

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

September 12, 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, September 12, 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, Dr. Buxton, Mr. Brown, Ms. Colt, Mr. Kalina, Mr. Linton, Mrs. Rodriguez, and Ms. Wintress.

Student Representatives present: 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 7:01 p.m.

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance

4.0 Recognitions and Presentations

4.1 Welcome and Introduction of New District Elementary Teachers (BOE Goal #2)

Assistant Superintendent Mr. Testa welcomed and introduced the new Elementary Teachers at Center Road School, Lake Street School, Maple Street School, Northeast School and Skinner Road School and asked each of them to stand as their name was called. He read aloud the bio of those who were in attendance. A copy of the bios for every new teacher was given to each Board member.

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4.2 Introduction of New Board of Education Student Representative (BOE Goal #1, #2)

Superintendent Dr. Macary introduced Aedan Ruddock as our new RHS Student Representative. Aedan is an 11th grade student whose favorite class is Accounting. He plans to have multiple businesses when he's older. He wants to learn how to manage money responsibly. He also likes History class as he loves to learn about the past. He plays football, basketball and enjoys track. He enjoys hanging out with his friends; he says he's lucky to have the best friends he could ask for.

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 spoke about the Freshmen class going through Pathways, the school cell phone policy and that Fall sports have started. He encouraged everyone to attend the football games and watch the Rams dominate.

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.)

Genaro Gonzalez III, 137 West Main Street, Vernon, CT addressed the Board. He spoke of "Freedom of Religion" and how we are not following the Constitution of the United States by forcing his son to get the flu shot and not honoring his religious exemption. He said the State is wrong and that the flu shot would kill his son. So, he plans to pull his son from Vernon Public Schools. He said he will bring all the papers that prove we are not following the law and will take action against the District.

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7.0 Consent Agenda

7.1 Consent Agenda

(a) Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held on August 29, 2022.

MOTION: Dr. Buxton moved to approve Consent Agenda Item #7.1 (a)
SECOND: Ms. Wintress
VOTE: Unanimous

8.0 Personnel

8.1 Acceptance of Administrator Retirement (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

MOTION: Mr. Thrall moved to accept the retirement of Andrew Rockett, Director of Adult Education, effective August 31, 2022
SECOND: Dr. Buxton
VOTE: Unanimous

Chairperson Mr. Fischer thanked Andy for his many years of service to Vernon Public Schools.

8.2 Leave of Absence Request (BOE Goal #2)

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

8.3 Superintendent's Evaluation (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

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

9.0 Teaching and Learning

9.1 Grades K-8 and Rockville High School Summer School Report (BOE Goal #2)

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Director of Vernon Public Schools Summer Learning Program, Mr. Brett Distasio, shared a report to Board members on the Grades K-8 and 9-12 Summer School Programs. He showed a PowerPoint presentation that he prepared and spoke of the courses offered in each program. He said the teachers were wonderful. Three students graduated after completion of the High School program. The K-8 program was run by Amela Fejzic. The students learned in small settings and Amela did an excellent job. All students who attended Summer School were recommended by their teachers and had a great experience. Mr. Testa thanked Brett for a job well done!

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

Assistant Superintendent Mr. Testa began by introducing the five Administrators of the Vernon Elementary Schools: Mr. Bryan Kerachsky, Principal of Skinner Road School; Dr. Brenda Greene, Principal of Northeast School; Mr. Joshua Egan, Principal of Maple Street School; Mrs. Terese (Tracy) Duenzl, Principal of Lake Street School and Mrs. Heather Earley, Principal of Center Road School. Each Administrator then presented their School Improvement Plan to the Board, describing the initiatives and priorities being implemented in each school. There are three key areas in each School Improvement Plan:

- Priority Area 1: Student Success
- Priority Area 2: Family and Community Partnership
- Priority Area 3: System Excellence

These areas align with the District's Strategic Plan. Each Administrator discussed their strategic actions for each area and their action plans to accomplish their goals. They also shared school data related to these priorities that help them to develop these goals and monitor their impact. They spoke of the roles for School-Based Committees where school staff can focus on specific actions outlined in the SIP. Each Committee is assigned a priority goal and lists their intended outcomes as a result of their efforts.

10.0 General Business

- ### 10.1 Board of Education Finance Committee Report (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)
- (a) Proposed 2022-2023 Out-of-District Tuition Rates for Non-Resident Students
 - (b) Scholarship Establishment Request "Vernon Teacher's Scholarship"
 - (c) Asset Disposal Requests

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Mr. William Meier, Director of Business and Finance, gave the Board an updated report including the Year-to-Date Budget. The Board was asked to approve three action items on the report.

Before any motions were made, Mr. Kalina announced to the Board a request by the Finance Committee to change the standard 1% increase to 1.5% for Out-of-District Tuition Rates for Non-Residents in order to keep up with increased costs. The increase for Paras would remain unchanged at the standard 4% increase.

MOTION: Mr. Kalina moved that the Board approve the Proposed 2022-2023 Out-of-District Tuition Rates for Non-Resident Students as presented
SECOND: Mr. Linton
VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: Mr. Brown moved that the Board approve the New Scholarship Establishment Request, transferring the funds from the RHS Scholarship Loan Fund into the new “Vernon Teacher’s Scholarship” as presented.
SECOND: Mr. Linton
VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: Mr. Kalina moved that the Board approve the Asset Disposal Requests as presented.
SECOND: Dr. Buxton
VOTE: Unanimous

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 moved to go into Executive Session at 8:20 PM to discuss Agenda Item 8.2 Leave of Absence Request and Agenda Item 8.3 Superintendent's Evaluation, inviting the Superintendent.
SECOND: Mrs. Rodriguez
VOTE: Unanimous

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:25 PM to vote on Agenda Item 8.2 Leave of Absence Request.

MOTION: Mrs. Rodriguez moved that the Board approve the request for extension of maternity leave submitted by Erin Grady 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: Mr. Brown
VOTE: Unanimous

The Board returned to Executive Session at 8:27 PM to discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:17 PM.

13.0 Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Thrall made a motion to adjourn at 9:18 PM
SECOND: Mr. Linton
VOTE: Unanimous

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Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Buxton, Board Secretary