

**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 27, 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 Tuesday, September 27, 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 and Mrs. Rodriguez.

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 7:01 p.m.

**3.0 Pledge of Allegiance**

**4.0 Recognitions and Presentations**

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

Assistant Superintendent Mr. Testa welcomed and introduced the new Secondary Teachers at Vernon Center Middle School and Rockville High School and asked those who were present to stand as their name was called. He read aloud the bio of those who were in attendance.

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## 4.2 Presentation by Northeast School Students (BOE Goal #1, #2)

Dr. Brenda Greene, Principal of Northeast School, introduced the students of the two kindergarten classes and their teachers, Karen Champagne and Julianne Santella. The students sang a song about focusing, listening and being good learners as part of their Kindergarten Second Step SEL Program. The name of the song was "The Learner Song". Mrs. Fischer thanked them for a job well done.

## 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 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Exploratory Class going well; the students are having a blast making solar cookers. Biology class is designing an experiment to determine what conditions are most favorable for their pill bugs. RHS Open House was held on September 15<sup>th</sup>; approximately 150 families attended. E-Sports has doubled in size since last season; they have 16 players this Fall.

Anaya Tolton announced that PSATs are scheduled for October 12th for grades 9 – 11. School Counseling is hosting the Class of 2023 Financial Aid Night. All sports are planning their "Pink Night" events throughout October in honor of breast cancer awareness. Winter and Spring sports registration is now open; the deadline is November 21<sup>st</sup>. The Welcome Back Family Picnic and Pumpkin Carving Event is taking place this Thursday at RHS. An ASTE Open House to recruit next year's Freshmen takes place November 9<sup>th</sup>. RHS football has a home game this Friday and the RHS Boys' Soccer team plays against Bolton this Friday.

## 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

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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 Special Board of Education Meeting – Expulsion Hearing held on September 7, 2022
- (b) Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held on September 12, 2022.
- (c) Approval of the Minutes of the Facilities Committee Meeting held on September 19, 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 Superintendent’s 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 School Improvement Plans - Secondary (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)**

Assistant Superintendent Mr. Testa began by introducing the Principals of the Vernon Secondary Schools: Mr. Jason Magao, Principal of Rockville High School and Mr. David Caruso, Principal of Vernon Center Middle School. They each provided a one-page handout that summarized the key points of their plans.

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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 spoke of the success of the Exploratory Program (RHS) and the Boost Program (VCMS) that have been of great interest to the students and provide hands-on experience. They want to create an environment where students love to come to school. They also stressed the importance of community visits and outreach to families; this keeps kids coming to school. They noted that the vibe in their buildings is good and their efforts are working. The resources they have to support students and staff are unmatched. Students are getting what they need in the classroom and they are enjoying learning.

9.2 Early College Experience / College Career Pathways / Advanced Placement Reports (BOE Goal #2, #3)

Mr. Testa shared a presentation with the Board about the Early College Experience / College Career Pathways / Advanced Placement Reports. He went over the data of students’ achievements in the courses offered and the number of credits earned. This is a great opportunity for students to earn college credits while in high school.

9.3 Approval of the Biology, French 1 and Spanish 1 Curriculum (BOE Goal #2, #3)

Mr. Testa noted that the Curriculum Committee met on September 21, 2022 to review the English 9, Biology, French 1 and Spanish 1 curriculum. The Committee asked for a revision of the English 9 curriculum, but recommended that the Biology, French 1 and Spanish 1 curriculum be presented to the Board for approval.

MOTION: Mrs. Rodriguez moved that the Board approve the Biology, French 1 and Spanish 1 Curriculum as presented

SECOND: Ms. Colt

VOTE: Unanimous

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**10.0 General Business**

**10.1 Approval of the Vernon Education Foundation Mini-Grants (BOE Goal #1, #2)**

Dr. Macary announced that the Vernon Education Foundation has awarded a mini-grant to Northeast School teachers Amanda Warner and Kristen Doyle for their “Class Pet of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” project. He noted that the original award amount of \$500.00 was corrected to now equal \$598.00, representing \$299.00 for each teacher.

MOTION: Dr. Buxton moved to accept the Vernon Education Foundation’s Mini-Grant Award to NES teachers Amanda Warner and Kristen Doyle for their “Class Pet of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” project in the amount of \$598.00.

SECOND: Mr. Linton

VOTE: Unanimous

**10.2 Approval of the 2022-2023 Alliance Grant Application (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)**

Dr. Macary noted that the grant would provide 3.2 million for the District, with 50% going towards salaries and benefits for classroom teachers, interventionists, pre-school teachers, a social worker and truancy officer, and 50% going towards professional development, technology & classroom supplies and computer equipment.

MOTION: Mr. Thrall moved to approve the Alliance Grant Application as presented

SECOND: Mr. Kalina

VOTE: Unanimous

**10.3 September 22, 2022 Job Fair Results (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)**

Mr. Testa spoke about the Job Fair that was held at Rockville High School from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Candidates were asked to complete a one-page information sheet upon arrival and were then encouraged to speak with staff members stationed at each table regarding any positions they might be interested in. There were 50 people who attended, with a number of candidates interested in various positions. Mr. Testa met with HR on Friday to review the candidates and contact those they wanted to

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move forward with. Mrs. Fischer asked that Mr. Testa report back to the Board on how many candidates were hired as a result of the job fair.

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

Supervisor of School Facilities William Peluso updated the Board on the status of the Summer Project list. He said it was a very busy summer and spoke of projects at each school.

Projects completed include:

- RHS parking lots – cracks sealed
- RHS Quad Asphalt
- RHS painting of rooms
- VCMS drainage project
- Room 36 ABL upgrades
- CRS concrete replacement under bridges
- NES main office upgrades
- MSS new basketball hoops installation
- Replacement of AC condenser for 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room at Central Office

Items on order include:

- Replacement of RTU (HVAC) for LSS Café
- New swing sets for MSS

In process:

- New RHS Athletic Storage Building
- Boiler repair and maintenance at CRS

Postponed until 2023:

- CRS roof replacement

## 10.5 Approval of CABA Board Recognition Award Application (BOE Goal #1, #2, #3)

The Board was asked to approve the application for the CABA Board Recognition Awards.

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The Board applies for this award every year. They qualify for Level 2.

MOTION: Mr. Thrall moved that the Board approve the application for the CABA Board Recognition Awards.  
SECOND: Dr. Buxton  
VOTE: Unanimous

10.6 Approval of Asset Disposal Request (BOE #2)

Mr. Meier, Director of Business and Finance, asked the Board to approve the disposal of 30 cafeteria tables with attached benches at Rockville High School. They have reached the end of their use and new tables have been ordered. Dr. Macary mentioned that we would like to change our policy regarding replacement of furniture and be more pro-active. By presenting an asset disposal request in advance for larger items that need to be replaced, we can then remove them from the room when the new items arrive, knowing that they have already been approved by both the Board of Education and the Vernon Town Council. This will help to avoid items being stored until approval is granted.

MOTION: Mrs. Rodriguez moved that the Board approve the asset disposal request as presented.  
SECOND: Mr. Kalina  
VOTE: Unanimous

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

Mrs. Rodriguez reported that CREC is planning to help Puerto Rico in the aftermath of damage from Hurricane Fiona. She also spoke of the shortage of teachers and the positive spirit in their buildings now that everyone is in-person. She also reported on Lake Street School. They are planning their Scholastic Book Fair and Ice Cream Social on September 29<sup>th</sup>. They are also planning a Lyman Orchard Pie fundraiser as well as an Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie fundraiser. All of their meetings are via Zoom. Mr. Linton reported that the MSS meeting was in-person this month and will be held via Zoom meeting next month. They spoke of fundraising ideas and all that's going on in the school. He also

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mentioned that there are a lot of students who walk to and from school. Mrs. Fischer spoke of the Athletic Hall of Fame event at Rockville High School held on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. It was a great event that was very well run. Everyone did a really nice job. She encouraged everyone to attend next year's event.

## 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.

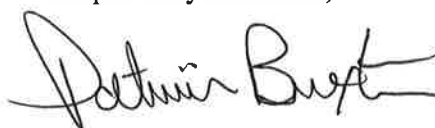
MOTION: Dr. Buxton moved to go into Executive Session at 8:32 PM to discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation, inviting Superintendent Dr. Macary.  
SECOND: Mr. Thrall  
VOTE: Unanimous

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:41 PM.

## 13.0 Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Thrall made a motion to adjourn at 9:42 PM  
SECOND: Mr. Linton  
VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Buxton, Board Secretary