

**Regional School District No. 8 Board of Education  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, March 21, 2022 @ 6:30 pm**

**Note: Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, attendees participated via in person and Zoom**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Mike Morris called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

BOE Members Present: Mike Morris, Erik Schevchenko, Michael Charron, Joe Colletti, Gabe Marques; Lori Blake via zoom Susan Stolfi, Judy Benson-Clarke, Carey Fraulino, Jessica Dapsis, and Mary Cochefski

Administration Present: Scott Leslie, Superintendent  
Eva Gallupe, Business Manager  
Michael Seroussi, Middle School Principal  
Chris Mader, High School Vice Principal  
Penny Bryzgel, High School Principal

Student Representative: Lily Schevchenko and Rowan Akerlind

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Executive Session**

**M. Charron moved to enter into executive session, seconded by S. Stolfi . Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Entered Executive Session: 6:35 p.m.**

**Exited Executive Session: 6:45 p.m.**

**4. Motion Based on Executive Session**

**M. Charron moved that the RHAM Board of Education appoint Colin McNamara as Superintendent of Schools, effective July 1, 2022, and continuing through June 30, 2025, subject to the confirmation by the Commissioner of Education in accordance with Section 10-157 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and moved further that the Board Chairperson be authorized to finalize and execute a contract of employment for Mr. McNamara's service as Superintendent, seconded by J. Colletti. MOTION PASSED 9-2 with 1 dissention by M. Benson Clarke and one abstention by C. Fraulino.**

**5. Public Comments**

Mary Mead, Amston – commented on the 2/28 meeting regarding the Family and Consumer Sciences position and stated her opinion that now is not a good time to implement, feels it is fiscally not prudent and rushed.

Michele Nicholson, Hebron – spoke in support of the Family and Consumer Sciences position.

Jackie Wetherall, RHAM employee – stated her continued support of implementing the Consumer and Sciences position. Stated her thorough work navigating the timeline and also reiterated her support of no additional cuts to the budget.

**6. Add/Delete Agenda Items - none**

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7. **Student Representative Report** – L. Schevchenko reported it's the official start of spring sports season. Spring concert was held. Gave an update on the Entrepreneurship class. JR and SR and SR AP course exam coming up soon. SR class dues are being collected. Guests from other schools will be allowed at prom. R. Akerlind reported there is a food drive hosted by the school Culture Committee from March through April. Spring spirit week coming up. Ukraine children's fundraiser going on, collected \$3,421 to date.
8. **BOE Chair Report** – M. Morris welcomed new superintendent Colin McNamara. Also noted that spring break is coming up.
9. **Report of the Superintendent** – Congratulated new superintendent. Each member of the Board was given a small token of appreciation in recognition of Board of Education Appreciation month. Thanked all the members for their volunteerism.
10. **RHAM Supports and Interventions for Assessing and Addressing Student Social and Emotional Needs**  
S. Leslie stated that RHAM ensures taking care of students via social and emotional support. Introduced the Counseling Dept. who will present the efforts RHAM has made in assessing and supporting this mission. The counseling group presented a powerpoint presentation on concerns and interventions in place. Discussion on the role of social psychologist vs social worker, as well as the last time the data set was garnished. The group will conduct another wellness check at the end of March.

J. Dapsis left the meeting

**11. Consent Agenda**

11.1. Approval of Minutes February 28, 2022 and Public Forum Minutes

11.2 Resignation Letter – Tiffany Gianini

**S. Stolfi moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by J. Benson-Clarke. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.**

**12. Old Business**

12.1 Discussion and Possible Action of Proposed Region 8 2022/23 Budget

S. Leslie notified the group that this is the last meeting prior to the Public Forum on 4/4/22.

Reviewed the 2022-2023 Budget Reductions. Discussed Insurance reduction of .6% and the proposed pre-spending reduction via pre-purchasing out of this year's budget. E. Schevchenko shared his gratitude of the solid accomplishments of crafting the budget. J. Benson-Clarke shared the same sentiments.

**E. Schevchenko moved to accept the proposed \$97,813 reduction to next year's budget by spending \$100,183.10 from the current fiscal year's budget, seconded by J. Benson-Clarke. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.**

S. Leslie gave an update on the Early Childhood position. Reviewed three options; 1. 1.0 FTE position for instructor, 2. .5 FTE, or 3. Expand the virtual high school program. Discussion on

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student scheduling, previous courses held and past participation levels, potential for this course to align with school goals. More discussion ensued on logistics and cost.

**S. Stolfi moved to modify the 2/28/22 motion that passed to a .5 position for Family and Consumer Science, second by J. Benson-Clarke. Discussion  
Motion passed 6-4 with dissenting votes from L. Blake, M. Charron, G. Marques, and J. Colletti**

S. Leslie noted that this now brings the revised budget amount to -1.22%.

S. Leslie stated the surplus from 2021 is \$612,385. There is a bid opening scheduled for 4/21/22 for the athletic field repairs. He recommends the Board approve to move the surplus funds to the capital non-recurring fund to the athletic field repair account. Discussion.

**M. Charron moved that the 2% surplus be allocated to the capital non-recurring budget for the cost of field repair account in the amount of \$612,385, seconded by J. Benson-Clarke. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.**

L. Blake left the meeting

### **13. New Business**

13.1 Financials – E. Gallupe reviewed all reports

Expenditure and Revenue Report – net favorable position \$327,642

Student Activity Report – balanced with bank statement

Food Service Report- still no word on SSO continuing next year

Budget Transfers – E. Gallupe reviewed transfers

**E. Schevchenko moved to accept the budget appropriation transfers in the amount of \$155,814.85, seconded by S. Stolfi. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.**

13.2 Healthy Foods Certification - S. Leslie gave an overview of the program.

**E. Schevchenko moved the Board approve the Healthy Food Option pursuant to C.G.S Section 10-215f, Regional School District 8, certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of**

**July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. The certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups, seconded by M. Charron. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.**

**M. Charron moved the Board Approve Exemption for Food Items Regional School District 8 will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the**

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**weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An event is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate teams meetings are not., The regular school day is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. Location means where the event is being held, seconded by C. Fraulino. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.**

**M. Charron moved the Board approve Exemption for Beverage Items Regional School District ;8 will allow the sale to students of beverage items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met; 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; 3) the beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An event is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. The regular school day is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. Location means where the event is being held, seconded by G. Marques. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **13.3 Athletic Trainer Bid**

**J, Colletti moved to allow Mr. Leslie to enter into a five-year contract that would continue our services with Select Physical Therapy, seconded by G. Marques. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.**

**M. Charron moved to skip #14 on the agenda, seconded by C. Fraulino. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED**

#### **14. Committee Reports**

**Facilities/Safety/Transportation –M. Charron/J. Colletti/C. Fraulino/G. Marques**

**Finance/Audit Compliance and Insurance – L. Blake/J. Benson Clarke/M. Cochefski/E. Shevchenko**

**Negotiations – J. Benson Clarke/S. Stolfi/E. Shevchenko**

**Policy** – J. Dapsis/C. Fraulino/G. Marques

**Program/Communication** – L. Blake/J. Dapsis/M. Cochefski/M. Charron

**Facilitators**

EASTCONN – J. Benson-Clarke

CABE – J. Benson-Clarke

**15. Public Comment –**

Ethan Spinelli, Marlborough – welcomed new superintendent. Commended the Board and administration for working together and compromising. Thanked S. Leslie for his dedication.

**16. Informational Items**

16.1 Calendar of Events: Middle School, High School - submitted

16.2 Student Discipline – Middle School, High School – submitted

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**17. Adjournment**

**M Charron moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m., seconded by G. Marques.**

**Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Tricia Dean, Clerk