

# 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

October 24, 2022

### APPROVED MINUTES BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

A meeting of the Vernon Board of Education was held via Zoom Webinar and in-person at the Administration Building on Monday, October 24, 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, Mr. Linton, Mrs. Rodriguez and Ms. Wintress.

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 7:01 p.m.

#### 3.0 Pledge of Allegiance

#### 4.0 Recognitions and Presentations

##### 4.1 Presentation by Maple Street School Students (BOE Goal #1, #2)

Maple Street School Reading Specialists Julie Beturne, Emily McArthur and Shireen Rhoades presented initiatives implemented that support families and promote learning outside of the school day. Family partnerships are very important to Maple Street School, so they planned a summer “Beach Blanket Bonanza” event that was accessible to all students, one at Maple Street School and the other at Park West. They set up different blanket stations for the students and their families to enjoy. They also held a special Summer Learning Luncheon where students were invited to attend if they read at least 3

# 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

October 24, 2022

books and did several math tasks during the summer. They also provided Slumber Party Kits to first graders once or twice a month. The kits contained plush characters and several stories that feature the characters. Students would take them home on Friday for the weekend and return on Monday. Several of the Maple Street School students who participated in these summer events spoke to the Board members about what they enjoyed most about the activities.

#### 4.2 District Strategic Plan Implementation (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Dr. Macary introduced Laura Boutilier of Partners for Educational Leadership, who updated the Board on Vernon's District Strategic Plan Implementation. She reviewed Student Success, Family & Community Partnerships and System Excellence and spoke of the initiatives within each that have been implemented to date. Some examples include Diversity in read-alouds, Career Pathways at RHS, New Teacher Academy, Welcoming Walkthroughs, Book Study for Staff, Increase in Communications with Families, Family Touch Points, Vocabulary Family Activities and the partnering between New Solutions and Special Education to review District needs. There are 127 actions steps to accomplish. Laura would like to come back in January or February with videos of these initiatives along with anecdotal data.

#### 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.)

# 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

October 24, 2022

No one addressed the Board.

### 7.0 Consent Agenda

#### 7.1 Consent Agenda

- (a) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Special Meeting-Expulsion Hearing held on October 3, 2022
- (b) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Special Meeting-Ad Hoc Scholarship Committee held on October 4, 2022
- (c) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Regular Meeting held on October 11, 2022
- (d) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Policy Committee Meeting held on October 17, 2022
- (e) Approval of Revised Board Policy #5000 – Students – Student Educational Development
- (f) Approval of Revised Board Policy #5111 – Students – Admission / Placement
- (g) Approval of Reviewed Board Policy #5111.1 – Students – Foreign Exchange Students
- (h) Approval of Revised Board Policy #5112 – Students – Ages of Attendance
- (i) Approval of Revised Board Policy #5113 – Students - Attendance, Absences, Tardiness, Early Dismissal and Dismissal Precautions
- (j) Approval of Revised Board Policy #5113.1 – Students – Work Permits
- (k) Approval of Revised Board Policy #5113.2 – Students – Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism
- (l) Approval of Revised Board Policy #5117 – Students – School Attendance Areas
- (m) Approval of Revised Board Policy #5141.4 – Students – Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Assault

Mrs. Fischer asked to pull items (f), (i) and (m).

MOTION: Mr. Thrall moved to approve Consent Agenda Items #7.1 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (g), (h), (j), (k) and (l)

SECOND: Mr. Linton

VOTE: Unanimous

# 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

October 24, 2022

Mrs. Fischer reviewed pulled item (f). She noted that the box on page 19 around the “NOTE” statement should be removed and that this statement should be moved to page 20, placing it after the first paragraph. She also brought up some concern about the language used regarding the replacement of “guardian” with “person having control of”; does this sound too harsh? Dr. Buxton noted that the language follows CAGE’s policy language. Mrs. Fischer said that CAGE’s language is merely a guideline. Mr. Kalina agreed that the language is a bit too harsh. Dr. Buxton suggested we change it to state “Responsible Adult” rather than “person having control of”. The Board agreed this was a more favorable statement. Mrs. Fischer also noted that the statement “his/her” will be changed to “their” throughout the document.

MOTION: Mr. Linton moved that the Board approve item (f) as amended.  
SECOND: Mr. Kalina  
VOTE: Unanimous

Mrs. Fischer reviewed pulled item (i), noting the second paragraph on page 26 and a paragraph on page 28 where “person having control of” is stated; this will also be changed to read “Responsible Adult” and will be done so throughout the document where this statement is present.

MOTION: Mrs. Rodriguez moved that the Board approve item (i) as amended.  
SECOND: Mr. Thrall  
VOTE: Unanimous

Mrs. Fischer reviewed pulled item (m). She noted that all wording of “his/her” will be changed to “their”.

MOTION: Mr. Linton moved that the Board approve item (m) as amended.  
SECOND: Mr. Kalina  
VOTE: Unanimous

# 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

October 24, 2022

## 8.0 Personnel

### 8.1 Appointment of Director of Adult Education (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Dr. Macary announced that Mr. Andrew Rockett, Director of Adult Education, retired August 31<sup>st</sup>. The position was posted and 18 applications were received. They narrowed the applicants down to two finalists, who were interviewed by Dr. Macary, Mr. Testa and Superintendent David Petrone of Coventry, CT. Dr. Macary recommended that the Board approve the appointment of Mrs. Melissa Iles as the Director of Adult Education, effective January 3, 2023. She is the most qualified candidate.

MOTION: Mr. Thrall moved that the Board approve the appointment of Mrs. Melissa Iles as Director of Adult Education, effective January 3, 2023.

SECOND: Mr. Kalina

VOTE: Unanimous

Mrs. Fischer congratulated Mrs. Iles on the appointment, but noted that this will be a great loss to the Special Education Department.

### 8.2 Board of Education Self-Evaluation (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3) (Executive Session Anticipated)

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

## 9.0 Teaching and Learning

### 9.1 Update on November 8<sup>th</sup> PD Sessions (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Assistant Superintendent Mr. Robert Testa presented the schedule of sessions for the November 8<sup>th</sup> PD Day to the Board. Mrs. Fischer asked that an update be provided at the next meeting as to how the day went.

# 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

October 24, 2022

## 10.0 General Business

### 10.1 Approval of the Board of Education Meeting Calendar for 2023 (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Dr. Macary reviewed the proposed Board of Education meeting calendar for 2023. He noted that the dates do not conflict with any major religious holidays.

MOTION: Mrs. Rodriguez moved that the Board approve the Board of Education Meeting Calendar for 2023

SECOND: Dr. Buxton

VOTE: Unanimous

### 10.2 Approval of the “Vernon Board of Education Scholarship” and the “Bruno Doss Scholarship” Establishment Requests (BOE Goal #2)

Mr. William Meier, Director of Business and Finance, noted that the scholarships being presented this evening for approval came out of the Ad Hoc Scholarship Committee meetings as a result of actions taken and decisions made by the Committee members.

MOTION: Mr. Brown moved that the Board approve the “Vernon Board of Education Scholarship” and the “Bruno Doss Scholarship” as presented.

SECOND: Mr. Linton

VOTE: Unanimous

### 10.3 Approval of EdSpecs – Proposed HVAC Improvements for all 7 School Buildings (BOE Goal #3)

Dr. Macary introduced Mr. Robert Roach, Vice President of Friar Architecture in Farmington, who gave a presentation of the proposed HVAC improvements for all 7 school buildings. The first step is to approve the EdSpecs. By approving, we’re telling the State “here’s our need”. Dr. Macary feels the State will come up with more money and also noted that HVAC will become a refundable expense as of 7/1/2023.

# 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

October 24, 2022

MOTION: Mr. Linton moved that the Board approve the EdSpecs – Proposed HVAC Improvements for Rockville High School and Agriculture, Science and Technology Education Buildings, Vernon Center Middle School, Center Road School, Lake Street School, Maple Street School, Northeast School and Skinner Road School as presented.

SECOND: Mr. Kalina

VOTE: Unanimous

10.4 First Reading of Board Policy #4113.12 – Personnel – Certified – Minimum Duty-Free Lunch Periods for Teachers (BOE Goal #1, #2)

Dr. Macary announced that we need to comply with Public Act 22-80 and provide a 30-minute duty-free lunch period for teachers. We have addressed the impact on the school schedules and made it work.

10.5 First Reading of Board Policy #5144.4 – Students – Discipline – Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students (BOE Goal #1, #2)

Dr. Macary reviewed the policy with the Board. We will be sure to adjust any language relating to “he / she / her” and make it gender neutral.

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

Mrs. Rodriguez spoke of the Lake Street School meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup> that was held via Zoom Meeting. They had a successful pie fundraiser. The Trunk or Treat event was amazing. They had a DJ and 15 cars participated. Friday is “Wear Pink Day” with a \$1.00 donation. They will once again have “Top Turkey” in November and are making Veteran’s Day Cards.

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

This will be moved to the end of the meeting.

# 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

October 24, 2022

## 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.

MOTION: Dr. Buxton moved to go into Executive Session at 8:08 PM, inviting Dr. Macary, Mr. Testa and Mr. Meier to discuss the All Hazards Security Plan (Agenda Item 10.7) and Dr. Macary only to do the Board of Education Self-Evaluation (Agenda Item 8.2).

SECOND: Ms. Wintress

VOTE: Unanimous

Mr. Testa and Mr. Meier came out of Executive Session at 8:42 PM.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:34 PM.

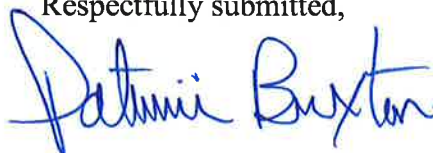
## 13.0 Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Linton made a motion to adjourn at 9:35 PM

SECOND: Ms. Colt

VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Buxton, Board Secretary