

Sterling Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
October 20, 2020
Cafeteria - 6:00 pm
“EXCELLENCE WITH KINDNESS”

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by F. Bood, Board Chair at 6:02 pm.

Present were: F. Bood, L. Shippee, D. Capobianco, H. Wood, C. Langlois and M. Rouillard.
Also in attendance were: G. Lanza, H. Nickerson, L. Smith, D. Chrzan, D. Zajac and M. Cartier,
Plainfield Liaison.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Public Comment

D. Anforth questioned personnel practices related to part-time drivers. He also questioned the current Board practice that does not permit drivers to bring their children, who are not registered Sterling Community School students, with them on the bus when they are driving.

IV. Reports and Communications

A. Correspondence

A thank you note was received from C. Dibble thanking the Board for their memorable glass starfish recognizing her retirement. A thank you note was also received from L. Shippee thanking the Board for their donation to the Andrew Shippee’s Scholarship Fund in her mother’s memory.

B. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of Regular Meeting, September 15, 2020
2. Minutes of Special Meeting, October 6, 2020
3. Superintendent/Special Education Director’s Report
4. Principal’s Report
5. Clinical Supervisor’s Report
6. Monthly check register

A motion was made by C. Langlois and seconded by M. Rouillard to accept the consent agenda as presented. Vote: All in favor.

H. Wood requested a copy of the substitute and student handbooks.

C. Budget and Expense Report - 9/30/20

A motion was made by L. Shippee and seconded by M. Rouillard to approve the Budget and Expense report as presented. Vote: All in favor.

D. Plainfield Board of Education Liaison

M. Cartier, Plainfield Liaison, stated that Plainfield is currently learning in-person. Students are in school on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays with A/B Block. On Wednesdays, teachers are at school for catch up and the school is also disinfected on that day. A meeting date was scheduled to discuss the Plainfield Cooperative Agreement: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 6:00 pm. Plainfield experienced savings due to remote learning and COVID relief funds. Their Dattco contract will be expiring and transportation will be going out to bid.

C. Langlois attended the Plainfield BOE meeting. Plainfield will review the status of their instructional programming every 2 weeks. They have hired a new social worker.

V. **Unfinished Business**

A. **Policies - 2nd Reading (vote)**

- 5111 - Students - Admission/Placement - Admission
- 6114.8 - Instruction - Emergencies & Disaster Preparedness - Pandemic/Epidemic Emergencies (Policy & Regulation)
- 6114.81 - Instruction - Emergencies & Disaster Preparedness - Pandemic/Epidemic Emergencies - Emergency Suspension of Policy During Pandemic
- 9221 - Bylaws of the Board - Filling Vacancies

A motion was made by L. Shippee and seconded by H. Wood to approve Policy#5111 - Students - Admission/Placement - Admission; Policy and Regulation#6114.8 - Instruction - Emergencies & Disaster Preparedness - Pandemic/Epidemic Emergencies with modifications; Policy#6114.81 - Instruction - Emergencies & Disaster Preparedness - Pandemic/Epidemic Emergencies - Emergency Suspension of Policy During Pandemic with modifications; and Policy#9221 - Bylaws of the Board - Filling Vacancies. Vote: All in favor.

A motion was made by C. Langlois and seconded by H. Wood to add ***Certified Resignation to VI. New Business D.*** Vote: All in favor.

VI. **New Business**

A. **Student presentation of proposed Eagle Scout Service Project**

Ian Stone, a 9th grade Eagle Scout from Troop 36, presented to the Board his Scout Project to make improvements to the Will's Way Trail. He anticipates being completed with the project by next Summer or Fall, depending on the weather. He reported that the project is sanctioned by the Scouts, and so it is covered by BSA Insurance. F. Bood approved the Eagle Scout Service Project.

B. **Approval of Job Descriptions (vote)**

A motion was made by M. Rouillard and seconded by H. Wood to table the "Approval of Job Descriptions". Vote: All in favor.

C. **Approval of unaffiliated contract (vote)**

A motion was made by M. Rouillard and seconded by C. Langlois to approve the unaffiliated contract of S. Sanzaro, Technology Director. Vote: 3 in favor; 3 abstained.

D. **Introduction of new hire (Technology Director)**

G. Lanza reviewed S. Sanzaro's experience and qualifications.

D. **Approval of Certified Resignation (vote)**

A motion was made by M. Rouillard and seconded by L. Shippee to approve the certified resignation of V. Mazza with regret. Vote: All in favor.

E. Proposal to Increase Certified Substitute Rate (vote)

A motion was made by L. Shippee and seconded by M. Rouillard to approve the increase for the certified substitute rate from \$100.00 per day to \$125.00 per day. Vote: All in favor.

F. Flexibilities for Implementing CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2017 for the 2020-2021 School Year (vote)

G. Lanza discussed and reviewed the State evaluation flexibilities that have been brought to the PDEC Committee and agreed upon by PDEC and the administration.

A motion was made by L. Shippee and seconded by H. Wood to approve the Flexibilities for Implementing CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2017 for the 2020-2021 School Year. Vote: All in favor.

G. Recommendation for Purchase from the Health and Safety Committee to improve overall building safety

A discussion was held regarding the building safety recommendations by the Health & Safety Committee. M. Rouillard requested an RFP be published that will include the scope of the three separate projects that were recommended. M. Rouillard requested that a walk-through of the school be scheduled with himself, the Board chair and the head custodian.

A motion was made by M. Rouillard and seconded by H. Wood to publish an RFP for the 3 safety items: locksets, panic button, closing the stairwells/safety doors. Vote: All in favor.

H. Transportation Update

M. Rouillard stated concerns regarding a recent shortage of bus drivers. He questioned why drivers are not allowed to bring their children on the bus (if they are not registered Sterling Community School students), stating that Datto allows this practice. He requested clarification from CIRMA on this matter. G. Lanza noted that we have advertised for drivers and sub drivers on Applitrack, CT Reap, School Spring, the Norwich Bulletin, Turnpike Buyer, Principal's newsletter, town hall and social media. We have received responses and have interviewed applicants. M. Rouillard requested information regarding specific dates and publications that the Board has advertised for drivers.

I. Line Item Transfer (vote)

A motion was made by L. Shippee and seconded by C. Langlois to approve the line item transfer of \$85.00 out of A.6110.561.01.000.73 Tuition Plainfield and into A.6110.561.02.000.70 Adult Education and the transfer of \$109,168.00 out of A.6110.561.01.000.73 Tuition Plainfield and into A.6110.561.07.000.73 Tuition: Killingly, Other. Vote: All in favor.

VII. Recommendations, Questions and/or Comments

C. Langlois requested an update on staff vacancies. G. Lanza stated that we have vacancies for a Reading Specialist, Technology Education Teacher, Special Education Teacher, General Education Teacher and may be looking into a non-certified Library/Computer Aide.

H. Wood requested an update regarding the free breakfast and lunch program. G. Lanza reported that she recently met with the food services provider and noted that breakfast is not as popular as lunch, which may be attributed to the later start time for students. All families, including remote, are taking advantage of the free meals including weekend meals.

VIII. Public Comment

K. Gunn questioned the drivers not being allowed to bring their children who are under school age on the bus with them.

IX. Executive Session

None

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by M. Rouillard and seconded by D. Capobianco to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 pm. Vote: All in favor.