



TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

Hicks Municipal Center
Council Chambers
Tolland, CT 06084

VISION STATEMENT

To represent education at its best, preparing each student for an ever-changing society, and becoming a full community of learning where excellence is achieved through each individual's success.

BOE GOALS

- Ensure the completion and implementation of the Portrait of a Graduate Report.
- Foster a culture and climate that supports high levels of learning and engagement, promotes mental and physical wellbeing, and leads to individual student success.
- Assess our district needs and advocate for resources to meet them, while pursuing non-traditional sources of revenue, ensuring a quality education for all students.
- Nurture and support an inclusive community where every person, regardless of their identity, is acknowledged and respected. This will ensure that Tolland students have the necessary resources to thrive at school, in the community, and in our diverse world.

REGULAR MEETING

7:30 PM

AGENDA

November 18, 2020

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86358441213?pwd=dUJPbnVDV3BoZW1MT1ZlZ1F1K21XZz09>

Meeting ID: 863 5844 1213

Passcode: 5FgfFH

Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 863 5844 1213

Passcode: 582724

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86358441213?pwd=dUJPbnVDV3BoZW1MT1ZlZ1F1K21XZz09>

A. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A.2 BOE Action/New BOE Members

B. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- October 28, 2020
- November 10, 2020

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (2-minute limit)

The members of the Tolland Board of Education welcome members of the public to share their thoughts and ideas at this time. When appropriate to do so, members of the Board and the administration may respond to comments during "Points of Information". However, in consideration of those in attendance and in an effort to proceed in a timely manner, follow-up discussion may need to take place outside of the meeting setting.

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. POINTS OF INFORMATION

G. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT – Alexandra Costa and Simar Grewal

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- H.1 ELA Presentation - Barbara Daly-Byrnes ELA Supervisor (no enclosure)
- H.2 Monthly Financial Report
- H.3 FY2020 Tuition Rates
- H.4 BOE action with respect to new members (no attachment)
- H.5 Mental Health TC Committee (no attachment)
- H.6 Update Policy 5140

I. COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

J. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

K. BOARD ACTION

- K.1 2021 BOE Meeting Dates

L. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (2-minute limit)

Comments must be limited to items on this agenda.

M. POINTS OF INFORMATION

- Town Council-Meeting Minutes –October 27, 2020
- November 10, 2020

N. FUTURE

O. NEW BUSINESS

P. ADJOURNMENT

TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION ZOOM Meeting

REGULAR MEETING – October 28, 2020

Members Present: Ashley Lundgren, Chair; Christina Plourd, Vice Chair; Tony Holt, Secretary; Renie Besaw, Christine Griffin, Kate Howard-Bender (left 10:50 PM), Jacob Marie, Karen Moran, Dana Philbin (arrived at 9:25 PM)

Members Absent: none

Administrators Present: Dr. Walter Willett, Superintendent of Schools

A. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Lundgren called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was observed in honor of Mr. Bob Lynch and Sgt. Stephen Bresciano.

B. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Ms. Howard-Bender motioned to add item H.5 to the agenda, Discussion: Making Zoom participation available to residents going forward on a permanent basis.

Ms. Moran seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Ms. Lundgren requested clarification. Ms. Howard-Bender explained that because of the increased accessibility for residents she motioned to add H.5 to the agenda, a discussion of making Zoom participation a permanent fixture even after the Board moves out of the pandemic status. Ms. Plourd commented that she believes this is a discussion for the Policy Committee before it goes the Board and would likely not vote to add it to the agenda this evening. Ms. Besaw asked if the proposal is to have Zoom always on even if they return to Council Chambers. Ms. Howard-Bender responded that this is correct.

A roll call vote was taken.

	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Lundgren	x		
Plourd		x	
Holt	x		
Besaw			x
Griffin		x	
Howard-Bender	x		
Marie	x		
Moran	x		

Motion passed.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- October 14, 2020

Ms. Howard-Bender motioned to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2020 meeting. Ms. Plourd seconded the motion.

Change: item K1, last paragraph (after motion), replace, "Ms. Plourd requested that Dr. Willett have a discussion with the town about the lift it already has. Ms. Moran asked if Ms. Plourd knows that the town has one. Ms. Plourd responded that she believes so based on Dr. Willett's comment." with "Ms. Griffin requested that Dr. Willett have a

discussion with the town about the lift it already has. Ms. Moran asked if Ms. Griffin knows that the town has one. Ms. Griffin responded that she believes so based on Dr. Willett's comment."

A roll call vote was taken.

	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Lundgren	x		
Plourd	x		
Holt			x
Besaw	x		
Griffin	x		
Howard-Bender	x		
Marie	x		
Moran	x		

Motion passed.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Peter McCann, 30 Holly Road, commented that he e-mailed many members of the Board including Dr. Willett about the back to school full time plan starting on Monday. He would like to understand why the current hybrid option is no longer an option. He believes it has been good for his kids. He has a 6th grader and an 8th grader who attend TMS and they feel comfortable and safe. He believes his son's homeroom class has 17 kids right now so they are required to wear a face shield as well as a mask but it is the only class that he is asked to wear the face shield and the mask. In the rest of his classes he is able to just wear a mask. Mr. McCann's daughter does not have any classes where she has to wear the face shield but he is guessing with the full-in that this will be more of a requirement. With safety obviously being the number one concern he is confused why an option that many parents and the community are happy with is no longer an option. He recalls completing a Google survey where he praised the Board and the Superintendent because hybrid is working. His kids get to see their teachers and can work from home. He explained that it is not a perfect scenario but believes it is asking parents to put their kids in a difficult position. They either have to say "no" which the kids will hate them for to look out for their safety or they have to send them to school and God forbid they get sick they have to live with that and the repercussions. Mr. McCann added that he knows that not many kids are getting sick but there are kids that are and he would like to hear the rationale from the Board.

E. CORRESPONDENCE

- E-mail advocating continuing partial in-person; writer is concerned that this period coming up includes both the Thanksgiving holiday and the Halloween holiday and families will be gathering
- E-mail concerned with the loss of lunches with the middle school and high school schedule; author asks for Board consideration with the shortening of school days in an attempt to have full in-person classes
- E-mail from a parent upset that the PIP option was being removed
- E-mail requesting that the Board be "sincere in their planned upcoming priority setting"
- E-mail concerned with the removal of the PIP given the potential effect of the upcoming holidays

F. POINTS OF INFORMATION

- Dr. Willett responded to Mr. McCann's question. He explained that for each of the education option periods they sit with a number of stakeholders and look at a lot of information. They take into account considerations from the Eastern Highlands Health District (EHHD), the Department of Public Health (DPH), facilities, staff, teachers, paraprofessionals, transportation personnel, and others. They try to provide the best possible options within what they can logistically manage. Safety is of primary importance as well as students' social, emotional, and academic health. Executing and providing a quality educational experience is important as well. One reason they do not offer a multitude of options is because logistically, when working with staff, it would be difficult to have too many different modalities. If they are overwhelmed by the logistics they cannot focus as well on the safety and execution of the programs. The program is being offered with the advice and input from the stakeholders. The 4 day option provides the benefit of getting kids in front of their teachers many more days while still retaining the remote learning Wednesday which provides extra cleaning time and a break in exposure. Regarding the 6th – 12th graders, having the modified schedule provides those students an opportunity and time to be together with teachers and others such as counselors while mitigating and minimizing the risk as much as possible. Based on data the district is in a good place to provide 4 day in-person education which is beneficial for students. Dr. Willett reviewed how beneficial it has been for grades K-5 to attend school in person. He respects every family's decision. In reviewing the information it became clear what could be executed responsibly and what would be most beneficial for students at this time given the prevalence of the virus in the county and schools.
- Ms. Howard-Bender commented that she is in agreement with correspondence from a resident. She asked Board leadership if they are planning to hold any Board meetings in the middle or high school classrooms. She believes it would help to the members understand what being all-in would be like. She recommended holding the November 11th meeting in a classroom.
- Mr. Holt thanked Dr. Willett, the Board members, and parents. For the past 3 months he was working in Australia and returned home late Monday. While he attempted to attend as many meetings as possible and do his duties as a Board member, a few things had to be picked up by others and he would like to take this opportunity to voice his appreciation for the help that was provided.
- Ms. Lundgren addressed Ms. Howard-Bender's question. Ms. Lundgren spoke with Dr. Willett and the problem is that with FOIA if you do not have enough space for the public that attends it becomes an issue in terms of not having the public allowed into the session. This is why the Board held a meeting in the THS library where the space was available. If they were to hold a hybrid meeting it would need to be held in a large space to avoid being in violation.

G. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT – Alexandra Costa & Simar Grewal

- Student Council held Mental Health Week this week and it is continuing into next week to increase participation; the school is decorated and gift baskets have been made where students can pay up to \$5 to purchase the baskets; the money collected will be donated to the National Alliance on Mental Health

- Comment: Some THS classes have 30 students so there will not be a lot of social distancing so students would like to see a plan regarding how they will sanitize areas and ensure safety.
- PSAT will be administered tomorrow to freshmen, sophomores, and juniors; everyone wishes them luck; seniors will work from home
- Clubs – they are considering ways to hold meetings in-person
- Question: Will there be more cleaning measures in place for the new pandemic period?

Dr. Willett explained that the Tolland Public Schools Pandemic Continuity of Learning Plan describes operations and how issues are being addressed. In regard to cleaning, the plan allows more opportunity for cleaning and keeping students socially distant in places such as the cafeteria. The DPH has provided guidelines and with PPE and tracking efforts they are able to provide a safe educational environment. The plan is consistent with DPH guidance and has EHHD support.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

H.1 COVID Update

Dr. Willett reviewed attachment H.1.

Dr. Willett noted that the information provided is as of Friday. He explained that the DPH is finding that outside contacts, rather than within schools, is what is affecting most of the impacted school systems. The cooperation of families and the community has been wonderful in keeping everyone safe. The county has a threshold of 10/100,000 on a 7 to 14 day rotation to move to the hybrid model and they are not at that at this time with respect to the county. They are in a good place right now. Dr. Willett provides updated data weekly on the blog. Dr. Willett reviewed the data on remote learners in the district per school.

Ms. Griffin commented that she believes it is important for students to have as much face time as possible. She expressed concern about the asynchronous Wednesdays and asked if there is a way for grades 6-12, or more specifically for grades 9-12, to have more synchronous learning with teachers in the buildings on Wednesdays via live streaming their classes. What additional resources would the cleaning crew need in order to be able to maybe get this done from 11:00 AM on so that the deep cleaning can be done? She reiterated that she is especially concerned with the high school students because their classes will be over in the third week of January and they have lost a fair amount of instruction time.

Dr. Willett explained that he spoke with the administrative unit and they are doing an overview of the Google classrooms and evaluating the remote/asynchronous Wednesdays. He expects to have the results in about 10 days. In terms of having cleaning crews start at 11AM, the district would not have the resources to do the cleaning that is expected and in keeping within the expected guidelines. While they would not necessarily need additional material resources, they would need to increase staff by up to 100%. It is a constantly evolving process and they are always looking for ways to make things more engaging while keeping the structure that is keeping everyone safe.

Ms. Griffin asked if an option may be to hire some of the student part time workers, the summer custodians. Dr. Willett responded that they have added to LTS custodians, similar to subs, and are continuing to look at other options to increase efficiency while watching the bottom line. Ms. Griffin noted that this would be a good case for the COVID emergency fund.

Mr. Marie thanked everyone for following the guidelines and keeping the school district as healthy as it is. He asked Dr. Willett to elaborate on the DPH and the red zones and trends. Dr. Willett explained that the State of Connecticut has identified a new methodology where it will add a new review of conditions at the town level and has re-released Addendum 4. They are using the proportion of new cases per population over 14 days in towns to identify whether they feel there is a problem in a specific town. A red alert for a town, if it reaches a certain level of prevalence for its population, would result in the recommendation that more protective measures be taken in the municipality and an adjustment of phases and sector rules. He added that schools within such towns are still provided with more leeway because of the plans in place.

Ms. Lundgren asked how the decision would be made if the district were to return to the hybrid or remote option. Dr. Willett explained that it can happen due to a variety of factors such as exceeding the level of 10 in every 100,000 in a 7 to 14 day rotation or average, although he believe the average is increasing to a greater number of days. He explained that the recommendations are for 10-25 that a district consider more hybrid and over 25 that a district go remote. He noted that he would consult with the EHHD and as the Superintendent would likely never go against their recommendations. Dr. Willett added that if there is a population within a school that is COVID positive or there are a number of close contacts this could send a large population of the district out on quarantine.

Ms. Plourd commented that in TRAC over the summer the primary indicator was a 10-25 threshold for the county. She asked if this has been changed with the red alert to now go by town rather than by county. Dr. Willett responded that it is now both but they give more leeway to school systems within a town. A new layer has been added rather than the taking away of prevalence indicators.

Ms. Howard-Bender commented that the Wednesday planning day or the asynchronous learning is one of the primary reasons that the district has been able to stay open. Both of her children have had multiple meetings and synchronous learning activities and opportunities on Wednesdays. She added that as the Board they should be asking how to support teachers, staff, and students to improve the quality of virtual learning and increase student engagement and not asking for more in-person time. Hiring more cleaning staff will be pointless if an outbreak occurs. Wearing masks and shields all day is exhausting for teachers and students and it is a challenge to balance the technological requirements of providing for in-person students and remote learners. Wednesdays give everybody a little breathing room. She is worried the middle and high school students will not be able to maintain the necessary social distance given the size of classrooms and the number of students returning to school 4 days a week. She added that schools that have been fully in-person have been able to stay open because 20%-30% of the student population elected to stay remote. Dr. Willett's data indicates an

average class size of 22-23 students and this worries her. She asked if the DPH has considered testing wastewater for indicators. Dr. Willett responded that he does not know about the wastewater testing. The DPH and EHHD talk about a series of mitigation strategies. The rationale is that if a series of these strategies are in place and there is an inability to social distance up to 6' per person, other mitigations can help with the balance. Many factors put students at a significant risk level for many things when they are not in school. This is what is being balanced, and the DPH and EHHD are saying that right now much of the seasonal illness will not be COVID. Thus, it makes sense to mitigate the impacts of students not being in school. The decision has to be regarding what is more perilous for the student population. Right now, and for this region, the greater risk is not having students in school.

Ms. Howard-Bender asked if there are any plans to do COVID testing in the schools. Dr. Willett provided information on antigen rapid testing and noted that it is not as accurate as PCR testing. He does not believe it would be made available to Tolland in the short term and would want to see how it is working in other places in considering how to approach it here. They are following the DPH and EHHD guidelines which include that if someone shows COVID-like symptoms a PCR test can be administered, or an alternative diagnosis from a doctor is provided, or a student and/or staff member remains out of school for 14 days.

Ms. Moran commented that she appreciates Dr. Willett's slow, measured, and data-driven approach to the reopening efforts. She explained that she is concerned about the high school and middle school class sizes. She appreciates the Wednesday remote cleaning day. She asked if there are still staffing challenges in filling positions and added that she is not in favor of using students for cheap labor. Dr. Willett responded that in terms of staffing they are in a better place and are constantly working on this.

Ms. Besaw thanked Dr. Willett for all he is doing to come up with the best solution. She likes that students will have more face time with the teachers but is still concerned about loss of instruction time. She understands what Ms. Griffin noted about Wednesdays and has heard residents comment that Wednesdays have not been as great as they could be. Ms. Besaw supports the measures Dr. Willett is taking to evaluate this and if students cannot do synchronous learning for a couple of hours in the morning what can be done to make it more enriching?

Mr. Holt asked if the numbers stay the same if the plan is to stay at 4 days indefinitely or if there is another level. Dr. Willett responded that the Tolland Public Schools Pandemic Continuity of Learning Plan has another level which is 5 days. In order to reach that level there would need to be some significant shifts in the surrounding districts and Tolland's prevalence to stay at least the same for a span of time. The Wednesday would be lost as a remote and cleaning day. He added that the availability of a vaccine could send the district to the 5 day level. Mr. Holt noted that he is in support of the 4 day plan but wanted to understand the entire picture.

Ms. Plourd commented that she has spoken to many people about the Wednesdays and as a working parent of a kindergarten student she likes the asynchronous Wednesdays. It gives her student the opportunity to attend his daycare which is in their inner circle so

they are not increasing their risk by going elsewhere. Ms. Plourd explained that the struggle is that if there is synchronous learning then her student is not screen-free. She added that in another district one teacher is doing synchronous teaching from home and holds online office hours. Perhaps this could be done at the higher grades if people feel there is a disconnect. She believes Wednesdays have been part of the district's success but agrees that there has been a loss of learning time. She added that if students were hired to clean the schools she would entirely trust them.

Ms. Howard-Bender asked if Dr. Willett has any feedback from school administration, students, and teachers about how Wednesdays are going. She commented that anecdotal and random screening sampling from people is being cited and she would like to know if there is any evidence. Dr. Willett responded that he speaks to administrators about this and they are always evaluating programming. In reports he has received, administrators are not reporting that they have received many complaints about the asynchronous remote Wednesdays. The information he got back was that they were fairly positively received. He added that there are feelings about asynchronous as well and some families feel these are needed and appreciated. Ms. Howard-Bender commented that she wanted to remind the Board members that they should be asking how to support and improve the quality of virtual learning and increase student engagement, not passively pushing for more in-person time. She added that she is annoyed that they are not listening to the teachers and administrators.

Ms. Griffin clarified that she is not looking to have in-person Wednesdays. She is strictly asking Dr. Willett if there is a way that Wednesdays could be enhanced and if synchronous is an option.

Simar Grewal commented that Wednesdays have been relieving. Teachers assign work and answer e-mails quickly. It also gives the students a break. It is hard to learn when they cannot really do group work and are always wearing masks. It is a good mental health break especially when high school students are going through the college process and have been pushed into wearing masks and social distancing. She likes having lighter work on Wednesdays because of the mental health break and everyone deserves it.

Alexandra Costa commented that most of her teachers are holding office hours so if they want to have synchronous work or speak with them they are available. She added that it has been helpful and as a member of B group she has been able to catch up because working at home is not always the most productive. Not having to be online at a particular time has given her the opportunity to do other things.

H.2 CRE Report (no attachment – presentation in meeting)

Dr. Willett provided an overview of the presentation and noted that it reflects what is currently happening.

- What and Why: Culturally Responsive Education
- Reflection on practice is ongoing
 - Education – CRE Fundamental Understandings
 - Implementation
 - Reflection
- Beating Bias

- Piaget – Schemas
- Senge – Mental Models
- Availability heuristic
- Retraining the biased brain
- CRE: Education – Fundamental Understandings – Ground Rules for Adults/Staff
 - Difference between safety and comfort
 - Everyone has a right to safety
 - Comfort is not assured or even desirable
 - Practice self-soothing
 - Do not ask a “minority” member to re-live trauma for the education of the group, find alternative ways to get at the same content
- Responsiveness to inequity
 - Tolerance, Respect, Solidarity
- What do you tolerate?
 - Moving from Tolerance to Respect & Understanding
 - It is about understanding difference, recognizing bias, and working to eliminate systemic inequities.
 - Moving from Equality to Equity
 - Video: Marley Dias talks Instructional Racism (video, NEA, <https://youtu.be/4M-5V8uUtKA>)
- Culturally Responsive Education
 - Recognizing BIAS within ourselves
 - Recognizing how systems can perpetuate disadvantage
 - Moving from tolerance to respect and understanding
 - Cultural Skills Development
 - Responsiveness to issues of inequality
 - An education system that discourages systemic inequity
- TPS CRE Efforts
 - Staff presentations and trainings
 - Presentations for other organizations/state
 - Culture and Climate sub-committee work
 - Surveys, data review, and planning
 - Curriculum
 - Embedded literature
 - Partnerships and cooperative activities
- CRE Implementation 2016-2017
 - District meetings on CRE
- CRE Open Choice Participation 2016-2017
- CRE: Implementation – Safety
 - Objectives
- 2018-2020
 - School practices will go into implementation in the 2018-2019 year with constantly ongoing review
 - Culture and Climate Committees plan school activities and reflections
- 2018-2021

- Establishment of workshops in the schools and community that provide ongoing opportunities for discussion and reflection
- Establish relationships and partnerships
- Dr. Willett's presentations at CREC workshops
- SKA2020 – some results (Skills for Adolescents)
- Year 1 Goals – SEL (social emotional learning)
 - Educating admin and teachers about what SEL and EI are. Brief exposures to the concept and impact on education
- Year 2 Goals
 - Educating admin and teachers about SEL and EI and how it is critical to facilitate learning
- Year 3 Goals
 - July 2021 attend RULER Training
 - Implement RULER with admin and teachers (staff)

Questions/Answers

Ms. Lundgren asked what kinds of programs are available for the Board regarding cultural awareness and related discussions.

- Dr. Willett explained there are many programs that are offered by the Capital Region Education Council and other groups. They are happy and willing to work with boards of education. He can set these up for the Board.

Ms. Howard-Bender asked when there was the gap, and they did not have the class or focus on culturally responsive education, if Dr. Willett knows of any issues and what the students missed.

- Dr. Willett explained that during some difficult budget years (2008-2010) they lost Skills for Adolescence and other programs. The loss of the programs had an impact and they saw an uptick in unproductive behaviors in students. He felt a need to address the trend in undesirable behavior. Dr. Willett noted that they are on a better trajectory than when the programs were lost and efforts are ongoing.

Ms. Howard-Bender asked about the graduates and the perspectives they provided about when they leave Tolland and the bubble that is Tolland.

- Dr. Willett responded that students, of their own volition, used the term "bubble" to refer to Tolland. They felt that things were different when they went into the world and that they were not prepared – not academically per se but in working with diverse groups of people. There is a subset of the group he works with that do not feel that they can have public conversations because they felt marginalized and no longer want to interact on the topic. Other graduates are helping provide information and the district has been able to make significant adjustments. Dr. Willett noted that the district is working on creating a Common Ground club. He added that he appreciates the hard work that has been done by staff, administrators, and paras. The main thing he has done is listen to the lived experiences. They all deserve any credit.

Ms. Moran asked if the RULER training is through Marc Brackett from the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence. She attended a presentation at a CABE conference and noted that it was helpful.

- Dr. Willett confirmed that it is and provided general information.

Ms. Moran asked how the Board can continue to support the Superintendent, administration and staff and set them up for success. Administrators need to know that the Board supports them and this is continuous work.

- Dr. Willett responded that the Board can support the efforts by participating and engaging in activities and being part of the evolution so there is common understanding of issues.

Ms. Philbin arrived at 9:25 P.M.

Ms. Plourd commented that she saw the presentation a couple of years ago and had an even greater appreciation for it this time after having read some of the books recommended by Dr. Willett. One of those books was *Reign of Error*. One takeaway that she had from the book may help some members of the Board and the public understand where she is coming from when looking at the budget and seeking efficiencies. An educational system tied to property taxes will always divide rich from poor and unfortunately in Connecticut that means black from white. She explained that this was part of her letter to the Governor. She recommended that a workshop or discussion in some of the committees would allow more time for conversations. Ms. Plourd commented that she does not want to push people out or keep people out and added that in her heart this is the best way to stop systemic racism.

- Dr. Willett explained that author Diane Ravitch has presented a lot of work on this. He added that there are a number of books the Board could read and discuss if the members would like to do so.

Ms. Griffin commented that this presentation is a great way to start the conversation. She asked if the graduate group that Dr. Willett is working with had any feedback on if what he had done since 2016 has been a step in the right direction and if they provided input on what they would like to see in the schools.

- Dr. Willett explained that he has received feedback but many are not as accessible. He has received both positive and constructive feedback and he will continue to incorporate this in programs such as VOICES in the future. More recent graduates have offered feedback on curriculum which is informative and helpful. He listens and thinks of what he can do to make a difference.

Mr. Marie commented that he agreed with Ms. Plourd and spoke from his personal educational experience in the Tolland schools. Specifically, he spoke about the influence of some of the literature in English class and having long conversations about books like *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. He would like to see those programs continue. They were helpful and impactful in his life. He asked if the presentation is available for later viewing.

- Dr. Willett noted that it will be posted on both the dashboard and the website.

Ms. Lundgren commented that this has been a great initial conversation and is something that is always evolving. She asked that the presentation be posted to both the dashboard and the website for the public.

H.3. BGP Ed Specs for Code Violation for Unsuitable Soils

Dr. Willett reviewed attachment H.3 and provided background information.

It is expected that the State of Connecticut will reimburse the cost (\$1.9M) at 100% and the process requires that there be another small committee. Its purpose is to evaluate and complete the ed specs for the unsuitable soils. The unsuitable soils item is considered to be a code violation. In order to move forward the district had to complete an SCG-1030 Ed Specs form for the project. The Board of Education needs to move this forward so the documentation can be moved forward to enable the Town of Tolland to receive reimbursement.

Dr. Willett reviewed the Educational Specifications Birch Grove Primary School Code Violation Project for "Unsuitable Soils" dated October 19, 2020. He recommended moving item H.3 to action.

*Ms. Howard-Bender motioned to move item H.3 to item K.4 for action.
Ms. Plourd seconded the motion.*

Discussion

Mr. Holt commented that it seems to be a trend to have items that have to be reviewed and approved immediately or the state will withdraw funding. Dr. Willett explained that it is in response to the emergency project request and the foundation being seen as an emergency status project. In this case the state is trying to give the town \$1.9M to cover the cost of the code violation (unsuitable soil). It requires a short term turn around but it is towards getting the \$1.9M covered at 100%.

Ms. Moran asked if this is related to the mini committee formed due to the unsuitable soils. Dr. Willett explained that this is correct. The unsuitable soils had to be done as a different project. The small committee is to execute this as a separate project to address the code violation.

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

H.4. 2021 Board of Education Meeting Dates (first reading)

Dr. Willett reviewed attachment H.4 and provided background information.

At the last meeting there was a recommended policy change to move the meeting time to 7:00 PM. This is being put forward as a first read of the dates but the Board's decision to change the time from 7:30 PM to 7:00 PM if the Board decides to do so in action this evening would affect this document. This is the first read of the dates.

Dr. Willett explained that the Board, at its discretion, can move this to action alongside or right after they change the time if the Board decides to do so. Another option is to

make the second read on the dates at the next meeting and either change or not change the time in action. Right now in action the second read of the policy is if they are changing the time from 7:30 PM to 7:00 PM.

H.5 Zoom Participation Discussion

Ms. Howard-Bender explained that she would like to discuss the possibility of the Board continuing to offer Zoom, not as a replacement, to residents as a way for them to stay involved in meetings. They have seen an increase in engagement and she believes this is good for students and the Board.

Mr. Holt commented that he agrees with Ms. Howard-Bender and Zoom has allowed him, over the past couple of months, to participate in meetings he would not have been able to attend otherwise. He explained that Policy 9160 includes a section on telephonic participation which needs to be updated. It could be changed from telephonic to remote and allow Zoom meetings. Ms. Lundgren commented that this item could be a policy conversation for the subcommittee.

Ms. Moran commented that this evening there have been 30-35 participants and if they were in Council Chambers they would not have had this attendance. Over the years it has always been an issue to engage parents in what is happening at this level because of childcare or other issues. A positive thing out of the pandemic is that people have been able to engage in meetings. They should embrace technology and 21st century skills for the board and adults.

Ms. Lundgren asked Mr. Holt to address this in the Policy Committee and add it to the policy tracker.

Ms. Howard-Bender motioned to extend the meeting past 10:00 PM.

Mr. Marie seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

I. COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

Finance and Facilities – Ms. Griffin provided an update. She noted that the Committee discussed items including: review of the September numbers (budget to actual), COVID-related grants and expenses, capital budget request, FFC doing facility tours.

Ms. Moran recommended that the entire Board do facility tours after COVID. Boards have done this in the past.

Negotiations – Ms. Besaw noted that they are working with the para union and have set up some dates.

Birch Grove Building Committee – Ms. Philbin provided an update. She noted that discussions included the following: unsuitable soils and the related committee, site walks, the mock room.

J. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – none

K. BOARD ACTION

K.1 Policy 9130 – Time, Place and Notice of Meetings (second reading)

Dr. Willett explained that moving the Board meetings from 7:30 PM to 7:00 PM to be done as a Board action revision to Policy 9130 and is offered to the Board of Education through the attached document. The motion would be to change the start time of Board of Education meetings from 7:30 PM to 7:00 PM.

Ms. Plourd motioned to change the start time of the Board of Education meetings from 7:30 PM to 7:00 PM and amend policy 9130 accordingly.

Mr. Marie seconded the motion.

Discussion

Ms. Philbin commented that it was 7:30 PM because of some of the working members had said in the past, when meetings were in Chambers, that it was challenging. Because of COVID, Zoom has provided several members an opportunity. In the Zoom world 7:00 PM works for her but in the non-Zoom world in Chambers 7:30 PM has been tight for her. She added that she received feedback from families that it was easier to attend in Chambers at 7:30 PM because they were able to address things at home first.

A roll call vote was taken.

	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Lundgren	x		
Plourd	x		
Holt	x		
Besaw	x		
Griffin	x		
Howard-Bender		x	
Marie	x		
Moran		x	
Philbin		x	

Motion passed.

K.2. Policy 1041 – Green Cleaning Programs (second reading)

Ms. Plourd motioned to amend board policy 1041 to include:

Pursuant to subsection (a)(2)(A) of section 10-231g of the Connecticut General Statutes, any disinfectant, disinfecting cleaner, sanitizer or any other antimicrobial product approved by federal law

after item 5, and to add

“Guidance Regarding ‘Green Cleaning’ Requirements and Coronavirus/COVID 19,” Department of Administrative Services (March 5, 2020), available at <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Digest/2019-20/2020-COVID-19-Green-Cleaning-Guidance.pdf>

after the listing of CGS 10-220 and 10-231.

Mr. Marie seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

K.3. Board of Education Goals

Ms. Plourd motioned to approve the Board of Education Goals for 2020-2021.

Ms. Besaw seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Ms. Moran requested that "POG" be spelled out as Portrait of a Graduate in item 1.

Ms. Moran requested that the goals be included on the Board's agendas going forward.

Dr. Willett will format the minutes to include them.

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

K.4. BGP Ed Specs for Code Violation for Unsuitable Soils

Ms. Plourd motioned to approve the Educational Specifications document for the Birch Grove Primary school foundation project under renovate as new status, and to accept and authorize this project to be executed.

Ms. Philbin seconded the motion.

Ms. Plourd withdrew her motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Plourd motioned to approve the Educational Specifications document for the Birch Grove Primary Project Code Violation and Unsuitable Soils project, authorizing all necessary applications and waivers.

Mr. Marie seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

L. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Kate Vallo, 80 Tolland Green, thanked Dr. Willett for his presentation on CRE. She has had the pleasure of participating in some rich discussions around these topics with administrators and teachers. She added that it is heartening to hear that the work is ongoing and that connections are being made with social emotional learning and emotional intelligence in the district as these are inextricably intertwined. She strongly supports the continued exploration of these topics at the Board level and it is encouraging to hear that the Board is exploring these possibilities. The district is fortunate to have a Superintendent that not only supports growth in the schools but also in the boardroom. She thanked everyone.

Colleen Yudichak, 12 Blueberry Hill Road, commented that at the startup both teachers and staff have been very responsive to questions. Mr. Poland has been a great new principal and is very responsive to e-mails. Wednesdays are a great day for students to follow up as noted by the Student Representatives. She added that goals are good to have on the agenda. Past boards have always included them so at the start of meetings the members can review the goals to themselves and be reminded as to why they selected them in the first place. Ms. Yudichak explained that with seasonal changes many students have asthma and may have a dry cough and go to the nurse's office. She asked Dr. Willett how the nurses distinguish if it may be COVID. She is concerned about overreaction if someone sneezes or coughs.

Brenda Falusi, 4 Laurel Ridge, noted that she is commenting as a parent and not a member of the Town Council. She explained that she wants to provide perspective about Wednesdays. They did not discuss the break that they allow for remote learning students. She has a child who is 100% remote learning because she has an autoimmune disorder. To have the one day when she is not sitting at her computer all day in her bedroom is a great break for her. It allows her some flexibility and accountability and self-growth. She is accountable for her own learning at that time and for reaching out to the teachers. Wednesdays allow her to get out of the day what she puts in. At the beginning of the year, she was putting in minimal effort to finish her assignment and Ms. Falusi challenged her to try to find out how she can expand on what was given to her by her instructors so she can take what was offered, explore her own learning path, and engage with her instructors for a more enriching experience. It has been huge success for her. She is growing and learning how to advocate for herself. She is learning how to expand what is given to her by her instructors. Ms. Falusi commented that the liaison for the remote learning parents has been a phenomenal help and resource. Thus, Wednesdays are excellent for remote learners. They provide a break in routine and the schedule as well as an opportunity to grow as individual and independent learners.

M. POINTS OF INFORMATION

- Town Council – Meeting Minutes – October 6, 2020
- Town Council – Meeting Minutes – October 13, 2020

Dr. Willett addressed Ms. Yudichak's inquiry. He explained that some students have either existing conditions or what is called an alternative diagnosis. He used the example of asthma and explained that typically the school is aware of this and would not result in a student being out. If a student has additional symptoms, COVID-like symptoms, they will follow the protocol set out by the health district. Nurses will look at all of the conditions and make a determination.

Ms. Moran read the following:

After nearly seven years serving on the Tolland Board of Education, I have made the decision to resign, effective immediately, and upon receipt of my resignation letter by the Town Clerk.

Advocating for the growth and well-being of children of all abilities in our community to help prepare them for the future has been my mission throughout my years serving as a volunteer for Tolland Public Schools. I have been privileged to be a steward of this community and our school system, and honored to support our administrators and educators in our journey to serve Tolland's youngest generation. Modeling responsibility, accountability and passion has been core to my mission.

Thinking back to my early days in our school system as an active PTO member and president while raising a young family, it was all about the kids -- not just my kids, but everyone else's kids in our schools. How could we support our students, educators and administrators to drive towards positive experiences and achievements?

That's what inspired my initial passion, and still does. And ironically, now as a parent of a child who has successfully gone through our school system and graduated, I feel even more qualified as a contributing member, to the success of our students today than ever before.

This journey has granted me years of experience and access to data, diverse perspectives and deep discussions. Over the years, I valued the historical and institutional knowledge of veteran board members before me and learned from them. Whether Democrat, Republican, or Independent, we had deep discussions together with our Superintendent, and worked hard to build consensus among us. I am proud of that work and honored to have made a difference alongside them. If nothing else, I know that I served through *principles* over politics...through respect for our experts and not personal agendas.

I would like to thank our superintendent, Dr. Walter Willett, for his tireless leadership, humility and poise, no matter the challenge. I would like to thank our administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, secretaries, counselors, nurses, custodians, cafeteria staff, and especially our students - for they are the ones who were my ultimate motivation to carry on. And to our Student Reps, past and present, I thank you for your dedication on the board as the voices for all of our students. Please continue to use your voices, for it is our youth that will lead us into the future. I wish you all good luck wherever your path takes you.

I look forward to continuing to support our community and school system in other positive ways. Thank you Tolland for your faith in my service - I hope you are listening to the words between these lines.

Lastly - I will just say that this decision did not come lightly. It goes against every fiber of my being not to fulfill my commitment to our community, to our superintendent, and to our students -- so I say to the Tolland Community -- I hope you are really listening to my message. The narrative being built behind the scenes and on social media, before the Board can work together as a collective group, is an insult to this work, and an insult to our students and staff who are relying on us to make thoughtful decisions for our district.

When our young adults are disappointed with the behavior of adults - again I say - I hope Tolland is listening.

Ms. Lundgren thanked Ms. Moran for her service. Seven years is nothing to laugh at and is a very long time to give to one's community. Ms. Moran commented that it was a tough decision for her. Ms. Lundgren responded that she is sure it was not an easy decision. Ms. Moran provided a lot of information and providing one's time for 7 years is a lot. Ms. Lundgren thanked her for everything. Ms. Moran commented that she has had a lot of passion for the Tolland community over the years and it is a great place to live. She hopes they can move forward.

Ms. Plourd commented she is sorry to see Ms. Moran go. She knows they have not always gotten along and have battled at the table at times.

Ms. Plourd commented in regard to Ms. Yudichak's inquiry about the health concern. When she was in the COVID meeting some of the administrators said that there are a lot of kids staying home who do not need to stay home. Ms. Plourd wanted to point anyone listening to the virtual health room where parents can assess their children at home and keep in touch with the nurse and this has been working. When students go remote and teachers do not expect it this creates more work for the staff. She added, that like Dr. Willett said, if students can be in school it better for them.

Ms. Philbin thanked Ms. Moran for her thoughtful words and all of the service she has provided to Tolland Public Schools, the community, and the students of Tolland. She will be greatly missed on the Board and has served as a great mentor for Ms. Philbin as well as many others who she is sure will approach this endeavor in the future.

Ms. Philbin addressed Ms. Falusi's comment on the Wednesdays. Based on feedback Ms. Philbin has heard, many teachers in the younger grades are reaching out to the remote students who do not necessarily have one-on-one time or close teacher interaction in the classroom. Some have Zoom meetings where they meet with students who are struggling on a specific topic or similar items. Wednesdays are helpful for students to regroup, format their own day, and reach out to their respective educator so they may continue their education on their own path.

Mr. Marie thanked Ms. Moran for all of her time on the Board. He has been on the Board for less than a year and it is a challenge. Sometimes it feels like an unpaid job. To serve for 7 years is real dedication to the community and he wished her well in her future endeavors.

Ms. Besaw commented that she echoes the comments of Mr. Marie and others. She wished Ms. Moran the best and added that it is unfortunate. They are just getting started with the negotiations and she understands that Ms. Moran's historical knowledge is very helpful. She added that Ms. Moran will be missed despite the fact that they do not all always see eye to eye on everything. Ms. Moran lends a good voice and Ms. Besaw wishes her the best.

Mr. Holt thanked Ms. Moran for her service. His time on the Board and in reading past minutes has shown that Ms. Moran's passion is obvious and amazing. He appreciates this and sincerely hopes that she will continue to be a resource for those members still on the Board.

Ms. Griffin commented that she echoes what others have said and thanked Ms. Moran. This past year for Ms. Griffin has been overwhelming and she thanked Ms. Moran for the 7 years she has served. While they have not always agreed, Ms. Griffin knows firsthand that Ms. Moran is very passionate and cares a lot about the schools of this community. Ms. Griffin has full faith that Ms. Moran will still be a good resource. Ms. Griffin looks forward to still having conversations with her and wished her the best wherever her public service life takes her.

Ms. Howard-Bender commented that Ms. Moran has been a mentor and amazing.

Ms. Howard-Bender read the following:

Dear Tolland Community,

Thank you for trusting me to serve you as a member of your Board of Education. At this time, I regret to inform you that I will be resigning from my position as a Board of Education member, effective tomorrow. I will be sending this letter to Ms. Palumbo tonight, and it is my expectation that after reading it in full, my entire letter will be placed in the Board's minutes.

I sincerely hope that I have served you well these past two years, and I come to you with a heavy heart. I had hoped that my twenty-three years as a public educator, during which I assumed the responsibility of ensuring that my students had what they needed to be successful academically and personally, would help me to be of service to the children of Tolland.

STUDENT NEEDS & BUDGETING

The Republican supermajority's goal of "supporting 21st century skills," would have required proactive planning with regard to intervention, curriculum, staffing, and perhaps most importantly, access to technology. The Board of Education majority has expected education funding to come from anywhere else except for the Board of Education budget. The students in the town of Tolland are dependent upon the generosity of outside agencies or the respective wealth of their own family.

Under Chairperson Lundgren's and Vice-Chair Plourd's leadership, the Board has not asked the educational experts the most essential question, "What do the children of Tolland need in order to be successful?" There is no big-picture understanding of the needs and priorities of the Tolland Public Schools, upon which the Board should base all of its decisions, including the creation of the budget. Instead, the rhetoric has been, "Where else can we cut?"

Through "Budget Season," Dr. Willett facilitated the yearly workshops and the Board engaged in multiple budget "discussions." Not one member of the Republican supermajority missed any of these budget sessions, during which the Board members deliberated over minute details, to no significant financial advantage. Dr. Willett found savings when he negotiated with insurance agents.

A Board of Education should advocate for the needs of the children with the Town Council. Instead, your Chair and Vice-Chair have allowed the Town Council to dictate the next moves. At the last Joint Session before the pandemic hit, instead of advocating for the approved Board of Education Budget, Chairperson Lundgren and Vice-Chair Plourd simply deferred to the Town Council to further pick apart the Board of Education's budget.

Neither Chair nor Vice-Chair attended the Town Council meeting last night, 10/27/20, to advocate for the school system's capital projects. Chairperson Lundgren is not fulfilling the responsibility of "representing the full 15,000 town residents." This Board of Education has been used as a tool to avoid costs at all costs, at the expense of students' needs: academic, social-emotional, athletic, inclusion, educational tools, material et al.

I blame the Chair and the Vice-Chair for the fact that our district was unprepared to transition to distance learning, with only enough individual devices to serve 43% of our students. This was due to their short-sighted mismanagement and micromanagement. It is not reasonable for the Board to expect that parents spend hundreds of dollars to supply their children with the tools to access their education, especially during a pandemic. Dr. Willett suggested funding a 1:1 device initiative early in the budget year, but it was not prioritized by the Republican leadership. Dr. Willett warned the Board of Education about potential device supply chain issues, upon which the Leadership took no action. When the pandemic hit, Republican Leadership waited for someone else to solve the device problem, instead of collaboratively seeking out solutions. The device deficit was addressed by state grants that Dr. Willett wrote, and a sizable donation from TEPTO. The narrative of fiscal minimalism promoted by the Chair and Vice-Chair, combined with the "back to basics" orientation, have directly and negatively impacted our kids. This Board of Education majority is solely motivated to reduce the mill rate, versus ensuring quality schools, as articulated by their duties in Connecticut State Statute 10-220.

HEARING ALL VOICES

In November, 2019, once the Republican supermajority voted themselves into the Chair and Vice-Chair positions, Chairperson Lundgren offered some words at our initial meeting, saying that "discussions are needed as some of the best ideas come from different people collaborating. These discussions need to take place civilly so all voices are heard."

I agree with her: democracy only works when all voices are heard. However, the Republican majority began our term with a partisan agenda, and pre-prescribed outcomes, undercutting democracy. There has been no real discussion or "hearing all voices." Evidence quickly began accumulating that the Board's supermajority is not interested in hearing anyone's voices other than their own. The sole leadership position offered to Democrats was offered to a brand new member of the Board. Though the member's skills are multitudinous, offering a Leadership seat to the least veteran Democratic member demonstrated the new Republican

Leadership's unwillingness to include the voice and expertise of a returning member, who previously served as Vice-Chair.

When the Curriculum Committee was added to the Board of Education, as a professional educator with decades of experience evaluating and implementing curriculum, I hoped to lead the committee. It was clear to me however that the Republican leadership had different plans for their committee. It was only after I sent my resume with my professional and educational background, and requested a meeting with Chairperson Lundgren that the Chairperson relented and appointed me the Chair of the Curriculum Committee. I still wonder which other member Ms Lundgren would have appointed to this chairpersonship, whether it be the UConn student, the accountant, or the pharmaceutical sales representative. These occupations do not prepare a person to oversee and make curricular decisions or recommendations for a school district. The fact that the Board majority assumes they can make these decisions without the education and training the Superintendent and his staff possess is a sign of the pervasive disrespect for educators that seems to run through the Republican Majority.

Those who do not agree with the Republican supermajority are ignored or repudiated. In January and February of 2020, the Board received communication from 195 residents in support of Dr. Willett's proposed budget, combined with the majority of public participants supporting the budget, as opposed to with seven residents who requested a lower budget. Your voices as constituents were ignored, and the supermajority plodded on, scrutinizing, second-guessing, and opposing each detail of Dr. Willett's proposed budget, leading to another reduction in staff and services.

Disagreement is often labelled "push back" and is quieted quickly by a cacophony of seemingly synchronous Republican voices. This recurring tactic of discrediting or discounting voices contradicts Chairperson Lundgren's original plea to "engage the community...hoping that we ...get correspondence from a variety of people." One can only conclude that she only wants correspondence from people who share her views.

While the budget sessions had perfect Republican attendance, four of the nine Board members attended TPS's "Voices From Our Schools" discussion, with a solitary Republican Board member in attendance. This occurred in the wake of nationwide equity demonstrations; and after the Board received a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion petition signed by 358 residents in July. Students, parents, residents, and members of this Board have repeatedly requested action, but there are still no Republican Leadership-driven inclusion or diversity agenda items. Dr. Willett has continued this life-saving work, engaging current and former students in discussions and community-based initiatives promoting equity and inclusion. The Republican Leadership recently asked him to present this information, further abdicating their responsibility for action on inclusion and equity.

The Democratic minority was promised "good communication," but we are informed of the agenda items only after it has been officially published. The Republican Leadership team has not given Ms Moran, Ms Philbin, or me the opportunity to contribute to the Board's agenda. The Democratic minority has been subject to a calculated, structural, and procedural marginalization. Furthermore, this marginalization has led to the systematic disenfranchisement of community members. Our multiple attempts to lend our voices to the discussion have gone unanswered or ignored by the Chair and Vice-Chair. My involvement in the Board of Education meetings has become futile.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Building consensus among divergent perspectives is another hallmark of democracy. I learned that the Board of Education should act with one voice. The Board should have determined goals at the start of our term in order to work together toward a common cause and to nurture that "one voice". I am glad to see that these goals have been finally approved, and I strongly urge the Board of Education to use them as guideposts.

Seemingly unaware of their roles and responsibilities, the Republican supermajority does not demonstrate any appreciation for the vast expertise and historical knowledge of Dr.

Willett, A Board of Education has one direct report employee, the Superintendent; and the Chair and Vice-Chair should engage him in constructive, student-centered interactions, yielding ever-better results for the students of Tolland. The Chair and Vice-Chair are supposed to support the Superintendent in his role of running the district efficiently and effectively, not to assign additional unreasonable, time-consuming demands, or to interrupt his attempts to run our district on the shoestring budget that they demand.

Chairperson Lundgren suggested to all of us that we should “listen to understand not simply to...reply,” and I agree. Asking tough questions is absolutely part of the role of elected officials. The supermajority often claims that they are “asking the tough questions” about the town’s resources. However, when they receive the answers to these questions, replete with the supporting evidence, they have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the answers and evidence. Instead of listening and learning, the Republican majority of this Board has peppered Dr. Willett with repetitive and/or uninformed questions.

INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS & PERSONAL AGENDAS

Chairperson Lundgren requested that we be kind and patient with one another. I would point to the yearlong litany of examples of lack of civility and kindness perpetrated by members of the Republican caucus to me, to Ms Moran, intermittently to Ms Philbin, and to Superintendent Willett. I point to the personal attack that I endured on social media by Vice-Chair Plourd (which I attempted to mediate with Ms Plourd, to be essentially dismissed), or the email harassment by Ms Griffin’s husband. I brought my concerns to Chairperson Lundgren, to no avail.

Despite having a supermajority on the Board of Education, Vice-Chair Plourd regularly espouses a victim narrative that she is giving voice to the unheard, which is especially absurd and insulting to those who have been paying attention. In the past year, Vice-Chair Plourd regularly hearkened back to the previous Board, stating that she was an “outlier,” and was unheard or dismissed. Surprisingly, she has not used that experience of feeling unheard to ensure that the minority voices are heard during this term.

The Policy Committee attempted to address civility issues with a Civility Clause. There were some very good ideas in this clause. However, I saw no point in adopting the final version of the clause because the final version was poorly engineered: it contained neither accountability measures, nor any social media stipulations. The Chair and Vice-Chair could have used this clause as an opportunity to build consensus and buy-in from the entire Board. Instead, it was yet another powerplay, and it was approved without consensus, in a vote of 4-3, following an extended discussion which distracted us again from our primary purpose: discussing and ensuring the needs of students.

The most egregious example of the supermajority’s personal agendas superseding their constituents’ needs was the three separate communications sent to State officials, including the Governor and the Commissioner of Education. These communications questioned a Superintendent’s role in making the final decision about returning to school during the pandemic. Though it was determined to be “legal” based on caucus rules, I believe this move was sneaky and unethical. Vice-Chair Plourd stated at our first meeting “that a lot of (our) business will be done in this board room and (she) is sure that leadership will reach out to the minority representation when needed.” The Democratic minority was not afforded the opportunity to weigh in on this extremely important issue. Through these actions, these six elected officials seemingly circumvented the public requirement of their role, and they undermined the Superintendent and the authority of the Board as a whole.

In Open Session, in front of you, the Board of Education voted overwhelmingly to approve Dr. Willett’s community-supported Partial In-Person plan. The supermajority’s subsequent electronic communications to State officials again disenfranchised the Democratic members of the Board of Education and the residents of Tolland. Their letters did not relay the “one voice” that your Board should communicate, making their “aye” votes appear utterly disingenuous.

CONCLUSION

I anticipate that this letter will be dissected, rehashed, and spun by all the various players to fit the narratives of the supermajority. I hope that the Board directs their collective, representative energy to advocating for our students' needs instead.

Thank you to the teachers, administrators, and support staff who do more than their fair share to make the schools work for our kids. I see you, and I support you.

I would like to thank Dr. Willett for his absolutely tireless service to the children, staff, and families of Tolland. My departure is wholly due to the poor Republican leadership of the Board of Education, and is no reflection on Dr. Willett whatsoever. My voice is not valued by the Republican members of the Board of Education. I cannot fulfill the responsibility for which I was elected, given the dysfunction of this Board of Education.

I ask that we, as the residents of Tolland, hold our elected officials accountable for the following:

1. The Town Council should cooperate with the Democratic Town Committee to appoint new Democratic members to the Board of Education. Given how quickly the vacant Town Council seat was filled, precedent for swift action has been set. Failure to move quickly would be further confirmation that the Republican supermajorities in town are not interested in the people who are represented by Democratic elected officials.
2. The Curriculum Committee should be disbanded until a Curriculum Director or Assistant Superintendent is hired.
3. As two new members join the Board of Education, this could be an opportunity for the supermajority to diversify leadership and committee membership on the Board, in order to more fully represent Tolland, and to demonstrate that they are willing to work with their Democratic colleagues.
4. As budget season again commences, all Board of Education members must stay laser-focused on their roles, prioritizing the needs of Tolland students, with the newly minted goals as a touchstone. Once the budget is set, then the Town Council should do their due diligence to fund quality education.

Thank you to the parents and students of the Tolland Public schools for your confidence. I am truly humbled by the positive feedback and constructive support that I have received. I apologize for not finishing my term. I ask that we all stay engaged to encourage and support our Board members to fulfil their duties and responsibilities to us, the citizens of Tolland.

I wish you all continued health, and I remind you of Lyndon Baines Johnson's words, that "education is not a problem. Education is an opportunity." "The main hope of a nation lies in the proper education of its youth" (Erasmus). Our kids are depending on all of us to guide them to becoming the best possible version of themselves. Let us, too, be the best role models we can be.

Most sincerely,

Kate Howard-Bender

Former Board of Education Member, Mother, High School Administrator, Teacher, Community Member

Ms. Howard-Bender left the meeting at 10:50 PM.

Ms. Lundgren commented that she is sorry Ms. Howard-Bender feels this way and thanked her for her service.

Simar Grewal thanked Ms. Moran and Ms. Howard-Bender for everything they have done. They are an inspiration and hopefully one day she too can have a tremendous positive effect like they have had on the community. Both made her feel welcome and "thank you" is not enough for everything they have done. Ms. Moran thanked her and wished her the best in school. She added that she is sure she will do wonderfully and thanked her for her voice.

Alexandra Costa thanked Ms. Moran and Ms. Howard-Bender for their service. They have been an inspiration to her and she is grateful that they considered students when making decisions. They will be missed. Ms. Moran thanked her and wished her well with all of the college stuff. She will do great.

Ms. Philbin commented that she wants to mimic what she said to Ms. Moran and hoped that Ms. Howard-Bender was listening. They have both been great mentors and leaders in the community. She will continue listening and hearing constituents and fighting for all Tolland's students and constituents. Ms. Moran and Ms. Howard-Bender have paved the path and have been great role models for what a board member and a volunteer for the community should look like. She thanked them for their passion, their dedication, and their time that has been spent serving the Tolland community. She added that what the student representatives said was beautifully spoken and she thanked them for their kind words.

N. FUTURE

Dr. Willett will set up:

- Update on CRE efforts, Equity Efforts
- School rounds/tours (briefings/tours/debriefings)
- Mental Health Services Initiatives (presentation and discussion)
- School Bus Stop Safety (presentation)
- Portrait of a Graduation / Visioning (presentation and discussion of initiatives)
- Pathways and Lighthouse Programs
- Understanding by Design (presentation and discussion)
- Regionalization (presentation and discussion)

O. NEW BUSINESS - none

P. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Marie motioned to adjourn the meeting 10:55 p.m.

Ms. Plourd seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Pascuzzi
Clerk

Summary of Board Meeting 11.4.20

November 10, 2020

Board Members present:

Ashley Lundgren

Jacob Marie

Christina Plourd

Approximately 11:33 a.m.

Meeting called to order.

Motion to go into executive session made by A.Lundgren, seconded by J. Marie.

Approved 3 -0.

Moved that the Board enter executive session to discuss a confidential student matter.

The Board invited the following individuals (in addition to Board members and its counsel, Jessica Ritter) into the executive session:

Walter Willett, Superintendent

Attorney Elissa Bartlett for the Administration

Student who is the subject of the hearing and her mother

Mr. Poland, Principal

Approximately 11:53 a.m.

**Everyone excused for Board deliberations,
except for Board counsel, Jessica Ritter.**

Approximately 12:02 p.m.

**Meeting resumes. All meeting participants
return. A.Lundgren makes the following
motion in open session:**

**Moved that the Tolland Board of Education accept the agreement entered into between
the Family and the Administration.**

Seconded by C.Plourd

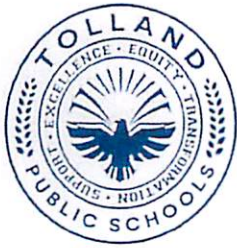
Motion approved 3-0.

Approximately 12:05 p.m.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Ritter



TOLLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

51 TOLLAND GREEN • TOLLAND, CONNECTICUT 06084
860-870-6850 • FAX 860-870-7737
OFFICE OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Walter Willett, Ph.D.
Superintendent

H.2

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Mark S. McLaughlin, Tolland Public Schools Business Director

RE: Monthly Financial Report for October 2020

Date: November 18, 2020

CC: Walter Willett, Ph.D. Superintendent of Schools

Please find attached the monthly financial report for the FY 2020-2021 fiscal year. The month of October 2020 is the 4th month of the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The monthly financials for this school year may look a little different due to the COVID pandemic but the goal remains to provide for student needs and success. The attached report is only a temporary financial snapshot identifying four months of activity. As with any financial report generated during the school year, not all purchase orders have been created, not all materials purchased and not all staff hired. This monthly financial attachment is provided in an object format to clearly show the adopted budget and the YTD expenditures. This summary report provides the essential groups of accounts so the BOE can better understand the functional areas of the budget. The object line items follow the reporting format required by the State Dept. of Education. The line items show the approved budget, 4 months of expenses, encumbrances and available balances as generated through the financial software.

Since this report identifies many line items such as salaries, health insurance, FICA/Medicaid & Social Security, retirements, legal and audit services, utilities, tuition, transportation, textbooks, professional services etc. have not all been encumbered or spent. This is normal for this time of year. The budget balance of \$1,907,775 will be converted into encumbrances or expenditures over the next several of months.

The attached October 2020 financial report shows an available balance of \$1,907,775 or 4.77% of the BOE's current budget. As previously stated, this amount will reduce over the next several months. It is extremely important to understand that this available balance is a normal occurrence considering the worldwide COVID19 pandemic. Currently the timing of budget spending, needs of the students and expense patterns are cyclical in nature. Throughout the year items such as transportation and special education tuitions can have adjustments. Some line items cannot be encumbered and will always have available balances such as substitutes, overtime, course reimbursement, consultants, unemployment compensation, workers compensation, and severance.

Considering the worldwide pandemic, the current school budget is impacted both positively and negatively. There could be additional financial shake out on the current and long-term budget resulting from the impact of the virus. Since the virus continues, all preventative measures will also remain in place. The continued impact from the virus will change how we track, spend, monitor, and educate our students. The situation remains fluid and changes are based on health guidelines, government closure or reopening directions and the safety of the community. The Superintendent will be the focal point to distribute information when it becomes available.

In a typical year, the budget is built 18-20 months from implementation, based on the best know data and assumptions from the town, state of Ct, grants, interest rates, market conditions, contracts, negotiations, Department of Ed. Mandates, and professional services etc.

The Budget for FY20-21 was Town Council approved for \$40,017,290. The BOE is anticipating spending the allocated budget by year-end in accordance with CGS 10-222. As in the past, any budget balances, may be returned to the town or the BOE will request to transfer the balance to the Educational Reserve Fund after final approval. It is anticipated that the district will receive the first excess cost payment in February 2021 from the state. The second payment is due in May 2021.

Tolland Public Schools

MM OBJ A Expenditure Report Summary (by OBJ - ???)

From Date: 7/1/2020

To Date: 10/31/2020

Fiscal Year: 2020-2021

☐ Subtotal by Collapse Mask

☒ Include pre encumbrance

☐ Print accounts with zero balance

☒ Filter Encumbrance Detail by Date Range

☐ Exclude Inactive Accounts with zero balance

Account Number	Description	GL Budget	Range To Date	YTD	Balance	Encumbrance	Budget Balance	% Bud
0100.0000.110.00.000.1	Salaries	\$22,522,117.53	\$5,082,519.39	\$5,082,519.39	\$17,439,598.14	\$17,098,056.59	\$341,541.55	1.52%
0100.0000.120.00.000.1	Substitutes	\$367,228.00	\$39,499.48	\$39,499.48	\$327,728.52	\$1,091.00	\$326,637.52	88.95%
0100.0000.130.00.000.1	Overtime	\$218,870.00	\$87,001.36	\$87,001.36	\$131,868.64	\$7,020.83	\$124,847.81	57.04%
0100.0000.150.00.000.1	Stipends	\$389,839.90	\$46,983.48	\$46,983.48	\$342,856.42	\$423,701.91	(\$80,845.49)	-20.74%
0100.0000.190.00.000.1	Pension/Severance	\$205,561.00	\$53,187.44	\$53,187.44	\$152,373.56	\$50,098.40	\$102,275.16	49.75%
0100.0000.200.00.000.1	Employee Benefits	\$535,750.00	\$269,683.37	\$269,683.37	\$266,066.63	\$227,048.08	\$39,018.55	7.28%
0100.0000.210.00.000.1	Health/Life/Disabl Ins	\$5,252,093.00	\$1,884,241.54	\$1,884,241.54	\$3,367,851.46	\$3,236,250.37	\$131,601.09	2.51%
0100.0000.220.00.000.1	FICA/MED/Soc Sec	\$727,048.40	\$149,908.08	\$149,908.08	\$577,140.32	\$439,663.45	\$137,476.87	18.91%
0100.0000.240.00.000.1	Retirement (ICMA)	\$262,917.61	\$62,086.29	\$62,086.29	\$200,831.32	\$165,420.96	\$35,410.36	13.47%
0100.0000.250.00.000.1	Course Reimbursement-Degree Ch	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	100.00%
0100.0000.260.00.000.1	Unemployment Compensation	\$50,981.00	\$15,228.12	\$15,228.12	\$35,752.88	\$85,227.00	(\$49,474.12)	-97.04%
0100.0000.270.00.000.1	Workers' Compensation	\$265,612.00	\$128,467.35	\$128,467.35	\$137,144.65	\$128,470.77	\$8,673.88	3.27%
0100.0000.300.00.000.1	Purch Prof & Tech Svcs	\$55,842.00	\$25,658.88	\$25,658.88	\$30,183.12	\$0.00	\$30,183.12	54.05%
0100.0000.310.00.000.1	Benefits Consultant Services	\$65,280.00	\$17,428.30	\$17,428.30	\$47,851.70	\$26,390.00	\$21,461.70	32.88%
0100.0000.320.00.000.1	Prof Educ Svcs	\$241,004.00	\$32,067.00	\$32,067.00	\$208,937.00	\$166,547.75	\$42,389.25	17.59%
0100.0000.330.00.000.1	Professional Tech Svcs	\$34,482.00	\$5,965.78	\$5,965.78	\$28,516.22	\$15,638.40	\$12,877.82	37.35%
0100.0000.340.00.000.1	Legal/Audit/Consult Svcs	\$203,145.00	\$44,610.17	\$44,610.17	\$158,534.83	\$90,730.96	\$67,803.87	33.38%
0100.0000.350.00.000.1	Tech Services	\$470,460.50	\$293,732.80	\$293,732.80	\$176,727.70	\$50,040.40	\$126,687.30	26.93%
0100.0000.410.00.000.1	Sewer/Water	\$33,931.00	\$33,931.00	\$33,931.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
0100.0000.420.00.000.1	Cleaning/Rubbish Services	\$135,458.00	\$24,936.56	\$24,936.56	\$110,521.44	\$60,777.78	\$49,743.66	36.72%
0100.0000.430.00.000.1	Repair and Maint Svcs (Facili	\$246,783.00	\$29,033.03	\$29,033.03	\$217,749.97	\$26,324.56	\$191,425.41	77.57%
0100.0000.440.00.000.1	Rentals	\$173,565.00	\$55,811.37	\$55,811.37	\$117,753.63	\$74,615.44	\$43,138.19	24.85%
0100.0000.510.00.000.1	Student Transp Svcs	\$2,808,995.00	\$253,554.41	\$253,554.41	\$2,555,440.59	\$2,673,008.52	(\$117,567.93)	-4.19%
0100.0000.520.00.000.1	Property/Liability Insurance	\$204,069.00	\$101,106.95	\$101,106.95	\$102,962.05	\$90,011.24	\$12,950.81	6.35%
0100.0000.530.00.000.1	Telephone/ Postage	\$66,870.00	\$14,509.95	\$14,509.95	\$52,360.05	\$34,582.11	\$17,777.94	26.59%
0100.0000.540.00.000.1	Advertising	\$18,000.00	\$7,745.00	\$7,745.00	\$10,255.00	\$14,352.00	(\$4,097.00)	-22.76%
0100.0000.550.00.000.1	Printing and Binding	\$19,327.00	\$7,206.32	\$7,206.32	\$12,120.68	\$691.23	\$11,429.45	59.14%
0100.0000.560.00.000.1	Tuition Educ Agency	\$1,844,555.00	\$320,038.90	\$320,038.90	\$1,524,516.10	\$1,516,219.97	\$8,296.13	0.45%
0100.0000.580.00.000.1	Travel and Conference	\$26,159.00	\$2,054.51	\$2,054.51	\$24,104.49	\$3,274.00	\$20,830.49	79.63%
0100.0000.590.00.000.1	Public Officers & State Troope	\$91,994.00	\$3,413.14	\$3,413.14	\$88,580.86	\$2,500.00	\$86,080.86	93.57%
0100.0000.600.00.000.1	General Supplies	\$140,753.00	\$25,821.28	\$25,821.28	\$114,931.72	\$17,813.10	\$97,118.62	69.00%
0100.0000.610.00.000.1	Instr Supplies/Mat'ls	\$317,986.37	\$76,081.94	\$76,081.94	\$241,904.43	\$72,564.81	\$169,339.62	53.25%
0100.0000.620.00.000.1	Energy	\$1,611,759.00	\$1,422,070.90	\$1,422,070.90	\$189,688.10	\$184,558.06	\$5,130.04	0.32%
0100.0000.640.00.000.1	Textbooks	\$121,123.99	\$49,790.88	\$49,790.88	\$71,333.11	\$8,146.87	\$63,186.24	52.17%
0100.0000.650.00.000.1	Films and Videos Supl	\$1,050.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,050.00	\$0.00	\$1,050.00	100.00%
0100.0000.660.00.000.1	Computer Software	\$44,690.00	\$44,699.55	\$44,699.55	(\$9.55)	\$1,355.00	(\$1,364.55)	-3.05%
0100.0000.690.00.000.1	Misc Supplies	\$49,059.00	\$4,077.45	\$4,077.45	\$44,981.55	\$9,403.22	\$35,578.33	72.52%
0100.0000.730.00.000.1	Equip Instruct - New	\$89,734.00	\$30,557.75	\$30,557.75	\$59,176.25	\$311,410.81	(\$252,234.56)	-281.09%
0100.0000.760.00.000.1	Equip - Spec Ed - Instr - New	\$850.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$850.00	\$0.00	\$850.00	100.00%
0100.0000.810.00.000.1	Dues and Fees	\$52,346.95	\$30,594.01	\$30,594.01	\$21,752.94	\$21,205.75	\$547.19	1.05%
Grand Total:		\$40,017,290.25	\$10,775,303.73	\$10,775,303.73	\$29,241,986.52	\$27,334,211.34	\$1,907,775.18	4.77%

End of Report

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA ITEM BACKGROUND

ITEM: Tuition Rates

ITEM SUBMITTED BY: Walter Willett, Ph.D., Superintendent

FOR BOE MEETING: November 18, 2020

ITEM SUMMARY:

As per Board Policy 3070, approved on June 8, 2005, the district administration must set **tuition rates** (for students seeking to be educated in the Tolland Public Schools from outside of the district) for each fiscal year in accordance with the per pupil costs of the preceding year.

These tuition rates are not tuition rates for a specialized program that the Tolland Public Schools may create in the future as such program(s) may have their own tuition costs and rates. The tuition rates presented as per Policy 3070 are specifically for a student coming into Tolland for an educational program.

	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Annually</u>
Grades K-2	\$488	\$17,797
Grades 3-5	\$514	\$18,770
Grades 6-8	\$522	\$19,058
Grades 9-12	\$486	\$17,723
TALC Program	\$486	\$17,723
Special Education	\$1,025	\$37,422

These rates are based on the actual expenditures during the prior school year plus a percentage increase to absorb any additional cost of changes due to student enrollment in the current year.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

BOARD ATTORNEY REVIEW:

N/A

BOE ACTION DESIRED:

Review.

RECOMMENDED BOE MOTION:

N/A

SUPPORTING MATERIALS ATTACHED:

None.

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA ITEM BACKGROUND

ITEM: 5140 Student Use of the District's Computer Systems and Internet Safety

ITEM SUBMITTED BY: Walter Willett, Ph.D., Superintendent

FOR BOE MEETING: 11/18/2020

ITEM SUMMARY:

Board Policy 5140 covers the student utilization of computer systems, with further articulations as part of the associated regulation. Both are included for Board of Education and review and update. Old language is signified by *red* text and ~~strikeouts~~ with *blue* or *italicized* text as new / updated language. These have been reviewed by the Superintendent and Director of Information and Educational Technology, as well as the Policy Committee.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY: N/A

BOARD ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

BOE ACTION DESIRED:

When ready, move to action.

Proposed Motion: *Motion to approve the amendments to Policy 5140, and recognize the associated regulation changes.*

Second. Discussion. Vote

SUPPORTING MATERIALS ATTACHED:

Policy 5140 Student Use of the District's Computer Systems and Internet Safety (pending draft)
Regulation 5140 Student Use of the District's Computer Systems and Internet Safety

TOLLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Tolland, Connecticut

BOARD POLICY

REGARDING: Student Use of the District's Computer
Systems and Internet Safety

Number: 5140
Students

Approved: 2/28/01
Revised: 6/08/05
Revised: PENDING

~~Computers, computer networks, Internet access, and e-mail are effective and important technological resources in today's educational environment. The Board of Education has installed computers, a computer network, including Internet access and an e-mail system (referred to collectively as "the computer systems"), in order to enhance both the educational opportunities for our students and the business operations of the district.~~

~~These computer systems are business and educational tools. As such, they are made available to students in the district for education related uses. The Administration shall develop regulations setting forth procedures to be used by the Administration in an effort to ensure that such computer systems are used by students solely for education related purposes. The board will educate minor students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response. Additionally, the Board will implement a technology protection measure to block or filter internet access to visual depictions that contain obscene material, contain child pornography, or are harmful to minors and ensure that such filtering technology is operative during computer use by minor students.~~

~~As the owner of the computer systems, the Board reserves the right to monitor the use of the district's computers and computer systems.~~

Legal References:

~~Children's Internet Protection Act, Pub. L. 106-554, Codified at 47 U.S.C.
& 254(H)~~

~~Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 53a-182b; 53a-183; 53a-250~~

~~Electronic Communication Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C §§2510 through
2520~~

~~No Child Left Behind Act Of 2001, Pub. L. 107-110, Codified at 20 U.S.C. § 6777~~

~~Protecting Children In The 21st Century Act. Pub. Law 110-385, Codified At 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)(5)(b)(iii)~~

Computers, computer networks, electronic devices, Internet access, and e-mail are effective and important technological resources. The Board of Education provides computers, a computer network, including Internet access and an e-mail system, as well as other electronic devices that access the network such as wireless and/or portable electronic hand-held equipment that can be used for word processing, wireless Internet access, image capture and recording, sound recording, information transmitting and/or receiving, storing etc. (including, but not limited to, laptops, Chromebooks, Kindles, radios, iPads or other tablet computers), referred to collectively as "the computer systems", in order to enhance both the educational opportunities for our students and the business operations of the district.

These computer systems are business and educational tools. As such, they are made available to students in the district for education related uses. The Administration shall develop regulations setting forth procedures to be used by the Administration in an effort to ensure that such computer systems are used by students solely for education related purposes. The Board will educate minor students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response. Additionally, the Board will implement a technology protection measure to block or filter Internet access to visual depictions that contain obscene material, contain child pornography, or are harmful to minors and ensure that such filtering technology is operative during computer use by minor students.

As the owner of the computer systems, the Board reserves the right to monitor the use of and restrict access to the district's computers and computer systems

As the owner of the computer systems, the Board reserves the right to monitor the use of the district's computers and computer systems.

Legal References:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-221

Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 53a-182b; 53a-183; 53a-250

Electronic Communication Privacy Act of 1986, Public Law 99-508, codified at 18 U.S.C. §§ 2510 through 2520

Children's Internet Protection Act, Pub. L. 106-554, codified at 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)

TOLLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Tolland, Connecticut

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

REGARDING: Student Use of the
District's Computer Systems and
Internet Safety

Number: 5140
Administrative

Approved: 2/28/01
Revised: 6/8/05
Revised: 4/7/09
Revised: 2/24/10
Revised: PENDING

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING STUDENT USE OF
THE DISTRICT'S COMPUTER SYSTEMS AND INTERNET SAFETY

1. Introduction

We are pleased to offer students access to the district's computers and computer networks, including access to electronic mail (e-mail) and the Internet, as well as electronic devices, (all of which will be referred to collectively as "computer systems".) Access to the school's computer systems will enable students to explore libraries, databases, and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with others. Such access is provided solely for education-related purposes. Use of the district's computer systems will be allowed only for students who act in a considerate and responsible manner in using such systems.

The Board of Education and the Administration believe in the educational value of such computer systems and recognize their potential to support our curriculum by expanding resources available for staff and student use. Our goal in providing this service is to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation and communication.

These computer systems are expensive to purchase, install and maintain. As the property of the district these computer systems must be carefully handled and their integrity preserved for the benefit of all. Therefore, *access to the computer systems is a privilege, and not a right*. Students will be required to adhere to a set of policies and procedures, as set forth in detail below. Violations may lead to withdrawal of the access privilege and/or disciplinary measures in accordance with the Board's student discipline policy.

2. Definitions

Obscene – means any material or performance if, a) taken as a whole, it predominantly appeals to the prurient interest, b) it depicts or describes in a patently offensive way a prohibited sex act and c) taken as a whole, does not have serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value. For the purposes of this section, "prohibited sex act" means erotic fondling, nude performance, sexual excitement, sado-masochistic abuse, masturbation or sexual intercourse.

Child pornography – means any visual depiction, including any photograph, film, video, picture, cartoon, or computer or computer-generated image or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical, or other means, of sexually explicit conduct, where -

- (a) the production of such visual depiction involves the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct;
- (b) such visual depiction is, or appears to be, of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct;
- (c) such visual depiction has been created, adapted, or modified to appear that an identifiable minor is engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

Harmful to minors – any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

- (a) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
- (b) depicts, describes or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
- (c) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

3. Monitoring

Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer systems just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Communications on the computer systems are often public in nature and general school rules for behavior and communications apply. It is expected that users will comply with district standards and will act in a responsible and legal manner, at all times in accordance with district standards, as well as with state and federal laws.

It is important that students and parents understand that the district, *as the owner of the computer systems, reserves the right to monitor and review* the use of these computer systems. The district intends to monitor and review in a limited fashion, but will do so as needed to ensure that the systems are being used for district-related educational purposes.

As part of the monitoring and reviewing process, the district will retain the capacity to bypass any individual password of a student or other user. *The system's security aspects, such as personal passwords and the message delete function for e-mail, can be bypassed for these purposes.* The district's ability to monitor and review is not restricted or neutralized by these devices. The monitoring and reviewing process also includes, but is not limited to; oversight of Internet site access, the right to review emails sent and received, the right to track students' access to blogs, electronic bulletin boards and chat rooms, and the right to review a student's document downloading and printing.

Therefore, all users must be aware that *they should not have any expectation of personal privacy in the use of these computer systems.*

4. Student Conduct

Students are permitted to use the district's computer systems for legitimate educational purposes. Personal use of district computer systems is expressly prohibited. Conduct which constitutes inappropriate use includes, but is not limited to the following:

- ♦ Sending any form of harassing, threatening, or intimidating message, at any time, to any person (such communications may also be a crime);
- ♦ Gaining or seeking to gain unauthorized access to computer systems;
- ♦ Damaging computers, computer files, computer systems or computer networks;
- ♦ Downloading or modifying computer software of the district in violation of the district's licensure agreement(s) and/or without authorization from a teacher or administrator;
- ♦ Using another person's password under any circumstances;
- ♦ Trespassing in or tampering with any other person's folders, work or files;
- ♦ Sending any message that breaches the district's confidentiality requirements, or the confidentiality of students;
- ♦ Sending any copyrighted material over the system;
- ♦ Using computer systems for any personal purpose, or in a manner that interferes with the district's educational programs;

- ♦ Accessing or attempting to access any material that is obscene, contains child pornography, or is harmful to minors, as defined above;
- ♦ Transmitting or receiving e-mail communications or accessing information on the Internet for non-educational purposes;
- ♦ Cyberbullying;
- ♦ Accessing or attempting to access social networking sites (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, etc.) without a legitimate educational purpose.

In addition, as noted above, if a particular behavior or activity is generally prohibited by law, by Board policy or by school rules or regulations, use of these computer systems for the purpose of carrying out such behavior or activity is also prohibited.

Misuse of the computer systems, or violations of these policies and regulations, may result in loss of access to such computer systems as well as other disciplinary action, including suspension and/or expulsion, depending on the specific conduct.

Anyone who is aware of problems with, or misuse of these computer systems, or has a question regarding the proper use of these computer systems, should report this to his or her teacher or principal immediately. Most importantly, the Board and the Administration urge *any* student who receives *any* harassing, threatening, intimidating or other improper message through the computer system to report this immediately. It is the Board's policy that no student should be required to tolerate such treatment, regardless of the identity of the sender of the message. *Please report these events!*

5. Internet Safety

The Administration will take measures: to assure the safety and security of students when using e-mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications; to prohibit unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities by minors online; to prohibit unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personally identifiable information regarding students; to educate minor students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyber-bullying awareness and response; and to restrict students' access to online materials harmful to minors, including obscene materials and child pornography.

6. Student Use Agreement

Before being allowed to use the district's computer systems, students and/or their parents/guardians must sign a computer system use agreement, stating that they

have read and understood the district's policies and regulations regarding the use of its computer systems.

Legal References:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-221

Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 53a-182b; 53a-183; 53a-250 *et. seq.* (computer-related offenses)

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-193 (definition of obscene)

18 U.S.C. § 2256 (definition of child pornography)

Electronic Communication Privacy Act of 1986, Public Law 99-508, codified at 18 U.S.C. §§ 2510 through 2520

Children's Internet Protection Act, Pub. Law 106-554, codified at 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. 107-110, codified at 20 U.S.C. § 6777

Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act, Pub. Law 110-385, codified at 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)(5)(B)(iii)

Miller v. California, 413 U.S. 15 (1973) (definition of obscene)

ADOPTED: _____

REVISED: _____

Introduction

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~~The Board of Education and the Administration believe in the educational value of such computer systems and recognize their potential to support our curriculum by expanding resources available for staff and student use. Our goal in providing this service is to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation and communication.~~

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Definitions

~~Obscene — means any material or performance if, a) taken as a whole, it predominantly appeals to the prurient interest, b) it depicts or describes in a patently offensive way a prohibited sex act and c) taken as a whole, does not have serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value. For the purposes of this section, "prohibited sex act" means erotic fondling, nude performance, sexual excitement, sadomasochistic abuse, masturbation or sexual intercourse.~~

~~Child pornography — means any visual depiction, including any photograph, film video, picture, or computer or computer-generated image or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical, or other means, of sexually explicit conduct, where —~~

- ~~(A) — The production of such visual depiction involves the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct;~~
- ~~(B) — Such visual depiction is, or appears to be, of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct;~~
- ~~(C) — Such visual depiction has been created, adapted, or modified to appear that an identifiable minor is engaging in sexually explicit conduct.~~

~~Harmful to minors — any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:~~

- ~~(A) — Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;~~
- ~~(B) — Depicts, describes or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and~~
- ~~(C) — Taken as whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.~~

Monitoring

~~Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer systems just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Communications on the computer systems are often public in nature and general school rules for behavior and communications apply. It is expected that users will comply with district~~

~~standards and will act in a responsible and legal manner, at all times in accordance with district standards, as well as with state and federal laws.~~

~~It is important that students and parents understand that the district, as the owner of the computer systems, reserves the right to monitor and review the use of these computer systems. The district intends to monitor and review in a limited fashion, but will do so as needed to ensure that the systems are being used for District-related educational purposes.~~

~~As part of the monitoring and reviewing process, the district will retain the capacity to bypass any individual password of a student or other user. The system's security aspects, such as personal passwords and the message delete function for e-mail, can be bypassed for these purposes. The district's ability to monitor and review is not restricted or neutralized by these devices. The monitoring and reviewing process also includes oversight of Internet site access and of document downloading and printing.~~

~~Therefore, all users must be aware that they should not have any expectation of personal privacy in the use of these computer systems.~~

Student Conduct

~~Students are permitted to use the district's computer systems for legitimate educational purposes. Personal use of district computer systems is expressly prohibited. Conduct which constitutes inappropriate use includes, but is not limited to the following:~~

- ~~◆ Sending any form of harassing, threatening, or intimidating message, at any time, to any person (such communications may also be a crime;~~
- ~~◆ Gaining or seeking to gain unauthorized access to computer systems;~~
- ~~◆ Damaging computers, computer files, computer systems or computer networks;~~
- ~~◆ Downloading or modifying computer software of the district in violation of the district's licensure agreement(s) and/or without authorization from a teacher or administrator.~~
- ~~◆ Using another person's password under any circumstances;~~
- ~~◆ Trespassing in or tampering with any other person's folders, work or files;~~
- ~~◆ Sending any message that breaches the district's confidentiality requirements, or the confidentiality of students;~~

- ◆ ~~Sending any copyrighted material over the system;~~
- ◆ ~~Using computer systems for any personal purpose, or in a manner that interferes with the district's educational programs;~~
- ◆ ~~Accessing or attempting to access any material that is obscene, contains child pornography, or is harmful to minors, as defined above;~~
- ◆ ~~Transmitting or receiving e-mail communications or accessing information on the internet for non-educational purposes.~~
- ◆ ~~Cyberbullying, defined as use of computer systems including email, instant messaging, text messaging, blogging or the use of social networking websites, or other forms of electronic communications, to commit acts of bullying.~~

~~In addition, as noted above, if a particular behavior or activity is generally prohibited by law, by Board policy or by school rules or regulations, use of these computer systems for the purpose of carrying out such behavior or activity is also prohibited.~~

~~Misuse of the computer systems, or violations of these policies and regulations, may result in loss of access to such computer systems as well as other disciplinary action, including suspension and/or expulsion, depending on the specific conduct.~~

~~Anyone who is aware of problems with, or misuse of these computer systems, or has a question regarding the proper use of these computer systems, should report this to his or her teacher or principal immediately. Most importantly, the Board and the Administration urge any student who receives any harassing, threatening, intimidating or other improper message through the computer system to report this immediately. It is the Board's policy that no student should be required to tolerate such treatment, regardless of the identity of the sender of the message. Please report these events!~~

Internet Safety

~~The Administration will take measures: to assure the safety and security of students when using e-mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications; to prohibit unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities by minors online; to prohibit unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personally identifiable information regarding students; to educate minor students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyber-bullying awareness and response; and to restrict students' access to online materials harmful to minors, including obscene materials and child pornography.~~

~~The teacher will be responsible for notification to both parents and school administration in the case of student exposure to inappropriate digital material and/or content.~~

~~Legal References:~~

~~Children's Internet Protection Act, Pub. Law 106-554, Codified At 47 U.S.C. § 254 (H)~~

~~Electronic Communication Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2510 Through 2520
No Child Left Behind Act Of 2001, Pub. L. 107-110, Codified At 20 U.S.C. § 6777~~

~~Protecting Children In The 21st Century Act, Pub. Law 110-385, Codified At 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)(5)(b)(iii)~~

~~18 U.S.C. § 2256 (Definition Of Child Pornography)~~

~~Miller V. California, 413 U.S. 15 (1973) (Definition of Obscene)~~

~~Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 53a-182b; 53a-183; 53a-250 (Computer-Related Offenses)~~

~~Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-193 (Definition of Obscene)~~

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA ITEM BACKGROUND

ITEM: Board of Education 2021 Meeting Dates

ITEM SUBMITTED BY: Walter Willett, Ph.D., Superintendent

FOR BOE MEETING: November 18, 2020

ITEM SUMMARY:

January 13, 2021
January 27, 2021
February 10, 2021
February 24, 2021
March 10, 2021
March 24, 2021
April 14, 2021
April 28, 2021
May 12, 2021
May 26, 2021
June 9, 2021
June 23, 2021
July 14, 2021
July 28, 2021
August 11, 2021
August 25, 2021
September 8, 2021
September 22, 2021
October 13, 2021
October 27, 2021
November 10, 2021
November 17, 2021 (moved from November 24 due to Thanksgiving)
December 8, 2021
December 22, 2021

Meetings are held at Hicks Municipal Center, Council Chambers.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

N/A

BOARD ATTORNEY REVIEW:

BOE ACTION DESIRED:

Review dates. Potential Motions:

1. Motion to approve the Board of Education 2021 Meeting dates. Second. Discussion. Vote

SUPPORTING MATERIALS ATTACHED:

2021 - BOE Proposed Meeting dates



**TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
2021 MEETING DATES**

Meetings will be held at Hicks Municipal Center, Council Chambers
7:00 pm
(please note time change of meetings)

January 13, 2021
January 27, 2021
February 10, 2021
February 24, 2021
March 10, 2021
March 24, 2021
April 14, 2021
April 28, 2021
May 12, 2021
May 26, 2021
June 9, 2021
June 23, 2021
July 14, 2021
July 28, 2021
August 11, 2021
August 25, 2021
September 8, 2021
September 22, 2021
October 13, 2021
October 27, 2021
November 10, 2021
November 17, 2021
December 8, 2021
December 22, 2021

**The November 24 meeting was moved to November 17 due to
Thanksgiving

MINUTES

TOLLAND TOWN COUNCIL ZOOM REMOTE MEETING OCTOBER 27, 2020 – 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tammy Nuccio, Chair; Steve Jones, Vice Chair; Brenda Falusi, Lou Luba, John Reagan, Kurt Schenher, Cassandra York

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Rosen, Town Manager; Lisa Hancock, Director, Finance & Records; Nancy Dunn, Assistant Director, Human Services; Bev Bellody, Director, Human Services; Scott Lappen, Director, Public Works; Dr. Walter Willett, Superintendent

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Nuccio called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited
3. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Observed
4. **PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS:** none
5. **PUBLIC PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** (*on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Town Council*) (2 minute limit) - none
6. **PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS:**
 - 6.1 Consideration of a resolution for the creation of the Tolland Mental Health and Substance Use Advisory Task Force.
Mr. Rosen reviewed the background information on this item.
This item is one of the Town Council's goals in regard to new committees. This evening's public hearing is to determine if the Council would like to establish a mental health and substance use advisory taskforce. In previous meetings the language of the mission statement was drafted and boiled down to 4 goals. Discussions regarding the taskforce also took place. It will allow for up to 3 members each from the Town Council and the BOE in addition to 5 other members.

Mr. Jones motioned to open the public hearing.
Ms. Falusi seconded the motion.
Discussion: none
A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jones motioned to close the public hearing.
Ms. Falusi seconded the motion.
Discussion: none
A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion:
Ms. Falusi commented that the Council received an e-mail from a resident that had a number of questions. Ms. Falusi commented that it seems redundant to have up to 3 members of the Town Council doing research to give recommendations to the Town Council itself. She added that ¼ of the work could be done over e-mail by asking the Town Manager to e-mail the department heads to gather information. Due to the pandemic she is concerned that they will not be able to meet effectively and collect all the information listed under item 3. Additionally, the department heads and resources are taxed right now taking care of the response recovery. While she believes it is vital information to collect, she believes they can collect the needed information without a taskforce. She added that she believes they will find that they do not have

enough equity invested in items such as social workers, human resources, and other programs for at-risk youth.

Mr. Luba commented that this is something that has been discussed for years and this is an appropriate opportunity to get it done. Passing this will allow the Council to move forward and this is only the beginning. He believes and has heard from residents that it is time for this to go forward and examine what is available. Sending e-mails and talking with department heads is one thing but there are many other resources that the Council does not know about. Hopefully professionals will be involved with the taskforce, will be part of the solution, and will know what is available and provide recommendations based on experience and education rather than on speculation on what can be done. The taskforce will put together solid recommendations based on experience and knowledge on both the education and treatment aspects. Mr. Luba is in full support of the taskforce.

Mr. Reagan commented that he respectfully disagrees with Ms. Falusi in the respect that they are in the middle of a pandemic and that this is exactly when something like this is needed. Mr. Reagan cited search results regarding alcohol use. Now is the time to do this.

Mr. Jones commented in regard to the membership and hopes that when he and Mr. Luba go through the selecting and screening process for membership that they have the same groundswell of volunteers they had for the Commission on People with Disabilities. He explained that they may be able to get some professional experts on the taskforce and may be able to offer a more limited Town Council and Board of Education presence if desired. Ms. Nuccio noted that the language notes that there would be "up to 3" members from the Council and BOE respectively.

Ms. Falusi commented that the information is needed but believes it can be gathered faster and with less strain on the department heads and others if they go about it a different way. It would be more efficient and allow for a quicker response. Ms. Nuccio commented that they have spoken with staff members who have responded in support of the direction of the taskforce.

Ms. York asked Ms. Falusi what direction she would like this to go in. Ms. Falusi responded that there is not a right or wrong direction but is considering efficiency. She addressed the following items: #1, data can be collected from first responders and the schools; #2, Ms. Dunn, Ms. Bellody, Chief Littell, and Dr. Willett know what resources are available and other resources may be contacted as well with a survey from the Town Manager; #3, would be difficult at this time. Once they have the information they can reassess what recommendations they would like to move forward with. Ms. York responded that Ms. Falusi is saying that they already have the data on #1 and #2 and asked if Ms. Falusi would like the Town Council to sit as the taskforce. Mr. Falusi responded that the Town Manager could ask the department heads for the information and present it to the Council. Ms. York asked if this information is available what is stopping the Council from assessing it and determining what else is needed. Ms. York explained that this taskforce could be one that is directed specifically to the topic and branch out. Ms. Falusi responded that the goals #1 and #2 can be addressed easily without a group of 11 people. Ms. York responded that the taskforce would present the data in a way that could be quickly synthesized and/or make the recommendations to be voted upon by the Council. Ms. York asked why this would not be a good idea. Ms. Falusi recommended asking the department heads for their recommendations and doing what those subject matter experts would like the Council to do.

Mr. Schenher commented that he would like to get the taskforce started and get answers for the town.

Mr. Luba commented that there are subject matter experts within the town but to date the Council has not received any recommendations. Dr. Willett has the information and has never presented any recommendations based on Mr. Luba's understanding and there have been other people who are subject matter experts but the Council has not received any solid actions as far as recommendations as of yet. He believes this is an opportunity to have people who can access the information from the experts and synthesize a coherent game plan. There needs to be an understanding of the purpose of this taskforce and of the public's needs.

Ms. Nuccio commented that in regard to the purpose of the taskforce, she has had people communicate to her that they were not aware of the available resources. This is a chance to learn the needs of the public and evaluate what the town has available in terms of services. This is an opportunity for the public to be involved and share its needs.

Mr. Rosen noted that the reason for the public hearing is because they are creating an ordinance; in effect it is a policy. When discussing the goals of the Town Council in regard to new committees, the idea was that this committee would bolster the LPC but after multiple discussions it became a taskforce about fact-finding and asset-gathering into a digestible database or something that could be looked at holistically. It was set up so that the taskforce will dissolve at the end of this mission. It is not a standing permanent committee. Mr. Rosen explained that the taskforce will not necessarily overlap with the LPC but will interview or attend meetings of the LPC to learn about the available resources. The mission of the taskforce is about fact-finding and understanding what assets are currently available as well as if there is a gap how it can be addressed. The taskforce will run on a parallel track to that of the LPC.

Ms. Falusi commented that Dr. Willett had his hand up.

Mr. Luba called a point of order and commented that this is for the Council to discuss and the Public Hearing is closed.

Mr. Jones commented that he was unsure if because they are incorporating the BOE if Dr. Willett had any input.

Mr. Rosen noted that it is up to the discretion of the Council.

Mr. Reagan:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Tolland Town Council that it hereby creates the Tolland Mental Health and Substance Use Advisory Task Force and hereby approves the following:

The mission of the Tolland Mental Health and Substance Use Advisory Task Force is to create a multi-disciplinary team to evaluate the Town and community response to, and resources available to, address the topics of mental health, substance use, and related behaviors in Tolland, and make recommendations to the Town Council based on their evaluation.

The Task Force will be comprised of eleven (11) regular members and two (2) alternates, including a combination of currently elected officials and additional electors of the Town of Tolland. Up to three (3) members may be selected from each the Town Council and the Board of Education, for a total of up to six (6) elected officials on the Task Force. Preferably, the non-elected members will be made up of interested residents and professionals in the field of substance use and related behaviors. There is also a strong preference that at least one member be a leader of the faith community.

After final recommendations have been made to the Town Council, the Task Force will dissolve.

All public meetings shall be held at the call of the Chair, and at such times and locations as the Task Force may determine.

Mr. Luba seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Nuccio commented that it is imperative that the Council hold a joint meeting with the BOE so everyone has a full and total understanding of the mission statement and what they want to accomplish.

A discussion about the taskforce took place. Mr. Rosen explained that an advertisement will be posted to solicit interested residents to apply for vacancies. The information will be gathered and submitted to the ad-hoc vetting committee comprised of Mr. Jones and Mr. Luba who will make recommendations at a future Council meeting. It can then be determined how many members the BOE and Town Council may like to appoint. He expects it will take approximately 6-8 weeks to establish the taskforce. Ms. Nuccio

recommended that members of the Council and the BOE let their respective Chairs know of their interest to be on the taskforce by the end of November.

Ms. Falusi motioned to move items 7a. and 7b. to after item 8.

Mr. Jones seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

7a. REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES RESPONSIBLE TO THE COUNCIL

- Sustainable CT – Ms. Falusi noted that items will need to be added to upcoming Council agendas.
- Tourism – Ms. Falusi noted that work is being done on the Facebook page and she is working with others in regard to content.

7b. REPORTS OF TOWN COUNCIL LIAISONS

- Land Acquisition Committee – no meeting
- Blight Committee – no meeting
- PZC – Ms. Falusi provided an update
- Permanent Celebration Committee – no meeting
- Water Commission – met on October 19th; Mr. Jones provided an update
- Conservation Commission – met on October 22nd; Mr. Jones provided an update
- WPCA – Mr. Reagan provided an update
- Birch Grove Building Committee – Mr. Luba provided an update
- BOE – Ms. Nuccio provided an update
- EHHD – Ms. Nuccio provided an update
- Commission on People with Disabilities – Ms. Nuccio provided an update

8. NEW BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS):

8.1 Discussion on the Sustainable CT program.

Mr. Rosen provided background information on this item.

Sustainable CT is one of the Council's goals from back in November and representatives are in attendance this evening. Mr. Rosen noted that the goal is to achieve Bronze status and truly make a sustainable community going forward. Tolland has an in-house Sustainable CT Committee that meets quarterly to review the goals.

Ms. Jessica LeClair (Sustainable CT) introduced herself and Mr. Abe Salorio. The Sustainable CT Local Actions Statewide Impact presentation was reviewed:

- Why Become a Sustainable CT Community?
 - Road Map
 - Resources
 - Certification
 - Flexibility
 - Livability
- Menu of Voluntary Actions (action categories)
- One Program – Many Benefits
- Why Participate?
 - Recognition
 - Funding & resources
 - Build community
 - Inspiration
 - Cost savings
 - Partnerships
 - Peer learning
- Participating Communities
- Become a Sustainable CT Community
- Program Updates

- Support for Towns
- Community Match Fund
- Impact & Utilization
- Projects: Towns Participating
- Donors
- How the Fundraising and Matching Works
- What It Looks Like
- Who Can Participate?
- General Project Eligibility
- How to Apply
- Community Match Fund Supporters
- Sustainable CT Supporters

Questions/Answers

- Examples of new categories and flexibility for 2021
 - inclusive engagement, communication, and education
 - strategic materials management
 - optimal health and wellness opportunities
 - effective, compassionate homelessness prevention
- Point System
 - if something has been done new within the past 3 years a town can apply for points
 - if something was completed prior to the 3 year mark but is still generating demonstrable impact then a town can apply for points
- Resiliency Workshops
 - will be offered again starting in January
- Community Match Fund
 - must provide a public good or benefit and be accessible to the community
- Crowdfunding Concern
 - messaging: these are things that are not in the budget but on the wish list; supplements what taxes are going toward
- Does it need to be outside of the capital budget?
 - it has to be crowdfunding; the community needs to have a say
 - part of the idea of the match fund is that it is an opportunity to do fact-finding and learn what people care about
- Can it be used for scouting projects and the like?
 - it does not matter who leads the project; what matters is where it takes place and what it does
- Could the taskforce be considered under the new category of Optimal Health and Wellness opportunities?
 - as it is written the actions that are encompassed in that category might not include those of the taskforce but they may fall under Conducting Health Impact Assessments or Innovation Action
- What is the percentage of those who apply that are individuals vs. town committees etc.?
 - the data is not available but it is a pretty even mix of individuals, informal groups, and town-led projects
- Would municipal staff or town commission need to go through an approval process?
 - receipt of the funds is often the issue; depends on town policy/ordinance/regulation; fundraising campaigns are considered gifts; Mr. Rosen will research this
- What is the average length of a crowdfunding campaign in terms of the posting time?
 - 1 to 2 months so a sense of urgency is created; they only match up to the original 50% proposed budget amount; if the crowdfunding budget is not reached a new budget may be submitted; the proposed goal is the crowdfunding goal
- Do successful fundraisers impact the point system?
 - points are earned for the project so long as the town is involved and providing meaningful support; if a match fund project aligns directly with a Sustainable CT and sub-actions one

would submit via the normal process and detail the partnership; if a project aligns with the intention the objective of an action but not directly with the sub actions, you submit under Action 10.2 Community Match Funded Project and state that it aligned with the objective of the Action – points are still earned

8.2 Discussion with Advance CT on site selectors and economic development strategies.

Mr. Rosen provided background information and noted that Caitlin Gordon and Jon Crickmore from the Economic Development Commission are in attendance as well as Courtney Hendricson from Advance CT.

Mr. Rosen explained that during the Council's goal-setting sessions one of the highest goals under economic growth was regarding the Route 95 corridor. Sitefinder aligns well with this and information will be presented this evening.

Ms. Hendricson introduced herself and provided information about Advance CT.
She reviewed the following presentation:

- Section 1: Your Town: Municipal Economic Indicators in a Regional and State Context
- Regional, State, and National Context
 - Demographics
 - Employment and Commuting
 - Fiscal Health
 - Housing
- Connecticut Town Profiles
- What is Economic Development? Why should you care?
 - Conscious activity
 - Fiscal Health
 - Character of your community
- Where is your place in a Regional and Global Economy?
 - How do you define your economic region?
 - Changing world of economic development; the playing field = the world
- What is your reputation in the Economic Development Marketplace?
 - What is the Marketplace?
 - What is the Product?
 - Who is the Customer?
 - In the absence of a clear brand, who is determining your Reputation?
- Business Perspective on Local Government
- How do different audiences view Economic Development?
 - universally positive
 - great in the right place
 - healthy skepticism
 - don't change the character of our community
 - NIMBY
- Transactional vs. Transformational
- 10 Placemaking Principles
- On the Ground: Roles and Responsibilities.....
- Section 3: On the Ground: Roles and Responsibilities of the Town's Economic Development Team
- Definition of Economic Development
 - Business retention
 - Business expansion
 - Business recruitment
 - Business creation
 - Character of your community
- What defines your Economic Future... What are your choices?
 - What do you control locally?

- Land use regulations
 - Property taxes
 - Creating great places
 - Relationship with local businesses
- Regulatory Process Needs to Be...
 - Predictable
 - Clear
 - Reliable
 - Consistent
 - Effective
 - Efficient
- Responsibilities of Economic Development Commission & Staff
 - Planning Function
 - Marketing Function
 - Advisory Function
 - Advocacy Function
- Components of a Successful Economic Development Program
 - Planning
 - Marketing
- Increasing Value in Your Community
 - Physically
 - Socially
 - Economically
- Sitefinder
- Next Steps

Questions/Answers

- How can they bring more awareness about Sitefinder?
 - Brokers are familiar with it and there is a broad network
- Does Sitefinder proactively try to find buyers for properties?
 - No, it organically happens; businesses are not guided to a community unless the business has identified it; if a business is interested in particular region a referral to the Sitefinder database is made
- Is there a cost to brokers to list on the site?
 - Yes, there is a cost to the private broker community which is greater than that to towns; Sitefinder Plus is approximately \$2,000/year
- Request for details about Sitefinder working with the state's Senior Economic Developer
 - Sitefinder works closely with the Department of Economic and Community Development; they look at it weekly and review the pipeline of potential businesses that would like to expand into CT or already exist in Connecticut
- Has Ms. Hendricson seen Tolland's regulatory process and if so, how does it compare to other local towns? Can Ms. Hendricson offer any best practices?
 - They have helped communities with this but not specifically Tolland.
- Tolland owns little property that can be developed or sold and often has to market privately-owned property. Is this something Sitefinder has experience with?
 - They have worked with communities on both ends of the extreme. When one has town-owned property there is control over its future uses and the ability to apply for state grants.
- How successful is Sitefinder and/or Advance CT at moving companies into existing commercial spaces?
 - They encourage brokers to be members because the more comprehensive the database is the more successful it will be so they can point all prospective businesses to Sitefinder.
- On a recent Advance CT call there was discussion about smaller towns creating a consortium for PPE (bulk purchasing etc.) for local small businesses. Is this a possibility?
 - They are not directly leading this effort but are contributing to the CROCOG effort.

8.3 Consideration and action on renewal of the Fields and Grounds Maintenance Agreement between the Town and the Board of Education.

Mr. Rosen provided background information on this item which is raised annually. This iteration of the agreement has a couple of changes which have been reviewed and approved by the BOE.

Mr. Lappen reviewed the changes and noted that the greatest is relative to Birch Grove due to the construction project. A retention pond will be constructed and the town will need to maintain it. At the forefront is the plowing agreement due to the portables.

Mr. Rosen noted that this evening he is asking the Council to countersign the agreement and execute it. He noted that this agreement goes through June 30, 2021 and inquired about possibly having a longer contract term in the future.

Ms. Nuccio inquired about #5, the Annual Meeting. A brief discussion took place. She requested that it be added to the calendar.

Ms. Nuccio inquired about #14. She clarified that the Board will transfer this to its budget and it will come out of the town's budget for a net zero impact. The BOE will take care of the maintenance. The amount is approximately \$5,000 and is only for disinfection of the artificial turf. The town (town's budget) is still maintaining all of the fields. Scoreboards and auxiliary items are maintained by the BOE. Ms. Nuccio confirmed that the track has not yet been resurfaced. The life expectancy of the track and field is 10 years and Mr. Lappen noted that the track and field will need to be replaced in about 3 years. Ms. Nuccio asked if the life expectancy may go past 10 years since it is in good condition. Mr. Lappen explained that while it looks good from the stands, the fiber lengths are worn and he expressed concern about liability. Ms. Nuccio explained that she is concerned about the approximate \$1M cost to replace the field and asked if spot repairs could be done to extend the life. Mr. Lappen expressed concern about the fiber length of the new material compared to the old material in regard to tripping hazards or impact on play. Ms. Nuccio expressed concern that when the turf field came into play 7 years ago commitments were made by multiple organizations to pay for the use of the field to help offset the \$1M+ cost of the field. Further, she would like to know where rental and other revenue goes. She does not believe much of what was discussed when the town voted on having the field came to fruition and this is disappointing from a taxpayer perspective. Further, they have learned a lot over the past 7 years about turf fields in regard to athletes being more prone to injury and the presence of carcinogens. Ms. Nuccio commented that this is something they will need to look at going forward to determine if they want turf or would rather go back to grass.

Mr. Rosen noted that #21 was revised and reviewed this item. There have been some initial conversations about the cost/benefit and the desire of the community in regard to the turf or grass fields. Mr. Lappen has received a quote from the vendor in the \$600K-700K range for the replacement cost. The initial thought was that soccer, lacrosse, and football would each contribute \$5K per year toward the field and another organization was going to hold a fundraising effort to raise \$15K as a match for a total of \$30K per year to put against the field debt.

Ms. Hancock noted that the original field was \$1M+ and \$300K was bonded because they had grant contributions. The sports teams held up their commitment to the \$5K each with the exception of this past year. The fundraising effort did not come to fruition but Mr. Watt rents the field when he can. These funds go into a turf fund that is used to pay for the Porta Potties and a staff person. Remaining funds are moved into the General Fund to contribute toward the debt payment. Ms. Nuccio asked Ms. Hancock to research if the cost is being offset and how much has been contributed. Ms. Hancock noted that 100% is not being offset.

Mr. Jones inquired if the municipal pathway between TIS, Parker Place, and Town Hall falls under this agreement. Mr. Lappen responded that it falls strictly under the town.

Mr. Rosen confirmed that the \$600K-\$700K quote is only for the turf field and is by the same vendor who did the initial installation. Ms. Nuccio asked if with the resurfacing of the track if the total would sum to \$1M. Mr. Rosen responded that he believed they had the same useful life but is unsure why the field has come up first. Ms. Nuccio expressed concern that, if she is reading it correctly, the track is coming up before the end of its useful life. Mr. Rosen noted that extra funds were built into the capital plan, on top of the quote, for items like this so he expects it to come in at \$800K. Mr. Lappen explained that Mr. Sztaba said the resurfacing of the track

would be in the range of \$300K-\$350K bringing the total to \$1M. The track is used more for the school than the turf field. This is why Mr. Lappen submitted the turf field and the BOE submitted for the track which has humps. Ms. Nuccio inquired if they can look at anything from a warranty perspective since they are not yet at the 10 year useful life and if not her concern is they are going through a \$1M asset before the end of its useful life. They would need to re-bond before the end of the useful life. What can they do to remedy this? Mr. Lappen explained that he can only talk about what he sees. It was installed before he started and he is not familiar with the agreements or what the useful life was supposed to be. Mr. Rosen will speak with Mr. Watts about the warranty. Ms. Hancock noted that the track is slated for FY25/26 but the field is planned for FY23/24. Ms. Nuccio believed that the capital plan of the BOE had the track in first. Ms. Hancock confirmed this was in the original plan but they are looking at the capital plan and debt requirements. A new debt plan will need to be done. Thus, they are working with Dr. Willett and Mr. Sztaba who sent recommendations on how to move items. The new recommendation is to try to push the track to FY25/26 and the turf in year 3 of the plan. Ms. Nuccio noted that it is different than the plan approved by the BOE. Mr. Rosen explained that the Council will see built into this budget the debt service for replacing the turf field in the 5 year plan because this is the quote they currently have and it allows Ms. Hancock to run the debt modelling. In terms of the benefit analysis they asked preliminarily about going back to a dirt field and learned that there are a lot of variables to consider such as remediation, demolition, and routine maintenance but they will run the numbers. Mr. Lappen added that consideration needs to be taken regarding installing drainage and incorporating irrigation as well as an increase in staff hours. Mr. Rosen added there is a citizen factor as well.

Mr. Rosen highlighted item #21 and noted other edits were minor adjustments. Mr. Lappen recommended reviewing the document every 2 to 3 years. Ms. Nuccio noted that she would like to see it stay at 1 year for the moment at least until the annual meeting in June.

Mr. Jones motioned

WHEREAS the Town's Parks and Facilities Department has been maintaining playfields and grounds that are under the control of the Board of Education since 1990; and

WHEREAS the agreement between the Town and the Board of Education under which such services are furnished has expired; and

WHEREAS the parties believe that the referenced arrangement has been successful and is an effective and economic way in which to continue providing such services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Manager is hereby authorized to execute a Fields and Grounds Maintenance Agreement under which the Town will continue to furnish services for the maintenance of fields and grounds that are under the administrative control of the Board of Education and that such agreement shall be for a term of one year.

Ms. Falusi seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.4 Appointments to vacancies on various municipal boards/commissions. none (went back to item 7)
9. OLD BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS): none
10. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER (A WRITTEN REPORT SHALL BE PROVIDED THE 1ST MEETING OF THE MONTH ONLY)
Mr. Rosen provided the following updates:
 - Capital Budget Meetings have been taking place over the past week and a half
 - 4-Town Economic Vitality Plan – it has been finalized and an implementation matrix is part of the plan; each town will have 3 representatives on a steering committee; Mr. Rosen will ask the Council to appoint the 3 representatives on a future agenda; branding and marketing is included in the plan; meetings have been taking place
 - Birch Grove Walking Tour, October 20th; Mr. Rosen attended; he noted that it is looking very good

- Fire Rescue Truck – Mr. Rosen will meet on November 2nd with Chief Littell and some members of the fire department for a final demonstration of what a different brand/vendor truck looks like; after this meeting they will decide if a bid waiver will be suggested to Council or have a formal bid;
- Mike Wyman, Registrar of Voters, asked to have a town e-blast sent on October 22nd about voting in person during the pandemic; Mr. Rosen read highlights of the e-blast which included: a record turnout is expected, each polling location will have 12 voting booths and there will be lines, when in line voters will need to be 6' apart, masks are required to enter the polling places, hands will be sprayed with sanitizer prior to entry
- Mr. Rosen asked Ms. Bailey to provide information on absentee ballots. Ms. Bailey noted that they have issued 3,700 ballots and received a little over 2,900. She confirmed Tolland has 10,600 registered voters. People requesting applications should go to the Town Clerk's Office at this point. The Office will be open on Friday 8AM – 5PM to issue absentee ballots. Ms. Bailey explained what is being allowed by the state in regard to absentee ballots and the process. Ballots will remain in the vault until Election Day and anything received after 5:00 P.M. on Friday through Monday will be delivered to the centralized absentee ballot counting place which is the Art Center on the morning of Election Day. No votes will be counted until Election Day. Ballots must be received by 8:00 PM; ballot boxes will be locked at 8:00 P.M sharp.

11. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- 11.1 October 6, 2020 Remote Special Meeting Minutes (AMENDED)
- 11.2 October 13, 2020 Remote Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Jones motioned to adopt the minutes as laid out in 11.1 and 11.2.

Note: Minutes of October 13, 2020, item 12, 6th bullet, "Tolland Green Historical Society" should have been "Tolland Green Historic District Commission"

Mr. Jones motioned to adopt the minutes as laid out in 11.1 and 11.2 as amended.

Ms. Falusi seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

12. CORRESPONDENCE TO COUNCIL

- e-mail regarding the minutes
- e-mail regarding questions about the taskforce
- e-mails from a resident about green energy and green initiatives
- e-mails inviting Town Council members to a variety of events

13. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Chair Hour will be moved to November 19th at 6:00 PM
- Scarecrow Contest – ends Saturday and Ms. Nuccio encouraged everyone to submit a vote
- Election Day is November 3rd, vote; voting stations will be safe and open for in-person voting

14. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS FROM COUNCILPERSONS

- Mr. Jones commented on Election Day. In addition to being patient he asked that people prepare to wait in long lines. Please be kind, empathetic, and respectful of the poll workers. They are trying to make the process as quick and seamless as possible.
- Ms. York commented that Girl Scout Cookies will be available for sale to those waiting in line.
- Ms. Falusi requested that that Council review its goals as the previous Council did at its 1 year mark.
- Ms. Falusi commented that the Historic District Commission has requested a Town Council liaison.

15. PUBLIC LISTED PARTICIPATION *(on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Town Council)* *(3 minute limit)*

Dr. Willett thanked the Council members for all of their hard work and their time late into the evening. He explained that he listened in on tonight's meeting to learn what the Council's determination was going to be on the taskforce and the Fields and Grounds Agreement when he heard what he thought was a question from Mr. Luba that specifically referenced him as the Superintendent with respect to what has been presented regarding mental illness and municipalities. Dr. Willett explained that he put his hand up thinking it was a question for him and took it down when he heard the comments. He apologized and explained that he believed he was being asked genuinely and was going to answer the question. Dr. Willett commented that to his knowledge the Council has not asked him to speak on this

issue but he has presented to the Council upon other requests in the past and is always happy to do so. He has had the privilege of listening in on community stakeholders and experts in the Local Prevention Council and has attended many of the meetings. He has always found it to be a safe and welcoming environment and one that moves Tolland forward with insightful perspectives and hard work. He has been grateful for Human Services and the other departments and everything they have done. In regard to the question posed in public session in regard to what he has done, his cell phone is out there, included in his letters, and has been offered to Mr. Luba in the past. Dr. Willett is always happy to speak with him and if he has questions, rather than in public session, Mr. Luba is welcome to call Dr. Willett as he is always happy to talk. Dr. Willett noted that they have offered presentations to the community on OCD, and arranged them for anxiety, drug prevention, trauma, help for marginalized populations, mental health and social media workshops, internet safety, and predator avoidance. He has sought and received grants, provided Tolland an additional counselor through one of those grants, and has personally taught 4 sections of classes of over 80 students at TMS focused on drug abuse prevention, emotional regulation, relationships, helping teens avoid risky behaviors, and he has also worked with smaller student groups and graduated student groups to help provide that perspective. He has collected data and publically presented it. He would be happy to do it for the Council. He has worked to implement substance use and risky behavior inventory. Currently, he is working with school counseling staff to try to incorporate the Columbia Lighthouse Project and Virginia Threat Assessment to add to the current risk assessment. Dr. Willett has committed 13 years of service to Tolland and appreciates authentic and direct communication. He is here for the Council and asked that they let him know how he can help. As far as the fields and grounds, the resurfacing of the TMS track was last done in 2002/3. THS was last done during the summer of 2016 and he believes it is recommended every 8-12 years and costs about \$150K for basic oval and an extra infield is about \$180K. The high school has a bit of a sub-course issue with a heave at the fifty yard line. He explained that he listened in tonight also to see if he could offer any help with that item. Dr. Willett thanked the Council and added that he appreciates everyone's hard work.

Ms. Nuccio confirmed the dates of the track resurfacing. Dr. Willett noted that the track at TMS is well beyond the recommended 8-12 years and believes the cost is \$150K-\$180K. The heave at THS is what has come to the radar. Dr. Willett noted that sometime in the next few years the THS track will come to the radar as well. He realizes that these are big items, go out a few years, and that there will need to be some kind of bonding, planning, and the right timing. He added that there is no pressure per se but he is getting these items on the radar for conversations. Everyone at the town has been very helpful. Mr. Rosen noted that there is a segment of the track that has a mound as well as the field that has a mound. Ms. Nuccio will add Dr. Willett's presentation of data and mental health to an agenda although it may not be before the taskforce. She asked Dr. Willett to send information about the Columbia Lighthouse Project.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Jones motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:21 p.m.

Mr. Luba seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by,
Lisa Pascuzzi
Clerk

MINUTES

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
TOLLAND, CT

TOLLAND TOWN COUNCIL
ZOOM REMOTE MEETING
November 10, 2020 – 7:00 P.M.

2020 NOV 12 PM 3:14

Sharon M. Bailey

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Jones, Vice Chair; Brenda Falusi, Cassandra Forsythe, Lou Luba, John Reagan, Kurt Schenher

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tammy Nuccio, Chair

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Rosen, Town Manager; Lisa Hancock, Director, Finance & Records; Beverly Bellody, Director, Human Services

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited
3. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Observed
4. **PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS:**
 - 4.1 **Recognition of Veterans Day**
Mr. Jones noted that he and Chairperson Nuccio would like to give the honor of reading the Proclamation into the record to Mr. Luba, the only standing veteran on the Council.
Mr. Luba read the Proclamation (attached) into the record.
5. **PUBLIC PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** (*on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Town Council*) (2 minute limit) - none
6. **PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS:** none
- 7a. **REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES RESPONSIBLE TO THE COUNCIL**
 - Blight Committee – Ms. Falusi noted that they did not meet.
 - Land Acquisition Committee – Ms. Falusi noted that they did not meet.
 - Tourism – Ms. Falusi noted that they will meet next week. They are continuing to update the Facebook page.
- 7b. **REPORTS OF TOWN COUNCIL LIAISONS**
 - Planning & Zoning Commission – Ms. Falusi provided an update.
 - Agriculture Commission - Mr. Schenher referred to the minutes.
 - Parks & Recreation – Mr. Schenher provided an update.
 - Birch Grove Building Committee – Mr. Luba provided an update.
 - Permanent Celebration Committee – Ms. Forsythe provided an update.
 - Conservation Commission – Mr. Jones provided an update.
8. **NEW BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS):**
 - 8.1 **Consideration of a resolution establishing a building committee for the Birch Grove Primary School code violation "Unsuitable Soils" project, authorizing grant applications for the project, and waiving competitive bidding requirements for the project.**
Mr. Rosen provided background information on this item.
The cost of addressing the unsuitable soils was approximately \$1.8M and the town pursued special state legislation to provide 100% financing of the cost.
The town is working with the Office of School Construction Grants (OSCGR) which requires that a resolution be approved by the local legislative body that embeds into it a building committee - in this case the building committee that is being proposed this evening. The resolution covers the setting up of that committee, entering into the grant, and filling the application as well as approving the schematics, drawings, bills, and invoices. Mr. Rosen noted that the project has been completed and thus one other aspect of this resolution is

that there is a request for competitive bidding to be waived. He added that the building committee, similar to what has been done in the past for roof replacement projects on schools, is comprised of only 3 staff people. In this case the committee would be made up of Peter Sztaba, Scott Lappen, and Beverly Bellody. The recommendation is that these 3 staff members be appointed to this special building committee. It is expected that the committee will only need to meet 2-3 times to fully complete the tasks – opening the books of the project, reviewing the books of the project, and closing the books of the project. This is in line with other building projects of this nature.

Mr. Luba commented that he was part of the discussions on the Birch Grove Building Committee on this item and it was fully supported. This committee is needed by regulatory requirements. He is in support of the creation of this committee.

Ms. Falusi commented that she wants to ensure that when it states (section 6, subsection iv) that members need to attend quarterly meetings in person that Zoom is acceptable. Mr. Rosen explained that he expects this committee will address the tasks within a month or so and it should not last the quarter. Ms. Falusi explained that she assumes it will but does not want this to be nullified and wants to ensure it is acceptable. Mr. Rosen explained that executive orders would supersede this and allow it to be held via Zoom.

Mr. Luba motioned:

**CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A BUILDING COMMITTEE FOR THE BIRCH GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL CODE VIOLATION "UNSUITABLE SOILS" PROJECT, AUTHORIZING GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR THE PROJECT, AND WAIVING COMPETITIVE BIDDING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROJECT
RESOLVED,**

- (1) That the Town Council hereby authorizes the Tolland Board of Education, through the Superintendent, to apply to the Connecticut Commissioner of Administrative Services, or other state or federal agencies, and to accept or reject grants for the Birch Grove Primary School Code Violation project (the "Project").
- (2) That the Town Council hereby authorizes the preparation of schematic drawings, outline specifications, preliminary studies as well as architect, engineering, construction and other consulting studies and reports for the Project.
- (3) That the Town Council hereby establishes a building committee for the Project (the "Building Committee"), which committee shall consist of three full members. The committee members will be comprised of Town of Tolland and Tolland Board of Education employees. At least one member shall be a resident of the Town of Tolland (the "Town").
- (4) That the Building Committee shall approve any contracts, schematics, and specifications with architects, engineers, contractors, and others for the Project.
- (5) That the Building Committee members shall not receive any compensation for their services. Necessary expenses of the Building Committee shall be included in the cost of the Project. The records of the Building Committee shall be filed with the Town Clerk and open to public inspection during normal business hours. Upon completion of the Project, the Building Committee shall present a full and complete report and accounting to the Town Council and the Town.
- (6) That the Building Committee shall be vested with the following powers and duties:

- (i) To approve a design (which considers all methods of construction) which is consistent with Board of Education-approved educational specifications;
- (ii) To approve the design of the Project consistent with the scope of the Project;
- (iii) To select the officers of the Building Committee;
- (iv) To provide quarterly reports in person to the Town Council on the status of the Project timeline/schedule and financing;
- (v) To review and comment on plans for addressing temporary space needs;
- (vi) To review and comment on space needs of the Project, as shown in architectural drawings, taking into account educational requirements, building code requirements, ADA requirements, safety requirements and space needs;
- (vii) To review and comment on the budget for the Project;
- (viii) To review change orders for the Project;
- (ix) To monitor the project schedule;
- (x) To hold, and establish agendas for, its meetings and take meeting minutes and file such minutes with the Town Clerk on a timely basis; and
- (xi) To comply with all laws and regulations relating to all aspects of the Project, including, without limitation, the non-advocacy provisions set forth in Section 9-369b of the Connecticut General Statutes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby waives the competitive bidding requirements set forth in the Town's current purchasing policy and any similar requirements of the Board of Education in connection with school construction projects with respect to the Project, finding that such waiver is in the best interest of the Town.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby appoints the following individuals to the Building Committee:

Peter Sztaba
Scott Lappen
Beverly Bellody

Mr. Reagan seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken.

	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
<i>Jones</i>	<i>x</i>		
<i>Falusi</i>	<i>x</i>		
<i>Forsythe</i>	<i>x</i>		
<i>Luba</i>	<i>x</i>		
<i>Reagan</i>	<i>x</i>		
<i>Schenher</i>	<i>x</i>		

Motion passed unanimously.

8.2 Appointments to vacancies on various municipal boards/commissions.

8.2.a. Appointments to the Board of Education

Mr. Rosen noted that there were 2 resignations from the Board of Education. The party chair of that party has recommended the 2 replacements: Sophia Shaikh and Madhu Renduchintala. It has been recommended that they take over the 2 vacated positions left by Karen Moran and Kate Howard-Bender. Mr. Rosen noted that Ms. Shaikh is filling Ms. Moran's vacancy and Mr. Renduchintala is filling Ms. Howard-Bender's vacancy.

Mr. Jones thanked Ms. Moran and Ms. Howard-Bender for their years of service to the Board of Education. He is sad to see them go but he is glad they were able to quickly find residents that are eager and engaged to be involved in the Board of Education.

Ms. Falusi commented that she echoes Mr. Jones' words. Ms. Moran has been a pillar of the community from PTOs to a member of the Board of Education for many years. Her expertise and historical knowledge will be missed. Ms. Howard-Bender and her background as an administrator will also be missed on the Board of Education. Ms. Falusi is excited to see that there are 2 dedicated members of the community stepping up to fill the shoes and she looks forward to hearing what they accomplish on the Board of Education.

*Mr. Luba motioned to appoint Sophia Shaikh and Madhu Renduchintala to the Board of Education.
Ms. Falusi seconded the motion.*

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jones noted that there are 2 other appointments that were submitted by the Town Manager's Office including the following:

- Reappointment to the Historic District Commission: Timothy Malone, term of 11/12/2020 – 11/12/2025

Ms. Falusi motioned to approve the reappointment of Timothy Malone to the Historic District Commission for a term of 11/12/2020-11/12/2025.

Mr. Luba seconded the motion.

Discussion: Ms. Falusi thanked Mr. Malone for his continued service.

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jones thanked Todd Longo for his service on the Economic Development Commission. The Council received his letter of resignation. He added that he believes there will be 2 additional board vacancies once Madhu Renduchintala is officially sworn in.

8.2.b. Appointment to Eastern Highlands Health District – Board of Directors

A Council member needs to be appointed for a term from 11/14/2020 - 11/14/2023.

Mr. Jones noted that the Chair is currently in this position and intends to continue in this position for the time being.

Mr. Reagan motioned to reappoint Chairperson Nuccio to the Eastern Highlands Health District's Board of Directors for a term from 11/14/2020 - 11/14/2023.

Mr. Luba seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

9. OLD BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS): none

10. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER (A WRITTEN REPORT SHALL BE PROVIDED THE 1ST MEETING OF THE MONTH ONLY)

Mr. Rosen provided the following updates:

- Capital Budget- They are still working on this item and the goal is to present the Memo to the Council at its first December meeting.
- Planning Director Search – The candidate withdrew from the process. In turn, the Executive Session scheduled for later in tonight's meeting is no longer needed. They will resume the search for a planning director for the town and the interim planner will continue to serve the town.
- Election – Mr. Rosen thanked everyone involved with the election last week including the registrars of voters, volunteers, town clerk, and temporary help. Yeoman's work was done last week and everyone did a great job. Mr. Rosen extended thanks to public safety, the state troopers, all those involved with traffic control, and the residents for cooperating. He noted that there was an unprecedented turnout when one combines the in person and mail in ballots.

- **STEAP Grant Application** – The application was accepted and Tolland will be funded at \$128,205 to do the Recreation Center improvements which include: handicapped accessible doors at the front entranceway, gym floor reconstruction, and the storage room for climate controlled ppe storage. Mr. Rosen thanked everyone who helped with the grant application.
- **Veterans Day** – Town Hall will be closed tomorrow in observance of the holiday.
- **Staycation** – Mr. Rosen will be on a scheduled staycation next week.
- **COVID** – Tolland is 1 of 68 communities that are now on the red alert status. The town was on the orange alert the previous week. Mr. Rosen explained that there is a mathematical equation that determines the level (yellow, orange, red). The first time the equation was used the town was one case into the orange alert zone. Currently, the town is a few cases into the red alert zone. Mr. Rosen explained that he is not providing this information to scare anyone but to provide information on what is trending. He encouraged residents to be vigilant, take the matter seriously, social distance, wear masks, and wash hands frequently. People need to do what they need to do including getting groceries and running errands. Mr. Rosen explained that they are keeping an eye on the data and the numbers will refresh on Thursday. He added that there is a 2 week look back period. A drive-up COVID testing clinic was held last Thursday and Friday which had a good turnout. He encouraged people to be tested.

Mr. Jones thanked the Tolland CERT 40, the Tolland Fire Department, and Public Safety for their coordination.

Ms. Falusi commented that she received a request from a few residents in regard to the Town Manager's Report. She asked if contact information for the town departments could be included. Mr. Rosen responded that they can add this information.

Ms. Falusi inquired about other open positions. Mr. Rosen responded that in regard to the Senior Center Director position they have gone through the interview process and have held final interviews. He expects the position will be filled within the next month or so. In regard to the Library position, they are reviewing applications. Mr. Rosen spoke in regard to the new Public Safety Officer position (starting January 1st) and noted that an offer was just extended.

Mr. Luba thanked Mr. Rosen and his staff for doing an outstanding job with the election. Mr. Rosen's staycation is well-deserved.

11. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

11.1 October 27, 2020 Remote Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Rosen noted that the Town Clerk alerted him to a correction: item 6.1, under Discussion, 10th paragraph, 1st line – "Mr. Rosen noted that the reason for the public hearing is because they are creating an ordinance; in effect it is a policy."

Mr. Rosen explained that he misspoke and wants to ensure the record reflects the accurate information. He explained that normally when they create a new committee or new commission it creates a new town ordinance. Because this is a task force that dissolves, it is not written into the code and charter.

Mr. Rosen explained that there are 2 options: strike the sentence or reflect that the reason the public hearing was held was because it was an important topic and they wanted to hear from the public even though it was not mandated by the code and charter. Mr. Rosen recommended striking the sentence.

*Straw Poll: If the Councilors are amenable to Mr. Rosen's recommendation to strike the sentence.
Results: All Councilors were in agreement with striking the sentence.*

Ms. Falusi motioned to approve the minutes as amended.

Mr. Reagan seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

12. CORRESPONDENCE TO COUNCIL

- Ms. Falusi noted that there was no correspondence to the Council of any note.

13. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Jones commented that he attended the Library Foundation meeting. They approved funding for internet hotspots that residents will be able to rent out at the start of next year. This is for those who are seniors or economically challenged. Further, a mental exercise program (digital service) will be available. Additionally, the Foundation is moving ahead with Tolland Oral History.

14. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS FROM COUNCILPERSONS

Ms. Falusi commented that at the last meeting she mentioned that there were a couple of things that the Council needs to move on if it wants to get points for Sustainable CT. She did not receive verification that these items would not be changed until today. One item that needs to be done, that was approved last term, was to establish a poet laureate ordinance. They created a sub task force to look at creating a poet laureate ordinance. Whatever route the Council would like to take is fine by her but the group was never undone. Additionally, another item is to establish and designate an arts and cultural liaison for the town or an artist-in-residence. Ms. Falusi explained that this too would get the town points toward bronze. Further, the last item for Sustainable CT was to take a communication inventory. She has an inventory of what is online but not of other possible items. She added that a communication strategy is needed as well. Mr. Rosen noted that after the new calendar year is when the extended look back period goes into effect from Sustainable CT. Thus, it may not be possible for the town to get bronze status this calendar year. Ms. Falusi explained that these are the items they need to set up and have ready for next year.

Mr. Schenher commented on the elections. He hopes they can go forward with the newly elected officials and those who were re-elected to advocate for the town on a state level. He is looking forward to having the Council work together to advocate for Tolland on the state level.

Mr. Luba commented that while noted earlier in the proclamation, he personally wants to extend his thanks as a veteran to all of his fellow veterans and everyone who has worn the uniform and put their concern for their country and others ahead of their own. To his brothers and sisters in arms, he appreciates all they have done and for fighting to protect freedoms and opportunities that our great country provides for all. Mr. Luba added that he appreciates this Council going forward with the proclamation this evening. Hopefully this is something they will be able to do every year to recognize the newest members.

Mr. Jones asked Mr. Rosen how far they are along in the process of the Owl technology. Mr. Rosen responded that it is being delivered next week. He noted that one needs to consider the uptick that has happened since they had the conversation about the Owl and hybrid meetings. Mr. Jones asked if there is any direct impact of Executive Order 9L. Mr. Rosen explained that it was informally agreed that the discussion would be tabled until the new calendar year and the Council will see where things are at that point. If anything, the executive order may move this to mid-February. This may be the next time to consider hybrid or in person public meetings.

Ms. Falusi commented that she received notification that she missed a communication from a resident to the Council regarding the elections. Ms. Falusi explained that this is not the first time she has missed a communication from this resident and they need to find a way to ensure that she is not missing e-mails. Ms. Falusi explained that the communication was in regard to concerns about long lines and parking particularly in a presidential year. Ms. Falusi will review the e-mail for the next meeting. Mr. Jones noted that there may have also been a communication about a request to hold a special meeting for the new Board of Education members. Mr. Rosen noted that he will send an e-mail to the IT Department regarding Ms. Falusi's e-mail.

15. PUBLIC LISTED PARTICIPATION (on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Town Council)
(3 minute limit)

Colleen Yudichak commented that she would like to repeat what Ms. Falusi and Mr. Jones said earlier. She served with Ms. Moran and Ms. Howard-Bender for several years. They are pillars of the community. Ms. Howard-Bender has twenty years of educational background and Ms. Moran's knowledge of the town and her involvement in the schools will be sorely missed. Ms. Yudichak is excited about Madhu Renduchintala and Sophia Shaikh. She thinks they will have big shoes to fill but will be able to fill them. She wishes them luck. To Mr. Jones, Ms. Yudichak commented that he runs a great meeting.

Dana Philbin thanked the Council for having this on the agenda this evening for the newest Board of Education members Sophia Shaikh and Madhu Renduchintala. She appreciates the Council for processing this this evening and

looks forward to having them join the Board of Education. Ms. Philbin thanked Karen Moran and Kate Howard-Bender for their continued dedicated service to the Town of Tolland in whatever capacity that may be. She thanked everyone. As the lone Board of Education member at the meeting this evening she wants to show them her support and thank them. She thanked Mr. Jones and Ms. Falusi for their kind words about Karen Moran and Kate Howard-Bender as well as their kind words for Madhu Renduchintala and Sophia Shaikh. She believes they will be a great addition to the team and she looks forward to getting to work. She wished everyone a wonderful Veterans Day and thanked Mr. Luba for a wonderful speech about Veterans Day.

16. **EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel Matter – Planning Director Search - none**

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Falusi motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Ms. Forsythe seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Town of



Tolland

Proclamation

Veterans Day

WHEREAS, on November 11, Americans commemorate the service, sacrifice, and immeasurable contributions of our Nation's veterans who have proudly worn our country's uniform to defend and preserve our precious liberty. We pause to recognize the brave men and women who have fearlessly and faithfully worked to defend the United States and our freedom; and

WHEREAS, our residents of the Town of Tolland have answered the high calling to serve and have helped secure America at every turn, fighting in every major military operation dating back to the foundation of our great country - from the plains and forests of the thirteen colonies and our infant Nation, to the fields of war-torn Europe to the jungles of Southeast Asia, to the deserts of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, our community has a continuing sense of gratitude to those who have given so much in the defense of the freedoms which we all continue to enjoy, and recognize their sacrifice in defense of our great nation will stand before the entire world as a tribute to the spirit and determination of a people dedicated to the principles of freedom and democracy that have served as the foundation of this great country - "One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all"; and

WHEREAS, on Veterans Day, we pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of the men and women who in defense of our freedom have bravely worn the uniform of the United States, serving as members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard. These brave patriots have protected our Nation's ideals, stood tall in the face of grave danger and enabled our Nation to become the greatest force for freedom in human history. Their devotion to duty and patriotism deserves the respect and admiration of our grateful Nation each and every day.

THEREFORE, we now recognize all residents of the Town of Tolland, past and present, who have worn the uniform and served our Nation as part of the Armed Forces of the United States of America. We are forever thankful for the many heroes among us who have bravely fought around the world to protect us all. Your valor, loyalty, dedication and selfless sacrifices continue to inspire us today as we work to advance peace and extend freedom locally and around the world.

Dated at Tolland, Connecticut, this 10th day of November, 2020.

Tammy Nuccio

Tammy Nuccio, Chair
Tolland Town Council



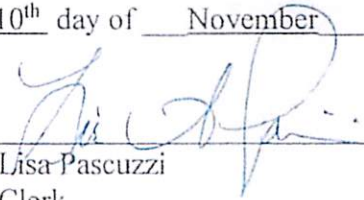
Upon Motion duly made and seconded, the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote:

In Favor: Jones, Falusi, Forsythe, Luba, Reagan, Schenher

Opposed: none

I, Lisa Pascuzzi, duly qualified Clerk of the Town Council of the Town of Tolland, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Resolution adopted at the meeting of the Town Council held on November 10, 2020 establishing a building committee for the Birch Grove Primary School Code Violation project, authorizing grant applications for the project, and waiving competitive bidding requirements for the project; that said Council consists of seven members; a quorum consists of four members and the minimum number of affirmative votes required to adopt said Resolution was four; 6 members were present at said meeting; a roll call vote was taken and 6 members voted in favor of said Resolution and 0 members voted against the adoption of said Resolution; the entire meeting exclusive of executive sessions was open to the public and no one was excluded from the portion of the meeting pertaining to the consideration and adoption of said Resolution.

Dated at Tolland, Connecticut, this 10th day of November, 2020.



Lisa Pascuzzi
Clerk
Town Council
Tolland, Connecticut