

**Sterling Board of Education
Minutes of the Special Meeting
Wednesday, January 6, 2021 - 6:00 pm
Cafeteria
“EXCELLENCE WITH KINDNESS”**

Public hearing to provide for the opportunity for individuals to ask questions and provide input with respect to consideration of the district’s high school choice options.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by H. Wood, Board Chair.

Present were: H. Wood, L. Shippee, D. Capobianco, C. Langlois and M. Rouillard.

Absent: F. Bood

Also in attendance were: G. Lanza and D. Zajac

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Public Comment

H. Wood thanked everyone for taking the time to attend and went over the guidelines for the public hearing.

Public speakers highlighted the following preferences/statements/concerns as they pertain to high school options:

- A preference for increased alignment with neighboring towns, not to remove Plainfield as an option, but to expand options.
- Having a high school choice would be a benefit to the town.
- A preference for an expansion of opportunities for students.
- Every option should be available to students, including extracurricular activities and sports considerations.
- A preference to give parents the opportunity to decide which school is right for their children
- Woodstock Academy has stated that they will provide transportation for 3 years.
- Can parents provide their own transportation? CT Statute 10-277 was referenced in regards to contracting with other schools and transportation.
- Requests were made that the Board continue with and expand their research of other high schools including having area high school representatives present to the Board.

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- Statistics were cited to the Board on school standings and reputations as per various news reports and publications.
- Clarification was provided by the Board on current high school options available: *Plainfield High School; H. Ellis Technical High School; Killingly VoAg High School; Quinebaug Middle College Magnet High School; ACT Magnet High School.*
- Options that parents referred to included: *Woodstock Academy; Norwich Free Academy, Parish Hill High School, Killingly High School*

IV. Discussion and Possible Action

C. Langlois stated that, as an Ad Hoc Committee Member, she would like to meet again to review the current information, talk to other schools and collect more information and, in the near future, present findings.

L. Shippee thanked everyone for taking the time to attend and participate.

V. Adjournment

A motion was made by M. Rouillard and seconded by C. Langlois to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 pm. Vote: All in favor.