

RHTA meeting minutes

Date: March

Location: virtually

Time: 3:45

1. Presidents' report

- Please check out the CEA website to find out about
 - funding of schools and let your legislators know CEA will advocate for legislation to strengthen prohibition against towns' using state education dollars for non-education purposes. CEA will continue to advocate for establishing a reliable guaranteed source of funding for education. There is an area on the CEA website that gives you a link to contact your legislator.
- [**CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS**](#)
- Teaching In-Person and Remote Learners Simultaneously Must End, Educators Tell Legislators
- [**CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS**](#)
- CEA, Educators Support Bill to Bring More Teachers of Color to Connecticut Classrooms.
 - NEA's urges States to use new flexibility for testing during pandemic and to focus on students, not testing.
 - Statement from Board of Education Union Coalition on CDC's New Social Distancing Guidelines. The CDC released new physical distancing guidelines that recommend three feet, rather than six feet, of distance between students in schools. Read the Board of Education Union Coalition response. Read more at cea.org
- Remember at all times to act professionally at all times in public and with your cohorts and colleagues
 - Next year may appear to have learning in the same manner as this year until students get vaccinated
 - Michelle Bartha will send out new information for you about Standardized testing
 - Lori and Michelle will be sending out information about our survey

President's report continued on next page

1. President's report

Notes for BOE meeting

- The BOE approved the budget for next year
- Below are BOE meeting notes

Notes from Board of Education Meeting – February 18, 2021

- Correspondence - The American School & University magazine's 2020 Architectural Portfolio highlighted Moser School for Outstanding Design.
- Facilities Committee – discussions were held regarding solar alternatives, Stevens School HVAC plans, GMS roof replacement, West Hill RTU replacements, and the RHHS concession stand area.
- Board of Education Budget – The Board asked the superintendent to look over the budget to see if there were other expendable items to provide additional savings. The superintendent noted that the budget must be approved at the March 11th meeting.
- District- wide virtual learning days when schools have to be closed due to inclement weather passed 9-0. June 23rd is presently the last day of school due to the 4 snow days to date. Parents have appreciated having the traditional snow days up until this time. It was noted that sports practices could remain, dependent on the timing of a storm. Games would have to be decided with the other town's team. Teachers would have to be alerted via their principals to have students take their devices home when bad weather is forecasted.
- The board approved having a letter sent to the governor by our district asking to prioritize teachers & school employees for vaccines. The message would advocate for the health and safety of staff.
- Interim Assistant Superintendent for Personnel & Student services reported on the success the recent PD provided to staff on Student Trauma. The district dashboard is updated daily. Data is being kept regarding tracking staff who have requested to work from home. So far 54 non-certified staff were granted time to work from home resulting in 270 hours. Also, 140 certified requests to work from home have been granted totaling 1,000 work hours. Subs still have to be provided in some instances.
- Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction reported on PD updates, the successful use of some websites, and the planned virtual author visit from Debra Freeman. She also toured a couple of buildings to see how the instructional delivery was going during the recent designated remote days.
- Discussion was held regarding new guidelines for spectator regulations from the governor allowing 25% of gym capacity. No spectators will be allowed in the pool. For ice hockey and basketball, 1 adult/parent per student would be allowed. Emphasis would be on home teams. It was noted that contact tracing, should there be a need, would be problematic. Therefore, games would be streamed for other spectators.
- Superintendent's Report - At this point, 53% of the district is in-person with 47% remote learners. As a result, we have a de facto hybrid. Appreciation was expressed to the Board giving families choice. Overall, district wide, the number of students who are not engaging is just a handful of kids (3 or 4).
- Chairman's Report – Thank you to our administrators and teachers for their efforts during this pandemic.

Notes from Board of Education Meeting: March 11, 2021

- Special Recognition given to 4 students as winners of 2020 Congressional App Challenge. They were chosen out of 3 thousand applicants for a coding project.
- Audience Participation: Parent spoke on behalf of sports at GMS asking Board to let kids play spring sports.
- Correspondence from Board of Education member L. Boske expressing gratitude to Dr. Zito, Ms. Listro, Ms. Stevenson, Mr. Zettegren, and Mr. LaMontaine, all administrators and special thanks to educators. Request from parent to go to in-person clubs (petition added for consideration as agenda item).
- Board of Education Budget for 2021-2022 with a reduction of 71 thousand dollars for some miscellaneous supplies passed.
- Athletic Coaching Stipends passed. Each head coach will receive additional \$200 with assistant coaches receiving additional \$100 this year with 1% increase annually for duration of the contract.
- Approval of 2 Remote Learning days following April break. Noted continued concern from C. Brown for non-symptomatic spread.
- End of 2021 School activities – 2 Board members appointed to help in planning to give students something to remember as they leave RHHS.
- Outdoor Spring Sports – masks will not be required. There will be fluid guidelines for spectators due to numbers participating. CIAC recommendations for spectators most likely to be adults only – To Be Determined. Sports at GMS unlikely due to concern over lasting effects if a student were to contract Covid. Expectation will be to follow intense medical protocol for any student returning after exposure. Noted that area districts are limited as to participation in spring sports.
- Moving from no clubs to virtual clubs to in-person clubs will result in tightening up on maintaining attendance records. District will consult with C. Brown following April break. Expectations will be for stricter protocols.
- Slide Presentation on DREAM Academy for transition students with Pathways students.
- Dashboard is updated once a day after all contact tracing is complete.
- Saturday, March 6th in cooperation with Hartford Health Care clinic resulted in nearly 300 being vaccinated. This included some community daycares, Kindercare, etc., as they were invited to participate.
- Work from Home statistics reflected permission granted to 156 certified staff for 1 or more days totaling 1100 days and 69 non-certified staff for total of 347 days.
- Contact A. Stevenson for assistance in obtaining appointment via another clinic for vaccination.
- Ms. Listro presented Board members with a copy of this year's Read Across America book.
- March 19th Early Dismissal day will be building based planning for teachers.
- District website has been redesigned for easier navigation.

Notes from Board of Education Meeting: March 11, 2021...continued

Data current as of March 11th:

School	% In-person	% Remote
RHHS	45.29	54.71
GMS	58.42	41.58
Moser	59.10	40.90
Stevens	75.20	24.80
West Hill	44.49	55.51
Pathways	80.00	20.00
DREAM Academy	85.71	14.29

Noted: more students returning to in-person at West Hill School.

- In honor of Board of Education Appreciation Month, each board member was presented with a gift.
- Chairman Report – expression of appreciation in being open since day 1 and the effort it takes in trying to get through this pandemic. Thank you to teachers.

2. Committee News

- a) Treasurer's Report:
 - Dues will be increasing be 50 cents per paycheck if you are a full time employee
 - Remember, this month, dues will come out of your May paycheck
- b) Grievance Report:
 - No active grievances
- c) Membership:
 - CEA will roll out a new membership portal. Our membership chairperson, Sarah Sherman will attend that ZOOM meeting on April 7 and will have more information for us
- d) Social Committee
 - Nothing new to report

3. New Business

- Teachers in all buildings are concerned with the problem of students taking advantage of going online, then returning to school, then going back to online
- We know that at WHS, the principal sent parents a letter on this , but we feel it needs to be tehe same at all our schools
- At RHHS we have a lot of switching of learning platforms due to sports
- We would like to have all administrators on the same page
 - Examples: is a dentist appointment for a student absent
 - Example: student returning to Florida who comes back to school after long absence not quarantined
- We should look districts to see what they are doing
- There is talk in the state of outsourcing remote learners to a 3rd party remote system
- Lori and Michelle would like to remind RHTA that the two days after April vacation are remote, but teachers are expected in their building

Upcoming events

RHTA Meeting Dates 2020-21-All meetings are held in the GMS Library Media Center on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 3:45 (virtually)

- April 28th
- May 26th elections

RHTA Officers for 2020-2021 are:

Co-President	Lori Cebelius (Stevens)
Co-President	Michelle Bartha (GMS)
Vice President	Kirsten Hassett (Moser)
Secretary	Adele Gali (RHHS)
Treasurer	Brie Mangiaracina (RHHS)

RHTA Building reps for 2020-2021 are

RHHS Rep	Dave Fortier & Doug Russell
GMS Rep	Karla Harding & Laura Litke
Stevens Rep	Laura Montgomery & Thomas Cassello
West Hill Rep	Liz Tuttle & Marra Whaley
Moser School	Carissa Lastrina & Heidi Kokoska

Other RHTA positions 2020-2021:

Grievance Chair	Doug Russell at RHHS
Membership Chair	Sarah Sherman (Moser)
Web Master	Laura Litke (GMS)