

Sterling Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
August 17, 2022
Community Room - 6:00 pm
“EXCELLENCE WITH KINDNESS”

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm

Present were: L. Shippee, C. Langlois, D. Capobianco, V. Robinson-Lewis

Also Present were: H. Nickerson, M. Pearson, C. Brannon, C. Chandler

Absent from the meeting: M. Rouillard, J. Mossner

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Public Comment

No public comment

- A motion was made by V. Robinson-Lewis and seconded by C. Langlois to remove item A. under Unfinished Business. Vote: All in favor Motion passed

IV. Reports and Communications

A. Correspondence

We received Ted’s letter from the State of Connecticut State Board of Education approving Ted as superintendent of schools for the Sterling Public Schools.

B. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of Meeting, July 20, 2022

Will need to wait until the next meeting to vote on, C. Langlois was not at the July meeting.

2. Superintendent’s Report

3. Special Education Director’s Report

4. Principal’s Report (None)

5. Clinical Supervisor’s Report (None)

6. Monthly Check Register

- A motion was made by C. Langlois and seconded by V. Robinson-Lewis to approve the Superintendent’s Report, Special Education Director’s Report, and the Monthly Check Register. Vote: All in favor Motion passed

C. Budget and Expense Report

C. Brannon gave an update on the Budget and Expense Report and the recent audit.

- A motion was made by V. Robinson-Lewis and seconded by D. Capobianco to accept the Budget and Expense Report. Vote: All in favor Motion passed

D. Plainfield Board of Education Liaison

It was noted that the meeting had been canceled.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Removed

B. Resignations

T. Friend reported that there were 2 resignations and that an exit interview form consisting of 5 questions had been created. The reasons for them leaving were not a condition of working here. There was nothing wrong.

Most recent resignations were included in the Superintendent's Report.

C. Policy - 2nd Reading - Policy P6172.1 (b) Instruction - Gifted and Talented Students Program

- A motion was made by D. Capobianco and seconded by C. Langois to accept Policy 6172.2 (b) Instruction - Gifted and Talented Students Program as presented.

Vote: All in favor Motion passed

D. Policy - 9321.2 Time, Place and Notification of Meetings - Electronic Board of Education Meetings - Discussion from last meeting.

It was decided that discussion of Policy - 9321.2 be included in next month's meeting when J. Mossner is in attendance.

VI. New Business

A. Introduction of New Employees

H. Nickerson introduced the following new employees:

- Carrie Graham - Transition Room Coordinator
- Andrew York - Academic Tutor

The Board welcomed them to Sterling.

H. Nickerson also noted that Amber Campbell will be returning as a part-time Academic Tutor.

B. Presentation of the Teacher of the Year and Paraprofessional of the Year

H. Nickerson presented the Teacher of the Year, Cassandra Mennella and the Paraprofessional of the Year, Kristin Grimes. The Board congratulated them and presented them with flowers.

C. Review, Discussion and Possible Action to Raise the Paraprofessional Sub-Rates to \$15.00/hr.

C. Brannon spoke about the need to increase the Paraprofessional Sub Rate because the minimum wage will be increased to \$15.00/hr on June 1, 2023. She noted that we would like to increase it to \$15.00 now to keep it consistent for the entire fiscal year.

- A motion was made by C. Langlois and seconded by V. Robinson-Lewis to increase the Paraprofessional Sub Rate to \$15.00/hr. Effective immediately.

Vote: All in favor Motion passed

D. Review, Discussion and Possible Action to set a Sub Bus Driver Rate of Pay of \$19.09/hr.

C. Brannon noted that this is consistent with the rate that the bus drivers are currently being paid. In the past the sub drivers have been paid the same rate as the current bus drivers.

- A motion was made by D. Capobianco and seconded by C. Langlois to set the sub bus driver rate of pay at \$19.09.

Vote: All in favor Motion passed

E. Homeschooled Students Participating in Afterschool Activities.

H. Nickerson, Principal, and Former Athletic Director, spoke about how we are a part of a League with a variety of area schools that have bylaws that we have to abide by. It talks about the students in other school districts (private, magnet) being allowed to participate in a sport if the school they currently are at doesn't offer that sport. They would have to bring it to the school administration and the school administration would decide if that student would be allowed to play. There is no mention of homeschooled students. It would have to be brought to the League for it to be changed, because this has not been done in the past.

Our current policy states that they are not allowed to participate.

D. Capobianco mentioned her concern that participation in school sports is dependent on behavior and academics. She wondered how we would address this if they are in a homeschool Situation.

V. Robinson-Lewis stated that she has had conversations with some homeschooled parents and that she feels that if we were to open the athletics to homeschooled students that we could put a behavior aspect on it for their participation. She stated that she would like to have this looked into.

T. Friend noted that if the League changes their rules and homeschooled students are allowed to play sports it would make sense. As far as field trips, they are directly related to what is happening in a classroom. Students that have an IEP and need services can receive them (OT, PT, and speech) if the family chooses to do so. So it would only be for sports.

The Board would like the athletic director to check into this with the league regarding homeschooled students.

This information would be brought to the Board and then if needed to the Policy Committee.

VII. Committee Updates

- A. Policy - no update
- B. Budget - no update

VIII. Recommendations, Questions and/or Comments

IX. Public Comment

N. Chennette asked for clarification on adding to the League bylaws.

She noted that item A. had been skipped. It had been deleted at the beginning of the meeting.

She asked if names of people that resigned were not being reported.

C. Chandler reported that Abbigail Cherry - Paraprofessional and Hannah Guari - RBT had resigned.

X. Executive Session

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:26pm.