

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS MEETING
HELD JUNE 3, 2021 AT 7:30 PM IN TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Board Members Present: Anthony Perugini-Chair; Adam Grippo-Vice Chair; Andrew Martelli, Timothy White

Board Members Absent: Kathryn Hallen-Secretary; Faith Ham, Anne Harrigan

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 the Cheshire Public School's YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/cheshirepublicschools . Public comments were accepted at CPSCovid19@cheshire.k12.ct.us .
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1. CALL TO ORDER – 7:30 P.M.

- A. Roll 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.
- C. Student Representatives. Lucy Helene and Josh Goldstein, student representatives for the 2020/2021 school year, reported on recent events at Cheshire High School.

2. PRESENTATIONS

A. Recognition of Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Dr. Solan presented the Valedictorian and Salutatorian to the Board of Education.

Ryan Michael Shan, Valedictorian

Ryan Shan is the son of Fung Shan and Daniel Shan. Ryan is a conscientious student who has dedicated himself to his academics and to the Cheshire High School community. He has been involved in a multitude of extracurricular activities and leadership roles throughout his high school career. Ryan has served as Class President and as a student representative for Cheshire High School. Ryan's natural ability to lead others, remain organized and advocate for his peers has made him the successful candidate that he has been. It is also important to highlight that Ryan is a talented and dedicated musician. He has performed in multiple prestigious chorus ensembles and demonstrates a true passion for music. On top of all of Ryan's commitments, he has consistently achieved strong academic success in rigorous courses throughout his four years of high school. He is the type of student who welcomes the opportunity to take on a challenge and his efforts are always met with success. Ryan has a calm and kindhearted nature which is quickly apparent to anyone that meets him. He displays gratitude, sets a good example for his peers, and has a maturity beyond his years. It is without a doubt that Ryan's accomplishments in his academic and leadership

experiences will follow him into his future collegiate career as a freshman in the fall at the University of Connecticut where he plans to study Pharmacy.

Grace Yu, Salutatorian

Grace Yu is the daughter of Dong Xu and Zhao Yu. Grace demonstrates a natural intellect and academic drive that has truly made her stand out at Cheshire High School. Grace is a distinguished student who performs exceptionally well in all of her classes and is a leader amongst her peers. One of the things that stands out most about Grace is her dedication and talent in Synchronized Skating. Most recently, Grace was awarded the Platinum Level Graduating Seniors Award by the US Figure Skating Organization. Selection for this award speaks to a skater's continued commitment to succeeding in their athletic and academic endeavors. On top of her immense commitment to figure skating, Grace has also found time to be an active member of her school and community. During her senior year, she was elected the Vice President of Model UN as well as Young Democrats. Grace is also an active member of DECA, The Biden Campaign Fellowship, a church leader, and a co-founder of Cards Against Corona. Grace is able to balance all of her commitments while maintaining her school work, and she manages to do it all with positivity and kindness. In meeting Grace even for a few moments, you will quickly notice how mature and special she is. Grace is so much more than the incredible academic student we see on paper; she is also a kind human being with compassion for others, maturity, and patience. We are very proud that Grace will represent Cheshire High School as part of the incoming freshman class at Carnegie Mellon University starting this fall.

B. Recognition of CABE Student Leaders

Superintendent Solan introduced the recipients of the CABE Student Leadership Awards. These students were selected from among their peers for exhibiting leadership qualities as defined by a list of criteria developed by a subcommittee of CABE's Board of Directors. This year's award recipients are as follows:

Lydia Ghaly	Dodd Middle School
Brady Potyrala	Dodd Middle School
Lucy Helene	Cheshire High School
Joshua Goldstein	Cheshire High School

C. Teacher of the Year

Superintendent Solan explained that, normally, our Teacher of the Year is recognized in August, but because of the pandemic, we are only able to do this now. He introduced Debra Manke, Cheshire's 2020/21 Teacher of the Year. Dr. Solan presented Ms. Manke to the Board. Deb is an Elementary teacher at Norton School and has worked in the district for over thirty years. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development and Family Relations from the University of Connecticut, a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Southern Connecticut State University, and possesses a sixth year Professional Certificate as a Classroom Teacher Specialist with a Focus in Elementary Mathematics. Ms. Manke

is a graduate of the Cheshire Public Schools. She attended Chapman Elementary School, Dodd Middle School and Cheshire High School. Her children also attended Cheshire Public Schools. Deb began her career in Cheshire in 1987 teaching first and second grade. Deb currently teaches math to sixth grade students.

At Norton, Ms. Manke served on the Principal's Advisory Committee and as an advisor to the Student Council. She also served on the District's Personalized Learning Task Force, which developed Cheshire's Vision of the Graduate. Deb has participated in the district's Learning Walks for two years. She committed to this process with great enthusiasm and a genuine desire to grow her own practices, as well as support colleagues from around the district. In her spare time, Deb serves on the Alumni Advisory Board at Southern Connecticut State University, a position to which she was elected. She also volunteers with Theresa's Battleship Foundation, which is an organization that honors the life of Theresa Fitzpatrick, a 2012 graduate of Cheshire High School, by raising funds for clinical trials for childhood cancer research.

A Cheshire educator wrote this about Deb, "This is amazing!" That is what I thought the first time I observed Deb Manke teaching. I have observed thousands of lessons, but her classroom is different. Her sixth graders are connected to math through her infectious enthusiasm, the deep and engaging questioning and personally meaningful learning." Another wrote, "Deb works tirelessly to support each student's path to success. She uses formative assessment to determine each student's precise understanding of the math concepts she teaches. She structures her class to meet the varied pathways to learning so that each minute is maximized and each student works comfortably challenged in their specific zone. Her ability to personalize learning for her math students yields incredible results both academically and social emotionally. Deb has created a classroom environment where her students know that success is afforded and that she will do whatever is necessary to see each of them succeed. They know that she makes it her most important priority to know them as individuals, know their full potential, and motivate them to rise to it. Deb creates classroom systems that make it possible for her most struggling students to get second and third doses of instruction and intervention with her while all other students work together collaboratively to solve problems, find solutions, check each other's understanding, and hold each other accountable for doing their best. Her students take pride in their accomplishments and are true believers that they can do anything, evidenced by the level of success and growth each of her students attains year after year." Deb Manke is an exceptional teacher who embodies the passion of being a lifelong learner. Her dedication to teaching and learning is exemplified in her daily practice. She has a growth mindset. Even during the most challenging days of remote learning, Deb could be heard saying "it's hard, but I am learning so much that I would have never known if we didn't go remote." Dr. Solan said that Ms. Manke is a gifted educator who we are so proud of and lucky to have on our Cheshire Public Schools team.

D. Paraeducator of the Year.

Dr. Solan said that tonight they are recognizing Esther Harvey as Cheshire's recipient of the 2020/21 Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Award. Unfortunately, Esther was not able to attend this meeting; her plaque will be awarded to her at Chapman School. The Superintendent said that per Diana Burns, Chapman Principal, Esther has fulfilled the role of Kindergarten Aide since the position was implemented six years ago at Chapman School. She not only meets the six criteria areas from the National Resource Center for Paraprofessionals, but exceeds the responsibilities of each. As a team member, Esther collaborates with our faculty and is viewed as a leader of the Kindergarten team. She is self-motivated to learn and grow from her teammates in order to build and maintain effective instructional practices in the classroom. Her ability to create meaningful, intimate relationships with each of her students is a gift. Planning learning experiences for children is something that seems to come naturally to Esther. During the school day, Esther and her classroom teacher work together as a team. Esther is a natural at assisting with instruction and has proven to be a successful partner with whomever she is teaching. Esther is skilled in engaging students that are unmotivated in learning. Esther utilizes a variety of different assessments to understand the needs of all her students and how to modify instruction to meet their needs. Esther sets a high bar for professionalism and ethical conduct. She is always on time, has almost perfect attendance and is a role model for others. Esther looks for opportunities to support our school outside of the classroom. For example, this year she volunteered to mentor students as co-adviser of Chapman's student council. Additionally, she organizes socials and games for the faculty, creates bulletin boards, bakes for all and leads our Sunshine Committee. She is always encouraging others, praising the work and efforts of our school community and is a champion for children and education. At the end of the year, she even wrote a children's book to commemorate students' resilience during the coronavirus pandemic, which she gave to all the Kindergarten students. In her personal life, she created the Connecticut Frontotemporal Dementia Foundation and organizes fund raising events to support this important charity.

E. Recognition of Retiring Personnel

Dr. Solan read the bios for each of the retiring teachers. Ms. Booker, Ms. Weed and Ms. Golddapper were in attendance and were presented to the Board. Each retiree receives an engraved pewter plate.

Jane Adinolfi, 20 Years, 2001-2021. Jane earned her B.A. in Special Education-Elementary Education and M.S. in Special Education/Early Childhood Education from Saint Joseph's College and additional credits in reading from Southern Connecticut State University. Jane began her teaching career as an elementary special education teacher in the Hartford Public Schools and taught in South Windsor before having children. As a Chapman parent, Jane was very involved, serving as a member of Chapman's NEASC Steering Committee and Strategic Planning Committee. She was an early ambassador and point person for the Open Choice Program. Jane also served as a substitute teacher for Cheshire Public Schools and as a Religious Education Teacher for Saint Bridget Catholic

Church before being hired as a Special Education Teacher at Chapman in 2001. A skilled teacher and thoughtful colleague, Jane served on numerous school and district wide committees over the years. Jane's students will remember the time they spent in her classroom as one in which they learned much from a teacher who was welcoming and kind.

Denise Booker, 32 Years, 1989-2021. Denise earned her B.A. in Speech Pathology from the University of Connecticut and her M.S. and Sixth Year Degree from Southern Connecticut State University. She has maintained a Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association since 1976. She has mentored students from Quinnipiac University and Sacred Heart University in independent study programs. Denise began her career in New Britain Public Schools and also worked in Plainville and North Haven before being hired in 1989 to work at Highland School. Denise has worked with students with speech and language impairments in the general education classroom setting and support services. She developed a series of inclusive oral language lessons which she presented in kindergarten through sixth grade general education classes. These lessons were presented orally and with sign language. Denise has conducted numerous evaluations over the years and is considered a leader among her colleagues. She has spent countless summers supporting students in summer school and is always looking to improve her skills. A true professional, Denise retires after 32 years of service to the children and community of Cheshire.

Lynn Goldaper, 34 Years, 1987-2021. Lynn holds a B.S. in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of Connecticut and an M.S. in Elementary Education and Sixth Year Degree in Early Childhood from Central Connecticut State University. A lifelong resident of Cheshire and a Cheshire High School Graduate (Class of 1979), Lynn chose to begin her teaching career in her hometown at Doolittle Elementary School in 1987. She was highly involved in establishing the kindergarten model at Darcey School in 1990 and taught there for 21 years. When the district moved to full-day kindergarten, Lynn moved to Norton Elementary School where she has taught kindergarten for the past 7 years. Lynn is the quintessential kindergarten teacher. She is fully committed to meeting the unique needs of young learners through developmentally appropriate practice. Her strengths lie in understanding each child individually, assessing where they are in terms of social-emotional and academic development, and teaching to enhance development in both areas. She establishes relationships with families and fiercely advocates for her students. Lynn is also a special colleague who effectively collaborates with fellow teachers, a true team player. Over the years, she has served on numerous committees including the SRBI (Scientific Research Based Interventions), Principal Advisory, and Safe School Climate Committees. She was also recognized by the Board of Education for her leadership as Captain of Darcey's Relay for Life team for many years. Lynn will be remembered for her kindness and care for each of her students, for effectively preparing her students for first grade, for her deep connections with families, and her loyalty and commitment to the professional learning communities of Doolittle, Darcey, and Norton Schools.

Diane Maisto, 22 Years, 1999-2021. Diane graduated from Albertus Magnus College with a B.S. in Mathematics and earned her B.S. plus 30 from Southern Connecticut State University. She began her teaching career in Amity Regional District #5 where she worked until she started her family. When her children were little, she worked as an IA at Doolittle Elementary School, and in 1999, Diane was hired to teach mathematics at Cheshire High School. Over the past 22 years, Diane has taught Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, Statistics, and A.P. Statistics. She has served on numerous committees, mentored student teachers, and has been a class advisor. Diane is passionate about her subject and her students. She believes all students can succeed in math and makes them believe it, too! Diane has a great sense of humor and her classes are welcoming, and at the same time, challenging. Students in her classes gain confidence in their abilities to master difficult concepts. While the moment is bittersweet, Diane looks forward to spending more time with her husband, children, and four amazing and beautiful grandchildren who are a constant source of joy.

Terri Schulman, 20 Years, 2001-2021. Terri earned her B.S. in Textile Marketing from the University of Rhode Island, an M.S. in Computer Science from the University of Hartford, and a Sixth Year Degree in Educational Leadership from Central Connecticut State University. Terri began her career teaching in Farmington and then moved to Canton Public Schools where she taught Seventh Grade Math, Pre-Algebra, Algebra, and Geometry for 16 years. Terri joined the Mathematics Department at Cheshire High School in 2001 and has taught Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, and Pre-Calculus. She has worked hard to infuse technology into her lessons to expand students' understanding of mathematical concepts. She has been an active member of the Associated Teachers of Mathematics in Connecticut as well as the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics having presented at both conferences. Terri attended conferences annually to bring new ideas to the classroom and make her lessons meaningful and applicable to real-world situations. She has served on the Cheshire Curriculum Council, mentored student teachers, and was a class advisor. Terri looks forward to having more time to follow her "other" passion of directing Children's Theater in retirement.

Andrea L. Sidoruk, 20 Years, 2001-2021. Andrea holds a B.S. in Nutritional Sciences from the University of Connecticut, an M.S. in Public Health from Southern Connecticut State University, a B.S. in Earth Science from Southern, and an M.S. in Education from the University of New Haven. Being an educator was a second career for Andrea. She worked for about 10 years as a Clinical Dietitian before making the career change to education. Andrea was a University of New Haven intern from 1998 to 1999 at Cheshire High School and was then hired as a Science teacher in 2001. Andrea has taught Earth Science, Astronomy, Advanced Placement Environmental Science, and additional Earth Science electives. She was asked to create the Science Learning Lab at the high school, a program that has experienced considerable growth over the years. In 2003, her AP Environmental students won the Rookie of the Year Team Award at the Connecticut Envirothon. Andrea served on the Strategic Research Behavior Initiative Committee, the

Strategic Planning Committee, the Science Curriculum Council Committee, the Health and Wellness Committee, Link Crew, and was also a NEASC co-chair for Curriculum. She was a co-advisor for the Young Democrats, spent many years tutoring students with special needs, and recently had the opportunity to work with the OASIS (Occupational, Academic, Social, Independent, Skills) program. Andrea's strengths lie in her ability to engage students with different learning styles and needs. She is inclusive and kind and makes science interesting!

Cathleen Spignesi, 30 Years, 1991-2021. Cathie earned a B.S in Early Childhood Education, an M.S. in Health Education, and a Sixth Year Degree from Southern Connecticut State University. Cathie worked as a Head Teacher at the New Haven YWCA, a substitute teacher in the Cheshire, North Haven, and Stratford school districts, and as an Instructional Assistant at Highland School before joining the Cheshire Public Schools as an interim teacher at Highland School in 1991. She began at Chapman School in 1992. Cathie has been highly committed to her profession from the beginning of her career. Her strong desire to learn is evidenced by the many professional growth activities in which she participated. She frequently collaborated and reflected with peers, attended conferences, and read professional journals. She served on numerous school and district committees over the years and was a representative of the Education Association of Cheshire. In 1995, Cathie was honored with the *Educating for High Performance Award* for her work in developing a *Cooperative Learning Math Lab* at Chapman. She chaperoned Nature's Classroom for years and her students raised salmon for release in local rivers each spring. Cathie is known throughout the district as an "always positive team player" willing to tackle new challenges, never seeking recognition. Cathie has an innate capacity to relate well to her students and works tirelessly advocating for and empowering each of them.

Mara Weed, 38 Years, 1983-2021. Mara earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Pedagogy at Lambuth College in Jackson, Tennessee, and went on to complete her elementary certification at Memphis State University. She earned an M.S. in Early Childhood Education at Southern Connecticut State University and her Sixth year degree at the University of New England. Mara began her career teaching Music Appreciation at the middle school and elementary music and drama at schools in Tennessee before relocating to Connecticut. In her early years in Cheshire, she taught music rotating among Chapman, Highland, and Doolittle Schools, before settling at Chapman full time, teaching second grade. In 1993, Mara moved to the general education setting at Doolittle where she taught in the first, second, and fourth grades. In 2016, the opportunity to teach music became available at Doolittle, and Mara returned to her first love, teaching music. This switch was a positive one for the entire school because so many events were infused with student performances and beautiful music. Mara challenged her students with difficult pieces and her students responded with wonderful harmonies and exceptional performances. Whether her students performed at Town Meetings, Holiday, or Year-end Concerts, they were prepared. Confidence and joy were evident in their faces and conveyed through their voices. Mara was the driving force behind the purchase of

ukuleles at Doolittle and has taught hundreds of students a beginning knowledge in playing the uke. Mara has worked on numerous school and district committees including the Safe School Climate, Technology, Town Meeting, and Principal Advisory Committees and was a representative of the Education Association of Cheshire. A professional educator in every way, Mara will best be remembered for showing students that change is good in and out of the classroom, as well as instilling the love of music in children.

3. AUDIENCE

Dr. Solan reported that he received an email from a Doolittle parent, Jim Capone, inquiring about the uptick in COVID-19 cases at the school. Dr. Solan said they are working with Chesprocott to examine the increase. There hasn't been a clear answer yet though. Nevertheless, our total number of positives at Doolittle is less than 1 per 100 individuals which is still very low. There may be one case where individuals could have become positive from another positive in school, but the remainder of the cases are not connected to one another.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION by Mr. Grippo; seconded by Mr. White.

MOVED *That the Cheshire Board of Education approves the Consent Calendar as presented.*

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously by those present.

A. Approval of 21-22 Tuition Rates

Each year in accordance with Policy 3240 – Business – Tuition Fees, the Board of Education shall annually establish a tuition fee for non-resident students. The Business Office has calculated the elementary, kindergarten, middle and high school tuition rates using regular education per pupil expenditures. The per pupil elementary school regular education expenditures for the 2021-22 school year, with transportation expenditures removed, is \$12,7999. The high school tuition rate is \$13,408 with transportation expenditures removed. Below is a history of tuition rates for the last few years

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Proposed 2021/22
Full day Kindergarten/ Elementary/Dodd	\$11,487	\$11,587	\$12,759	\$12,799
High School	\$12,294	\$12,366	\$12,895	\$13,408

“That the Cheshire Board of Education establish the 2021/22 tuition fee for non-resident students at \$12,799 for elementary and middle school students and \$13,408 for high school students.”

B. Approval of 2022 Board of Education Meeting Schedule

Board of Education policy and Town Charter provisions require that the meeting schedule of the Board of Education be set on a calendar year basis prior to the beginning of the new calendar year. Presently, the Board of Education schedule is set and has been approved through December 2021. However, for the purposes of planning for the Cheshire Public Schools' 2021-22 academic year, a schedule has been drafted for the period of January 2022 through December 2022 for your approval.

“That the Cheshire Board of Education adopts the meeting schedule for the calendar year 2022, and further, directs the Superintendent to forward the meeting schedule to the Town Clerk and the Town Manager for public notice.”

5. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A. CURRICULUM

I. Curriculum Report

In Ms. Ham’s absence, Mr. Perugini reported on the meeting held June 1, 2021 reporting that Ms. Silano discussed a new textbook to be purchased.

II. Notice of Textbooks for Public Review Prior to Approval

In accordance with Board Policy, the following textbook will be available for public viewing in the Office of Curriculum and Instruction at 29 Main Street from Wednesday, June 2, 2021 through approval and adoption at the Board of Education meeting on June 30, 2021.

Textbook	Publisher	Grade
enVision Algebra II	Pearson	9-12

B. FINANCE

I. Finance Report

Mr. Masciana said this report will be brief. He reported that everything is on track for a smooth closing of the books. The books will be closed at the June 30th fiscal meeting will be closing the books.

Mr. White asked if there are any account overages, if the funds can be moved to medical benefits. Mr. Masciana answered, yes, at this point he believes there may be some funds that can be transferred.

II. Approval of Engagement of Clifton Larson Allen to perform Audit of Student Activity Accounts

Mr. Grippo explained that this item has been discussed for over a year. The Town of Cheshire issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to engage the services of a firm to provide the required audit services for the five-year period beginning 2021/22

MOTION by Mr. Grippo, seconded by Mr. White.

***MOVED** that the Cheshire Board of Education approves the appointment of Clifton Larson Allen LLP to conduct an Internal Control and Operational Review of the Student Activity Accounts at a cost not to exceed \$12,000.*

Mr. Perugini noted he has actually worked with Blum Shapiro (currently Clifton Larson Allen). He stated he has no personal or financial stake in the company. In addition to requesting a proposal for the Town's audit services, the RFP included a request to provide an all-inclusive maximum fee for an Internal Control and Operational Review of the Student Activity Accounts of the Cheshire Public Schools.

Mr. White asked if the accounts that are being audited fall within the normal annual audit. Mr. Masciana answered, yes, but the firm will be providing a much more detailed review of the policies, a comparison of our procedures compared to the policy, and a review of transactions, accounts and reconciliations.

Mr. White asked if this includes coaching permits. Mr. Masciana said no, it is only a financial review.

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously by those present.

III. Discussion/Possible Approval of Revised Agreement with Performance Environmental for Cleaning Services

Mr. Masciana reported that on April 29th, the Board approved a contract extension with Performance Environmental, LLC for one year. Ms. Ham asked Mr. Masciana to contact Performance regarding extending the contract for an additional year. Performance proposed extending the contract for an additional year from 7/1/2022 to 6/30/2023 with a base contract cost of \$784,976. He said that is lower than next year's contract amount. Mr. Masciana said he would recommend extending the contract which would bring the contract to the full five years.

MOTION by Mr. Grippo and seconded by Mr. Martelli.

***MOVED** that the Board of Education extend the contract with Performance Environmental, LLC from 7/1/2022 to 6/30/2023 with a base contract cost of \$784,976.*

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously by those present.

IV. Approval of Increase in School Lunch Prices

Mr. Masciana reported that based upon a recommendation from Erica Biagetti, our Food Services Director, who completed a financial and competitive analysis, the Board of Education's approval is being requested to increase school meal prices to take effect in the 2021-22 school year, as detailed below. He noted that school lunches will continue to be free to all families for the 2021/22 school year. Ms. Biagetti explained the changes to the meal prices.

MOTION by Mr. Grippo, seconded by Mr. White.

***MOVED** that the Cheshire Board of Education approves an increase in the school meal prices effective with the 2021-22 school year as follows:*

- *High School Breakfast – 25 cents*
- *Elementary and Middle School Lunch – 25 cents*
- *High School Lunch – 15 cents”*

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously by those present.

C. POLICY

I. Report on Meeting Held June 1, 2021

Mr. Grippo reported that at the meeting the Committee reviewed policies for second and third readings.

II. Second Reading of Policies

After a comprehensive review by the Policy Committee, Mr. Grippo brought forward Policy 5141 – Student Health Services for a second reading noting that there were no changes since the first reading.

III. Third Reading and Approval of Policies

Policy Committee Chair, Adam Grippo, brought forward Policy 6159 IEP/Special Education Program for a third and final reading, noting no changes since the first reading.

MOTION by Mr. Grippo, seconded by Mr. White.

MOVED that the Cheshire Board of Education give a third and final reading to Policy #6159 IEP/Special Education Program, and direct the Superintendent to put said policy into immediate effect.

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously by those present.

D. SCHOOL MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Martelli reported that they continue to push the message of the school modernization plan out to the community. Three information sessions will be held June 7th, 8th and 9th. Each session is scheduled to be an hour long.

E. OTHER STANDING COMMITTEES

None.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Grippo, seconded by Mr. Martelli.

MOVED that the Board of Education approve the Minutes from meeting held on May 20, 2021”

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Perugini noted that the Board received emails regarding student data privacy and security. Mr. Perugini said that students have access to many devices other than those provided by our systems. He urged families to be mindful in this day and age of cyber-attacks.

Dr. Solan reported that he received an email from a Cheshire resident urging the dropping of a mask mandates for students. Dr. Solan noted that there is an executive order mandating masks indoors. Because of the anticipated high temperatures anticipated next week, they will be dropping the mandate for mask wearing outside.

8. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Solan reported that we have the lowest numbers of the years. In January there were over 1,000 students who were remote-only. Concerned that so many students had missed so much in-person school, the administrators reached out to families to encourage students to attend in-person. Dr. Solan said he is pleased to report that the number dropped by 600 to only 10% remote-only. The Superintendent noted he attended the Grade 8 Washington DC trip and the Junior and Senior proms will take place over the next couple of days. Dr. Solan said next week’s temperatures are expected to be in the mid-nineties for a protracted period. Building temperatures will be monitored and they

may need to dismiss early all schools except Highland (which is air conditioned.) Graduation will be held outside with 4 tickets per graduate. He reported they administered the School Climate Survey in April and May. The participation percentage was lower than in 2019. He said the pandemic had a large impact on school participation. He said the buildings that had the most “normal” atmosphere had the most positive comments. All of the information is available on the district website.

9. **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Chairperson’s Update**

Mr. Perugini said he visited Ms. Wildermann’s cooking class at Cheshire High School where he did a demonstration of how to cook schnitzel. He said it was a great experience.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mr. Martelli, and seconded by Mr. White, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 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: 7/9/2021.