

CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

**Sterling Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 17, 2020
Community Room – 2:30 pm
“EXCELLENCE WITH KINDNESS”**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:37 pm by F. Bood, Board Chair.

Present were: F. Bood, D. Capobianco, H. Wood, C. Langlois, M. Rouillard.

Absent was: L. Shippee

Also in Attendance were: G. Lanza, C. Scott, L. Smith, D. Chrzan and D. Zajac

Absent was: M. Cartier (Plainfield Liaison)

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Reports and Communications

A. Correspondence

Friends of Webster (boy scouts camp) thanked the Board for their donation in memory of B. Boyd.

B. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of Regular Meeting, February 25, 2020
2. Superintendent/Special Services Director's Report
3. Principal's Report
4. Clinical Supervisor's Report

F. Bood requested the minutes be amended as they pertain to the Math Professional Learning Update: (New Business: C. Math Professional Learning Update)

The minutes will be amended as follows:

“F. Bood asked if there was currently a math curriculum. B. Schena would like it noted that during her tenure at Sterling Memorial School, the district underwent several curriculum rewrites with the CT State Standards. She would also like it noted that staff is currently working extremely hard at developing math curriculum that correlates to the CCSS framework. F. Bood would also like to note the progress that staff has made so far with math curriculum work.”

L. Shippee requested to add the following to the 2nd paragraph under Recommendations, Questions and/or Comments: Dr. Lanza reported that during times when all administrators have been out of the building, no one has been placed in charge in an administrative role.

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

C. Budget and Expense Report - February 29, 2020

A motion was made by H. Wood and seconded by C. Langlois to accept the Budget and Expense Report - February 29, 2020 as presented. Vote: All in favor.

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D. Plainfield Board of Education Liaison

M. Cartier, Plainfield Liaison was unable to attend but provided an update and handouts from the meeting.

H. Wood attended the Plainfield BOE meeting. They have implemented Ben's Bells, which promotes kindness. An update was provided on their strategic plan. Plainfield's reading bus is in Hartford for Read Across America. They demonstrated the use of a virus killing battery operated electro-static sprayer.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Policies 2nd Reading (vote):

- Policy#3410 - Business/Non-Instructional Operations-System of Accounts
- Policy#3432/3433 - Business/Non-Instructional Operations-Budget & Expense Report/Annual Financial Statement
- Policy#3516 - Business/Non-Instructional Operations-Safety
- Policy#3517 - Business/Non-Instructional Operations-Security of Buildings and Grounds
- Policy#4112.51/4212.51 - Personnel-Certified/Non-Certified-Employment/Reference Checks
- Policy#5141.214 - Students-Student Sunscreen Use

A motion was made by C. Langlois and seconded by H. Wood to approve Policy#3410 - (Business/Non-Instructional Operations-System of Accounts); Policy#3432/3433 - (Business/Non-Instructional Operations-Budget & Expense Report/Annual Financial Statement); Policy#3516 - (Business/Non-Instructional Operations-Safety); Policy#3517 - (Business/Non-Instructional Operations-Security of Buildings and Grounds); Policy#4112.51/4212.51 - (Personnel-Certified/Non-Certified-Employment/Reference Checks); Policy#5141.214 - (Students-Student Sunscreen Use) as presented. Vote: All in favor.

B. Policies 1st Reading:

- Policy#4116 - Personnel-Certified-Probationary/Tenure Status (3 versions)
- Policy#6142.102 - Instruction-Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)
- Policy#6142.103 - Instruction-Trauma Informed Schools

A motion was made by H. Wood and seconded by D. Capobianco to accept policy#4116, 6142.102 and 6142.103 as a 1st reading. Vote: All in favor.

Policy#4116 Personnel - Certified - Probationary/Tenure Status: All certified personnel may obtain ...; Policy 6142.102 and Policy 6142.103 will be put on the April Agenda for a 2nd reading and vote.

VI. New Business

A. Report - ELA growth and development

J. Shamback presented on reading data and explained the SRBI process, Data team structure, and benchmark assessments. Aimswebplus is currently used as a screening tool for early literacy skills, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension for grades K-8 and next year it will be used for grades K-2 only. The STAR assessment is administered in grades 3-8, which is an adaptive assessment. At the end of the 2019/20 school year 2nd grade students will be given the STAR

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assessment to transition to grade 3. It is anticipated that use of the STAR assessment will increase SBAC scores.

B. Approval of 2019/2020 revised School Calendar (vote)

A motion was made by C. Langlois and seconded by M. Rouillard to adopt the changes to the revised 2019/2020 school calendar. Vote: All in favor.

C. Approval of 2020/2021 School Calendar (vote)

A motion was made by M. Rouillard and seconded by H. Wood to accept the 2020/2021 school calendar. Vote: All in favor.

D. Ad Hoc Committee

C. Langlois provided an update on the Ad Hoc Committee. Woodstock may move away from homework and final exam requirements. Their per pupil tuition for 2021/22 will be \$15,783.00/year including a capital improvement fee. They did not have any information on acceptance of children with IEPs. They are offering 3 years of transportation. According to K. Gunn, transportation costs to run a bus to Woodstock would be \$25,000.00.

The per pupil tuition for NFA is \$13,375.00/year for 2020/21. They will not provide transportation and did not provide any incentives but would accept IEP students at an additional cost. NFA does not have an entrance test but they do require a placement exam.

E. Plainfield Cooperative Agreement

G. Lanza will contact R. Lussier, Business Manager at Plainfield, to schedule a meeting with the board chair to get a better understanding of the tuition formula used in the Cooperative Agreement.

F. Certified Resignation (vote)

A motion was made by D. Capobianco and seconded by H. Wood to accept the resignation of J. Musumeci with regret. Vote: All in favor.

G. Line Item Transfers

A motion was made by D. Capobianco and seconded by C. Langlois to approve the transfer from CT Public Tuition to Ed Media Certified Personnel and E/B Fica/Medicare. Vote: All in favor.

(Transfer \$21,048.65 out of A.6110.561.01.73 CT Public Tuition and transfer \$20,696.80 into A.2220.111.00.71 Ed Media Certified Personnel and \$351.85 into A.2220.220.00.70 E/B Fica/Medicare).

H. Approval of 2020/2021 Budget (vote)

A motion was made by M. Rouillard and seconded by H. Wood to bring the 2020/2021 Budget as presented to the finance committee at the town. Vote: All in favor.

VII. Recommendations, Questions and/or Comments

F. Bood requested a special meeting be scheduled for the purpose of soliciting law firms for the board's consideration. An RFQ will be drafted.

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F. Bood noted that the last board meeting where teachers presented on the work they have been doing with curriculum and instruction was the best board meeting he has attended so far. The staff was excited with the progress that is being made since the creation of the 2017/18 strategic plan and they are doing an exceptional job.

C. Langlois asked about the superintendent's mid-year self evaluation. A meeting will be scheduled for this purpose.

H. Wood requested that the Superintendent's board reports include more details of her activities.

M. Rouillard asked about distance learning and hourly staff wages since the closing of the school for the Coronavirus. G. Lanza noted that teachers have provided some initial supplementary materials for parents. Since the school closure may be longer than anticipated, plans for distance learning will be put in place. Hourly employees are continuing to be paid not to exceed their regular school year.

VIII. Public Comment

None

IX. Executive Session

A motion was made by H. Wood and seconded by D. Capobianco to enter executive session at 3:51 pm for the purpose of Personnel Policy. Vote: All in favor.

Present in Executive Session: F. Bood, H. Wood, M. Rouillard, C. Langlois and D. Capobianco.
Also in attendance: G. Lanza

The Board exited Executive Session at 4:24 pm.

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by D. Capobianco and seconded by C. Langlois to adjourn the meeting at 4:24 pm. Vote: All in favor.