



COLCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Colchester, CT

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, August 2, 2023

8:00 AM

Pupil Services Conference Room

380 Norwich Avenue, Colchester

HYBRID

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Alexander Oliphant, Vice Chair Mary Tomasi, Secretary Margo Gignac, Donna Antonacci, Rosemary Gignac, Christopher Rivers

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Superintendent Daniel P. Sullivan, III, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Charles E. Hewes, Assistant Director of Pupil Services and Special Education Rebecca Tedesco

OTHERS PRESENT: Business Director Rachel Linkkila, Director of Educational Operations Andrew Barillari, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Clerk Heather Petit

1. **MEETING OPENING**

1.1 Call to Order

Chair Oliphant called the meeting to order at 8:03 AM

1.2 Roll Call

Chair Oliphant conducted a roll call of the Board

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

2. ***CONSENT AGENDA**

2.1 ***Dual-Credit Grant Award**

Dr. Hewes spoke to the grant award which will allow our school district to partner with Charter Oak State College to offer students a Firefighter 1 course. EMT and a CNA program for nursing are other options being discussed. This is a two-year grant award. After the grant expires, there will be a small annual cost to continue the firefighter program. Dr. Hewes will bring this to the Curriculum Committee to discuss as appropriate.

2.2 *PEGPETIA Grant Award

Dr. Hewes stated that the PEGPETIA grant award for \$91,000, will fund a hybrid technology Zoom room at William J. Johnston Middle School (WJMS) and as well as technology equipment needed in the school.

2.3 *Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Secondary Supplemental Grant award

Dr. Hewes stated that the Perkins supplemental grant award will fund equipment used for Colchester Public Schools' manufacturing program.

Motion by: C.Rivers

To approve the consent agenda as presented.

Second: M.Gignac

Roll call: All in favor.

Vote: Motion carried.

3. *PRIORITY DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

3.1 *Budget Recommendations Pending a Successful Referendum

Superintendent Sullivan presented recommendations in regard to the additional \$300,000 added to the Board of Education budget for referendum. Mr. Sullivan stated that if the budget passes at referendum, he is recommending that the District restore world language in Grade 7 as well as a French teacher at Bacon Academy. In addition, Mr. Sullivan recommended removing pay-to-play for middle school music and to add safety officers to each of the schools.

Andrew Barillari spoke to capital projects currently ongoing throughout the District. Mr. Barillari stated that the Colchester Elementary School (CES) is currently being recarpeted. In addition, the WJMS gym floor is ready for the beginning of the school year.

Mr. Sullivan spoke to technical school transportation and shared opportunities with Lebanon and East Hampton in transporting Colchester students to Windham and Vinal Tech.

Mary Tomasi asked about Kindergarten and First Grade teachers. Mr. Sullivan stated that the District is adequately staffed in those areas.

Dr. Hewes reported on a meeting with the Bozrah Board of Education that he attended in regard to making Bacon Academy a school of choice for their district. Dr. Hewes stated that their board asked two questions in regard to Bacon Academy; 1) what does BA have for school security and 2) is their support of funding for schools going forward. Dr. Hewes spoke to the commitment of the Colchester Board of Education to support our

students and schools. Dr. Hewes said that it is important to note that other towns are watching and are aware as to what is going on in the Colchester community.

Margo Gignac asked Superintendent Sullivan to speak to the Business Teacher position as it was discussed recently by a Board of Finance member. Mr. Sullivan said that it would prove difficult to find and hire a second Business Teacher. Mr. Sullivan stated it would be difficult to fill given that the position was previously cut and applicants may be hesitant to come to the District. Mr. Sullivan said that the high school has already completed student schedules without a second Business Teacher for the upcoming school year as well.

In regard to the recommendations to utilize the additional \$300,000 if passed by referendum, Mr. Sullivan reiterated they are:

- World Language at WJJMS with the understanding it may be difficult to hire
- Remove Pay-to-Play for music
- Look to hire safety officers for each of the schools

Motion by: M.Gignac

To approve the budget recommendations as discussed pending a successful referendum.

Second: C.Rivers

Roll call: All in favor.

Vote: Motion carried.

3.2 *2023-2024 Substitute Compensation

Mr. Sullivan stated that the current District substitute rates are \$150 per day for certified and \$100 for non-certified substitutes. Superintendent Sullivan reported surrounding districts' rates for substitutes.

Christopher Rivers recommended that the surrounding district rates are gathered annually during budget season and determining rates during that time.

Discussion on substitute rates was tabled for a future meeting.

3.3 *Appointment of Assistant Director of Pupil Services and Special Education

Mr. Sullivan introduced Rebecca Tedesco to the Board Ms. Tedesco stated that she is a social worker and worked in South Windsor previously. Ms. Tedesco said she is thankful for the opportunity and looks forward to serving students in Colchester.

Donna Antonacci asked about the current structure of special education. Mr. Sullivan said that team leaders were hired to help serve students and to work with special education teachers. In addition, team leaders can serve as designees and will be able to take a leadership role in PPTs. Mr. Sullivan stated that the overall goal of the team leader

positions is to support the directors which will allow Amy Emory and Rebecca Tedesco to work more closely with students and teachers needing support.

Motion by: M.Gignac

To approve the Rebecca Tedesco as the Assistant Director of Pupil Services and Special Education

Second: R.Gignac

Roll call: All in favor.

Vote: Motion carried.

3.4 *Appointment of Director of Educational Operations

Mr. Sullivan introduced Andrew Barillari to the Board. Mr. Barillari stated that he is a resident of Colchester and has a daughter in the school system. Mr. Barillari said that he has worked in several school districts in the past and as he lives closeby, is able to easily serve around the clock as needed for the District. He stated that he is focusing on needed updates at Bacon Academy and using ARPA and ESSER funding as available. Mr. Barillari said he has been meeting with community stakeholders including town departments (public works, highways, etc.).

In addition, Mr. Barillari stated that the department has cleared out old, moldy furniture and other items from Old Bacon Academy. Mr. Sullivan said he and the First Selectman met with the Old Bacon Academy Board of Trustees last week and agreed to a contract. Mr. Sullivan said the trustees are going to work on the building to support C3 and the transition academy (CTAC) potentially in the future.

Motion by: C.Rivers

To approve Andrew Barillari as the Director of Educational Operations.

Second: R.Gignac

Roll call: All in favor.

Vote: Motion carried.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT

4.1 For Public Comments, Please See Bylaw on Meeting Conduct
None.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: C.Rivers

To adjourn the meeting at 9:01 AM

Second: R.Gignac

Roll call: All in favor.

Vote: Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather R. Petit

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Clerk