arts, Business and Communications
- Health, Human and Public Service

Every Freshman has chosen one academy to focus on. All Freshman students take nine different exploratory classes to experience all RHS has to offer; there is an exception to this with ASTE students as they only take four exploratory courses with their program. Student choice in academics leads to greater student engagement and helps them to figure out what they want while in high school, which subsequently leads to a meaningful post-secondary experience. Dr. Macary said we hope to introduce this program in the Middle School in the next few years. He sees fifth graders eventually taking a course called “VCMS 101” to help them prepare for middle school.

10.0 General Business

10.1 Board of Education Finance Committee Report (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Director of Business and Finance William Meier III noted that the Finance Committee met this evening to review the Year-to-Date Budget. He presented three action items that he would like to ask the Board to consider:

- (a) Asset Disposal Request
- (b) Donation from Adopt-a-Classroom
- (c) Facilities Study Bid Waiver

MOTION: Dr. Buxton moved to approve action items (a) Asset Disposal Request and (b) Donation from Adopt-a-Classroom as presented

SECOND: Mr. Kalina

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: Mr. Kalina read aloud the following motion for item (c) Facilities Study Bid Waiver: The Vernon Board of Education agrees that it is in the best interest of the Board to waive the sealed bid requirements for costs involving the 10-year facilities study for Friar Architecture in an amount not to exceed

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\$119,000.00 and further authorizes Director of Business and Finance William Meier III to execute, on behalf of the Vernon Board of Education, any instrument(s) to that effect.

SECOND: Mr. Linton
VOTE: Unanimous

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 that our next meeting will take place at Rockville High School in the Library/Media Center at 7:00 PM. The Student Awards Ceremony will take place at 6:00 PM in the RHS Auditorium.

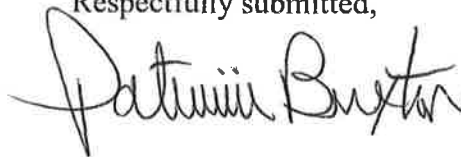
12.0 Opportunity for Questions from the Press Regarding Agenda Items

No one from the Press was in attendance.

13.0 Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Linton made a motion to adjourn at 8:24 PM
SECOND: Mrs. Rodriguez
VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Buxton, Board Secretary