

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

October 10, 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 Tuesday, October 10, 2023.

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. Grabowski, Mr. Kalina and Mr. Linton. Ms. Colt, Mrs. Rodriguez and Ms. Wintress were absent.

Student Representatives present: Aedan Ruddock. My-Ngoc Lai-Huyen was 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

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

Maple Street School Principal Mr. Joshua Egan introduced Peighton Marsh, a Para, Author and Artist who runs the Mural Club at Maple Street School. Peighton was joined by Kellie Sullivan and Jillian Boney, who assist her with the projects. Peighton explained that there were a lot of areas in the school that could use a little “face-lift”. She came up with the idea to have the students paint murals on the walls of these areas and bring life to the school. They painted a mural on the wall of the cafeteria that represents all cultures of the students and their families and created a mural on the wall outside that represents a Maple

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Street School timeline that will carry on through 2086! The students spoke of how they really enjoy being a part of the Mural Club and how they get to express their creativity through these projects.

4.2 Recognition of Skinner Road School Being Named a Blue Ribbon School (BOE Goal #1, #2)

Dr. Macary began by saying he is very proud to announce that Skinner Road School has been named a National Blue Ribbon School for 2023, and that this award equates to winning a gold medal in the Olympics. Skinner Road School was one of only four schools in Connecticut to receive this honor. Dr. Macary then asked Principal Bryan Kerachsky to come forward to receive a gift from the Board of Education. Mrs. Anne Fischer, Board Chairperson, presented Mr. Kerachsky with a crystal plaque, congratulating him and his staff on this great accomplishment. Mr. Kerachsky thanked the Board for the gift and the recognition and said he has a wonderful staff as well as tremendous support from the Board and Administration.

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 reported on the following:

- More than 60 teachers got together for a football tailgate and cornhole tournament before the Friday night football game. The teachers enjoyed getting together and seeing the students in a different environment
- The RHS football team defeated Cromwell for a second year straight. The team is now 3-0.
- Cross Country had their Senior Day last week.
- Grades 9-11 will take the digital PSATs on Wednesday, October 11th
- Seniors will participate in Mock Interview Day on Wednesday, October 11th

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- RHS has once again been selected to participate in the FAFSA Challenge. Grant money will be available to help improve our FAFSA completion rate.
- The RHS football team has an away game on Thursday, October 12th at Granby High School at 6:00 PM.
- Homecoming is coming up next week
- Powderpuff is next Thursday at 6:00 PM
- Winter Sports registration is now open until November 17th
- RHS School Store will be having a Homecoming/Spirit Week sale on Tuesday, October 17th, Thursday, October 19th and Friday, October 20th. The sale will take place before and after school and during lunch waves.

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 Curriculum Committee Meeting held on September 20, 2023
- (b) Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held on September 25, 2023
- (c) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Policy Committee Meeting held on October 2, 2023
- (d) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Communications Committee Meeting held on October 4, 2023

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- (e) Approval of Revised Board of Education Policy #6142.1 – Instruction – Family Life Education
- (f) Approval of Revised Board of Education Policy #6144.1 – Instruction – Exemption from Instruction
- (g) Approval of Revised Board of Education Policy #6145 – Instruction – Extracurricular Activities / Equal Access
- (h) Approval of Revised Board of Education Policy #6145.2 – Instruction – Interscholastic / Intramural Athletics
- (i) Approval of Reviewed Board of Education Policy #6145.3 – Instruction – Student Publications
- (j) Approval of Reviewed Board of Education Policy #6145.8 – Instruction – School Activity Funds
- (k) Approval of Reviewed Board of Education Policy #6146.1 – Instruction – Grading System
- (l) Approval of Revised Board of Education Policy #6146.2 – Instruction – Statewide Proficiency / Mastery Examinations
- (m) Approval of Reviewed Board of Education Policy #6152 – Instruction – Grouping
- (n) Approval of Revised Board of Education Policy #6153 – Instruction – Field Trips

Mrs. Fischer pulled items 7.1(a), 7.1(f) and 7.1(h)

MOTION: Mr. Thrall moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 7.1(b), (c), (d), (e), (g), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m) and (n)
SECOND: Mr. Linton
VOTE: Unanimous

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Item 7.1(a) - Mrs. Fischer noted an error with the dates listed on pages 1 and 2. All “Full Board Approval” dates in line items 3 through 6 should be changed from 9/20/23 to 9/25/23. The “Full Board Approval” date in line item 7 should be changed from 6/19/23 to 9/25/23.

Item 7.1(f) – Mrs. Fischer noted on page 22, paragraph 4, 2nd line down, that the statement *“Any student excused from participating in the sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program shall be provided, during the period of time in which the student would otherwise be participating in such program, an opportunity for other “Family Life Instruction” is defined as instruction pertaining to family planning, human sexuality, parenting, nutrition and the emotional, physical psychological, hygienic, economic and social aspects of family life”* doesn’t make sense. It was decided that the word **is** should be changed to **“as”** and a comma should be placed after the work “physical”.

Item 7.1(g) – Mrs. Fischer noted on page 28, 5th paragraph, first line, that the words “shall/may (TBD)” need to be decided upon. It was decided that the word “shall” will remain and that “may” and (TBD) should be removed from the line. On page 29, 2nd paragraph from the bottom, 4th line, that “og” should be changed to “of”. In the last paragraph, first line, the comma should be removed after the word “mental”.

MOTION: Mr. Linton moved to approve consent agenda items 7.1(a), 7.1(f) and 7.1(g) as amended

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)

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This item was moved to the end of the meeting.

8.3 Board of Education Self-Evaluation (BOE Goal #2) (Executive Session Anticipated)

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)

Mr. Testa introduced the 5 Elementary School Principals:

- Heather Earley – Center Road School
- Terese (Tracy) Duenzl – Lake Street School
- Joshua Egan – Maple Street School
- Brenda Greene – Northeast School
- Bryan Kerachsky – Skinner Road School

Each were asked to present their School Improvement Plans to the Board. They outlined their plans for the coming school year, explaining how they fall in-line with the Vernon Public Schools Mission Statement, Vision of the Graduate, Core Beliefs, Equity Stance and 5-Year Strategic Plan. Their plans follow the three strategic plan priorities: Student Success, Family and Community Partnership and System Excellence. They described how they are meeting these goals and how they plan to continue to meet them in the 2023 - 2024 school year. They spoke of school data related to these priorities, roles for school-based committees and the school-based accountability index.

10.0 General Business

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

Director of Business and Finance William Meier III announced that the Finance Committee met this evening to go over the Year-to-Date Budget and the 2023 Fiscal Year End Budget. He presented Asset Disposal requests and asked the Board for their approval.

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MOTION: Mr. Kalina moved to approve the Asset Disposal Requests as presented
SECOND: Mr. Grabowski
VOTE: Unanimous

10.2 Adjustment to the Vernon Public Schools District Calendar for 2023 - 2024 (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Dr. Macary announced that the State Legislature has changed the Primary Election Day for 2024 to April 2nd. Since we originally scheduled a District PD day for April 1, 2024, Dr. Macary is asking the Board to approve moving that PD day to April 2, 2024.

MOTION: Dr. Buxton moved to approve the Adjustment to the Vernon Public Schools District Calendar as presented
SECOND: Mr. Linton
VOTE: Unanimous

10.3 Annual Report 2022 - 2023 (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

Dr. Macary presented, for the Board's review, the 2022 – 2023 BOE Annual Report, which was sent to the Town of Vernon at the beginning of October. The report details budget & enrollment data, the District's Core Beliefs, our Mission Statement, District Goals and all of the accomplishments within each school and the District during the 2022 – 2023 school year.

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

This item was moved to the end of the meeting.

10.5 Budget Amendment Request for Emergency Repair to Rockville High School Athletic Roof (BOE Goal #3)

Director of Business and Finance William Meier III announced that the roof in the Athletics section at Rockville High School has developed persistent leaks due to heavy snow accumulations over 10 years ago and needs an emergency repair. This

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expense was not budgeted in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget. Mr. Meier is asking the Board to approve a budget amendment request in the amount of \$60,000.00 to cover the cost of the repair. Mr. Meier is also asking the Board to approve awarding the project to the lowest bidder, Macri Roofing, Inc.

MOTION: Dr. Buxton moved to approve the budget amendment request in the amount of \$60,000.00 as presented

SECOND: Mr. Linton

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: Mr. Thrall moved to approve awarding the project to the lowest bidder, Macri Roofing, Inc.

SECOND: Mr. Kalina

VOTE: Unanimous

10.6 Budget Amendment Request for Emergency Repair to Rockville High School Heat Exchanger (BOE Goal #3)

Director of Business and Finance William Meier III announced that a heat exchanger for the library heating loop at Rockville High School needs a critical repair. The District recently worked with Advanced Mechanical Services on several HVAC projects and received a quote for this repair from them in an amount not to exceed \$24,000.00. This is an unexpected repair that was not budgeted in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget. Mr. Meier is asking the Board to approve a budget amendment request in the amount of \$24,000.00 to cover the cost of the repair.

MOTION: Mr. Thrall moved to approve the budget amendment request in the amount of \$24,000.00 as presented

SECOND: Mr. Grabowski

VOTE: Unanimous

10.7 First Reading of Board of Education Policy #6162.51 – Instruction – Survey of Students (Student Privacy) (BOE Goal #1, #2)

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Dr. Macary announced that, based on the new State laws, Policy #6162.51, Survey of Students (Student Privacy), was presented to the Policy Committee at their last meeting. The policy's language was reviewed and the Committee recommended they move forward with CAFE's recommended policy. As per the Board's by-laws, we are holding the first reading this evening and will vote on approving the policy at the next Board meeting. Mrs. Fischer had a question on language on the third page under "Inspection of Instructional Material". She was concerned about the last two sentences of the paragraph. After some discussion, it was decided that the following two sentences, "***It does not include academic tests or academic assessments. The law does not identify a "reasonable period of time. "Therefore, the district is free to identify any period of time it deems reasonable"***", should be removed from the paragraph and the word "Note" should also be removed from line 5 of the same paragraph. These changes will be made and the revised draft will go before the Board for approval at the 10/23/2023 Board meeting.

10.8 Superintendent's Memo Regarding Board of Education Policy #5117 – Students – School Attendance Areas (BOE Goal #1, #2)

Dr. Macary announced that Rockville High School's Principal, Mr. Jason Magao, attended the Policy Committee meeting on October 2, 2023, to review Policy #5117 – School Attendance Areas. Mr. Magao expressed his concern over chronic student absenteeism *to* class and put together an Administrative Regulation to be reviewed by the Policy Committee for their thoughts. The regulation outlines the difference between an excused absence and an unexcused absence and details specific consequences for being absent or tardy. It also explains eligibility to participate in school activities, receiving make-up work for excused absences and what is required to restore course credits. The Policy Committee recommended that they send this regulation to the full Board for approval to go along with Policy #5117. This Administrative Regulation is currently being piloted at Rockville High School.

MOTION: Mr. Kalina moved to approve the Superintendent's Memo regarding the Administrative Regulation that will go along with Policy #5117 – Students – School Attendance Areas, as presented

SECOND: Mr. Grabowski

VOTE: Unanimous

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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: Mr. Linton made the motion at 8:24 PM to go into executive session, inviting Superintendent Dr. Macary, to discuss Agenda Item #8.1 (Approval of Superintendent's Evaluation), Agenda Item #8.2 (Superintendent's Employment Agreement) and Agenda Item #10.4 (All Hazards Security Plan) and Mr. Meier, the Director of Business, to discuss Agenda Item #10.4 (All Hazards Security Plan).

SECOND: Mr. Kalina

VOTE: Unanimous

Mr. Meier left the Executive Session at 8:35 PM.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:39 PM to vote on agenda items 8.1 and 8.2.

MOTION: Mr. Thrall moved that the Board approve the Superintendent's evaluation as discussed and presented.

SECOND: Mr. Kalina

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: Dr. Buxton moved that the Board approve the Superintendent's Employment Agreement as discussed and presented.

SECOND: Mr. Linton

VOTE: Unanimous

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MOTION: Mr. Linton moved that the Board return to Executive Session at 8:42 PM, inviting Superintendent Dr. Macary, to discuss agenda item 8.3, Board of Education Self-Evaluation
SECOND: Mr. Grabowski
VOTE: Unanimous

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:04 PM

13.0 Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Linton made a motion to adjourn at 9:05 PM
SECOND: Mr. Grabowski
VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Buxton, Ed.D., Board Secretary