

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION SHOWCASE/BUSINESS MEETING
HELD VIRTUALLY NOVEMBER 5, 2020 AT 7:30 PM**

Board Members Present: Anthony Perugini-Chair; Adam Grippo-Vice Chair; Kathryn Hallen-Secretary; Faith Ham, Anne Harrigan, Andrew Martelli, Timothy White (7:40)

Board Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Jeffrey F. Solan, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools; Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Vincent Masciana, Chief Operating Officer

Public access made available through live streaming on the Cheshire Public Schools YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/cheshirepublicschools. Public comments were accepted at CPSCovid19@cheshire.k12.ct.us.

1. CALL TO ORDER – 7:30 P.M.

A. Roll Call for Quorum. The roll was called and a quorum determined.

B. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Mr. Perugini led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. He explained that tonight's meeting is the Elementary School Showcase meeting at Norton School.

2. Special Recognitions

Highland School - Special Olympics Unified Champion School and ESPN Honor Roll

Dr. Solan said they take great pride in being able to meet the needs of all students in our school system. He said it is with an incredible sense of pride that he is introducing this recognition. Highland School is receiving the honor of Special Olympics Unified Champion School as a result of their meeting national standards of excellence in the areas of inclusion, advocacy and respect. He introduced Scott Jeffrey and Erica Bordonaro and members of their core team, who started the unified sports program 3 years ago. Mr. Jeffrey said this program has continued to grow through a grant with the CIAC. Mr. Perugini presented them with a certificate from Special Olympics.

Norton School - Blue Ribbon School

Dr. Solan introduced Kelly Grillo, Principal of Norton School. He reported that Norton School was recognized as one of only four Blue Ribbon Schools in Connecticut this year. A short video was broadcast about the school and its recognition. Connecticut State Representative, Lezlye Zupkus, presented Mrs. Grillo with a special citation and offered congratulations on the honor of being named a Blue Ribbon School.

3. Elementary School Showcase

Tonight's presentation showcased the recently installed remote broadcast rooms which will enable attendees to see and hear what our remote students are experiencing at home. The goal of the broadcast rooms is to provide remote learning instruction that is as similar as possible to in-person learning. In addition, both remote and in-person

attendees experienced the amplification system which is beneficial for all students including those with disabilities. Elementary teachers demonstrated Seesaw, a technology tool/learning management system, as a vehicle to demonstrate the broadcast system. Seesaw facilitates communication between students, teachers and parents and creates a unique way for teachers to provide feedback to students.

4. **Appointment of Director of Pupil Personnel Services**

Dr. Solan said he is happy to recommend Robin-Anne Carey for appointment to the position of Director of Pupil Personnel Services. He said Ms. Carey has spent the last 11 years as the Elementary Education Special Services Supervisor where she has focused on providing exceptional support and care for our students and their families. Dr. Solan thanked the parents, administrators and teachers who helped with the thorough hiring process.

MOTION by Mr. Martelli and seconded by Ms. Ham.

***MOVED** that the Cheshire Board of Education appoint Robin-Anne Carey to the position of Director, Pupil Personnel Services, effective November 6, 2020. Further, that Ms. Carey be compensated in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement between the Cheshire Board of Education and the Cheshire Administrative Personnel.*

Discussion:

Board Members expressed their support of Ms. Carey. Mr. White asked if Ms. Carey will be the principal of Humiston School as well. Dr. Solan said that Ms. Carey will always oversee Humiston School in her role as Director of Pupil Personnel Services, but they are exploring the option of another Cheshire High School administrator taking on the role of Principal. Ms. Carey added that they see Humiston as an extension of Cheshire High School.

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

5. **Discussion/Approval of the Contract between the Cheshire Board of Education and the Education Association of Cheshire**

Dr. Solan began by thanking all of our approximately 400 teachers in the school system, particularly during this time. Our pupils are the beneficiaries of their dedication. He reviewed some of the changes in the contract. He said that Cheshire High School teachers were some of the only teachers in Connecticut who are asked to teach 6 classes. Starting in the 2021-22 school year, one of the six credits shall consist of teacher team collaboration time. Up to 50% of this time can also be used for student individualized support. At the middle school, they have added 2 teacher directed early release days to support collaborative time and meeting individual student learning needs. At the elementary level, we have added 5 teacher directed early release days to support collaborative time and meeting individual student learning needs.

The financial impact of the new contract is as follows:

Year 1 – 1.75% “all in” with no step advancement
Year 2 – 2.56% “all in” (1.23% GWI and 1.33% step)
Year 3 – 2.79% “all in” (1.50% GWI and 1.29% step)
Year 4 – 3.02% “all in” (1.75% GWI and 1.27% step)

Year	Total Salary (*projected)	Increase
2020-2021	\$33,186,550	N/A
2021-2022	\$33,749,000	\$580,450
2022-2023	\$34,612,320	\$863,321
2023-2024	\$35,577,536	\$965,216
2023-2024	\$36,650,341	\$1,072,804

MOTION by Mr. Grippo and seconded by Ms. Harrigan.

MOVED that the Cheshire Board of Education approves the collective bargaining agreement with the Education Association of Cheshire for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025.

Discussion

Mr. Perugini, Mr. Grippo and Ms. Hallen were members of the negotiating committee. Ms. Hallen thanked the teachers for their professional and good faith negotiations. Mr. Grippo said he feels this is a fair agreement. Mr. Perugini thanked the teachers union and the Board and feels this is a reasonable agreement.

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

6. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Grippo, and seconded by Ms. Hallen, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Perugini, Board Chair

Attest:

Carol K. Jesensky, Board of Education Clerk

Filed at the Town Clerk’s Office, Town Hall, Cheshire: 11/17/2020.