

DRAFT
Sterling Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 19, 2020
Accessible to the Public at 6:15 pm
Live Streaming - www.sterlingschool.org
“EXCELLENCE WITH KINDNESS”

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:18 pm by F. Bood, Board Chair.

Present were: F. Bood, L. Shippee, D. Capobianco, H. Wood, C. Langlois and M. Rouillard.
Also in Attendance were: G. Lanza, C. Scott, L. Smith, D. Chrzan, D. Zajac and M Cartier (left at 6:22 pm).

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Public Comment

S. Veader submitted a public comment to the Board regarding adding at least one new high school option for students. F. Bood noted that at this time there have not been any meetings scheduled with Plainfield School District due to COVID-19.

IV. Reports and Communications

A. Correspondence

F. Bood thanked Pepsico and H. Carchidi for their donation of chips to the Sterling lunch program.

B. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of Regular Meeting, April 21, 2020
2. Superintendent/Special Services Director's Report
3. Principal's Report
4. Clinical Supervisor's Report

A motion was made by H. Wood and seconded by L. Shippee to accept the consent agenda as presented. Vote: All in favor.

A motion was made by D. Capobianco and seconded by C. Langlois to move Item D up in the agenda: Plainfield Board of Education Liaison. Vote: All in favor.

D. Plainfield Board of Education Liaison

M Cartier, Plainfield Liaison, reported that it is anticipated that Plainfield High School will be holding an actual graduation on June 13, 2020 as long as they receive approval from the Health Department. Plainfield has a budget balance of \$480,000.00 since the COVID-19 shutdown due to buses, substitutes, electricity and solar, which will be rolled over to next school year to alleviate some of their anticipated budget issues for next year. Plainfield has a new BOE member, Nicholas Easton, a retired college professor from Brown University.

C. Budget and Expense Report - April 30, 2020

V. Unfinished Business

A. Plainfield Cooperative Agreement Update
No new information at this time.

B. High School Options Ad Hoc Committee Update

No new information at this time.

C. RFQ Update

The RFQ for Legal Services has a submission deadline of June 1, 2020. G. Lanza reported that so far we have received one response from Henneous Carroll Lombardo, LLC in RI noting that they do not meet the criteria of the RFQ.

D. Budget Update

L. Shippee reported that the latest anticipated ECS grant funding amount as stated via CCM indicates an additional \$17,783.00. Updated information will be provided and discussed at the budget sub-committee meeting on May 21, 2020.

VI. New Business

A. 2020/21 BOE meeting dates (vote)

A motion was made by C. Langlois and seconded by M. Rouillard to keep the 3rd Tuesday of every month with the start time changed from 6:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. as the BOE meeting dates for the 2020/21 school year. Vote: All in favor.

B. Approval of the 2020/21 IDEA Grant (vote)

A motion was made by H. Wood and seconded by D. Capobianco to approve the 2020/21 IDEA Grant as presented. Vote: All in favor.

C. Graduation

In speaking with the student government, C. Scott reported that Sterling Community School will be holding a virtual graduation and moving up ceremony on June 18, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. There will be a link sent to 8th grade parents to view the ceremony and it will be posted on the school website along with a video, scholarship awards and graduation pictures.

D. Line Item Transfers (vote)

A motion was made by M. Rouillard and seconded by H. Wood to approve the transfer of \$20,000.00 from BOE E/B Insurance and into Transportation E/B Insurance, the transfer of \$44,038.75 from Tuition CT Public and into Regular Program E/B Insurance and the transfer of \$9,760.99 from Heating Oil and into Plant Maintenance & Maintenance. Vote: All in favor.

(Transfer \$20,000.00 out of A.2310.210.00.71 BOE E/B Insurance and transfer into A.2700.210.00.71 Transportation E/B Insurance; transfer \$44,038.75 out of A.6110.561.01.73 Tuition CT Public and transfer into A.1000.210.00.71 Regular Program E/B Insurance; and transfer \$9,760.99 out of A.2600.620.00.71 Heating Oil and transfer into A.2600.430.02.71 Plant Maintenance & Maintenance).

VII. Recommendations, Questions and/or Comments

H. Wood asked if there was an update on Sterling students attending Ellis Tech from the last meeting. G. Lanza reported that she had participated in transition meetings with Ellis Tech and that they are doing well. H. Wood also wanted to congratulate the girls basketball team for being the recipient of the Jan Roland Girls Sportsmanship Award.

L. Shippee spoke to L. Cooper from the town and he asked if there had been consideration or a decision on the signage for the school crossing.

C. Langlois asked for an update on distance learning and now that the year is coming to an end, she asked how the students are doing, if teachers need any support and how they are feeling.

C. Scott stated that he has met with all of the teachers, they are doing well with distance learning and there has been great communication with families. Teachers are learning new technology and collaborating and have done an amazing job. He stressed to the teachers to communicate with the principal regarding any student issues or support they may need. Teachers have requested more time for independence and will be allowed that opportunity on Friday during the PD Day.

F. Bood asked G. Lanza to provide an update on the Board of Finance meeting and the school budget. G. Lanza provided an update of the 2020/21 budget in her parent update. At the BOF meeting the Board Chair reviewed the budget and explained the rationale for the budget numbers which include staff, salaries, benefits and a 3% per year tuition increase. With the current fiscal uncertainty, not only in Sterling but with the towns and state, the BOF did not recommend a tax increase and the majority voted against the proposed budget. A \$297,000.00 cut is needed. The budget sub-committee will be reviewing this.

He also asked if the school has heard from the building inspector regarding the fence around the solar panels. He will reach out to the building inspector on this issue, since the school has not heard back from him at this time.

H. Wood asked if there was an update on summer programming. G. Lanza stated that there are new executive orders (7PP) that allow limited operation of summer programs to start on July 6, 2020. The school is still waiting for more guidance on this.

M. Rouillard asked if it is possible to hold the June Board meeting at the school with social distancing instead of virtual. This is a possibility as long as it is accessible to the public via live stream and will be determined when it is closer to the June meeting date.

VIII. Public Comment

None

IX. Executive Session

None

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by H. Wood and seconded by M. Rouillard to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 pm. Vote: All in favor.