

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
Karen Colt
Kevin Brown
Mark Kalina
Stephen Linton
Deborah Rodriguez
Kristiana Wintress

November 14, 2022

APPROVED MINUTES BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

A meeting of the Vernon Board of Education was held in-person and via Zoom Webinar at the Vernon Center Middle School Library on Monday, November 14, 2022.

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. Brown, Ms. Colt, Mr. Kalina, Mrs. Rodriguez and Ms. Wintress. Mr. Linton was absent.

Student Representatives present: Anaya Tolton and Aedan Ruddock were unable to attend.

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 7:00 p.m.

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance

4.0 Recognitions and Presentations

4.1 Presentation by Vernon Center Middle School Students (BOE Goal #1, #2)

8th Grade Math Teacher Jennifer Roggi presented a new way of teaching Math. She is one of 20 Connecticut teachers who applied and was selected to participate in a 5-year study with UCONN called the “Math Teacher Leader Fellowship”. In this program, teachers work on their own practices and bring those skills into the classroom, all while earning 12 graduate credits. The program is sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the Noyes Foundation and others. She said the goal of the program is to look at equity and accessibility for all students and elevate critical thinking. As part of the program, she was

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given a book to read this Summer titled “Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics, Grades K-12: 14 Teaching Practices for Enhancing Learning” by Peter Liljedahl.

Three key implementations in this new program are:

- Defronting the classroom
- Random grouping of students
- Working at the whiteboards

There is no traditional “front” to the classroom. Students are encouraged to work with groups of different classmates each day and spend most of their time up at the whiteboards working on math tasks. Mrs. Roggi brought along several of her students who wanted to share their thoughts on this new concept of learning math. All in all, their comments were favorable and they actually enjoy this new format of learning Math. They said that, although it can be uncomfortable to be grouped with someone you may not know very well or who may have a different personality, it prepares you for real life experiences in the workforce.

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 and Anaya Tolton were unable to attend tonight’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.

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7.0 Consent Agenda

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- (a) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Facilities Committee Meeting held on October 19, 2022
- (b) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Regular Meeting held on October 24, 2022
- (c) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Communications Committee Meeting held on November 2, 2022
- (d) Approval of Reviewed Board Policy #5127 – Students – Graduation Ceremony (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)
- (e) Approval of Revised Board Policy #5131 – Students – Conduct at School and School Related Activities (BOE Goal #3)
- (f) Approval of Reviewed Board Policy #5131.1 – Students – Bus Conduct (BOE Goal #3)
- (g) Approval of Reviewed Board Policy #5131.111 – Students – Video Surveillance (BOE Goal #3)
- (h) Approval of New Board Policy #4113.12 – Personnel – Certified – Minimum Duty-Free Lunch Periods for Teachers (BOE Goal #3)
- (i) Approval of New Board Policy #5144.4 – Students – Discipline – Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students (BOE Goal #3)

Mrs. Fischer asked to pull items (e) and (i).

MOTION: Mr. Kalina moved to approve Consent Agenda Items #7.1 (a), (b), (c), (d), (f), (g) and (h)

SECOND: Mrs. Rodriguez

VOTE: Unanimous

Mrs. Fischer reviewed pulled item (e). She noted that the header and section header on page 15 should be bolded. On page 19, Line 24, “his/her” should be deleted.

Mrs. Fischer also reviewed pulled item (i), noting that “his/her” should be changed to “their” on page 25. Any instances of “he/she” should be changed to “they”.

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MOTION: Dr. Buxton moved that the Board approve items (e) and (i) as amended.
SECOND: Ms. Wintress
VOTE: Unanimous

8.0 Personnel

8.1 Hiring Results from Vernon Public Schools Job Fair (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Assistant Superintendent Mr. Robert Testa reviewed two handouts, given to the Board, which showed the results of the Vernon Public Schools Job Fair held in September. There were 50 attendees. Of these 50, 23 did not apply for a position; 27 did apply. Out of the 27 applicants, we hired 8, including a Spanish Teacher, who is proving to be a great addition to our staff. Mr. Testa felt the Job Fair was a successful, positive event.

9.0 Teaching and Learning

9.1 Approval of the Rockville High School Course Offerings (BOE Goal #2, #3)

Assistant Superintendent Mr. Robert Testa reported that the Curriculum Committee met last Wednesday, November 9th, to review the RHS Curriculum at a Glance, which describes 246 course offerings. He said the Committee also reviewed the eliminated class list and recommended that these go before the Board for approval.

MOTION: Mr. Thrall moved that the Board approve the Rockville High School Course Offerings as presented.
SECOND: Mrs. Rodriguez
VOTE: Unanimous

9.1 Approval of the English 9 Curriculum (BOE Goal #2, #3)

Assistant Superintendent Mr. Robert Testa reported that the Curriculum Committee also reviewed the English 9 Curriculum, which added a few books recommended by the Committee.

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MOTION: Dr. Buxton moved that the Board approve the English 9 Curriculum as presented.
SECOND: Mrs. Rodriguez
VOTE: Unanimous

10.0 General Business

10.1 Approval of the Vernon Board of Education 2023/2024 Budget Calendar (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Dr. Macary reviewed the proposed Board of Education 2023/2024 Budget calendar. He noted that the Budget Handbook was recently sent out to Administrators to help them prepare for upcoming budget meetings.

MOTION: Mr. Kalina moved that the Board approve the Vernon Board of Education 2023/2024 Budget Calendar
SECOND: Ms. Wintress
VOTE: Unanimous

10.2 Approval of \$500.00 Donation to Rockville High School (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

MOTION: Mr. Thrall moved that the Board approve and accept, with gratitude, the \$500.00 donation from Mrs. Eva Garza-McAdams of Kyle, Texas to Rockville High School as presented.

SECOND: Mr. Kalina
VOTE: Unanimous

10.3 Approval of Bid Waiver for Boiler Repair at Rockville High School (BOE Goal #3)

Mr. William Meier III, Director of Business and Finance, spoke of the need to repair the boiler at Rockville High School. The system has developed leaks in both condensate return tanks; they are unable to be repaired or welded and must be replaced. He presented 3 bids to the Board; Advanced Mechanical came in as the lowest bidder at \$91,200.00. He

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asked the Board to consider approving a bid waiver as this needs to be done as soon as possible. A standard bid process would take several months and the system could fail in the meantime.

MOTION: Mr. Thrall moved that the Board approve the Bid Waiver for Boiler Repair at Rockville High School as presented.

SECOND: Mr. Kalina

VOTE: Unanimous

10.4 Approval of Budget Amendment Request (BOE Goal #3)

Mr. Meier noted that we would now need to move funds from one account to another in order to fund the approved boiler repair. Due to the hiring of new staff at reduced salaries, there are excess funds in salary accounts that can be transferred to maintenance to cover the cost of the repairs.

MOTION: Mr. Kalina moved that the Board approve the Budget Amendment Request as presented.

SECOND: Mr. Thrall

VOTE: Unanimous

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

Board Liaisons had nothing to report. Dr. Macary reminded everyone of the CABA Convention taking place at the end of this week.

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.

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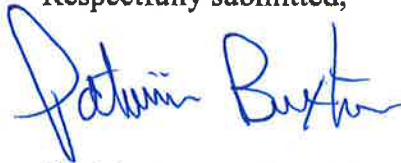
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13.0 Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Kalina made a motion to adjourn at 7:57 PM
SECOND: Mrs. Rodriguez
VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Buxton, Board Secretary