

# The Board of Education Town of Vernon

30 Park Street – PO Box 600  
Vernon, Connecticut 06066

Paul Grabowski, Chair  
Kristiana Wintress, Vice Chair  
Karen Colt, Secretary  
Anthony Bedlack  
Patricia Buxton  
Susan Jablonecki  
Kriste Nucci  
Simone Sewell  
Mason Thrall

October 15, 2024

## 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 Tuesday, October 15, 2024.

Roll call was taken at 7:01 PM

There was a quorum. Board members present: Mr. Grabowski, Ms. Colt, Mr. Bedlack, Dr. Buxton, Mrs. Jablonecki and Ms. Nucci. Ms. Sewell attended via Zoom Meeting. Ms. Wintress and Mr. Thrall 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

Board Chair Mr. Grabowski called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

### 3.0 Pledge of Allegiance

### 4.0 Recognitions and Presentations

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

Mr. Bryan Kerachsky, Principal of Skinner Road School, introduced a new initiative at the school called “B3: Be Here. Be You. Belong.” This initiative aligns with the District’s Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Stance. 35 adults from the school staff head small groups of students and students stay with the same adult/group through their years at SRS. The main goal of the group is to focus on attendance and getting kids to come to school. Mr. Kerachsky then introduced Ms. Kelly Schunder, a Social Worker at SRS, and 3 of his students, Mia, Macy and Zoe, who were here this evening to talk about B3 and what they like about it. All three students expressed that they felt included and happy after a B3

# The Board of Education Town of Vernon

30 Park Street – PO Box 600  
Vernon, Connecticut 06066

Paul Grabowski, Chair  
Kristiana Wintress, Vice Chair  
Karen Colt, Secretary  
Anthony Bedlack  
Patricia Buxton  
Susan Jablonecki  
Kriste Nucci  
Simone Sewell  
Mason Thrall

October 15, 2024

Session, that they don't have to hide who they are, can express themselves and not have to hide their feelings.

## 5.0 Secretary's Report

### 5.1 Opportunity for Board of Education to add/delete urgent agenda items

No agenda items were added.

### 5.2 Rockville High School Student Representative Report

My-Ngoc Lai-Huyen reported on the following:

- The RHS Esports Super Smash Bros. team is currently undefeated and is ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the state out of 47 teams.
- Congratulations to the Girls' Volleyball team for qualifying for the state tournament!
- RHS' Math team scored 47 points at their first meet at Avon High School.
- Progress reports were published to ASPEN on October 7<sup>th</sup>.
- So far this Fall, RHS has hosted 26 college representatives.
- Dual enrollment registration is just wrapping up for our programs with ECSU, CT State, SCSU and UConn. As of October 15<sup>th</sup>, approximately 270 students have registered to earn college credits.

Thomas Glinski, Jr. reported on the following:

- We are wishing luck to the Cross-Country team as they compete in the conference championship on Wednesday.
- Grades 9 – 11 will take the digital PSAT on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, while Seniors will participate in the Mock Interview Day.
- On October 17<sup>th</sup>, the RHS School Counseling Department, in collaboration with Conntac, will host a Class of 2025 Parent Info Session focusing on Post-RHS Planning and the Financial Aid process.
- RHS' School Counseling Department will take to Seniors to visit UConn Storrs on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

# The Board of Education Town of Vernon

30 Park Street – PO Box 600  
Vernon, Connecticut 06066

Paul Grabowski, Chair  
Kristiana Wintress, Vice Chair  
Karen Colt, Secretary  
Anthony Bedlack  
Patricia Buxton  
Susan Jablonecki  
Kriste Nucci  
Simone Sewell  
Mason Thrall

October 15, 2024

- Spirit Week will take place from October 28<sup>th</sup> through November 11<sup>th</sup>:
  - Monday: USA / America Day
  - Tuesday: Twin Day
  - Wednesday: Blue & Gold Day
  - Thursday: Super Hero Day
  - Friday: Class Day (each grade will be assigned a different theme)
- There will be the Annual Powder Puff game and bonfire from 6 PM – 9 PM on Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. There will be a Homecoming football game at 6:30 PM on Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.

## 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 JOINT Finance / Facilities Committees Meeting held on September 9, 2024
- (b) Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held on September 9, 2024
- (c) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Special Meeting – Ad Hoc 10-Year Facility Study & Master Plan Committee Meeting held on September 16, 2024
- (d) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Policy Committee Meeting held on September 23, 2024

# The Board of Education Town of Vernon

30 Park Street – PO Box 600  
Vernon, Connecticut 06066

Paul Grabowski, Chair  
Kristiana Wintress, Vice Chair  
Karen Colt, Secretary  
Anthony Bedlack  
Patricia Buxton  
Susan Jablonecki  
Kriste Nucci  
Simone Sewell  
Mason Thrall

October 15, 2024

- (e) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Curriculum Committee Meeting held on September 25, 2024
- (f) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Facilities Committee Meeting held on October 7, 2024
- (g) Approval of Reviewed Board of Education Policy #3453 – Business and Non-Instructional Operations – School Activity Funds
- (h) Approval of Reviewed Board of Education Policy #6145.8 – Business and Non-Instructional Operations – School Activity Funds
- (i) Approval of Revised Board of Education Policy #4118.232 / 4218.232 – Personnel, Certified / Non-Certified – Smoking, Drinking or Use of Drugs on School Premises or During School Sponsored Activities
- (j) Approval of Revised Board of Education Policy #4118.11 / 4218.11 – Personnel, Certified / Non-Certified – Non-Discrimination / Equal Employment Opportunity
- (k) Approval of Revised Board of Education Policy #3280 – Business and Non-Instructional Operations – Gifts, Grants, Bequests and Supplemental Funding
- (l) Approval of Revised Board of Education Policy #3511 – Business and Non-Instructional Operations – Compliance with 504 Regulations
- (m) Approval of Revised Board of Education Policy #3260 – Business and Non-Instructional Operations – Sales and Disposal of Obsolete Books, Equipment and Supplies
- (n) Approval of Reviewed Board of Education Policy #3435 – Business and Non-Instructional Operations – Fraud Prevention and Investigation

# The Board of Education Town of Vernon

30 Park Street – PO Box 600  
Vernon, Connecticut 06066

Paul Grabowski, Chair  
Kristiana Wintress, Vice Chair  
Karen Colt, Secretary  
Anthony Bedlack  
Patricia Buxton  
Susan Jablonecki  
Kriste Nucci  
Simone Sewell  
Mason Thrall

October 15, 2024

MOTION: Ms. Nucci moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 7.1(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m) and (n)  
SECOND: Dr. Buxton  
VOTE: Unanimous

## 8.0 Personnel

### 8.1 Approval of the Superintendent's Evaluation (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3) (Executive Session Anticipated)

This item was moved to the end of the meeting.

### 8.2 Approval of the Superintendent's Employment Agreement (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3) (Executive Session Anticipated)

This item was moved to the end of the meeting.

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

This item was moved to the end of the meeting.

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

This item was moved to the end of the meeting.

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

This item was moved to the end of the meeting.

### 8.6 Approval of the Agreement between the Vernon Board of Education and the Vernon School Administrators' Association (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3) (Executive Session Anticipated)

# The Board of Education Town of Vernon

30 Park Street – PO Box 600  
Vernon, Connecticut 06066

Paul Grabowski, Chair  
Kristiana Wintress, Vice Chair  
Karen Colt, Secretary  
Anthony Bedlack  
Patricia Buxton  
Susan Jablonecki  
Kriste Nucci  
Simone Sewell  
Mason Thrall

October 15, 2024

This item was moved to the end of the meeting.

## 9.0 Teaching and Learning

### 9.1 School Improvement Plans - Elementary (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Elementary School Principals Tracy Duenzl of Lake Street School, Heather Earley of Center Road School, Joshua Egan of Maple Street School, Brenda Greene of Northeast School and Bryan Kerachsky of Skinner Road School, each gave a brief overview of their School Improvement Plans. Each plan aligns with the District's Strategic Plan, focusing on Student Success, Family and Community Partnerships and System Excellence. Attendance is an important focus of each Principal and they have all developed ways to improve their numbers through initiatives such as home visits, family engagement events and assemblies to spark interest in students wanting to come to school. As a result of these initiatives, they are seeing some improvement in student attendance.

### 9.2 Approval of the Following Curricula (BOE Goal #2):

- Pre-Algebra
- Civics
- Creative Writing II
- Creative Writing III
- Creative Writing IV

Assistant Superintendent Robert Testa announced that the Curriculum Committee met on September 25<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the Pre-Algebra, Civics, Creative Writing II, III and IV Curricula, recommending that all 5 go before the full Board for approval.

MOTION: Dr. Buxton moved to approve the Pre-Algebra, Civics, Creative Writing II, III and IV Curricula as discussed and presented.

SECOND: Ms. Colt

VOTE: Unanimous

# The Board of Education Town of Vernon

30 Park Street – PO Box 600  
Vernon, Connecticut 06066

Paul Grabowski, Chair  
Kristiana Wintress, Vice Chair  
Karen Colt, Secretary  
Anthony Bedlack  
Patricia Buxton  
Susan Jablonecki  
Kriste Nucci  
Simone Sewell  
Mason Thrall

October 15, 2024

## 10.0 General Business

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

Mr. William Meier III, Director of Business and Finance, announced that the Finance Committee met this evening and reviewed the Finance Report and the Year-to-Date Budget.

There are two action items that he is asking the Board for their consideration on:

#### (a) Budget Amendment Request

- Funds are needed to purchase a vehicle for the Supervisor of School Facilities. The current vehicle is in need of unplanned repairs that far exceed the value of the vehicle

MOTION: Dr. Buxton moved to approve the Budget Amendment Request as discussed and presented.

SECOND: Ms. Nucci

VOTE: Unanimous

#### (b) Asset Disposal Request

- An old ice cream machine from the Food & Nutrition Dept that has out lived its usefulness

MOTION: Ms. Colt moved to approve the Asset Disposal Request as discussed and presented.

SECOND: Mrs. Jablonecki

VOTE: Unanimous

### 10.2 Approval of the 2025 Graduation Date for Rockville High School (BOE Goal #1)

Dr. Macary announced that, due to a new State law, we can now set the Graduation date after September 1<sup>st</sup> rather than waiting until the following April 1<sup>st</sup>. He is recommending

# The Board of Education Town of Vernon

30 Park Street – PO Box 600  
Vernon, Connecticut 06066

Paul Grabowski, Chair  
Kristiana Wintress, Vice Chair  
Karen Colt, Secretary  
Anthony Bedlack  
Patricia Buxton  
Susan Jablonecki  
Kriste Nucci  
Simone Sewell  
Mason Thrall

October 15, 2024

June 12, 2025 as the Rockville High School graduation date, as this aligns with Project Graduation's event at Sonny's.

MOTION: Ms. Nucci moved to approve June 12, 2025 as the Graduation Date for Rockville High School.

SECOND: Mrs. Jablonecki

VOTE: Unanimous

## 10.3 Facilities Report on Summer Projects (BOE Goal #3)

Dr. Macary introduced Mr. Mark Rizzo, Supervisor of School Facilities and Mr. Dwight Ryniewicz, Director of Public Works, to the Board. Mr. Rizzo gave a presentation on the following 2024 Summer Projects completed throughout the District:

- Rockville High School's Child Development Room Renovations, which included a new FF&E, kitchen and restroom
- Rockville High School's Prep Room Renovation
- Maple Street School's Kitchen Floor Renovation
- District Wide Sidewalk Repairs
- District Wide Painting
- District Wide Cleaning and Maintenance
- Smaller In-Kind Service Projects

Dr. Macary commended our District Maintainers for their time and labor assisting in these projects. He also took a moment to thank Mr. Rizzo, who will be leaving Vernon Public Schools in the coming weeks to take a position in another town, for his service to the District. He will be sorely missed.

## 10.4 All Hazards Security Plan (BOE Goal #3) Executive Session Anticipated)

This item was moved to the end of the meeting.



# The Board of Education Town of Vernon

30 Park Street – PO Box 600  
Vernon, Connecticut 06066

Paul Grabowski, Chair  
Kristiana Wintress, Vice Chair  
Karen Colt, Secretary  
Anthony Bedlack  
Patricia Buxton  
Susan Jablonecki  
Kriste Nucci  
Simone Sewell  
Mason Thrall

October 15, 2024

10.5 MOU Between the Vernon Youth Services Bureau and the Vernon Board of Education (BOE Goal #1)

Dr. Macary presented a Memorandum of Understanding between the Vernon Youth Services Bureau and the Vernon Board of Education. This is a standard MOU and he is asking for the Board's approval.

MOTION: Mrs. Jablonecki moved to approve the MOU between the Vernon Youth Services Bureau and the Vernon Board of Education as discussed and presented.

SECOND: Ms. Nucci

VOTE: Unanimous

10.6 Revised Leader and Educator Evaluation and Support Plan Approval for 2024-25 (BOE Goal #2)

Mr. Testa shared an updated letter from the State Department of Education regarding the Leader and Educator Evaluation and Support Plan Approval. The letter states that, based on the revised 2024-25 Leader and Educator Evaluation and Support Plan received on September 9, 2024, our plan now meets the requirements as outlined in the Connecticut Guidelines for Educator and Leader Evaluation and Support 2023 and we can proceed with implementing the plan.

10.7 First Reading of Proposed Board of Education Policy #2010 – Administration – Holds on Destruction of Records (Litigation) (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Dr. Macary introduced new BOE Policy #2010, Administration – Holds on Destruction of Records (Litigation) that the Policy Committee has brought forward to the full Board for a first reading. This policy will be placed on the November 11<sup>th</sup> Consent Agenda for approval. We are using Shipman & Goodwin's model policy for this. Ms. Nucci said that the Policy Committee found that Shipman & Goodwin's model policy language is easy to understand.

# The Board of Education Town of Vernon

30 Park Street – PO Box 600  
Vernon, Connecticut 06066

Paul Grabowski, Chair  
Kristiana Wintress, Vice Chair  
Karen Colt, Secretary  
Anthony Bedlack  
Patricia Buxton  
Susan Jablonecki  
Kriste Nucci  
Simone Sewell  
Mason Thrall

October 15, 2024

10.8 First Reading of Proposed Board of Education Policy #2020 – Administration – Retention and Disposition of Records and Information (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Dr. Macary introduced new BOE Policy #2020, Administration – Retention and Disposition of Records and Information that the Policy Committee has brought forward to the full Board for a first reading. This policy will be placed on the November 11<sup>th</sup> Consent Agenda for approval. We are using Shipman & Goodwin’s model policy for this.

10.9 First Reading of Proposed Board of Education Policy #2030 – Administration – Uniform Treatment of Recruiters (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Dr. Macary introduced new BOE Policy #2030, Administration – Uniform Treatment of Recruiters that the Policy Committee has brought forward to the full Board for a first reading. This policy will be placed on the November 11<sup>th</sup> Consent Agenda for approval. We are using Shipman & Goodwin’s model policy for this.

10.10 First Reading of Proposed Board of Education Policy #3436 – Business and Non-Instructional Operations – Code of Conduct Governing Procurements Under a Federal Award (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Dr. Macary introduced new BOE Policy #3436, Business and Non-Instructional Operations – Code of Conduct Governing Procurements Under a Federal Award that the Policy Committee has brought forward to the full Board for a first reading. This policy will be placed on the November 11<sup>th</sup> Consent Agenda for approval. We are using Shipman & Goodwin’s model policy for this.

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

Center Road School – Mr. Grabowski announced that the school is planning for a “Trunk or Treat” event as well as several other fundraising efforts.

There were no other liaison reports.

# The Board of Education Town of Vernon

30 Park Street – PO Box 600  
Vernon, Connecticut 06066

Paul Grabowski, Chair  
Kristiana Wintress, Vice Chair  
Karen Colt, Secretary  
Anthony Bedlack  
Patricia Buxton  
Susan Jablonecki  
Kriste Nucci  
Simone Sewell  
Mason Thrall

October 15, 2024

## **11.0 Review and Update Board of Education Calendar**

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

No updates were made. Dr. Macary reminded Board members that the CABA Convention is taking place in November. If they would like to attend, please let us know. RHS Graduation will be held on June 12, 2025.

## **12.0 Opportunity for Questions from the Press Regarding Agenda Items**

No one from the Press was in attendance.

MOTION: Dr. Buxton motioned to go into executive session at 8:03 PM to address items 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6 and 10.4, inviting Superintendent Dr. Joseph Macary and Director of Business and Finance Mr. William Meier III

SECOND: Ms. Nucci

VOTE: Unanimous

The Board came out of executive session at 8:58 PM

### **8.1 Approval of the Superintendent's Evaluation (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)**

MOTION: Dr. Buxton moved to approve the Superintendent's Evaluation as discussed and presented in executive session.

SECOND: Ms. Colt

VOTE: Unanimous

### **8.2 Approval of the Superintendent's Employment Agreement (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)**

MOTION: Ms. Nucci moved to approve the Superintendent's Employment Agreement as discussed and presented in executive session.

# The Board of Education Town of Vernon

30 Park Street – PO Box 600  
Vernon, Connecticut 06066

Paul Grabowski, Chair  
Kristiana Wintress, Vice Chair  
Karen Colt, Secretary  
Anthony Bedlack  
Patricia Buxton  
Susan Jablonecki  
Kriste Nucci  
Simone Sewell  
Mason Thrall

October 15, 2024

SECOND: Mrs. Jablonecki  
VOTE: Unanimous

8.3 Leave of Absence Request (BOE Goal #2)

MOTION: Mrs. Jablonecki moved to approve the request for an extension of maternity leave submitted by Cailyn Walsh for the reasons discussed in executive session and authorize the Superintendent to inform the employee of the Board's decision and the reasons therefore.

SECOND: Ms. Nucci  
VOTE: Unanimous

8.4 Leave of Absence Request (BOE Goal #2)

MOTION: Mrs. Jablonecki moved to approve the request for an extension of maternity leave submitted by Tarah Jacques for the reasons discussed in executive session and authorize the Superintendent to inform the employee of the Board's decision and the reasons therefore.

SECOND: Ms. Nucci  
VOTE: Unanimous

8.5 Leave of Absence Request (BOE Goal #2)

MOTION: Mrs. Jablonecki moved to approve the request for an extension of maternity leave submitted by Amanda Majersky for the reasons discussed in executive session and authorize the Superintendent to inform the employee of the Board's decision and the reasons therefore.

SECOND: Ms. Nucci  
VOTE: Unanimous

8.6 Approval of the Agreement between the Vernon Board of Education and the Vernon School Administrators' Association (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

**The Board of Education  
Town of Vernon**

30 Park Street – PO Box 600  
Vernon, Connecticut 06066

Paul Grabowski, Chair  
Kristiana Wintress, Vice Chair  
Karen Colt, Secretary  
Anthony Bedlack  
Patricia Buxton  
Susan Jablonecki  
Kriste Nucci  
Simone Sewell  
Mason Thrall

October 15, 2024

MOTION: Dr. Buxton moved to approve the Agreement between the Vernon Board of Education and the Vernon School Administrators' Association as discussed and presented in executive session.  
SECOND: Mrs. Jablonecki  
VOTE: Unanimous

**13.0 Adjournment**

MOTION: Ms. Nucci made a motion to adjourn at 9:01 PM  
SECOND: Dr. Buxton  
VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Colt, Board Secretary