

**Region One Board of Education  
Special Meeting  
Wednesday, September 3, 2020**

A virtual special meeting of the Region One Board of Education was held on Wednesday, September 3, 2020, using Zoom. A quorum was in attendance: Chair Pat Mechare, Canaan; John Sanders, Cornwall; Jenn Duncan, Kent; Brian Bartram, North Canaan; Stacie Weiner, Salisbury; and Sara Cousins, Sharon.

Also in attendance were Lisa Carter, Interim Superintendent; Scott Fellows, Interim Assistant Superintendent; Sam Herrick, Business Manager; Ian Strever, HVRHS Principal; Anne MacNeil, Athletic Director; press and public.

Chair Mechare called the meeting to order at 6:44 p.m.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Bartram, seconded by Ms. Duncan, to approve the minutes of the 7/20/2020 special meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Duncan, seconded by Ms. Cousins, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Housatonic Valley Regional Faculty Association as presented. Discussion was heard from Mr. Bartram. He stated that he was disappointed in the process in that the document was not negotiated with the Board until this point. He also clarified other portions of the MOA. Ms. Mechare stated that moving forward, a procedure would be put into place for handling all MOAs in the same manner as negotiations. Vote: Ms. Mechare, Mr. Sanders, Ms. Duncan, Ms. Weiner, and Ms. Cousins in favor; Mr. Bartram opposed. Motion carried.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Bartram, seconded by Ms. Duncan, to approve the authorization of Lisa Carter, Superintendent of Schools, as the authorized signer of the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs and authorized signer of claims for reimbursement. Motion carried unanimously.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Sanders, seconded by Ms. Duncan, to approve Anne Moran acceptance to the Agricultural Science and Technology program at Housatonic Valley Regional High School for the 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Sanders, seconded by Ms. Duncan, to approve Johanna Cuccia acceptance to the Agricultural Science and Technology program at Housatonic Valley Regional High School for the 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Duncan, seconded by Ms. Weiner, to accept the recommendation to hire for Patricia Vanicky as Art Teacher as presented. Mr. Bartram acknowledged that the proper procedure was not followed in this hiring. Motion carried unanimously.

Athletic Director Anne MacNeil presented a discussion regarding fall athletics. She stated that the CIAC would be meeting again tomorrow and then again on September 18<sup>th</sup>, along with the Department of Public Health. At this time, teams are participating in conditioning practices, following all CDC guidelines. The next phase of practices is set to begin on September 21<sup>st</sup>, which will be guided by a decision made at the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting between the CIAC and DPH. Safety of athletics discussion followed. Participation numbers are down at this time compared to previous years.

Discussion was held regarding the second reading of Policy 6172.61 – Distance Education. Ms. Duncan pointed out that the policy does not seem to address students who choose to do distance learning when school is

open, nor does it address a hybrid plan. Mr. Bartram also pointed out various areas of word choices to be discussed. The policy committee will meet to review and revise the policy and then bring it back to the Board for a 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.

A first reading of policies 0523 – Equity and Diversity and 4118.237/4218.237/5141.8 – Face Masks/Coverings was held. Ms. Carter presented two portions of the Face Masks/Coverings policy that are to be removed, according to guidance that was recently released by the state and after meetings with our district medical advisor and nurses. The Equity and Diversity policy was discussed as presented, but moving forward, a proposal to keep policy 0523 more general on values, but to add a policy in the 5000 series for anti-racism with students and a policy in the 4000 series for anti-racism with staff and faculty. The committee feels that this would be a more comprehensive approach.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Duncan, seconded by Mr. Bartram, to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

*Tina Bunce*

Tina Bunce  
Board Clerk