

**Board of Education
Darien, Connecticut**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2021

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Darien Public Schools'
Administrative Offices
Meeting Room
7:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order..... Mr. David Dineen 7:00 p.m.
2. Public Comment*..... Mr. David Dineen
3. Board Communication-..... Mr. David Dineen
Discussion and Possible Action
4. Public Discussion on the..... Dr. Alan Addley
Reopening of School
5. Further Discussion and Action..... Dr. Alan Addley
on Proposed 2021-2022
District Goals
6. Update on Enrollment for the..... Dr. Alan Addley
2021-2022 School Year
7. Public Comment*..... Mr. David Dineen
8. Adjournment..... Mr. David Dineen

*** The Board of Education meeting will be available to the public in person and via Zoom. In-Person attendance at the Board meeting is limited by room capacity and social distancing requirements. Members of the community who are vaccinated are not required to wear masks. Only 14 seats are available for the public which will be available on a first come, first serve basis. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for the 7:00 p.m. meeting. If you are present and wish to give public comment but are unable to get a seat, you will be required to wait outside and you will be invited into the room when it is your turn to speak.**

Those members of the community wishing to participate in public comment may join the meeting via Zoom:

<https://darienps.zoom.us/j/93124275838>

Those members of the community wishing to view only, should do so through the Darien Youtube link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUnnvYKBFbFrTWQRuoB6OZA>

In order to reduce audio interference, members of the community are requested not to simultaneously view by Youtube while participating on Zoom.

Darien Public Schools - Administrative Offices

35 Leroy Avenue – P.O. Box 1167 – Darien, Connecticut 06820-1167
Tel: 203-656-7412 Email: aaddley@darienps.org

DRAFT

August 2, 2021

Dear: Governor Ned Lamont, State of Connecticut
Dr. Deidre Gifford, Acting Commissioner, CT Department of Public Health
Ms. Charlene Russell-Tucker, Acting Commissioner, CT State Department of Education
Dr. Matt Cartter, Epidemiologist, CT Department of Public Health

Thank you for all of your dedicated work and guidance on behalf of Connecticut's schoolchildren during the past eighteen months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Darien community was fortunate this past year in being able to provide predominantly in-person learning to its students for the majority of the school calendar. The Darien Public Schools was only able to achieve this with your guidance, Board and staff planning, and most importantly, in working collaboratively with our local health professionals to implement mitigation strategies to ensure a safe educational environment for students and staff throughout the health crisis.

Returning to school this fall with as normal conditions as possible is everyone's goal and it is imperative for our students. As you finalize your requirements and guidance to school districts over the next few weeks for the safe return to school, the Darien Board of Education respectfully requests that you delegate greater decision-making autonomy to boards of education and health professionals at the local level on the implementation of mitigation strategies, including whether or not students need to wear masks. In doing so, districts across the state, in partnership with their health professional teams, will be able to utilize town and county COVID-19 metrics and vaccination rates to make the decision in the best interest of their communities and, most of all, their schoolchildren. The need to implement more mask wearing or other mitigation strategies should be evaluated throughout the year with local health officials in response to new COVID-19 data.

Given the high vaccination rates of Darien students and teachers and our low COVID-19 rates of infection, transmission and hospitalization, we believe it is in the best educational and health interests of our students to grant local decision making on mitigation strategies including the necessity on whether or not our students need to wear masks inside the schools for the upcoming school year.

We appreciate the complexity of the decision-making, stand ready to assist in providing any additional information and thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

Sincerely yours,

Mr. David Dineen
Chair, Darien Board of Education

Dr. Alan Addley
Superintendent of Schools

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Dr. Alan Addley, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Draft Board of Education Goals 2021 - 2022

Date: August 10, 2021

Draft Board of Education Goals with strategies and measurements were presented for discussion at the July 27 meeting. Prior to last year, the Board of Education's annual goals were departmental in nature and aligned to Cabinet members' areas of responsibility. Given the adoption of the Strategic Plan, the transitional nature of the upcoming year, the self-evaluation of the Board, and the District's priorities, the Board is considering the adoption of a combination of high-level and short-term goals. The revised goals reflect the Board's feedback to include an additional goal dedicated to Teaching & Learning separate from the goal pertaining to COVID-19/ Safe Return Plan. There are now a total of seven (7) goals for Board deliberation.

| Goal 1 | Strategic Work | Measures |
|--|---|--|
| Support the District's Safe Return Plan. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assist the Superintendent in planning and setting direction for the District.• Oversee management practices relating to the Safe Return Plan.• Set policies and provide financial resources to support the effective implementation of the District's Safe Return Plan. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development and implementation of a comprehensive Safe Return Plan for the school community• Adoption of new/revised policies as necessary• Meeting agendas addressing the implementation of the reopening plan, curriculum and academic standards |

| Goal 2 | Strategic Work | Measures |
|--|---|--|
| Ensure rigorous teaching and learning across the District. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance curriculum across content areas and grade levels. • Monitor levels of performance and student achievement. • Utilize data to enhance educational programs that support all learners. • Support the development of Darien's principles of teaching and learning. • Create tools, PreK-12, to measure attributes of the Vision of the Graduate (VoG). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual presentation of curriculum updates and student achievement data • Systemic implementation of co-teaching and collaborative instructional practices • Identified and implemented recommendations from gifted program evaluation. • Ongoing development of VoG Measurement Tools |
| Goal 3 | Strategic Work | Measures |
| Oversee the implementation of the District's Strategic Plan. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide governance and support for Year 1 strategies • Utilize the strategic plan to guide policies and decision making • Provide financial resources through the budget development process • Include progress goals on the Strategic Plan included in the Superintendent's evaluation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication and dissemination of the Strategic Plan to students, staff and parents. • Approved FY23 Budget that supports the goals of the Strategic Plan • Fall, winter and spring progress reports to the BOE. |

| Goal 4 | Strategic Work | Measures |
|---|---|--|
| Advance the District's elementary school building projects. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Represent the Board on the Elementary Schools' Building Committee. ● Support the elementary school building committees that are appointed by the Board of Selectmen to ensure adherence to the Educational Specifications for the three elementary school projects. ● Support the Ox Ridge construction project to ensure adherence to the educational specifications and successful planning for a smooth transition to the new school. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Attendance and participation at Building Committee meetings ● Regular Board of Education updates on the Construction and transition plans for all projects in progress ● Hindley, Holmes and Royle elementary school projects approved by OSCGR |
| Goal 5 | Strategic Work | Measures |
| Complete a policy audit. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conduct a crosswalk between Shipman and Goodwin's Model Policies and the Board of Education policies, identifying needed revisions, updates and/or additions ● Collaborate with the communications representative from the Board's Communications Working Group to the Policy Committee to identify additional policies for consideration, especially in the area of Board communication. ● Solicit and consider other recommendations for policy revision from the Board of Education and Administration ● Align Board agendas with policies. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Policy revision as part of regular Policy Committee & Board agendas ● All Board of Education Policies will conform to current law, including technical edits ● Website updated with new revised/new Board policies ● Board Agendas aligned to Board Policies. |

| Goal 6 | Strategic Work | Measures |
|---|---|--|
| Enhance District Communications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide continuity of meetings and engagement with the community. • Oversee communication practices. • Celebrate student and staff achievements. • Provide communication on the Strategic Plan. • Collaborate on shared communication with administration • Work collaboratively with the Policy Committee to identify policies and procedures to support and enhance District communications. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community participation in Board meetings in person and remotely • Frequency and variety of communications • Student representatives on the BOE • Publish the Strategic Plan. • Review/update the BOE section of the District Website. |
| Goal 7 | Strategic Work | Measures |
| Increase engagement in professional development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in state professional development offerings provided by CABE and other related organizations. • Participate in local and state events to represent the District and Community. • Regularly collaborate and reflect upon strategies for improvement. • Liaise with State representatives on educational matters. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation of BOE members in CABE/CAPSS Annual Conference • Participation in webinars and in person professional learning offered by CABE or other professional organizations • Board representation at the Cooperative Educational Services Legislative Breakfast • Board representation on CES Representative Council • Participation in an annual self-evaluation process. • Adoption of BOE self-improvement goals • Written/in person testimony to the Legislature on educational matters. |

DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Richard Rudl

Director of Finance and Operations

35 Leroy Avenue, P.O. Box 1167

Darien, CT 06820-1167

TEL: 203-656-7405 FX: 203-656-3502

DATE: August 3, 2021

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Alan Addley, Superintendent of Schools

Richard Rudl, Director of Finance & Operations

SUBJECT: Enrollment Update

Enclosed is a summary of the current enrollment for FY22. Enrollment exceeds projection by 50 students K-12 as of August 2nd. Elementary enrollment is up 56 students, primarily at Ox Ridge (+44) and Tokeneke (+10). Enrollment has increased by 11 students since July 23rd.

Tokeneke 3rd grade remains two students under breaking a 4th section.

Ox Ridge 2nd Grade has added two students and is now 1 student away from breaking a 5th section.

We will continue to monitor this through August 13th to make an administrative decision.

The charts below identify K-12 enrollment as of August 3, 2021.

Kindergarten

| | Registrations Aug | Projection | Budgeted Sections | Variance to Budget Sections | Avg Class Size |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Hindley | 70 | 76 | 4 | 0 | 17.5 |
| Holmes | 72 | 75 | 4 | 0 | 18.0 |
| Ox Ridge | 79 | 73 | 4 | 0 | 19.8 |
| Royle | 56 | 62 | 3 | 0 | 18.7 |
| Tokeneke | 64 | 65 | 3 | 0 | 21.3 |
| Total Kindergarten | 341 | 351 | 18 | 0 | 18.95 |

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First Grade

| | Actual First Grade Enrollment (Aug) | Projected First Grade Enrollment | Budgeted Sections | Variance to Budget Sections | Avg Class Size |
|------------------------------|---|--|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Hindley | 70 | 67 | 4 | 0 | 17.5 |
| Holmes | 63 | 58 | 3 | 0 | 21.0 |
| Ox Ridge | 85 | 77 | 4 | 0 | 21.3 |
| Royle | 68 | 56 | 3 | +1 | 17.0 |
| Tokeneke | 55 | 55 | 3 | 0 | 18.3 |
| Total First Grade | 341 | 313 | 17 | +1 | 18.95 |

Second Grade

| | Actual Second Grade Enrollment (Aug) | Projected Second Grade Enrollment | Budgeted Sections | Variance to Budget Sections | Avg Class Size |
|-------------------------------|--|---|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Hindley | 63 | 66 | 3 | 0 | 21.0 |
| Holmes | 82 | 79 | 4 | 0 | 20.5 |
| Ox Ridge | 92 | 79 | 4 | 0 | 23.0 |
| Royle | 52 | 55 | 3 | 0 | 17.3 |
| Tokeneke | 84 | 75 | 4 | 0 | 21.0 |
| Total Second Grade | 373 | 354 | 18 | 0 | 20.7 |

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Third Grade

| | Actual Third Grade Enrollment (Aug) | Projected Third Grade Enrollment | Budgeted Sections | Variance to Budget Sections | Avg Class Size |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Hindley | 83 | 80 | 4 | 0 | 20.8 |
| Holmes | 72 | 66 | 3 | +1 | 18.0 |
| Ox Ridge | 78 | 70 | 4 | 0 | 19.5 |
| Royle | 52 | 51 | 3 | 0 | 17.3 |
| Tokeneke | 68 | 68 | 3 | 0 | 22.7 |
| Total Third Grade | 353 | 335 | 17 | +1 | 19.6 |

Fourth Grade

| | Actual Fourth Grade Enrollment (Aug) | Projected Fourth Grade Enrollment | Budgeted Sections | Variance to Budget Sections | Avg Class Size |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Hindley | 63 | 65 | 3 | 0 | 21.0 |
| Holmes | 74 | 74 | 4 | 0 | 18.5 |
| Ox Ridge | 75 | 66 | 3 | +1 | 18.8 |
| Royle | 52 | 56 | 3 | 0 | 17.3 |
| Tokeneke | 73 | 73 | 4 | 0 | 18.3 |
| Total Fourth Grade | 337 | 334 | 17 | +1 | 18.7 |

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Fifth Grade

| | Actual Fifth Grade Enrollment (Aug) | Projected Fifth Grade Enrollment | Budgeted Sections | Variance to Budget Sections | Avg Class Size |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Hindley | 84 | 82 | 4 | 0 | 21.0 |
| Holmes | 78 | 87 | 4 | 0 | 19.5 |
| Ox Ridge | 74 | 74 | 4 | 0 | 18.5 |
| Royle | 59 | 56 | 3 | 0 | 19.7 |
| Tokeneke | 76 | 74 | 4 | 0 | 19.0 |
| Total Fifth Grade | 371 | 373 | 19 | 0 | 19.5 |

Middlesex

| Grade | Actual Enrollment (Aug) | Projected Enrollment | Variance |
|--------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| 6 | 346 | 355 | -9 |
| 7 | 361 | 360 | +1 |
| 8 | 393 | 386 | +7 |
| Total | 1,100 | 1,101 | -1 |

Darien High School

| Grade | Actual Enrollment (Aug) | Projected Enrollment | Variance |
|--------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| 9 | 388 | 379 | +9 |
| 10 | 345 | 349 | -4 |
| 11 | 341 | 343 | -2 |
| 12 | 364 | 372 | -8 |
| Total | 1,438 | 1,443 | -5 |

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Total Enrollment

| District | Actual Enrollment (Aug) | Projected Enrollment | Variance |
|---------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| K-5 | 2,116 | 2,060 | +56 |
| Middle School | 1,100 | 1,101 | -1 |
| High School | 1,438 | 1,443 | -5 |
| Total | 4,654 | 4,604 | +50 |