

Farouk Rajab, Acting Board Chair called the regular meeting to order in the District Office Board of Education Meeting Room, Pawcatuck, CT at 7:00p.m. Members present were Gordon Lord, Jack Morehouse and Craig Esposito. Members Absent: Frank Todisco, Board Chair, Heidi Simmons, Secretary and Alisa Morrison. Also present were Ana de Oliveira, Recording Secretary, Dr. Van Riley, Superintendent of Schools, Student Government Representative Kyle Lowry and members of the administration staff and interested citizens.

Board Presentations

Student Achievement Presentation – Mary Anne Butler, Assistant Superintendent and Mark Friese, Stonington High School Principal shared an overview on student achievement results for the 2020-21 school year. They reviewed students' scores in ELA, Math and Science. Mr. Friese spoke on the SAT/AP 2021 school day SAT average in comparison to state data. He shared data trends for PSAT 9/10 from 2017 through 2021. A PowerPoint with achievement results and information was presented and attached to the minutes. Jack Morehouse asked are freshman allowed to take AP courses. Mr. Friese responded no, but there has been exceptions in the past. Mr. Morehouse said why not encourage students coming up from 8th grade to take AP classes. Mr. Friese explained reasons why they do not have freshman take AP courses. Mr. Morehouse voiced he would like to see that happen.

Communications & Recognitions

Dr. Van Riley commended the staff, teachers, principals and everyone for their work with the opening of schools. It was so nice to see the happiness and how everyone connected. He added he had a chance to visit the schools and it was a joy to see the teachers.

Farouk Rajab welcomed Kyle Lowry, Student Government Representative. Kyle Lowry said it was amazing to be back and all were excited to get back in the building. He added back in some form of normality, it is not completely normal but it is close. Mr. Rajab thanked all the staff members for all they do.

Comments from Citizens

Ashley Tewell commented she agreed with the earlier positive comments regarding the opening of school, children are glad to be back. She spoke on the Critical Race Theory and asked the Board to implement policies that speak of Critical Race Theory like other districts currently have in place.

Dr. Melissa Collier-Meek spoke about how great the teachers and administrators are doing, and is thrilled about the transition with masks and focus on the children. She hopes that the schools continue to speak on social and emotional learning, because the data on students has doubled during the pandemic and it is a very challenging time. She encourages the school to speak the truth about our history and continue to recognize that talking about racism is less challenging than it seems and need to model that.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – August 12, 2021
August 26, 2021
- B. Checks and Bills – August 2021
- C. Teacher Evaluation Waiver
- D. Policy for Approval – Policy 4118.51 Social Media
- E. Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect Policy 4118.31
- F. Child Sexual Abuse and Assault Response Policy 5141.4
- G. Personnel Report

Farouk Rajab asked that item D be removed from the consent agenda for further review. Dr. Riley explained that we will be speaking with our attorney on the social media policy.

The following motion was made by Jack Morehouse and seconded by Craig Esposito:

Motion 1: To accept the consent agenda items A, B, E, F and G.

All: Aye

Jack Morehouse had questions regarding item C on the consent agenda, Teacher Evaluation Waiver. He asked what would happen if things start getting chaotic, would this item come back to the Board for discussion. Dr. Riley confirmed if things do change we will have to bring this item back to the Board.

The following motion was made by Jack Morehouse and seconded by Gordon Lord:

Motion 2: To accept the Teacher Evaluation Waiver.

All: Aye

Change of Board Meeting Date November 11th due to Holiday - Dr. Riley explained that when we put the meeting calendar together a year ago we missed that November 11th is Veterans Day. The new Board members cannot meet until November 16th. Dr. Riley asked that the meeting be changed to November 18th.

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Jack Morehouse:

Motion 3: To cancel the regular meeting date November 11th and to change it to a special meeting on November 18th.

All: Aye

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Riley reported we are short bus drivers. He added we met with First Student and will have some contingency plans such as consolidating routes. Chris Williston and Peter Anderson will work on getting messages out to parents as soon as possible if we need to consolidate runs. In the meantime we will try to hire drivers as fast as we can. Dr. Riley shared that with the Board's direction, he asked the town to use some of their funds to help with the HVAC system cost. He explained we had a meeting and the town did not think that they could help with some of their ARP funds. He noted there was an understanding between the town that we will work on ways to fund that. Mr. Howard is looking to talk to the state and will have an answer by October. We will keep everyone updated as we move forward.

Monthly Reports

Farouk Rajab had questions regarding the repair work at the high school. Peter Anderson explained we are currently repairing remaining units that needed repair.

Items for Future Agendas

Jack Morehouse had questions regarding a policy that centered around the make-up of the Board and the Student Representative. He asked if Mrs. Butler had done any investigation of other districts. She responded she has not done any other investigation of this issue.

Board Comments/Concerns

The Board had no comments or concerns at this time.

Adjournment

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Jack Morehouse:

Motion 4: To adjourn at 7:45p.m.

All: Aye

Heidi Simmons, Board Secretary



Student Achievement Results 2020-21

Mark Friese, Stonington High School Principal
Mary Anne Butler, Assistant Superintendent

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Outcomes

- Update on SBAC/NGSS scores and new reporting model
- Share SAT results
- Review AP participation and results
- Connect results to District Goals and next steps


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A Note of Caution from the CSDE


- Instructional models influence achievement
- Pandemic impacted all teaching and learning
- Mathematics performance more heavily impacted than ELA and science
- Remote learners impacted more than others
- Avoid comparing scores to other districts/years

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SPS All Students-ELA Performance at Goal(3) or Above Goal (4)

Instructional Model	# Students	% Tested in person	% Tested remotely	At/above goal In person test	At/above goal Remote test
Most/Fully In Person	23	100%	0%	30.4%	-
Hybrid	710	98.5 %	-	71.7%	-
Most/Fully Remote	113	48.7%	39.8%	65.5%	73.3%




State All Students-Math Performance at Goal(3) or Above Goal (4)

Instructional Model	# Students	% Tested in person	% Tested remotely	At/above goal In person test	At/above goal Remote test
Most/Fully In Person	63,293	97.3%	0.5%	52.0%	43.4%
Hybrid	110,649	94.9%	2.1%	33.9%	29.7%
Most/Fully Remote	54,631	37.3%	44.7%	22.6%	28.0%



SPS All Students-Math Performance at Goal(3) or Above Goal (4)

Instructional Model	# Students	% Tested in person	% Tested remotely	At/above goal In person test	At/above goal Remote test
Most/Fully In Person	23	100%	0%	28.6%	-
Hybrid	710	98.3 %	-	58.2%	-
Most/Fully Remote	113	48.7%	40.7%	43.6 %	47.7%

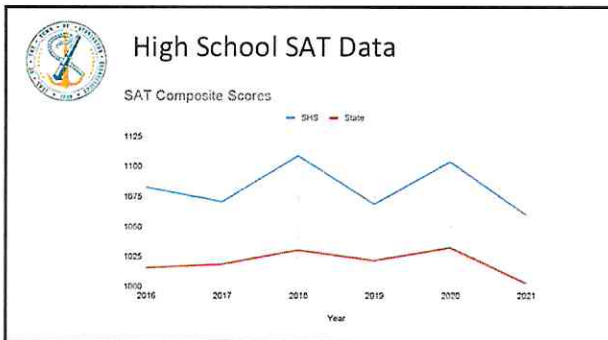


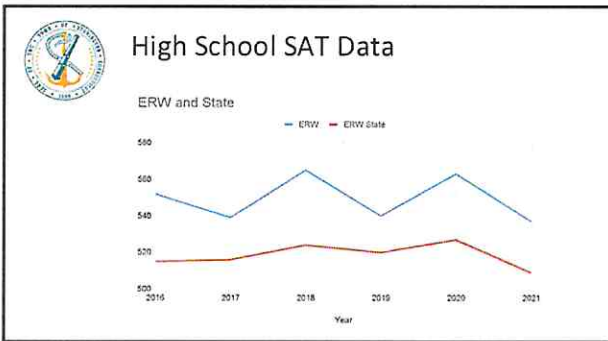
High School SAT/AP Data


SAT Data

	# Tested	ERW SHS	ERW State	Mathematics SHS	Mathematics State
2021 School Day SAT Avg.	149	537	509	523	494
SHS/State Comparison % at level 3/4 Met/Ex goal	147	73%	59%	44%	37%

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High School AP Data

AP Test Data
 ○ AP Scholar Report

Scholar Summary (Total Scholars: 44; Average Score: 3.74)

	AP Scholar	AP Scholar with Honor	AP Scholar with Distinction
Number of Students	19	11	14
Average Score	3.16	3.91	4.14

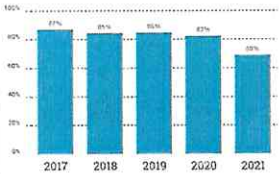
AP Scholar- Must score of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.
 AP Scholar with Honor- Must have an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.
 AP Scholar with Distinction- Must have an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.
 National AP Scholar- Granted to students in the United States who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.



High School AP Data


○ Multi-Year Report

% OF TOTAL AP STUDENTS WITH SCORES 3+



SCHOOL SUMMARY

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total AP Students	129	155	158	100	165
Number of Exams	230	265	289	282	336
AP Students with Scores 3+	121	131	134	132	114
% of Total AP Students with Scores 3+	87.05	84.52	84.81	82.50	69.09



Next Steps...

- Support all learners and staff with a physically, emotionally, and academically safe environment
- Focus on student engagement strategies to accelerate learning for all students
- Continue to triage the comprehensive K-12 curricula to focus on the most important content
- Recruit and retain a highly qualified faculty and staff

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