

REVISED 8/24/2021

ZOOM ONLY

TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
51 Tolland Green
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

7:00 PM

AGENDA
August 25, 2021

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86358441213?pwd=dUJpbmVDV3BoZW1MT1ZlZ1F1K21XZz09>

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=dUJpbmVDV3BoZW1MT1ZlZ1F1K21XZz09>

A. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- August 11, 2021

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

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- H.1 Math Presentation (no enclosure)
- H.2 COVID Update (no enclosure)
- H.3 Field and Grounds Agreement -Turf Field (no enclosure)

I. COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

J. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

K. BOARD ACTION

- K.1 Policy 9010
- K.2 2022 BOE Meeting Dates
- K.3 BGP Change Orders

L. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (2-minute limit)

Comments must be limited to items on this agenda.

M. POINTS OF INFORMATION

Town Council Meeting Minutes-August 10, 2021

N. FUTURE

O. NEW BUSINESS

P. ADJOURNMENT

TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

Hybrid Meeting

REGULAR MEETING – August 11, 2021

Members Present: Ashley Lundgren, Chair; Christina Plourd, Vice Chair; Secretary; Renie Besaw (Zoom), Christine Griffin, Jacob Marie, Dana Philbin (Zoom), Madhu Renduchintala (Zoom), Sophia Shaikh, (Zoom)

Members Absent: Tony Holt

Administrators Present: Dr. Walter Willett, Superintendent of Schools

A. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Lundgren called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Ms. Plourd motioned to table item H.1, Policy 3010.

Mr. Marie seconded the motion.

Discussion: Ms. Besaw commented that they may want to consider adding to Board action moving the date for the approval of the turf agreement to the end of October.

Ms. Lundgren responded that this will be on the August 25, 2021 agenda.

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- July 14, 2021
- August 2, 2021 – Special Meeting

Ms. Plourd motioned to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2021 meeting and August 2, 2021 special meeting.

Mr. Marie seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rebecca Risley commented that currently the U.S. is averaging 116,000 new COVID cases per day, the highest number in 6 months, and this is during the summer. She asked what the Board would think would happen if they put 20-28 students in a room without masks and social distancing. Rates for hospitalizations and deaths have doubled in the last 2 weeks in the U.S. She asked why anyone would want to remove a layer of protection that mitigates risks for the children. No one would want to wear a mask unless there is a compelling reason but it is the right thing to do for kids. Often doing the right thing, rather than the easy thing or what one desires for themselves is doing the hard and necessary thing. She asked how the Board and the Town of Tolland is prepared to deal with the potential litigation and loss of grants if they forego a mask mandate. She asked how children would be kept safe when children of anti-maskers remove or refuse to wear a mask as their parents are directing them to do. Ms. Risley commented that 314 children in the U.S. have died from COVID since the beginning of the pandemic and many struggle with issues and yet to be identified problems. She explained that 314 dead may be acceptable to some if their child does not have to wear a mask and she asked if it is acceptable if one's child or a friend of that child is part of that number. She commented

that she chooses all the tools at her disposal to avoid this for her child and those of others. She added that for anti-maskers who do not believe they are being listened to, they are but people are not willing to put their children and community at risk by taking away a proven method of protection. Children they are charged with protecting are not political pawns. She asked that they do the right thing for the community.

Brenda Falusi, 4 Laurel Ridge Road, commented that making a decision about school in the fall should not be a heart-wrenching decision. The kids should not have more stress in their lives. It is heart-wrenching to have one's pediatrician say they are sorry and not be able to look one in the eye knowing each time one's child is injured or ill there will be a longer road to recovery than for others and in some cases there will be long term or permanent damage to a child's body. She has always had the support of the school system for her child who has a rare chronic disease with no cure – only a slow, constant decrease in the quality of life that is impacted when she is ill. Ms. Falusi highlighted school staff who have been supportive. She now faces the heart-wrenching decision of putting her trust in the Board, the community, and her peers. While her daughter is vaccinated, there is not enough data for Ms. Falusi to know what will be safe. She asked if they will be there for her when her daughter says peers were not wearing masks and not vaccinated and when her daughter takes her COVID test if sick. Ms. Falusi asked if they will be there for her on sleepless nights when she wonders if the community will come together to protect her daughter. She asked if her daughter will be offered a safe place to eat away from those who may be carriers. If she catches COVID, will they be with Ms. Falusi to hear the treatment options and that the doctors do not know what the impact will be. Ms. Falusi commented that she does not know how to tell the Board that protecting the children is in the best interest. She asked that they do all in their power to do so.

Catharine McDonald, 47 Shenipsit Lake Road, commented that she is a perinatal therapist who has worked with moms during the pandemic. As a mom of 4 children who are too young to be vaccinated, she wanted people to be aware of where the disease is progressing. In the last week there have been 94,000 cases in children which is up from 72,00 from a week earlier. While CT has a low rate compared to other states, the positivity rate varies from 4-20%. Rates are going up and kids are not contained in classrooms yet. She believes the rate will only increase and everyone needs to do their part to protect immunocompromised children as well as those who may be at risk for co-infections. She hopes the community can come together and do something simple and harmless. Masking up going into the school year will not impact one's long term health.

Julie Brennan 127 Ellington Road, read a letter from Dr. Rebecca Robinson at 38 Fieldstone Drive. The letter included the information that follows. She is a board certified doctorally prepared acute care nurse practitioner who has 3 teenage sons. Her medicine and parenting are based on evidence – both scientific and trial and error. Her views on COVID are the same. The evidence is staggering on the ineffectiveness and harmfulness of wearing masks in the K-12 population despite evidence for all age ranges. Viruses replicate outsmarting scientists and vaccines. Influenza is highly contagious and there is a vaccine but it is subpar at best. The vaccine is estimated to be less than 40% effective and variable as the virus changes year to year. She asked why they were no curfews or lockdowns and mask requirements for this. The flu has proven to be more deadly than the coronavirus. COVID is contagious as are many other respiratory viruses and people will never be free of them and there will never be zero cases. The goal should be to find responsible ways to live with it. Vaccines are a start and are proven

to decrease symptoms and help the body fight it more effectively. The masks kids are being required to wear are not scientifically tested or proven to prevent the spread of COVID. The best things to do are to maintain good hygiene, maintain precautionary measures, and learn to live with this virus. She urges the Board to allow parents to make decisions that are best for their kids. Using experience and data to make evidence-based decisions is called parenting. Let the parents parent and make masks optional.

Julie Klineberg, 35 Stephanie Lane, commented that she would like to see masks optional for this school year. She is concerned for her kids' health and well-being. Everyone wants to do what is right for their kids and parents should be able to prioritize the health, safety, and well-being of their children. For some this means wearing masks and others not wearing them especially long term. She believes wearing a mask every weekday for 7 hours is not healthy physically or mentally. This is why it is important to let each family determine what is best for their children. Mask-wearing comes with many costs including interference of vision and concentration, headaches, and weakening of immune function. Further, many masks are made with toxic chemicals which will be inhaled. Additionally, kids' social development and mental health suffers. In order for kids to be forced to wear a mask, it must be proven to be safe, effective, and necessary to justify the side effects. Cloth masks have been shown to allow 95% of viral particles to move freely through and may increase infection risk. Ms. Klineberg added that a study of 100k students and staff show that children do not get COVID from school. The best prevention is proper handwashing and keeping sick kids home. The one size fits all mask order does not make sense and science does not support healthy people wearing masks. She noted that her student is not looking forward to school due to having to wear a mask.

Jennifer Gallichant, 150 Timber Trail, commented that it is apparent that members of the Board sympathize with parents on both sides of the mask situation. This decision is not the Board's to make and it must be difficult to discuss when they are not the experts providing the guidance.

Heather McCann, 62 Crossen Drive, commented that it is sad that they are at odds about the safety of the kids. As members of a society they are responsible for one another and wearing a mask is a way they can take care of one another. Children in the schools under the age of 12 are unable to be vaccinated. Until this changes, the only logical way to ensure the school population is safe is to have universal masking inside school buildings. Delta is surging through the country with children and adults being hospitalized at frightening rates in the south. Children look to them for protection and the only way to protect them is to have them wear masks. At this time there is no option for remote learning so most will have no choice but to go to school or be homeschooled. Ms. McCann explained that if they do not mask them there could be legal repercussions and at the heart of the issue is the safety of the children and the community. No one would be ok with any of the children or community members dying.

Myron Minn-Thu-Aye, 468 Old Stafford Road, commented that there are costs to weigh when it comes to wearing and not wearing masks. He has a 6-year-old and if masks were to be optional, he would not be wearing one. His son is in a preschool setting where masks are optional and none of the children wear masks. Making masks optional provides an opportunity to have a choice.

E. CORRESPONDENCE

- E-mail thanking the Board for congratulating Ms. McKown on her invention.

- 11 e-mails from 10 different authors asking that masks be optional for the upcoming school year.
- 22 e-mails from 15 different people in support of keeping masks mandatory for the upcoming school year.
- E-mail from a parent asking how to register her student for school
- E-mail showing the Board a joint statement issued by several different entities on the importance of culturally responsive education
- E-mail expressing opposition to weekly COVID testing in schools
- E-mail expressing several varied concerns.
- E-mail concerning a controversial incident in town and how the Town Council's statement on racism might be used to address the incident
- E-mail with links to equity resources

F. POINTS OF INFORMATION

- Ms. Plourd thanked everyone for speaking no matter where they stand on masks. She read the e-mails, has heard opinions, and knows it is a polarizing subject but at the end of the day the Department of Health (DPH) will make the decision. Any advocacy from the Board is their own personal advocacy.

G. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT – Nathalie Mitchell and Emily Pereira - none

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

H.1 Policy 3010 (no attachment) - tabled

H.2 Policy 9010

Dr. Willett reviewed attachment H.2.

He explained that the edits bring it in alignment with state statutes. The changes have been reviewed by the Policy Committee and is presented for the Board's first read.

H.3 2022 Meeting Dates

Dr. Willett reviewed attachment H.3.

He noted that the dates are posted annually around this time. This is the Board's first review of the dates.

Ms. Lundgren noted that additional meetings will be added to discuss the budget.

H.4 COVID Update (no attachment)

Dr. Willett reviewed attachment H.4.

The document (attachment H.4) will be uploaded and available online on the Superintendent page. It constitutes the COVID update for this BOE meeting being held on August 11, 2021.

Dr. Willett noted that due to incoming information, the district is restarting some protocols and practices that were in place last year with respect to monitoring, management, and input. The COVID Committee (with the same Board members) will start again and meet monthly and there will be multiple regular meetings with staff. Education will be all in-person but the State of CT, the DPH, and the CDC may change what is required.

Dr. Willett reviewed the school conditions for the first Pandemic Response Education Period which will run September 8th – 30th. This includes that masks are currently required to be worn at all times in all public and non-public Pre-K to 12 schools regardless of vaccination status.

Dr. Willett noted that there will be quarantine requirements. Students seated at least 3' away or more from a student identified as positive for COVID in a classroom setting will no longer need to quarantine if the close contact student is asymptomatic and all students in the classroom are wearing masks. In order to have the 3' distancing, rather than 6' distancing, all students in the classroom must wear a mask. In buses, cafeterias, and other contexts close contact students and staff less than 6' are subject to quarantine. Quarantine for students and staff deemed to be close-contacts of a person who tested positive for COVID will be for 10 days from the date of contact. Students who are vaccinated and asymptomatic will not be quarantined.

Dr. Willett noted that masks are not needed for recess or outdoor P.E. classes. All fall athletics will begin on time and fully vaccinated students and staff do not have to quarantine from sports or other activities provided they remain asymptomatic after close contact with a known COVID-19 case.

Dr. Willett noted that in terms of arts and music instruction and performance they will still need to distance 6' when there is increased respiration (i.e. singing and wind instruments).

Ms. Lundgren asked about the quarantines and vaccination status. Dr. Willett explained that they are asking that people share vaccination status with the nurse director. If status is not provided, they are considered non-vaccinated. This will not be relevant for grades K-5 and some of grade 6, until vaccines are available to those populations. Ms. Lundgren noted that there will not be a remote option and asked how students who are quarantined will be provided with support and materials. Dr. Willett explained that support will be provided as if the student was out with an illness but there is not a synchronous option. He noted that there is an expectation that around September Pfizer's vaccine will be FDA approved for younger age groups. If/when that happens, the district will aggressively provide clinics. The messaging is that there is a great reliance on vaccinations and encouragement for them. They are being seen as the way schools will be kept open. If all students are wearing masks, the 3' radius will prevent more students from being quarantined. If students are not wearing masks, the radius extends to 6' which would result in more students being quarantined.

Ms. Philbin commented that she is worried about students and their learning in quarantine and asked if there is anything they can do other than sending students home with packets. Dr. Willett responded that staff will follow up with students who are quarantined and there will be more support than in a non-pandemic year but there will not be synchronous learning. Last year they had remote learning associate educators (RLAEs) and this year they, in cooperation with teachers, will follow up with students in quarantine. Students will work with their Chromebooks from home, log into Google Classroom and access schoolwork. Dr. Willett noted that the state is coming out in

January 2022 for the 2022/2023 academic year with remote learning guidelines. School districts are currently not required to offer remote learning and there are no finalized guidelines. Ms. Philbin asked about the music department and band. Dr. Willett explained the same methods will be used as last year with distancing of 6' or more.

Ms. Griffin clarified that if students in grades K-5 do not wear masks, they will much more easily be quarantined. Dr. Willett confirmed that yes, a larger group would be quarantined since it would go from a 3' to 6' radius. The condition for 3' is based on every person in the classroom wearing a mask. If someone is vaccinated, masked, and asymptomatic then they are not quarantined. Ms. Griffin explained this is tough for K-5 regarding masks. It sounds like the district, including Dr. Willett, will be as busy, if not more so, with contact tracing in terms of determining who will be quarantined. She asked what they are doing to have additional assistance for contact tracing. Dr. Willett explained that they have a system in place and will be efficient. Compliance and involvement with many of these items falls on him as the Superintendent and accountable person.

Ms. Shaikh commented that she had the understanding that the state was going to provide a remote learning option for this school year and asked if this is still the case. Dr. Willett responded that many believed this would be the case. The state will develop a remote option at some point in the future and the state's guidance in January 2022, to take effect in the 2022/2023 school year, will have more information. Dr. Willett noted that if there is a quarantine condition outreach to families will be done but there will not be online or synchronous schooling available to general population students at this time. Ms. Shaikh asked about the 504/IEP population who require accommodation and if remote learning would be considered an accommodation. Dr. Willett responded that it will depend on the situation. Methodologies are in place and they are being encouraged to use them for handling students who need assistance at that level. The vast majority of students will be doing typical education in-person unless there is an exceptional reason not to be. Some version will exist for students who have a 504/IEP and need it, similar to pre-pandemic processes.

Ms. Plourd commented that she does not like what the state is making them do, particularly the quarantines. The K-5 population's families have sacrificed so much during all of this and it is getting "ridiculous". People can travel to Mexico and take rapid tests but a student who is not even 6 years-old has to stay home for 10 days and not receive an education. Perhaps the advocacy letter should include something about quarantines because it is "ridiculous". Ms. Plourd asked about those who do not share their vaccine status but are quarantined and if they provided their status if they could return to school. Dr. Willett responded that the student can avoid quarantine if they provided proof of vaccination and if they were asymptomatic and wearing a mask. She believes that as long as the periods do not include scheduling changes that it is ok since this is what caused turmoil last year. Dr. Willett responded that they do not plan on having any scheduling changes unless required by the state. Ms. Plourd asked about those who have had COVID and have natural immunity if they are considered vaccinated. Dr. Willett responded that they would still need to wear a mask and may avoid quarantine if the student had COVID within 90 days. Within 90 days they are considered protected and not subject to quarantine. Ms. Plourd confirmed that the 10

day requirement is from the DPH and asked if remote learning is not required or not allowed. Dr. Willett responded that it is not required. The state has not provided final guidance for remote learning and at this point guidance will be released in January 2022. Remote learning staff will reach out, connect with students, and support them but there will not be synchronous learning. If conditions become very bad, they may need to modify what is done but the thought is that around September the Pfizer vaccine will be available to the younger population and there will be fewer quarantined. Further, if people are wearing masks, the 3' diameter will have fewer students quarantined. To offer larger scale remote learning, teachers would need to be reassigned and it is expected that there will be a small population quarantined. Actions will be taken in moderation and in response to conditions so as to not compromise the overall quality of education for all students.

Mr. Renduchintala asked about quarantines and if unvaccinated students are in close contact (within 3'), everyone in the class is wearing a mask, and are asymptomatic, if they will need to quarantine. Dr. Willett responded that those unvaccinated students would have to quarantine. If they are more than 3' from the positive person, they do not have to quarantine if they are all wearing masks. This is the benefit of everyone in the classroom wearing a mask.

Mr. Marie asked about what the odds are that what is listed in attachment H.4 will change between now and the start of the school year. Dr. Willett responded that it is likely that nothing will change between now and September 30th. There appears to be a conservative rather than permissive trend. Mr. Marie asked about the RLAEs and if they are all being kept on staff. Dr. Willett responded that they are going to have people start the year in those roles as well as certified teachers in roles of support, but it will not be at the same level as last year.

Ms. Plourd commented that the vaccines are not technically FDA approved for anyone and are under emergency use and she believes parents of students in K-5 will likely want to go to their pediatrician rather than the school.

H.5 ERF Update

Dr. Willett reviewed attachment H.5.

The ERF agreement needs to be reviewed every 3 years by the Town Council and the Board. The Council reviewed it at last night's meeting and this evening the Board has an opportunity to review it as well. Dr. Willett noted that Ms. Griffin and the FFC have reviewed it and did not recommend any changes.

The Board did not recommend any changes. The Agreement will be reviewed again in 2024.

H.6 Advocacy Letter

Dr. Willett reviewed attachment H.6.

Ms. Plourd noted that the letter was reviewed by the Communication Committee twice. After receiving more information in the COVID update, they would likely edit the first line regarding "Tolland Board of Education" since she does not believe that all of the

Board members are willing to sign the letter. The letter would not be sent by the Board as a whole but by individual Board members. Instead, it would say, "As a member of the Tolland Board of Education I respectfully request that the State of Connecticut stop implementing quarantining of asymptomatic close contacts and". This would replace, "The Tolland Board of Education respectfully requests that the State of Connecticut". Ms. Plourd noted that she will sign the letter and leave it at the Board office for anyone else who would like to sign it.

Mr. Marie noted that he was in agreement. This is an advocacy letter and not what the district is going to do. They will follow DPH guidelines. The reason he is comfortable supporting it is the risk differential between the most vulnerable and students which is outlined in the last paragraph.

Ms. Griffin noted that she agrees and supports the letter as an advocacy letter with the edit noted by Ms. Plourd. The district will not go against the DPH or the Governor's executive order. She added that there may have been some confusion – the Board is not voting on the mask requirement for the district. When hopefully things come down, she believes parents should be able to make the decision regarding if their children will wear masks.

Mr. Renduchintala commented that the letter ignores the existence of the delta variant which is harmful to children. Children are being admitted to intensive care at a high rate. He asked about the utility of the letter – if it is to satisfy a group of residents. It is being done possibly to the detriment of public health against the advice of counsel and potential loss of grants. This would not be in the best interest of the community. If the goal is to effect officials' decision on the recommendation, they need to argue facts which he does not see in the letter. It may have been appropriate when cases were trending downward, but it is also outside of the Board's purview. From an institutional standpoint, he does not believe it should come from the Board especially since the Board is advocating with another state department to remove the SBAC. He does not believe the letter is a good idea.

Ms. Lundgren commented that Ms. Plourd noted that the letter is not coming from the full Board. It is coming from individual members. Mr. Renduchintala commented that the letter should not mention the entity of the Board at all.

Ms. Philbin commented that anyone can advocate for what they are passionate about. If they do the advocacy letter, it should not be submitted by Dr. Willett on behalf of the Board or x individuals. It is their job as Board members to uphold and represent the 15,000 residents in town and the 2,200 students and to advocate for one group against another goes against the oath she took when she took office which was to represent and advocate all of the students and staff in Tolland. They need to be objective about this. Many statements in the letter say that they want masks to be optional for students and staff. Ms. Philbin explained that everyone wants to not wear masks. In terms of the letter addressing the guidance of the DPH, those who want masks are also saying to use the guidance of the DPH. They need to follow the science and the health experts. Further, this is not under the purview of the Board and the Board does not have the power to make the choice for the school system. It under the state, the CDC, and the

EHHD. They should not be spending time discussing this during Board meetings. They talk about efficiency and a lot of time was spent reviewing this draft letter that is a personal stance of some Board members and members of the community. She does not support the letter but supports her teammates in doing what is right for themselves and their families.

Ms. Shaikh commented that she agrees with everyone. Her concern with the letter is that it is confusing. The Board received correspondence from both sides, but the authors of the correspondence felt the decision regarding masks was a Board decision. She does not want constituents to be confused with the Board's role and what it is doing for the residents. This is not a decision for the Board to make and she is grateful that the DPH provided the guideline.

Ms. Plourd commented that she respectfully disagrees that the letter was a waste of time and believes it is in their purview as the Board to advocate. If they are not there to advocate, are they just there for policy dictated by the state? She is grateful for the guidance, but she does not believe the quarantines need to continue. She noted that they have already sent personal letters and while not coming from the Board as a whole, advocating as a Board member is in their purview.

Ms. Lundgren noted that she spoke with counsel and was told that the letter could be sent from individual members, but it should not come from the Superintendents' office. The letter will be sent from Ms. Plourd's e-mail address.

Mr. Renduchintala commented that Policy 9010 states that the Board represents the residents in carrying out the mandates of the general statutes pertaining to education. He does not see how this is not a matter of public health or in the purview of the Board. The SBAC letter the Board is writing pertains to education, but this does not. He does not think the Board should be mentioned at all. Ms. Griffin explained that this affects the entire district. Mr. Renduchintala responded that it is a matter of public health. It is not an education decision.

Ms. Lundgren explained that the letter can be signed by individuals and not by the full Board and it is not being sent by the full Board. Mr. Renduchintala explained that his concern is that it is going to be misconstrued as coming from members of the Board and that the majority of the Board feels that way. He would like counsel to review it. Ms. Lundgren noted that counsel said it could be sent by individuals on the Board and that it should not be sent by the Superintendent.

Mr. Marie commented that it affects education and falls under their purview to have an opinion on it. He cited item H.4. He discussed with counsel that they can advocate and not risk liability or funding.

Ms. Lundgren noted that anyone who would like to sign the letter may reach out to Ms. Plourd.

I. COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

- Curriculum – Topics discussed included the success of the summer program; math curriculum Board presentation on August 25th; SBAC letter in process; World Languages; personal finance class;
- Finance and Facilities – Will meet next week
- Mental Health Task Force – They are getting closer to the recommendation. Members of the public who would like to provide input are invited to do so.
- Birch Grove Building Committee – Ms. Philbin noted the project is on time, under budget, and the move in date is August 23rd.
- Policy – Topics included Policies 3010 and 9010

J. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT - none

K. BOARD ACTION - none

L. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Julie Brennan, 127 Ellington Road, commented that a petition to make masks optional for kids and parents' choice was started. It is to Ned Lamont, the DPH, Dr. Willett, and the Board. The petitions reads, "We as the local residents in Tolland, CT are opposed to a mandate being implemented on our children to wear mandatory masks/face coverings for the upcoming school year. Moving forward, we believe the choice should be optional regardless of vaccination status, age, etc. There is enough science, enough evidence, and enough facts at this time to unmask our kids and make it optional. Thank you." They have 163 signatures and the number is growing. The petition will be sent to the parties listed within the next few days.

Catharine McDonald, 47 Shenipsit Lake Road, commented that she appreciates the Board's thoughtful discussion of the letter that seems contradictory to the science. The AAP reports that 15% of new cases are in children and the rates are increasing. If only a small percent of the delta variant infections result in hospitalizations, math shows that more children will become sick. If they are not masking everyone in school, more children will quarantine and there will be a lot of lost school time with quarantines, waiting for test results, secondary illnesses, suspected COVID and students have been through a lot the past year and a half and the last thing they need is increased risk of infection and more missed school. She appreciates the Board discussion and hopes everyone continues to advocate for the health and safety of the children.

M. POINTS OF INFORMATION

- Town Council – July 13, 2021
- Town Council – July 27, 2021

- Mr. Marie hopes everyone enjoys the rest of summer.

N. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Discussion concerning an employee's contractual request for leave – proposed for executive session - See item O for motion to enter executive session.

O. EXECUTIVE SESSION – for the purpose of a discussion concerning an attorney client communication regarding legal steps for addressing a personnel matter

Mr. Marie motioned for the Board to enter executive session at 9:16 PM to discuss an employee's contractual request for leave – proposed for executive session and for the purpose of a discussion concerning an attorney client communication regarding legal steps for addressing a personnel matter and invited Dr. Willett to attend.

Mr. Renduchintala seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board exited executive session at 10:05PM.

Mr. Marie motioned to accept the 1 year unpaid leave of absence for Jenna Angello.

Mr. Renduchintala seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

P. FUTURE

Q. NEW BUSINESS – none

R. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Marie motioned to adjourn at 10:08PM.

Ms. Plourd seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Pascuzzi
Clerk

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA ITEM BACKGROUND

ITEM: Field and Grounds Agreement-Turf Field

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

For BOE meeting: August 25, 2021

ITEM SUMMARY:

In the 6/23/2021 meeting the BOE took the following action:

Mr. Marie motioned to approve the Fields and Grounds Agreement as presented in the June 23, 2021 meeting with the stipulation that a joint meeting must occur by September 2021 between the Board of Education and the Town Council to discuss the financial resolution to the artificial turf field at the high school.

Mr. Holt seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

The item is re-presented for discussion for the Board of Education in this meeting August 25, 2021 for planning purposes.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

Turf field replacement is in the range of \$700,000.

BOARD ATTORNEY REVIEW:

N/A

BOE ACTION DESIRED:

Review and consideration

SUPPORTING MATERIALS ATTACHED:

Field and Grounds Agreement

FIELDS AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

This Agreement made and entered into as of this ___ day of June 2021, by and between the Town of Tolland (hereinafter called the "Town") and the Town of Tolland Board of Education (hereinafter called the "Board").

WHEREAS, the Board desires to enter into a contract with the Town for the maintenance of playfields and certain school grounds; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to provide the Board with these services; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Town and Board to have services performed without financial profit to either party and that the cost to the Board be at a minimum consistent with efficient administration of the services by the Town; and

WHEREAS, accurate and segregated cost figures are not available for such services, the Town and Board have agreed to continue the past practice of accounting for said services.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the covenants contained herein and for other good and valuable considerations, it is agreed as follows:

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES:

1. This Agreement shall commence and shall be effective July 1, 2021 and shall remain in effect until June 30, 2024 unless sooner terminated by mutual written agreement between the Town and the Board or sooner requested in writing to be reopened by either party.
2. The Town agrees to instruct its employees to use their best efforts to maintain the fields and grounds around the school building, consistent with the revenue and manpower available for this purpose. Routine maintenance to be performed by the Town includes: mowing, weed-wacking/line trimming, top dressing, lining, edging, seeding, fertilizing, soil sampling, maintaining artificial turf field, long jump, shot put, and oval track areas (as needed according to industry standards), and related maintenance in those areas identified in Appendix I.
3. The Town will provide the Board with a year-end total cost for maintaining the school playfields and grounds which is associated with school use of the fields and grounds by July 15th of every year. This cost will include but is not limited to personnel costs, supplies, materials, and depreciation of equipment and will be submitted to the State Department of Education as an in-kind service.
4. The Board of Education will give the Town, at least a year's advance notice of the intent to add programs or facilities that will create a need for additional resources in the form of equipment, supplies or manpower to maintain the fields. There is no guarantee that the Town will be able to accommodate the additional programs or facilities without additional staff or other budget resources.

5. An annual meeting held on or before June 1st of each year will be convened by the Town to review progress and requirements of all community fields. Participants will be selected by the Town Manager and Board of Education Superintendent to join with representatives of the Town and Board of Education staff.
6. Regular meetings will be scheduled between the Superintendent of Schools and Town Manager to review concerns and needs. Should conflicts arise that cannot be resolved between the liaison personnel, a representative from the Board of Education, a representative from the Town Council, the Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools will be the final arbitrators.
7. The Board agrees to enter any work requests for approval through the Town's Public Works Service Request system by emailing to publicworkstolct@tolland.org.
8. This Agreement shall be administered by the Town Manager.

FIELD AND LAWN AREA ISSUES:

9. The Board shall prepare a master schedule of its field utilization requirements at the end of each school year. This schedule will be directed to the Town for the fall by June 1st and spring schedule by February 1st for inclusion in a town-wide master schedule by the Town's Director of Recreation. From time to time it may be necessary to modify the schedule because of the need to reschedule league games. When this is necessary, first priority will be given to meeting the needs of the school. When games are scheduled or rescheduled, the field(s) will be prepared in accordance with CIAC rules.
10. The use of school fields and grounds remains under the jurisdiction and control of the Board. Priority of Board field use will rest in favor of school teams.
11. When fields are undergoing renovation work or are unusable, an alternate field, whenever possible, will be provided or the play will be rescheduled.
12. The Town will have access to Board fields and related facilities when school use is not required for games or practices. Such use shall be subject to reasonable rules and regulations as established by the Town's Director of Recreation in concert with the Board's Athletic Director. Every effort will be made to schedule the use of the field by the children in order to ensure that maintenance activities required by this Agreement may be executed in an efficient and timely manner.
13. The Public Works Supervisor and the High School Athletic Director will communicate each week to update team schedules and clarify issues. In the event of conflicts which cannot be resolved between the Public Works Supervisor and the Athletic Director, the matter will be addressed by the Public Works Director, and then by the Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools to review the issues at hand and develop a compromise solution.
14. The Board will transfer funds to the Parks & Facilities line account (16106172-733600) for field maintenance on or before August 1st as provided for in the adopted Board budget. Prior to November 1st of each year, the Town will submit budget items with associated dollar amounts for field maintenance to the Board's Facilities Director to be

included in the projected Board's budget for the following fiscal year. The Board will include in their own budget the one-time spring (usually April) disinfecting/grooming of the Tolland High School artificial turf field starting the 2022-2023 budget cycle.

15. The schools will provide a minimum four hour period each day when Town personnel and equipment may perform the necessary work and freely enter and exit the work area without restriction which includes mowing/overseeding, top dressing ball fields etc. The Town reserves the right to restrict access to fields when major repairs are needed. Prior notice will be given.
16. When other than normal maintenance is planned for the high school fields, the Athletic Director will be involved in the planning and discussions.
17. Every effort should be made to keep students, coaches, spectators, and other personnel from parking their motor vehicles on the grass areas.
18. The Town will line all fields once a week for games. Minor touch up marking prior to a weekend game shall be the responsibility of the Board of Education. Baseball/Softball fields will be lined, dragged, and scarified the day of a game on weekdays, weather depending.
19. The Tolland High School turf field painting (red) is to be budgeted and scheduled by the Board of Education.
20. The purchase, maintenance, and upkeep of field accessory items such as bats, balls, scoreboards, benches, batting cages, fencing and goals on fields related to school activities are the responsibility of the Board of Education. This also includes filling, monitoring, and draining the new heat stroke tank. The light pole and light fixtures, out of bounds markers/foul poles at Tolland Middle School and Tolland High School fields are also the responsibility of the Board of Education.
21. Major capital improvement requirements for field reconstruction will be identified in the respective Capital Improvement Program of each party evaluated along with other Town priorities. The Board shall put track resurfacing in their Capital Budget request at least once every ten years. The Board of Education and Town of Tolland will work collaboratively to come up with a funding method for the turf field replacement.
22. The cost for operating the irrigation system at the Tolland High School will be in the Board of Education Budget. The Boards Facilities Manager shall do any operation adjustments.
23. Normal grass clippings will be left on the field. The Town will make every effort to eliminate large windrows that would damage the grass. The Town will also make all attempts to remove any grass clippings accumulating on the oval tracks at the Middle School and High School.
24. The Town will not assist in the put-out/setup of soccer goals. The individual teams will be responsible for the put-up and take-down of nets and benches. The Town will not move goals from field to field or school to school. Large tires used for drills and

workouts must be removed from playing field for mowing and painting fields, the Town will not move.

25. The Board of Education shall arrange to have the area around all bases, pitcher's mound and catcher's area lightly raked to ensure optimum playing conditions.
26. The fields will be watered by the Board when they become dry as long as there is a source of water available. Under no circumstances should potable, Tolland Water Fund or Connecticut Water Company water be used for any irrigation purpose at any school without prior written consent by the Town Manager/Superintendent of Schools, or his/her designee.
27. The Town will paint the lines on the shot/disc slab and javelin approach at Tolland High School. The Town will also conduct minor repairs to the artificial surfaces to the High School and Middle School track and the long jump and shot-put box at Tolland High School, as necessary. Major repairs will fall under the Capital Improvement Program for both parties.
28. If the Board elects to use infield tarps on baseball/softball fields, they are responsible for making sure the tarps are removed and stored so they do not interfere with field grooming or mowing by the Town.
29. All mulched islands shall be maintained by the Board. This includes mulching, pruning, trimming of trees.
30. The Board is responsible for the access gate for the two new handicap parking spots at the Tolland High School near the softball field.

TRASH/RUBBISH ISSUES:

31. School personnel shall be responsible for emptying field barrels at the high school within the turf field areas. The Town will be responsible for removing the trash on the lower level baseball, softball and soccer field areas. The Town shall be responsible for emptying the field barrels at all other school fields as part of their weekly lawn maintenance activities. Private clubs utilizing school fields on the weekend shall be asked to take full bags of garbage to site dumpsters and to replace the plastic bag. Cleaning bleachers and garbage pickup and removal will be the responsibility of the Board for Board sponsored events including weekend events.

BOARD OF EDUCATION RESPONSIBILITIES AS IDENTIFIED IN APPENDIX I:

32. The Board of Education shall engage a contractor or use school personnel to perform the tasks identified in Appendix I.

BOARD OF EDUCATION AND TOWN OF TOLLAND RESPONSIBILITIES AS IDENTIFIED IN APPENDIX II:

33. The outline of duties and responsibilities related to the weeding and trimming of school grounds is identified in Appendix II.

And it is mutually understood and agreed that, this agreement shall be binding upon the parties hereto and upon their respective successors.

SIGNED in Tolland, Connecticut on this _____ day of June ____, 2021.

By: _____
Michael Rosen
Town Manager

By: _____
Walter Willett, PhD
Superintendent of Schools

APPENDIX I

The Town will be responsible for cutting the grass at all schools with the following areas being excluded:

Tolland Intermediate School

1. The southeast corner by the rear parking lot and Old Post Road, i.e., lawn between rear parking lot and custodial lot/delivery area and long island separating the bus lane from the parent drop of parking lot in the front of the school.
2. Lawn adjacent to school in rear of building inside parking area.
3. Pine grove to north of rear parking lot adjacent to music and computer classrooms.
4. The front lawn inside the pavement (down to Old Post Road).
5. The large island along Old Post Road and west of incoming front driveway.
6. Lawn on north and east sides of school inside the sidewalk including the area just outside the garden area between the senior housing project (old Parker school) and to fence (property boundary).

Tolland Middle School

1. Traffic islands.
2. Twenty-four-inch border around school.
3. Lawn area in front of school between school and sidewalk excluding large lawn areas next to the auditorium, band room, grassy hill between front patio and main entrance stairs and behind new art wing.
4. Lawn area directly in front of auditorium main entrance between sidewalks.

Birch Grove Primary School

1. The narrow island in front of the main entrance extending from the handicapped parking areas to the shed.
2. The narrow grass area along the fence and adjacent to Rhodes Road from the emergency access gate to the emergency access road to Cross Farms.

Tolland High School

1. Traffic islands.
2. Three-foot border surrounding building.
3. The Town will be responsible for maintaining the artificial turf field with the exception of the one-time annual spring maintenance starting in 2021-2022. Expenses related to maintenance should first be paid from any revenue generated from the rental of the facility or the sale of advertising signs.

APPENDIX II

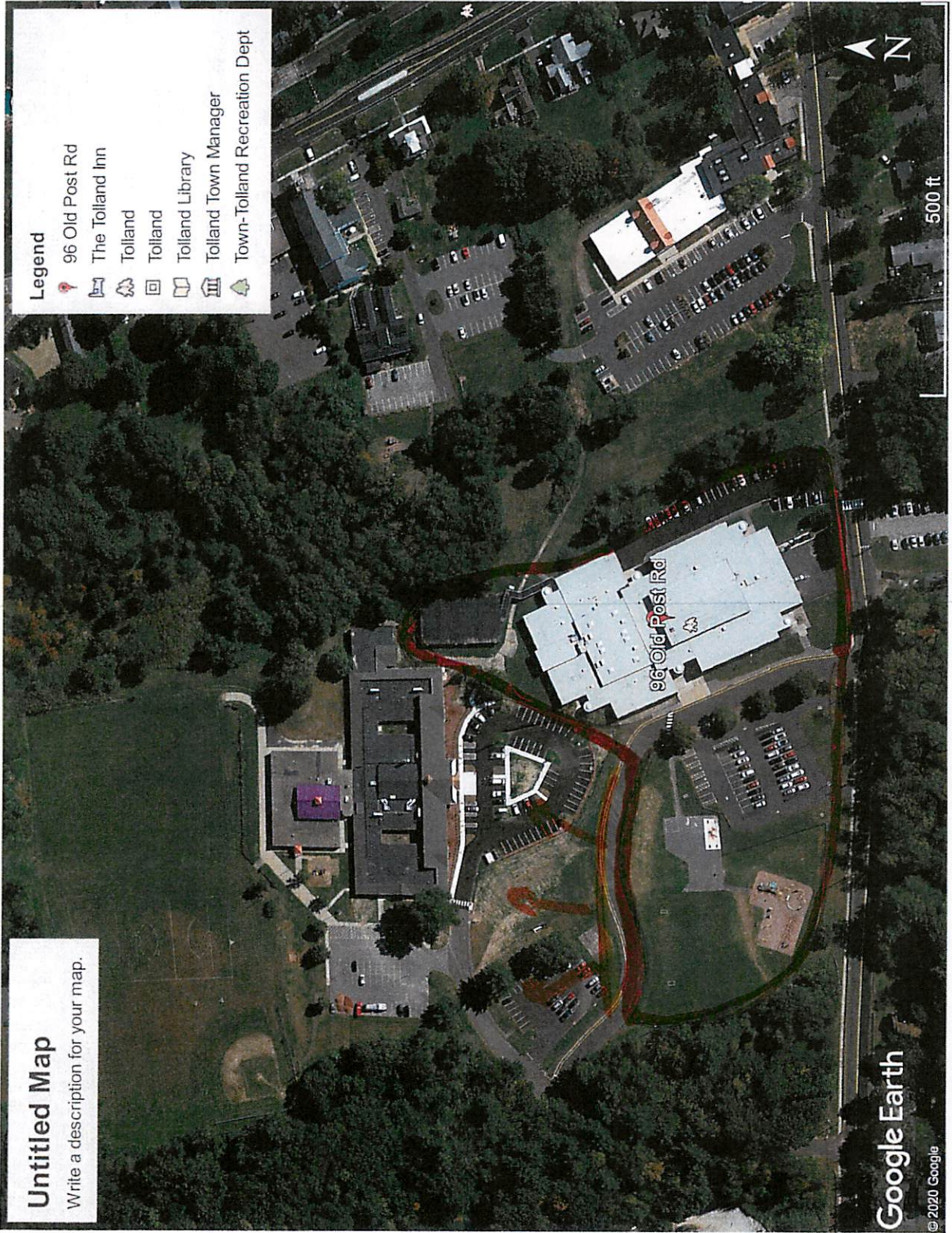
The Town of Tolland and the Tolland Board of Education shall be responsible for the weeding and trimming of their designated areas as outlined in the maps of the four schools. The Board of Education shall be responsible for all the areas outlined and enclosed in red. The Town of Tolland shall be responsible for all areas enclosed and outlined in yellow/orange. At a minimum, both parties agree to trim such areas from April 15th thru October 15th on every other week basis. On average this would result in trimming these designated areas (12) times per calendar year.

Untitled Map

Write a description for your map.

Legend

- 96 Old Post Rd
- The Tolland Inn
- Tolland
- Tolland
- Tolland Library
- Tolland Town Manager
- Town-Tolland Recreation Dept



Google Earth

© 2020 Google

**BIRCH GROVE
PRIMARY SCHOOL**
Portables

2017/2018
10/10/17

REVISIONS

NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE
1	Initial Design	10/10/17
2	Revised Design	10/10/17
3	Final Design	10/10/17

PROJECT INFORMATION

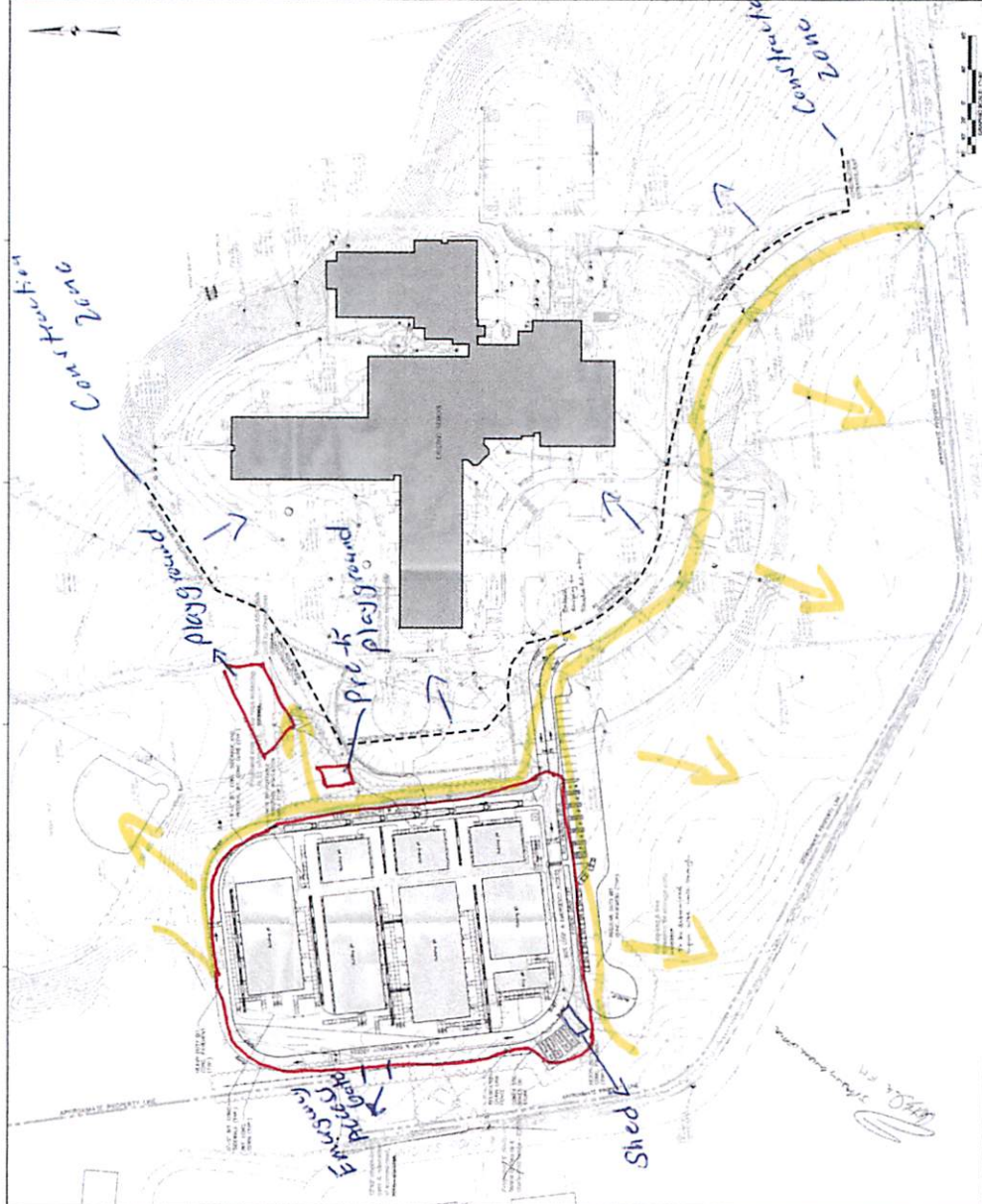
Project Name: Birch Grove Primary School
Project Number: 10/10/17
Project Date: 10/10/17



NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE
1	Initial Design	10/10/17
2	Revised Design	10/10/17
3	Final Design	10/10/17

SITE MATERIAL PLAN

C-3.0

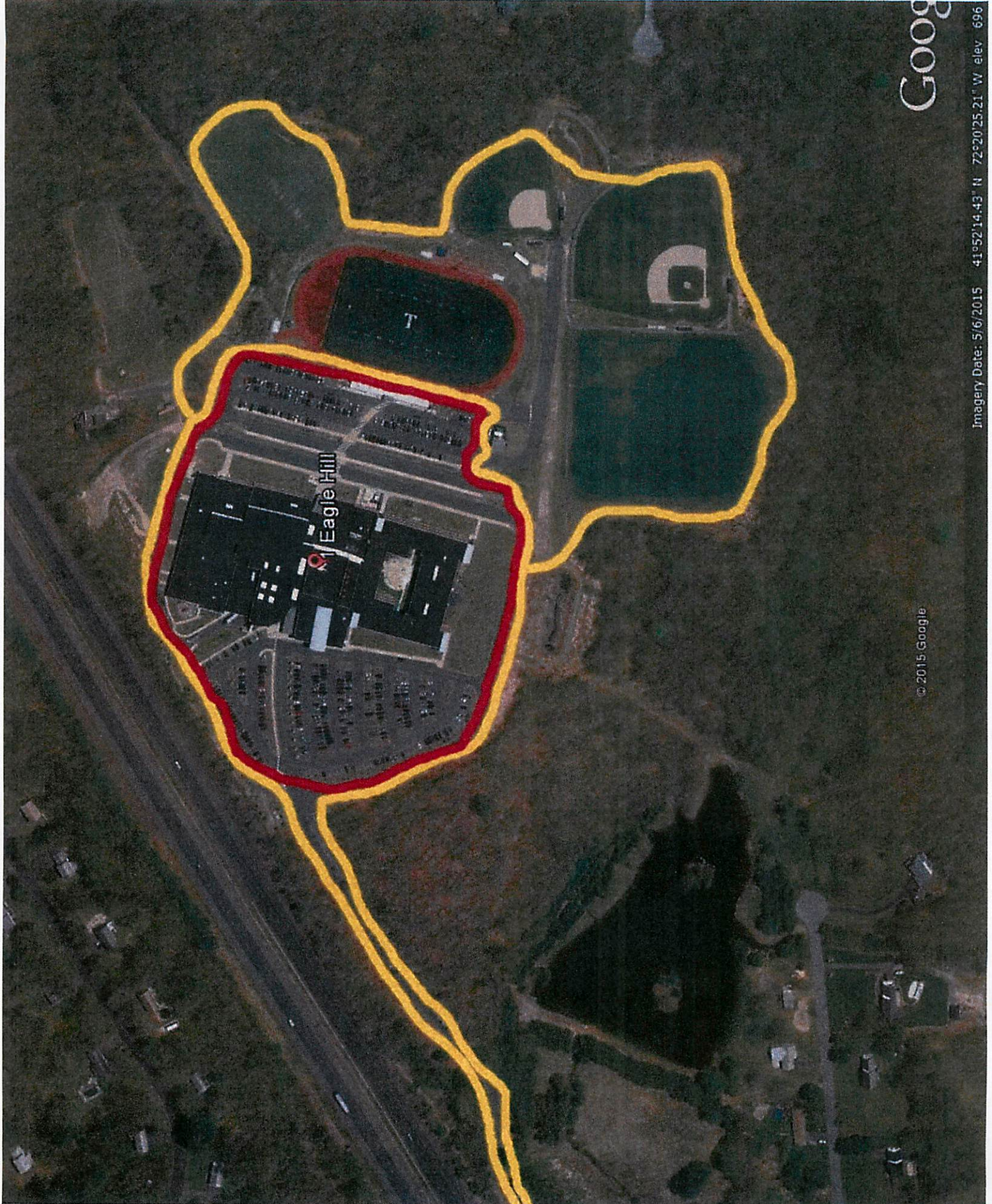




Google

© 2015 Google

Imagery Date: 5/6/2015 41°52'14.40" N 72°21'03.88" W elev 554



Eagle Hill

Google

© 2015 Google

Imagery Date: 5/6/2015 41°52'14.43" N 72°20'25.21" W elev. 696

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA ITEM BACKGROUND

ITEM: Policy 9010

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

For BOE meeting: August 25, 2021

ITEM SUMMARY:

Proposed amendments as follows:

~~C. To consider and adopt an annual budget prepared and recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.~~

C. To consider and adopt an annual budget, prepared by the Superintendent of Schools.

~~E. To establish policy for employment, promotion and dismissal of personnel in accordance with the state statutes and employment contracts.~~

E. To establish policy for employment, promotion and dismissal of personnel in accordance with the state statutes.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

N/A

BOARD ATTORNEY REVIEW:

- Shipman and Goodwin Policy Template referenced
- Other Legal References:
 - Connecticut General Statutes
 - 1-200 Definitions (public agency)
 - 10-4a Educational interest of the State identified
 - 10-4b Failure of local or regional board to implement educational interests
 - 10-220 Duties of Boards of Education
 - 10-221 Board of education to prescribe rules
 - 10-241 Powers of school district

BOE ACTION DESIRED:

Second read

Proposed Motion:

Motion to accept the changes to Policy 9010 as outlined in agenda item K.1. of the August 25, 2021, Board of Education Meeting.

Second. Discussion. Vote.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS ATTACHED:

Policy 9010 - Role of Board and Members 8.11.2021 Draft

TOLLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Tolland, Connecticut

BOARD POLICY

REGARDING: Role of Board and Members

Number: 9010
Bylaws

Approved: 2/28/01
Revised: 10/10/12
Revised: 8-11-2021

1. General Duties

- A. The Board of Education represents the residents of the Town in carrying out the mandates of the General Statutes pertaining to education.
- B. The Board of Education shall determine all questions of general policy to be employed in the conduct of the schools.
- C. In determining school policy it shall:
 - (1) hear and consider facts and recommendations,
 - (2) adopt a plan, policy or course of action, and
 - (3) authorize the Superintendent of Schools, its chief executive officer, to carry out its policy.

2. Specific Powers and Duties

The Board of Education after being sworn in shall have authority to take all action necessary or advisable to meet its responsibilities under state statutes and Town Charter including but not limited to the following:

- A. Create, abolish, modify and maintain such positions, schools, divisions and classifications as may be necessary for the efficient administration of the educational enterprise.
- B. To elect a Superintendent of Schools in accordance with state statutes.
- ~~C. To consider and adopt an annual budget prepared and recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.~~
- C. To consider and adopt an annual budget, prepared by the Superintendent of Schools.
- D. To determine the number, classification, duties and remuneration of employees.

~~E. To establish policy for employment, promotion and dismissal of personnel in accordance with the state statutes and employment contracts.~~

E. To establish policy for employment, promotion and dismissal of personnel in accordance with the state statutes.

F. To provide for the appraisal of the efficiency of personnel.

G. To initiate and approve the acquisition and disposition of school sites, to initiate and approve plans for school buildings.

H. To consider any specific recommendations made by the Superintendent of Schools.

I. To keep the citizenry informed of purposes, values, conditions and needs of public education in the Town.

J. To consider, revise and adopt any changes in the curriculum.

K. To take any other actions required or permitted by law.

L. To make reasonable provision to implement the educational interests of the State, as defined by law, so that

- (1) each child shall have for the period prescribed in the General Statutes equal opportunity to receive a suitable program of educational experiences;
- (2) the school district shall finance at a reasonable level an educational program designed to achieve this end;
- (3) the school district shall provide educational opportunities for its students to interact with students and teachers from other racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds;
- (4) the mandates in the General Statutes pertaining to education within the jurisdiction of the State Board of Education shall be implemented.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes

- 1-18a Definitions (public agency)
- 10-4a Educational interest of the State Defined
- 10-4b Failure of local or regional board to implement educational interests
- 10-220 Duties of Boards of Education
- 10-221 Board of Education to prescribe rules
- 10-241 Powers of school district

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA ITEM BACKGROUND

ITEM: Board of Education 2021 Meeting Dates

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

FOR BOE MEETING: August 25, 2021

ITEM SUMMARY:

January 12, 2022
January 26, 2022
February 9, 2022
February 23, 2022
March 9, 2022
March 23, 2022
April 13, 2022
April 27, 2022
May 11, 2022
May 25, 2022
June 8, 2022
June 22, 2022
July 13, 2022
July 27, 2022*
August 10, 2022
August 24, 2022
September 14, 2022
September 28, 2022
October 12, 2022
October 26, 2022
November 9, 2022
November 30, 2022 (moved due to Thanksgiving break)
December 14, 2021
December 21, 2021 (moved due to winter Break)

***Meetings followed by an asterisk have typically been cancelled**

- **Meetings will be held at Hicks Municipal Center, Council Chambers @ 7:00 pm unless otherwise specified**
- **Meetings are held In Person and through Zoom (hybrid meeting style) unless otherwise specified**

FINANCIAL SUMMARY: N/A

BOARD ATTORNEY REVIEW:

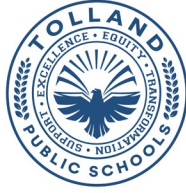
BOE ACTION DESIRED:

Review dates. Potential Motions:

Motion to approve the Board of Education 2022 Meeting dates. Second. Discussion. Vote

SUPPORTING MATERIALS ATTACHED:

2022 - BOE Proposed Meeting dates



**TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
2022 MEETING DATES**

**Meetings will be held at Hicks Municipal Center, Council Chambers
7:00 pm**

In Person or Zoom

January 12, 2022
January 26, 2022
February 9, 2022
February 23, 2022
March 9, 2022
March 23, 2022
April 13, 2022
April 27, 2022
May 11, 2022
May 25, 2022
June 8, 2022
June 22, 2022
July 13, 2022
July 27, 2022*
August 10, 2022
August 24, 2022
September 14, 2022
September 28, 2022
October 12, 2022
October 26, 2022
November 9, 2022
November 30, 2022 (moved due to Thanksgiving break)
December 14, 2021
December 21, 2021 (moved due to winter Break)

**The November 24 meeting was moved to November 17 due to *Meetings followed by an asterisk have typically been cancelled

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA ITEM BACKGROUND

ITEM: Birch Grove Primary School Change Orders

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

FOR BOE MEETING: August 25, 2021

ITEM SUMMARY:

D'Amato (BGP Project Contractor) has compiled State Change Order #7 for submission to the State of Connecticut. The BGP School Building Committee has already reviewed and approved the individual Change Order Requests which are included in State Change Order #7, and they have been signed and authorized for payment by the Town Manager.

For the Town to be reimbursed for these items, the Board of Education must accept the documentation and authorize the Superintendent to sign all related documentation and approvals.

General Sequence:

1. BGP Contractor, Architect and/or Owners Rep raises field condition or design omission, identifying any needed changes to the project plans. The Town may also make requested changes to the project plan.
2. Contractor, Architect and Owners Rep review needed change and decide upon the best solution. NOTE: All 3 contracted agencies must approve Change Order Request before it can be submitted to the Building Committee.
3. BGP Building Committee reviews and approves Change Order Approval Letters with supporting documentation.
4. Approved Change Order(s) are sent to the Town Manager for his signature, which commits the Town to pay for the Change Order item(s).
5. Following State Requirements, multiple Change Order Approval Letters are compiled into State Change Orders.
6. **The Board of Education reviews State Change Orders and authorizes the Superintendent to apply for reimbursement for all items and to sign SCG-042. (current step)**
7. The BOE minutes are submitted to the contractor and subsequently to the State of Connecticut.
8. The State of Connecticut reviews the change orders and documentation and sends a letter confirming reimbursement.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY: [N/A or put in a summary]

BOARD ATTORNEY REVIEW: [N/A or put in a summary]

BOE ACTION DESIRED:

"Motion to accept documentation related to Project 142-0083-N State Change Order #7, presented in

the Board of Education meeting of August 25, 2021, and authorize the Superintendent to sign all related documentation and approvals to apply for reimbursement from the State for eligible items."

SUPPORTING MATERIALS ATTACHED:

Change Order #7

Summary of contracts

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rCj1lGnC0F_IZOjPugNUgyRlDkyQkaNf/view?usp=sharing

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fGIuyhRVZNR2Qk-x9pXyI37tx6j6ct-Z/view?usp=sharing>

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MINUTES

TOLLAND TOWN COUNCIL

HYBRID MEETING

August 10, 2021 – 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tammy Nuccio, Chair; Steve Jones, Vice Chair; Brenda Falusi (Zoom), Lou Luba, John Reagan, Kurt Schenher (Zoom); Bill Bode (Zoom; Sworn in at 7:13PM)

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

OTHERS PRESENT: Lisa Hancock, Interim Town Manager; Beverly Bellody, Director, Human Services; Mike Wilkinson, Director of Administrative Services (Zoom); Walter Willett, Superintendent; Kathy Pagan, Town Clerk

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:** none

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

Tourism – Ms. Falusi noted that the state is still experiencing an increase in some areas of tourism throughout the summer. Venues are starting to require masks and vaccines so people should be aware of the policies before visiting.

Sustainable CT – Ms. Falusi noted that they are meeting with fellows of Sustainable CT. She added that they failed to convince them to cover more of the Wanat Property. They are looking at creating a survey for businesses, and possibly residents, regarding how they receive communications from the town. Further, they are working with the Town of Bloomfield and will partner with them and other towns to look at creating events on sustainability. These events would start next year.

7b. **REPORTS OF TOWN COUNCIL LIAISONS**

- Birch Grove Building Committee – Mr. Luba provided an update of the meeting held on August 3rd.
- WPCA – no meeting
- Planning & Zoning Commission – Ms. Falusi provided an update of last night's meeting.
- Blight Committee – no meeting
- Historic District Commission- Ms. Falusi noted that the next meeting is August 18th.
- Conservation Commission – Mr. Jones noted the next meeting will be on August 12th.
- Water Commission – Mr. Jones noted that the next meeting is August 16th.
- Parks and Recreation – Mr. Schenher referenced the minutes.

8. **NEW BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS):**

8.1 Appointment of a member to the Town Council

Ms. Hancock noted that the Republicans identified William Bode III to replace the Town Council position that was vacated via the resignation of Sophia Johnson.

Mr. Jones motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tolland Town Council that it hereby appoints William Bode, III as a Council member.

Mr. Luba seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mr. Jones welcomed Mr. Bode.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

Motion passed.

Ms. Pagan swore in Mr. William Bode III as a member of the Tolland Town Council at 7:13PM.

- 8.2 Consideration of a resolution for an extension of the due date for the payment in lieu of taxes for the ACCESS Housing at Parker Place, 100 Old Post Road.

Ms. Hancock explained that Peter DeBiasi, President and CEO of the ACCESS Agency, has requested that the Council give consideration to extending the lease requirement for them to begin the in lieu of tax payment due to financial difficulties due to the COVID pandemic. The lease requires the town to charge \$12/unit for every rented unit with a 3% increase effective January 1st. The total loss of revenue, if the Council moves forward, is \$5448.

Mr. DeBiasi (via Zoom) noted that Mr. Parker Stevens, Director of Finance, ACCESS is in attendance as well (via Zoom). Mr. DeBiasi explained that the CO was received in 2019 and it was anticipated that the units would be fully leased up in about a year and they would start paying the PILOT a year later. Due to COVID, they are a year behind on the lease up process. Currently 36 of the 37 are leased and the 37th is expected to be leased on September 1st. Mr. DeBiasi explained that they have had to put significant funding into the project. The developer fee has been invested into the project and they are overall approximately \$25,000 to the negative. Thus, they are requesting to push the PILOT back another year. It would be helpful to the finances of the project. They understand there would be a loss of revenue to the town but perhaps ARP funds could be used to supplant the dollars if the waiver is granted.

Ms. Nuccio asked if ARP funds could be used. Ms. Hancock responded that she was unsure, but they did not budget the dollars. Ms. Falusi noted that some towns are using ARP funds to provide grants to 501(c)(3)s and small businesses so there is a precedent in other towns, and she believes it is appropriate to go ahead with the request.

Mr. Luba commented that a pause/deferment of payment has been requested but interest was not noted. He asked if they are also requesting a deferment of the 3% interest. A discussion took place. Ms. Hancock noted that this could be added to the resolution. Mr. DeBiasi explained that the request is to delay the start of payment for a year and the first 3% increase would be in January 2023. A brief discussion followed.

Mr. Jones motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tolland Town Council that it agrees to allow ACCESS Housing at Parker Place, 100 Old Post Road, to extend the due date for the payment in lieu of taxes for one year, from October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022.

Mr. Luba seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. DeBiasi thanked the Council.

- 8.3 Discussion – three-year check-in on the Education Reserve Fund Ordinance (Chapter 8).

Ms. Hancock provided background information. The ordinance was adopted on August 27, 2013 and amended November 13, 2018. The ordinance allows the Board of Education (BOE) to request that any remaining funds, up to 1% of the BOE budget, if available, be put into a separate education reserve fund. The fund has stipulations that the money may be used for capital, technology, or unanticipated special education needs. The policy requires that the Council and BOE review it every 3 years which is coming up in November 2021. The previous Town Manager and Superintendent met and discussed the ordinance. Neither recommended any changes to the ordinance at this time. This agenda item is an opportunity for the Council to discuss any changes.

Mr. Luba asked about §8-4, Use of Monies from the Committed Fund Balance Account and if a contractual recurring expense, such as a staff person, could be encumbered or if it is for a single item. Ms. Hancock responded that it is mainly for one-time items; however, depending on what happens throughout the year, it may be used for a staff person for special education, but it is not designed to fund such a position year after year.

Dr. Willett noted that the fund is working well as designed and in speaking with the previous Town Manager, they did not feel any changes were needed at this time. Further, the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee of the BOE reviewed it and also felt that it is working well as written. The BOE will review it tomorrow as well.

Ms. Nuccio noted that the Council reviewed the Ordinance and there were no desired requests or changes.

- 8.4 Consideration of a resolution for a supplemental appropriation of \$49,076 from the equity distribution from CIRMA to use by the Town and Board of Education. The Town's share would appropriate the funds in the amount of \$22,688 to the Capital Improvement fund for Environmental and Other Testing Project Account 20500072-722460-2155. The Board of Education's share in the amount of \$26,388 would be appropriated to the Capital Improvement fund for Birch Grove School Non-grant Account 2010072-777400-2156.

Mr. Rosen provided background information about the American Rescue Plan (ARP).

Tolland, over the course of 2 years, has been granted \$4,326,206.00; of this, \$2,163,102.81 has been received and the rest will be received next year. Mr. Rosen noted that there are strict guidelines on how the funding may be used: COVID-19 expenditures that were not otherwise reimbursed by FEMA or CARES; if the town had revenue gaps due to COVID-19; premium pay for essential workers; infrastructure improvements (limited to water, sewer, broadband). An interim report with expenditure summary by category is due by August 31st.

Ms. Hancock explained that each year the town has been fortunate to receive a distribution from the equity distribution of CIRMA for use by the Town and the BOE. Each year, the Council is presented with the funds, and they are generally used toward a one-time expense of the capital fund. Examples include foundation testing on the town side and in terms of the Board of Education, funds were put aside so they would be available in case the state does not approve part of the grant. This evening, the appropriation resolution is being asked of the Council.

Mr. Jones asked about the Birch Grove School account. If the funds allocated are not used, would the funds go back to the Council for another account, or would they go to the BOE for another capital improvement fund?

Ms. Hancock responded that most likely the funds would be moved into another capital fund where the funds are needed. If it is a new project, the Council would need to reappropriate the funds to the new project.

Mr. Luba asked if the capital improvement fund for Birch Grove would only last through construction or if it would continue as a capital improvement line for Birch Grove. Ms. Hancock explained that it would be related to the project. Once construction is complete, there will still be ongoing expenditures for items such as furniture and technology and the funds could be used towards those items. If they receive information from the state that the town will not receive the full amount, these funds could be used towards the shortfall. The funds could also be used for items not covered under the original grant such as the school security guard needed during the project.

Mr. Jones motioned:

MOTION that the following resolution be approved:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tolland Town Council that it hereby appropriates \$49,076 from the equity distribution from CIRMA to use by the Town in the amount of \$22,688 to the Capital Improvement fund for Environmental and Other Testing Project Account 20500072-722460-2155 and to the Board of Education in the amount of \$26,388 would be appropriated to the Capital Improvement fund for Birch Grove School Non-grant Account 2010072-777400-2156.

Mr. Luba seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

8.5 Appointments to vacancies on various municipal boards/commissions.

8.5.a. Reappointments to the Commission on People with Disabilities

8.5.b. Appointment to the Planning and Zoning Commission

8.5.c. Appointment to the Eastern Highlands Health District

8.5.d. Appointment to the Land Acquisition Advisory Board

Ms. Nuccio thanked everyone who is volunteering. Currently, there are over 20 vacancies across the boards and commissions. If anyone is interested, there is at least one vacancy on most of them. Mr. Jones noted that applications were received for the Mental Health Task Force and the Veterans Recognition Commission.

Mr. Jones motioned to approve the reappointments for the Commission on People with Disabilities: Robert Deichert and Susan Lucek-Hughes for a term of 08/01/21 – 08/01/24.

Mr. Luba seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jones motioned to approve the new appointments: Lisa Hancock to the Eastern Highland Health District (term 08/10/2021 – 08/10/2024) and the Land Acquisition Advisory Committee (life term); Erin Stavens to the Planning and Zoning Commission (term 11/12/2019 – 11/09/2021).

Mr. Jones recalled and amended the motion.

Mr. Jones motioned to approve the new appointments: Lisa Hancock to the Eastern Highland Health District (term 08/10/2021 – 08/10/2024) and the Land Acquisition Advisory Committee (life term); Erin Stavens to the Planning and Zoning Commission (term 08/10/2021 – 11/09/2021).

Mr. Luba seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

9. **OLD BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS):**

9.1 Discussion on the formation of a subcommittee to review and vet possible ARP fund use options.

Ms. Hancock explained that at the last meeting the Council discussed possible uses for the ARP funds. The Council noted that it wanted to create a subcommittee. Ms. Hancock noted that the subcommittee cannot have more than 3 members and believes it is important that staff is involved with the process because there are things which the subcommittee may not be aware of when reviewing considerations. Ms. Hancock added that she would be able to work with the subcommittee and would ask staff to provide additional information as needed.

Ms. Falusi commented that she would like the Council to consider having someone on the subcommittee from the EDC, or ensure they are asked for ideas. The ARP funds are being used by many communities to assist in strengthening communities and building bonds between community members and contributors to the communities as well as helping businesses through the pandemic by providing grants to move out of the pandemic and into the new normal. Further, 501(c)(3)s and nonprofits lost revenue while closed and need to invest in programs which is an investment in the town. She would like to have the EDC and perhaps members of

the community as membership on the subcommittee. Ms. Hancock noted that getting input from the EDC could be arranged.

Mr. Jones asked if they could establish a dedicated e-mail address or the primary form of contact for thoughts and concerns regarding the use of the funds. Ms. Hancock responded that they do want to hear the needs of the community but need to be cautious not to create several small projects because the town does not have the staff to administer them. Recordkeeping and rules are involved regarding state statutes. If the subcommittee would like to set up an e-mail address, it may do so.

Ms. Nuccio noted that at the last meeting they discussed the Council Chair and Vice Chair being on the subcommittee. Mr. Luba concurred that having the Chair and Vice Chair on the subcommittee is the best way to go for continuity and that town staff should be appointed by Ms. Hancock or the future town manager since they would be best at discerning who should attend subcommittee meetings to address proposals.

Mr. Jones motioned to establish a subcommittee to review and vet possible American Rescue Plan (ARP) fund use options and appoint Chair Nuccio and Vice Chair Jones to the subcommittee as well as Lisa Hancock, the Interim Town Manager.

Mr. Luba seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

10. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

- E-mails regarding citizen complaints and staff concerns have been received
- The town has posted for an Interim Finance Director
- Types of meetings for boards and commissions (update):
 - In person: WPCA, Veterans Recognition Committee
 - Remote: Birch Grove Building Committee, Commission on People with Disabilities, Conservation Commission, Library Advisory Board, Parks and Recreation, Tolland Water Commission
 - Hybrid: Town Council, Board of Education, Economic Development Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals
- Ms. Hancock requested that if any Councilors have questions of the staff that she would appreciate if they went through her first and she would direct them to the right person. This allows her to be aware of Councilors' concerns and questions and will allow her to get them the right answers.

11. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

July 27, 2021 Hybrid Special Meeting Minutes
July 27, 2021 Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes
August 4, 2021 Hybrid Executive Session Minutes
August 4, 2021 Hybrid Special Meeting Minutes

Mr. Jones motioned to approve the minutes as laid out for July 27th, Hybrid Special and Hybrid Regular meetings as well as for the August 4th Hybrid Executive and Hybrid Special meetings.

Mr. Reagan seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

12. CORRESPONDENCE TO COUNCIL

- E-mail from resident about a social media dialogue requesting responses from various groups
- E-mail from resident about a social media dialogue request for a citation for a community club
- E-mail from resident with well testing results
- E-mail asking for masks to be mandated
- E-mail asking that masks be optional
- E-mail request that they do not use a search consultant for the town manager position
- E-mail asking that they say "no" to masks and passports
- E-mail with information about pesticides

- E-mail about a social media dialogue and the Council's statement on racism
- E-mail about a social media dialogue and a request for a proclamation
- E-mail requesting that the town manager search be done by a committee of resident volunteers
- E-mail with information on fossil fuels

13. **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Ms. Nuccio apologized for cancelling Chair Hour on Thursday. She had a family emergency that she had to tend to. Ms. Nuccio encouraged anyone with questions or who would like to have an informal chat to reach out and she will make time to speak with them.

14. **COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS FROM COUNCILPERSONS** - none

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

Sophia Johnson, 48 Crystal Lake, commented that she sent correspondence to the Council and read it aloud. "It should be obvious to most Tollanders that a person volunteered to coach a diverse and inclusive youth football league should have nothing but good intention. They are there to do no harm and are teaching our children how to be together for Tolland representing our town as athletes and cheerleaders. Everything about those coaches – their race, their political opinions, and their moral compass is represented through their choice to step up and devote their time to enrich our youth. Judging these coaches based on their clothing is irresponsible especially if you're assuming that their choice of clothing is deliberate or in vain. Does waving a Pride flag make you gay? Does wearing a Black Lives Matter shirt make you black? Does wearing a patriotic shirt highlighting our Independence Day make you a white nationalist? Does brandishing any of these automatically make you a good or bad person? These symbols mean nothing in the content of the beholder's character to indicate whether or not they are a good person. The content of the maligned football coach's character is an open-minded, caring, and giving person who will give you the shirt off his back, even the one in question [which I have on today] if you ask him because you need it. Passing judgement and publicly shaming this Tollerander is absolutely wrong and, as a matter of fact, it was my request for the many years of service I learned of the Tolland Youth Football and Cheerleading has been for half a century in Tolland and I have only heard positive things about the young men and woman that have come from this and I think that it is important for Tolland to maintain and support Tolland organizations that have our youth doing positive things instead of on the street breaking in cars. So I am humbly submitting my public request for a citation to be awarded from the Town Council to acknowledge the incredible achievements of the Tolland Youth Football Cheerleading coaches, the organization itself, the parents and the participants and the community that support this organization, and that we continue to see for the amazing contributions that it is in our community so that we can ensure that more kids will get involved and do things that are positive in representing Tolland. Thank you."

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

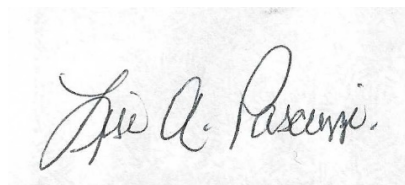
Mr. Jones motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 PM

Ms. Falusi seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,



Lisa Pascuzzi
Town Council Clerk

Town Council Chair