

Sterling Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 21, 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 6:15 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, L. Smith, D. Chrzan, D. Zajac and M Cartier.
Absent: C. Scott

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Public Comment

F. Bood noted that Public Comment will be discussed under “Section V. Unfinished Business Item C. - High School Options and Ad Hoc Committee Update.”

IV. Reports and Communications

A. Correspondence
None

B. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of Regular Meeting, March 17, 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.

C. Budget and Expense Report - March 31, 2020

D. Plainfield Board of Education Liaison

M. Cartier, Plainfield Liaison, reported that Plainfield had a remote BOE meeting at the beginning of the month. Since they were going through the budget process, the Board of Finance and Selectman were invited. Due to the COVID-19 shutdown, it is anticipated that Plainfield will have a \$300,000.00 savings predominantly due to substitutes, heat and electricity costs.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Policies 2nd Reading (vote):

- Policy#4116 - Personnel-Certified-Probationary/Tenure Status
- Policy#6142.102 - Instruction-Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)
- Policy#6142.103 - Instruction-Trauma Informed Schools

A motion was made by L. Shippee and seconded by C. Langlois to approve Policy#4116- Personnel-Certified-Probationary/Tenure Status; Policy#6142.102 - Instruction-Social and Emotional Learning (SEL); and Policy#6142.103 - Instruction-Trauma Informed Schools as presented. Vote: All in favor.

B. Plainfield Cooperative Agreement Update

F. Bood reported that the last meeting was held on 3/31/2020 and there have not been any more meetings since the COVID-19 shutdown.

C. High School Options Ad Hoc Committee Update

F. Bood reviewed and answered the questions for public comment that were emailed by C. SanSouci to the Board.

1. Is the new contract with Plainfield still in the works or is it finished?

Yes it is still in the works - there is still 1 year+ left to finish

2. Will the new contract with Plainfield be for 3 years or 5 years?

We do not know yet since we haven't got there yet

3. What is the percent of Sterling students currently attending PHS versus students attending other high schools?

Approximately 56%

4. What is the ghost number that Sterling will have to pay Plainfield in the new contract. Why do we need a ghost number?

It hasn't been discussed yet

5. What is Plainfield's tuition for the 2020-2021 school year?

Approximately \$14,600.00

6. Will the new contract with Plainfield allow for Woodstock Academy or NFA? In the previous/current contract, Sterling could not.

The Ad Hoc Committee and Cooperative Agreement have not been finished yet. Sterling will attend the next Cooperative Agreement meeting whenever that may be (possibly in July).

C. Langlois reviewed the information she reported on the Ad Hoc Committee at the last Board meeting. There are 2 parents on the committee. Woodstock Academy will not be using homework and exams in the future as they are moving toward individualized learning. The per pupil expenditure for 2021/22 is projected to be \$15,783.00 including a capital improvement fee. They will provide 3 years of transportation. K. Gunn, Sterling transportation director, projects the cost for transportation to Woodstock Academy will be approximately \$24,000 - \$25,000.00 per bus per year.

NFA's per pupil expenditure for 2020/21 is projected to be \$13,375.00. They do not offer transportation or any other incentives. A minimum number of students is not required and they will take special needs and/or IEP students for an additional cost. They do not require an entrance exam but do require students to take a placement exam. Transportation may be cheaper to NFA than to Woodstock Academy since Sterling currently coordinates with Plainfield to bus students to Norwich.

D. RFQ Update

F. Bood reported that the Board is interested in soliciting law firms through an RFQ process. A draft RFQ was shared with the Board.

VI. New Business

A. Approval of non-tenure list (vote)

A motion was made by C. Langlois and seconded by H. Wood to approve the non-tenure list for 2020 as presented. Vote: All in favor.

B. Line Item Transfers

A motion was made by L. Shippee and seconded by H. Wood to approve the transfer from Reg Ed Certified Substitutes to IT E/B Insurance. Vote: All in favor.

(Transfer \$3,000.00 out of A.1000.111.03.71 Reg Ed Certified Substitutes and transfer into A.2230.210.00.71 IT E/B Insurance).

VII. Recommendations, Questions and/or Comments

F. Bood asked L. Smith if she has had an extreme workload since the COVID-19 shutdown and asked if there were any supports that she needed. L. Smith reported that it is going very well; they have been collaborating without any difficulties. He appreciated the hard work that has been done by all the staff and he has only heard positive comments and requested parents and staff to ask if there are any supports that they need. He also thanked A. Wiegel for all his support with IT and technology.

G. Lanza reported to L. Shippee that Kristine Cicchetti from the NECC will be contacting her regarding Project Pin and the Salvation Army.

C. Langlois asked if there is an update with distance learning and if there are any challenges or supports, materials or PD that staff need. G. Lanza noted that there are 1 or 2 families (one large family) that are having connectivity problems at this time, and that staff are working with the families. All of the families that need devices have them and are able to connect. There were 55 responses to a recent parent survey - overwhelmingly positive. The intent is not to overwhelm teachers, students and parents. Parents reported having some struggles assisting with the day-to-day learning with content classes and specials. The teachers are doing a wonderful job and the administration appreciates their hard work and the parent feedback.

C. Langlois asked if there has been any information from Ellis Tech regarding how Sterling students are doing. G. Lanza noted that once a student goes to Ellis Tech they are no longer Sterling School District students; however, she will be holding transition meetings next week for some 8th grade students and will inquire at that time.

VIII. Public Comment

None

IX. Executive Session

None

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by L. Shippee and seconded by C. Langlois to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 pm. Vote: All in favor.