

**Regional School District No. 8 Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Monday, May 16, 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; via zoom -Lori Blake, Susan Stolfi, Judy Benson-Clarke, Carey Fraulino, Jessica Dapsis, and Mary Cochefski

Administration Present: Scott Leslie, Superintendent
Eva Gallupe, Business Manager via zoom
Penny Bryzgel, High School Principal

Student Representative: Lily Schevchenko and Rowan Akerlind

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comments

Jessica Stewart, Amston – spoke regarding the home school policy and the credit approval piece. Feels this limits the scope of accepting credits. Asked the Board to be cautious of not alienating families that choose non accredited courses due to cost factors.

Terry McManus, Hebron – congratulated the hard work on the budget. Felt the superintendent's candor was wonderful.

Claudia Riley, Amston – spoke regarding the policy on sharing communication. Thought the topic from AHM was inspirational. Cautioned the Board on denying communications due to AHM providing a number of services that are beneficial.

4. Add/Delete Agenda Items

J. Benson-Clarke moved to eliminate agenda item 10.5, seconded by M. Cochefski.

Discussion on clarification on the purpose of the policy. 1 in favor, J. Benson-Clarke, with 10 dissensions. MOTION FAILS

- 5. Student Representative Report –** L. Schevchenko reported that this is senior weekend with prom and a Lake Compounce trip. AP Exams until the end of May. RHAM does very well preparing students for AP exams. AP Environmental Science class is not a required course but she feels it should be for senior year. Congrats for budget passing. This is her last Board meeting and thanked all for teaching her how local government works. R. Akerlind reported that the Honors breakfast will be 5/24 for 9-10 graders, and 5/25 for 11-12 graders. Supports community partner events announcements. J. Benson-Clarke thanked both for their time.

- 6. BOE Chair Report –** M. Morris thanked all for the work and support on the budget process. Thanked the student reps.

7. **Report of the Superintendent** – S. Leslie feels the budget addressed many needs. Thanked the Board for fully engaging. Thanked Mr. McManus as a tax payer for his involvement and appreciated his feedback. Thanked Lily and Rowan for their student perspectives. Thanked J. Dapsis for her partnership as this is her last meeting.

8. **Consent Agenda**

8.1. Approval of Minutes; April 18, 2022 and May 2, 2022

8.2 Resignation Letter – Christine Zeiner

E. Schevchenko moved to approve the April 18, 2022 and May 2, 2022 meeting minutes, seconded by G. Marques. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

L. Blake moved to accept the resignation of Christine Zeiner, seconded by J. Dapsis. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

9. **Old Business**

9.1 Second Reading of Policies:

a. 5132a Eligibility for Participation in Co-curricular Activities

G. Marques moved to approve policy 5132a Eligibility for Participation in Co-curricular Activities as presented, seconded by S. Stolfi. Discussion on pros and cons of policy in reference to mental health, lowering the bar and standards. 7 votes in favor, with 4 dissensions by M. Charron, J. Colletti, E. Schevchenko, and S. Stolfi. MOTION CARRIES

b.5540 School Lunch Charging

E. Schevchenko moved to approve policy 5540 School Lunch Charging as presented, seconded by G. Marques. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

c.6195 Credit for Online Courses

M. Charron moved to approve policy 6195 Credit for Online Courses as presented, seconded by E. Schevchenko. Discussion for clarification of policy. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

10. **New Business**

10.1 Discussion and possible action for school meal prices for the 2022-23 school year

S. Leslie stated that this is to approve the lunch prices in the chance that we have to go back to charging for lunch. Whitson's Culinary Group presented a powerpoint on meal pricing, background and recommendations.

E. Schevchenko moved to accept the meal prices for the 2022-2023 school year as presented in enclosure 10.1, seconded by M. Charron. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

10.2 Discussion and possible action on renewing our Food Service Contract with Whitson's
M. Charron moved to renew the contract with Whitson's for the 2022-2023 school year,
seconded by M. Cochefsky. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

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10.3 Discussion and possible action on choosing a contractor to complete the athletic field and track studies

S. Leslie stated they requested quotes for preliminary planning, received RFQ's, reviewed and interviewed. M. Charron stated the facilities subcommittee met and reviewed the RFQ's and agreed with the recommendation from administration.

M. Charron moved to approve the bid for contract with Tom Erwin as the contractor for athletic fields and track in the amount of \$33,800, seconded by C. Fraulino. Discussion on funding of studies and surplus to fund project. Time frame discussion. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

10.4 Review of new Connecticut legislation allowing for the continuation of hybrid board of education meetings – S. Leslie stated this is informational only. It will eventually go to the policy committee to update current policy to reflect specific requirements in legislation.

10.5 Discussion of practice/policy of sharing community partner event announcements in RHAM student communications – M. Morris would like to investigate what other school Boards have in place and then decide if we need to implement policy. S. Leslie feels it's appropriate for the policy committee to investigate and have the attorneys review any findings and recommendations. J. Benson-Clarke volunteered to take J. Dapsis place on the policy committee. Tressa Giordano spoke on behalf of AHM on their procedures for communications.

M. Morris moved for the policy committee to investigate and review potential policy for sharing community partner event announcements in RHAM student communications with the stipulation that the middle and high school administration participate in discussion, seconded by J. Benson-Clarke. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

10.6 First Reading of Policies:

New Policy Homeschool Instruction/Homeschooled Students Policy – S. Leslie stated that they currently do not have a policy that addresses how we manage students coming in from home schooling mid-year. Shipman & Goodwin recommended creating policy. This will provide administration with guidance on how to award credit. Discussion on engaging families and financial commitments for families on course requirements.

5470 Wellness Policy – S. Leslie stated policy outlines in detail requirements each school has to ensure they are adequately implementing healthy foods and physical education.

10.7 Financials – E. Gallupe reviewed all reports

Expenditure and Revenue Report – net favorable position \$433,072

Student Activity Report – balanced with bank statement

Food Service Report- no news on continuing the universal free lunch

Budget Appropriation Transfers – E. Gallupe reviewed transfers

E. Schevchenko moved to accept the budget appropriation transfers in the amount of \$177,608.44, seconded by M. Charron. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

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11. Committee Reports

M. Morris moved to table the committee reports to the next meeting due to the time, seconded by M. Charron. Discussion by J. Benson-Clarke on her updates – 5/24 at 3:30pm is the Eastconn Annual meeting. Attended the CABE informal session. Summer and November meeting coming up. Mental Health Awareness Walk on 6/3 5pm-8pm. Encouraged Board members to attend. **Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED**

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/- no negotiations are occurring

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

12. Public Comment

Jessica Stewart, Amston – spoke regarding homeschool policy. Inquired how to transition students after policy, if out of country students that transfer will also be reviewed, and if they would consider portfolio review.

Ethan Spinelli, Marlborough – disappointed in the change in athlete requirements. Feels a higher standard needs to be set.

13. Informational Items

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

13.2 Student Discipline – Middle School, High School – submitted

14. Executive Session

14.1 Review and discussion of proposed RHAM Non-Represented Employee Salaries and Benefits

M. Charron moved to enter into executive session and invite Superintendent S. Leslie, seconded by G. Marques. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Enter: 9:12pm

Exit: 9:30pm

15. Action as a Result of Executive Session

S. Stolfi made the motion to approve the raises as presented for the non-represented employees, seconded by E. Shevchenko. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

16. Adjournment

**M. Charron moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:32pm, seconded by G. Marques.
Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Tricia Dean, Clerk