



*Empowering learners to embrace and influence the future with courage and compassion.*

## CLINTON BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATES & INFORMATION

### NOVEMBER 2019

#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION NEWS**

The Clinton Board of Education will be changing as the result of the new municipal elections. Two members will be ending their tenure on the board and have been a part of major initiatives that have brought about changes and notable improvements to the opportunities for students in the district. Their efforts are greatly appreciated!

**Lois Ruggiero**: Lois has had a long tenure of 14 years of service to the Board from 1981-1989 and then from 2011-2013 and 2015-2019. Lois has chaired and participated in many subcommittees and has been active in all aspects of Board of Education work. Her most recent contributions have been as chair of the Building and Grounds Subcommittee. Her experience, passion, and commitment to the children of Clinton has been unparalleled and greatly appreciated.

**Sandy Luke**: Sandy has served on the board since 2015 and has also contributed as a member of all subcommittees, including negotiating committees, and has served as chair of the Public Relations Subcommittee. Her efforts to improve our website, embrace paperless initiatives, increase communication, and enhance the image of the district and its schools are evident. Sandy's passion for clear communication, information, and specific answers to questions, as well as her out-of-the-box thinking, were strengths that improved the outcomes of the district.

#### **NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

**Catherine Staunton** retained her seat on the Board of Education and will continue her service for a 4-year term. She will be joined by newly elected Board of Education members **Jason Adler** and **Chris Passante**. We look forward to the collaborative work ahead and the experience, ideas, and expertise that our new members will add to the board.

In addition, **Senior Jenna Kareliussen** and **Junior Emma Lindsay** have been selected as the new student representatives to the Board. They will join Senior Sarah Auletta and will provide updates and insight to the exciting things students are experiencing in each of our schools.

#### **MORGAN ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**

As you may know, Mr. Tyler Webb was recently appointed as an Assistant Principal of Wethersfield High School and began in this role in mid-October. We are very fortunate to have Mrs. Cynthia Schneider, recently retired Assistant Principal of Daniel Hand High School in Madison, fill this important role while the search for a replacement was conducted.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Christopher Luther to the position of Assistant Principal at The Morgan School. Mr. Luther has been a science teacher at The Morgan School since 1996. He has served as an outstanding teacher of Biology and AP Biology, and has been recognized by the students as Student Council Teacher of the Year, as well as by his colleagues when he was awarded the honor of Clinton Public Schools Teacher of the Year in 2005-2006.

Mr. Luther earned his Bachelor of Arts in Biology from St. Anselm College, a Masters in Education from University of Hartford, and his 6th Year Degree in Educational Leadership from Central Connecticut State University. He has been an integral staff member and leader in the school and district having served in the role of Department Chair for science, math, and social studies. In addition, Mr. Luther has been instrumental in curriculum development work in science, as well as providing teacher leadership in scheduling, budgeting, professional development, technology, evaluation and supervision, and junior portfolio development.

Mr. Luther was recommended by a selection committee made up of parents, support staff, teachers, district staff, and administrators as part of a rigorous selection process and a strong pool of qualified candidates. Mr. Luther has given his teaching career to students and the community of Clinton and we are proud and excited to have him continue to serve The Morgan School in a new way. Please join us in congratulating Mr. Luther and supporting him in his new role.

We will be defining the process and timeline for transitioning Mr. Luther into his new role over the next weeks and will be doing so in a way that will ensure continuity for students in Mr. Luther's current classes.

**DON'T MISS THE BOE- PUBLIC BUDGET FORUM!!**      **READ ON FOR MORE INFORMATION**

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE INITIATIVES**

### ***Budget and Finance Subcommittee:***

#### ***2020-2021 Budget Public Forum - Tuesday, November 12 - Eliot Café***

The Board of Education's Budget & Finance Subcommittee has scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 7:30 PM in the Eliot café to gather input to help the Board prioritize the 2020-2021 budget requests. This meeting will include a short presentation of the Board of Education's budget process and timeline, the major considerations and factors that are incorporated into the decision-making regarding budget items, the current proposed Capital Expenditure Plan, and updated information about the major areas and trends that we are projecting will impact our budget request. Following the presentation, attendees will break into small groups to discuss, share and pose questions that can be recorded and shared with the Board of Education and administration as it begins to formulate the 2020-2021 school district budget. All are welcome to attend this event. Click [here](#) for a flyer that can be shared and includes a reminder of the event.

### ***Policy Subcommittee: Revised Student Policies***

The Board of Education has continued to revise and update [district policies](#). This has been a major commitment and undertaking to review and revise the policy series to be aligned with current state and federal law. When the Board began this work last year, many policy series had not been updated in over 15 years. The Policy Subcommittee has worked diligently to review and update policy and to make appropriate decisions and changes to guide the work of the administration and ensure the appropriate management and oversight of the district. In our last newsletter, a link to our Annual Policy notifications was provided. Recently, several policies in the [5000 Series \(Students\)](#) were updated due to legal changes. For your convenience, the link included [here](#) will allow you to view a revised set of the policies shared at the start of the year that the Board is required to share annually.

### ***Buildings & Grounds Subcommittee***

The Capital Expenditure Plan was developed within this subcommittee made up of Board of Education members, the Director of Buildings and Grounds, the Business Manager, and school administrators. This committee conducts an annual assessment of school facilities and identifies the needed equipment and maintenance repairs needed to ensure safe and updated facilities for optimum learning. A ten-year plan and a one-year proposal is developed, approved by the Board of Education and then submitted to the town for review and eventual approval. This year, the major projects include equipment replacement, a network upgrade project at Joel, a roof replacement of the Eliot Annex, and replacement of HVAC equipment in conjunction with the scheduled roof replacements. The one-year document approved by the Board of Education on October 21, 2019, can be accessed [here](#).

### ***Public Relations Subcommittee***

The subcommittee members have continued to examine efficiencies in communication and in the representation of the Clinton Public Schools as a whole to the school and local community. Continued areas of focus are the efficient and timely sharing of information through user-friendly systems and streamlining and reducing paper and forms for information. In addition, the Board has embarked on a rebranding initiative and utilizing money provided from a private source, has requested proposals, interviewed, and selected a professional graphic artist to work with the committee and school staff to unify our brand as one school community of Huskies. We will be sharing new designs, graphics, and color schemes to represent our schools and our district as a whole.

### ***Instruction Subcommittee***

Upcoming work of this subcommittee will include a review and approval of new graduation requirements, additional monitoring of Talented and Gifted programming and updates of the initiatives of our new TAG coordinator, and a continued focus on our development of our new and expanded courses at the middle school and high school, including ASPIRE, Computer Programming, 7th and 8th grade music, and AP Computer Science.



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