

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 28, 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 Administration Building on Monday, November 28, 2022.

1.0 Establish Quorum

Roll call was taken at 7:01 p.m.

There was a quorum. Board members present: Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Thrall, Mr. Brown, Ms. Colt, Mr. Kalina, Mr. Linton, Mrs. Rodriguez and Ms. Wintress. Dr. Buxton arrived later during executive session.

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 7:02 p.m.

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance

4.0 Recognitions and Presentations

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

Principal Heather Earley spoke of the new “Student News” initiative that takes place every day at Center Road School. As part of the Student Leadership Committee, students brought to their teachers’ attention that they wanted to take ownership of the morning announcements rather than have Administration announce them. Two 5th grade students take part as “newscasters” each day, informing the school population of important information, student birthdays, lunch choices, etc. The students are taped one day a week

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for all announcements that will take place the following week. Each day, the broadcast link is uploaded to the Google Drive; this gives teachers the ability to play the broadcast to their class at a time that is convenient for their schedule.

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 announced that the Smash Ultimate E-Sports team is currently ranked 7th in the State league. Playoffs start this week. He also announced that the RHS Football playoff game takes place tomorrow night at 6:30 at home against Abbott Tech. Please come out and support the team.

Anaya Tolton announced that RHS was selected to participate in Connecticut's FAFSA Challenge. They will be hosting a FAFSA completion event this week. As of today, 70 seniors have applied to one or more colleges. Winter sports are starting up this week. Girls & boys basketball tryouts are this week and indoor track tryouts are taking place this Thursday.

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

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- (a) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Curriculum Committee Meeting held on November 9, 2022
- (b) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Regular Meeting held on November 14, 2022
- (c) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Finance Committee Meeting held on November 16, 2022

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

SECOND: Mrs. Rodriguez

VOTE: Unanimous

8.0 Personnel

8.1 Employee Group Census (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Assistant Superintendent Mr. Robert Testa shared the Employee Group Census with the Board. We currently have 873 paid employees; 580 are Union Staff, 58 are Non-Affiliated Staff and 235 are Adult Education Staff. Mrs. Fischer requested the number of athletic coaches who are also teachers. Dr. Macary will provide that information to the Board.

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

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

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

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

8.4 Substitute Pay (BOE Goal #2, #3)

Assistant Superintendent Mr. Robert Testa shared with the Board current substitute pay rates from surrounding towns, including East Hartford, Ellington, Bolton, Tolland, South Windsor and Manchester. He proposed an increase in our current sub pay from

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\$110.00/\$120.00 per day to \$130.00 per day for all subs (daily, certified and building) and asked to Board to approve the proposed increase.

MOTION: Mr. Thrall motioned to approve the proposed increase in substitute pay from \$110.00/\$120.00 per day to \$130.00 per day for all subs (daily, certified and building) as presented.

SECOND: Mr. Linton

VOTE: Unanimous

8.5 Appointment of Director of Pupil Personnel Services (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3) (Executive Session Anticipated)

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

9.0 Teaching and Learning

9.1 Follow-Up on November 8, 2022 PD Day (BOE Goal #2)

Assistant Superintendent Mr. Robert Testa provided an update on the PD Day sessions that took place on November 8, 2022. He provided a spreadsheet of the feedback from staff. All in all, feedback was in the higher end of the range. Mr. Kalina suggested that a column should be added to note the number of participants to show the ratio of teachers who attended vs. those teachers who responded. Mr. Testa will add that information to future reporting.

10.0 General Business

10.1 Update on Attendance at CABE/CAPSS Convention (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Dr. Macary spoke of his attendance at the CABE Convention. He presented at two workshops and moderated one. He will send the slides from his presentations to the Board. He and Mrs. Fischer also participated in the Connecticut Alliance District Panel Discussion. He enjoyed networking with colleagues throughout the event.

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He asked the three Board members who did attend to give their perspective on the areas of the convention that they felt were of the most benefit to them:

Kristiana Wintress felt the networking with colleagues was of great benefit to her. She visited various booths and spoke with Superintendents and Board members from other districts.

Deborah Rodriguez attended the Diversity & Equity Workshop and received additional handouts to read. She loved the “Witness Stones Project” workshop, where they spoke of restoring history and honoring the humanity of individuals who built Connecticut communities. She would love to see Vernon do this as it’s a great way to study Connecticut history. She also mentioned that a group of kids performed a “drumline” during the convention and it was awesome!

Anne Fischer attended a Title IX Workshop. Although it contained a great deal of “legalese”, she did find it interesting.

10.2 CABE Board of Education “Board of Distinction Award” (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Dr. Macary announced that the Vernon Board of Education was one of 15 Boards in Connecticut to receive the CABE Board of Education “Board of Distinction Award - Level II”. The award was presented to the Board during the Friday Luncheon Session at the CABE Convention by State Education Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker. Dr. Macary thanked the Board for all that they do for the students of Vernon.

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

Mrs. Rodriguez said that Lake Street School did not have a meeting, however, she did announce that the school held their “Top Turkey” event and raised \$400.00.

11.0 Review and Update Board of Education Calendar

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

No updates were made.

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12.0 Opportunity for Questions from the Press Regarding Agenda Items

No one from the Press was in attendance.

MOTION: Mr. Linton motioned to move into Executive Session at 7:40 PM to discuss items 8.2 and 8.3, inviting Superintendent Dr. Macary and Assistant Superintendent Mr. Testa. Upon completion of discussion of items 8.2 and 8.3, they will then invite Mr. Robert Nagashima, candidate for the Director of Pupil Personnel Services, when they will begin discussion of item 8.5.

SECOND: Mrs. Rodriguez

VOTE: Unanimous

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:45 PM.

MOTION: Mr. Thrall moved to approve item 8.2, a request for an unpaid leave of absence from Amanda Majersky for reasons discussed in executive session and inform her of the Board's decision.

SECOND: Mr. Brown

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: Mr. Thrall moved to deny item 8.3, a request for an unpaid leave of absence from Conray Campbell for reasons discussed in executive session and inform him of the Board's decision.

SECOND: Mrs. Rodriguez

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: Mr. Thrall moved to approve item 8.5, the appointment Mr. Robert Nagashima as Director of Pupil Personnel Services, effective January 3, 2023 and inform him of the Board's decision.

SECOND: Mr. Linton

VOTE: Unanimous

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13.0 Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Linton made a motion to adjourn at 8:48 PM
SECOND: Mr. Brown
VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Buxton, Board Secretary