



TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hicks Municipal Center
Council Chambers
Tolland, CT 06084

VISION STATEMENT

To represent education at its best, preparing each student for an ever-changing society, and becoming a full community of learning where excellence is achieved through each individual's success.

BOE GOALS

- Ensure the completion and implementation of the Portrait of a Graduate Report.
- Foster a culture and climate that supports high levels of learning and engagement, promotes mental and physical wellbeing, and leads to individual student success.
- Assess our district needs and advocate for resources to meet them, while pursuing non-traditional sources of revenue, ensuring a quality education for all students.
- Nurture and support an inclusive community where every person, regardless of their identity, is acknowledged and respected. This will ensure that Tolland students have the necessary resources to thrive at school, in the community, and in our diverse world.

REGULAR MEETING

7:00 PM

AGENDA
June 9, 2021

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86358441213?pwd=dUJPbnVDV3BoZW1MT1ZJZ1F1K21XZz09>

Meeting ID: 863 5844 1213

Passcode: 5FgfFH

Dial by your location
+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 863 5844 1213

Passcode: 582724

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86358441213>

A. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- May 17, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes
- May 26, 2021

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (2-minute limit)

The members of the Tolland Board of Education welcome members of the public to share their thoughts and ideas at this time. When appropriate to do so, members of the Board and the administration may respond to comments during "Points of Information". However, in consideration of those in attendance and in an effort to proceed in a timely manner, follow-up discussion may need to take place outside of the meeting setting.

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. POINTS OF INFORMATION

G. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT – Alexandra Costa and Simar Grewal

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- H.1 Celebrations
- H.2 Monthly Financial Report
- H.3 Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (no attachment)
- H.4 Education COVID Relief Fund (CRF)

I. COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

J. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

K. BOARD ACTION

- K.1 AASA

L. ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION

M. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (2-minute limit)

Comments must be limited to items on this agenda.

N. POINTS OF INFORMATION

- 2021-05-24 Town Council Special Meeting Minutes
- 2021-05-25 Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes

O. FUTURE

P. NEW BUSINESS

Q. ADJOURNMENT

TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
ZOOM Meeting

SPECIAL MEETING – May 17, 2021

Members Present: Ashley Lundgren, Chair; Christina Plourd, Vice Chair; Renie Besaw, Christine Griffin, Madhu Renduchintala, Jacob Marie, Dana Philbin, Sophia Shaikh, Tony Holt

Administrators Present: Dr. Walter Willett, Superintendent of Schools

A. CALL TO ORDER

Ashley Lundgren called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

B. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Christina Plourd motioned to go into executive session at 6:05 PM for the purpose of discussion of an interview with candidate(s) for assistant principal of Tolland High School. Dr. Willett was invited to join. Madhu Renduchintala seconded.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:04 PM.

Jacob Marie motioned to authorize the superintendent to offer the THS Assistant Principal position to Kim Meridan, and hire her upon her acceptance of said position. Madhu Renduchintala seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Vote:

Madhu – Aye
Dana – Aye
Jacob – Aye
Sophia – Aye
Christina – Aye
Ashley – Aye
Christine – Aye
Tony – Aye
Renie – Aye

c. ADJOURNMENT

Christina Plourd motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 PM. Madhu Renduchintala seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Willett
Superintendent

TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
ZOOM Meeting

REGULAR MEETING – May 26, 2021

Members Present: Ashley Lundgren, Chair; Christina Plourd, Vice Chair; Tony Holt, Secretary; Renie Besaw, Christine Griffin, Madhu Renduchintala, Jacob Marie, Dana Philbin (arrived at 7:34PM), Sophia Shaikh

Members Absent: none

Administrators Present: Dr. Walter Willett, Superintendent of Schools

A. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Lundgren called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA - none

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- April 28, 2021 – Special Meeting
- May 6, 2021 – Special Meeting
- May 12, 2021
- May 17, 2021 – Special Meeting

Mr. Renduchintala motioned to approve the minutes of the April 28th, May 6th, May 12th, and May 17th meetings.

Mr. Marie seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mr. Marie asked about the May 17th minutes regarding wording for the vote. Dr. Willett noted that he will make a correction to reflect the motion.

Mr. Renduchintala rescinded the motion.

Mr. Marie seconded.

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Plourd motioned to approve the minutes of the April 28th, May 6th, and May 12th meetings.

Mr. Renduchintala seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - none

E. CORRESPONDENCE

- e-mail from student articulating the 6 disadvantages of going back to a full time schedule; author feels the decision was last minute
- e-mail from the parent of a soon-to-be kindergartner discussing concerns with children wearing masks outside during recess
- e-mail from a high school senior requesting that students be allowed an increased number of graduation tickets

- e-mail from a concerned parent on the dangers of children wearing masks outside during the hot temperatures
- e-mail concerning school safety

F. POINTS OF INFORMATION

- Dr. Willett noted that the DPH adjusted its guidance and students no longer have to mask while playing outside. They only need to mask if they are congregating such as playing a board game. In terms of graduation, every family will now have up to 12 tickets.

G. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT – Alexandra Costa & Simar Grewal

- National Honor Society – an in-person induction ceremony was held at THS
- 8th Grade Graduation – ceremony will be held on June 17th
- Girls Lacrosse Team – won the CCC Championship
- Mr. Poland met with the seniors to discuss end-of-year activities.
- Senior Prom – June 4th at THS
- Class Day for Seniors - June 5th
- Project Graduation – June 18th, 9:00PM - 3:00AM at Star Hill

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

H.1 Announcement of AP at Tolland High School

Dr. Willett reviewed attachment H.1.

Dr. Willett announced the hiring of Kimberly Meredith, the new Assistant Principal of THS effective July 1st.

Dr. Willett introduced Ms. Meredith.

Ms. Meredith thanked everyone. She is looking forward to working in Tolland and is excited and thankful for this new opportunity.

The members of the Board congratulated and welcomed Ms. Meredith.

H.2 Covid Relief Fund Request

Dr. Willett reviewed attachment H.2.

Dr. Willett explained that this item is comprised of 2 documents, BOE COVID Request P1 and BOE COVID Request P2. Together they total \$283,352.

Dr. Willett explained that Food Service is included because the COVID request is comprised of money spent during the year attributed to the COVID fund and there was a shortfall in the Food Service program. The Board's picking up of the expenses for the listed items will allow them to become balanced. Historically, Food Service has been an independently funded program but the pandemic put it in a difficult position. Dr. Willett noted that the Board's approval is needed for him to be able to move forward.

Mr. Holt asked for input from the Finance and Facilities Committee (FFC) on this item. Ms. Griffin explained that they reviewed the line items and Dr. Willett provided the Committee with descriptions of each line. Ms. Griffin noted that she is comfortable that everything in the list is related to COVID and falls under the description of how the COVID Relief Fund (CRF) was to be used. Mr. Marie added that many of the salary

related lines have to do with remote learning educators and delivery of supplies to households. He is confident bringing this to action this evening.

Ms. Lundgren noted that the Town Council is going to review the establishment of the CRF in July. Dr. Willett explained that if the fund is going to be continued, it will need to be reviewed. In the phase document it is noted that one of the places for end-of-year funds would be the CRF if it remains in place.

Mr. Marie motioned to move item H.2 to K.1 for action.

Mr. Renduchintala seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

H.3 Reconciliation of EOY Phase II

Dr. Willett reviewed attachment H.3.

Section I, BOE budget allocation & reduction is a breakdown of how the Board's budget came to be and the reduction which was necessary (\$474K) and the 2% increase.

Section II, current estimated balance for FY21 is based on the information available at the time. The total is \$763,086.

Section III, potential EOY expenditures and related balance using Section II information provides a breakdown of the end of year expenses. While these can offset budgets, they will not offset next year's budget or assist in reaching the reduction of \$474K seen in Section I.

Section IV, potential EOY FY21 investments/reductions will offset the FY22 budget and is how the Board would reach the necessary reduction of \$474K seen in Section I.

Dr. Willett noted that the Phase II document was reviewed by the FFC and this evening he is seeking a general approval of the Board to allow him to move forward with these actions immediately. Dr. Willett reviewed the list of items in Section III. The opportunities allow the district to move forward in a variety of ways including in terms of curriculum and training.

[Ms. Philbin arrived at 7:34PM.]

Dr. Willett explained that Section IV allows the district to offset FY22 and allows them reach the reduction of \$474K.

Dr. Willett explained that 2 retirements provide a differential of about \$67K that helped reach the \$474K. Thus, the reduction was reached without a reduction in staff.

Section V represents the total of sections III and IV (\$689,386)

Section VI is the FY21 potential remaining balance of \$73,700.

Section VII is the recommendation for remaining funds beyond the Section V allocations. The recommendation is a 50/50 split between the educational reserve fund (ERF) and the CRF (contingent on the account remaining in place). Another option is to put it all into the ERF. Dr. Willett noted that the Board can instruct him how to split the funds next month but he recommends using the ERF, CRF, or rolling the funds over.

Dr. Willett noted that there could still be some fluctuation in the numbers but they will not be fundamentally different.

Ms. Lundgren asked about Section IV and Literacy How. She thought the consultants were training the district's staff so it could be in-house and they could train each other. Dr. Willett responded that the coaches offer a level of necessary training and right now are indispensable. The district benefits from the expertise of those individuals. It is a smart investment.

Mr. Renduchintala commented that he still has concerns with pre-investing. It seems that they are "kicking the can down the road" and he is concerned about potential backlash when they do next year's budget and these appear as spikes. He hopes the budgets will even out and recommends educating the public on why the numbers may look different next year.

Ms. Besaw asked about the uniforms. Last time they were \$27K and now they are \$35K. Dr. Willett explained that this is due to the addition of more uniforms and is good as an offset for the future. Ms. Besaw asked if the uniforms are for all of the teams. Dr. Willett responded that he does not know if this is for all teams. The total was provided by the Athletic Director. Ms. Besaw asked about putting the \$38,860 in the CRF. It feels that COVID is wrapping up and she asked what Dr. Willett felt would be needed in terms of related expenses. Dr. Willett responded that the one thing predictable about the pandemic is that it has been unpredictable. There are conversations about the post-pandemic year. While moving out of the pandemic there are still populations that need to be quarantined at this time. While quarantines may not be necessary for grades 6-12, they may be necessary for K-5. Further, they will still need cleaning products for the buses and certain practices and protocols with respect to PPE will still need to be followed because students in the younger grades cannot be vaccinated. Further, the plan to return to in-person learning will include things that the district will still be expected to do. It is still a changing environment and there will be residual items that will need to be addressed.

Ms. Plourd asked about the math curriculum and the grades it covers. Dr. Willett responded that it is for K-8. Ms. Plourd commented on pre-investments. She understood that in regard to Literacy How that it would be a train the trainer and that it eventually would not be an ongoing expense. As the year goes on she would like the FFC and Communication Committees to communicate where one can find efficiencies to make the operating budget more streamlined so there is not a jump in FY23. Ms. Plourd asked about the Skylift for Birch Grove. Dr. Willett explained that the building has very high spaces and everything there will need to be maintained. The Skylift was recommended by Mr. Sztaba for long term savings.

Ms. Philbin commented that it would behoove the district to continue to have the CRF. They do not know what winter or variant strains will bring and it keeps changing. The requirements may change and there would be a cost to adjust and comply. Further, she is concerned about pre-purchasing and the swing of the pendulum making it appear that the Board is spending too much when they are spending what is necessary. They need to rotate the budget and make it fluid so increases are steady. Ms. Philbin expressed

concern with the train the trainer aspect of some of the programs and exhausting the resources of faculty and staff. If they are not paying for the trainers they will pay for more staff. Ms. Philbin welcomed Ms. Meredith.

Mr. Holt asked about the Skylift and if this could be used for what the lift previously discussed was going to address. Dr. Willett explained that the Skylift is mostly for indoor use while the other is much larger and can be used both indoors and outdoors and was part of a past different capital conversation. Mr. Holt confirmed that they will still need a different solution for what the larger one was to address.

Mr. Marie motioned to move item H.3 to K.2 for action.

Mr. Holt seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

H.4 Consideration of Cancellation of Summer Meetings Dr. Willett reviewed attachment H.4.

The Board discussed the potential dates for cancellation: July 14th, July 28th, and August 11th. Dr. Willett noted that if the meetings were cancelled and anything came up a special meeting could be scheduled but he does not anticipate needing to do so. The Board members discussed the dates and shared their availability. A brief discussion took place regarding holding a round table discussion of what the fall will look like, looking at some of the more philosophical items during the summer meetings that tend to be a bit lighter than others, and the Superintendent's evaluation.

Mr. Renduchintala motioned to move item H.4 to K.3 for action.

Mr. Marie seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

I. COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

- Birch Grove Building Committee – Ms. Philbin provided an update and highlighted the following items: meetings are scheduled for every Tuesday for the foreseeable future due to change orders, the swings, FF&E change orders, the project is ahead of schedule, another walkthrough is being scheduled for members of the Town Council and the Board, Miracle Field.
- Policy Committee – Mr. Holt noted that due to his international travel the Committee has missed a few meetings and he appreciates everyone's patience. He met with Dr. Willett last week to discuss policy concepts. The next agenda will include Policy 3010 and 9010. Mr. Holt noted that the Board asked that the Committee look at a mask policy and he discussed this with Dr. Willett. Given the recent changes in the Governor's mandate and the EHHD direction, he and Dr. Willett wonder if it would be overregulation and would like input from the Board. Dr. Willett noted that he does not believe an added policy specifically about mask wearing is advisable at this time because the district does not have the authority to do something different than what the State and DPH require. The district can only follow what is directed. By the time a policy is codified it may be outdated. Mr. Renduchintala asked if it would be worth it to appoint

a co-chair so meetings could always be held. He added that there is also the issue to discuss regarding a policy on how to keep Zoom meetings going so the public can attend. Ms. Lundgren commented that she spoke with the Town Council Chair and that a meeting will be set up with the chairs, Dr. Willett, and Mr. Rosen to learn what the capabilities are in Council Chambers and they would go from there. In terms of co-chairs, Ms. Lundgren is not opposed to having them. Ms. Philbin commented that it was not necessarily about having a mask policy but a policy of how meetings will be held when they return in-person. Dr. Willett's office has multiple cameras but many in attendance at meetings are not on camera and that is an issue. Further, Board members complying with regulations should be a conversation for the Policy Committee. She appreciates that there will be a meeting about the capabilities of Council Chambers and hopes someone from the minority caucus will be invited. Ms. Lundgren commented that she does not believe the vice chairs will be there – only the chairs of the elected bodies and staff that would execute it. Ms. Philbin commented that her main concern is that if it is only the chairs and staff it does not leave anyone from the minority caucus. She recommended opening it up to the vice chairs or it would only have Republican representation for the conversation which is a conversation for the entire community. Mr. Holt commented that as far as the directive to Policy Committee, there was the mask policy and Zoom which was discussed and tabled in Committee in December.

- Finance and Facilities – Ms. Griffin noted that discussions took place about appendix F1, COVID expenses, Food Services, and the Phase II document. She added while in the FFC meeting which was in-person with members of the public on Zoom there was a technical issue and Dr. Willett received multiple texts. In her opinion, if they are going to consider a hybrid approach, Dr. Willett or members of the Board cannot be responsible for running this new type of meeting. It was very disruptive for Dr. Willett and there would need to be a better way such as having someone who could focus only on this.
- Communications – Ms. Plourd commented on the Policy Committee. She believes that they will have more meetings and be up and running quickly. Mr. Holt does a lot of work in the Policy Committee and she supports keeping him as the Chair. In terms of the meeting regarding the hybrid meetings, Ms. Plourd believes they need to be careful about having a quorum of elected officials. It may be better for Dr. Willett, Mr. Rosen, and the staff to meet to discuss the logistics. In terms of Communications, discussions included the following topics: changes in state law and the health district guidelines as COVID restrictions lift, information that will be coming in about what is necessary for compliance with the ESSER funds, continuing conversations about the understanding of the budget process, the new dashboard for the Board.
- Town Council – Ms. Plourd attended the May 24th meeting where the Miracle Field was discussed.
- Mental Health and Substance Use Task Force – Mr. Marie noted that they met last Monday. Ms. Dunn was interviewed for her perspective and Dr. Willett will present his perspective at the next meeting.

J. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Ms. Lundgren wished everyone a safe and happy Memorial Day. She asked that people take a minute to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

K. BOARD ACTION

K.1 Covid Relief Fund Request

Mr. Renduchintala motioned to approve the funds and related fund request under section III.A.(1) of the Education Covid Relief Fund Agreement as articulated in the attachments BOE COVID Request P1 and P2 FS respectively of this agenda item, totaling \$283,352.20, and accordingly seek reimbursement. Mr. Marie seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

K.2 Reconciliation of EOY Phase II

Mr. Marie motioned to authorize the Superintendent to move forward with supplemental expenditures and investments in the end of year Phase II reconciliation document as presented by the Superintendent at the May 26, 2021 Board of Education meeting.

Mr. Renduchintala seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
<i>Lundgren</i>	x		
<i>Plourd</i>	x		
<i>Holt</i>		x	
<i>Besaw</i>	x		
<i>Griffin</i>	x		
<i>Marie</i>	x		
<i>Philbin</i>	x		
<i>Renduchintala</i>	x		
<i>Shaikh</i>	x		

Motion passed.

K.3 Consideration of Cancellation of Summer Meetings

Mr. Marie motioned to cancel the Board of Education meeting on July 28, 2021.

Ms. Plourd seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken.

	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
<i>Lundgren</i>	x		
<i>Plourd</i>	x		
<i>Holt</i>		x	
<i>Besaw</i>	x		
<i>Griffin</i>	x		
<i>Marie</i>	x		
<i>Philbin</i>	x		
<i>Renduchintala</i>	x		
<i>Shaikh</i>	x		

Motion passed.

L. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Kate Howard-Bender, 103 Goose Lane, commented that the Policy meeting being canceled at 3:04 is ridiculous and disrespectful. They need to come up with a better plan. The mask policy was not addressed because meetings did not happen. Nothing happened with Policy since February. The issue with masks is an issue of respect and following guidelines and this was swept under the rug. Ms. Howard-Bender added that comments about Zoom are tone deaf. Teachers have been doing Zoom all year in a hybrid mode. She explained that her question to the Board is how can they make this happen since they have higher attendance than ever before and what can they do to put in place some assistance for Dr. Willett or are they expecting volunteers to come out of the woodwork as usual. Ms. Howard-Bender commented that she heard Ms. Plourd say she was not going to do anything about adding a co-chair to Policy. Ms. Howard-Bender commented that this is a problem in that Ms. Plourd is not listening to the constituents. Further, Ms. Philbin asked for minority representation to help with the Zoom discussion and she was ignored. Ms. Howard-Bender commented that she would like to hear a response to that and she is surprised that with the new and improved Board that the Chair is not interested in working together and having minority representation. The Board needs to do better than this – the kids are worth it.

M. POINTS OF INFORMATION

- 2021-05-11 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Mr. Holt inquired about the Miracle Field and if the Board will be looked to for input. Dr. Willett explained that they need to see where everyone's mind is on this. He noted that over the next few days there will be some clarification but speculated that it does not seem like it is not going to work in the timeline of the BGP project. He does not believe people feel that it is a bad idea for the community but the issue is funding. Thus, it will not work in the timeline of the Birch Grove building project. If the funding can be acquired and this is something that happens in the future, the Board would need to be part of the process because if it is going to be on the grounds of any of the schools it would impact programming. Further, there would need to be a discussion as to who would have the responsibility to maintain the field.
- Mr. Renduchintala commented that he was not calling for anyone to replace Mr. Holt as Chair of the Policy Committee. He was calling for there to be a co-chair as this works well with the Curriculum Committee. It is important to have someone in place. Ms. Lundgren responded that she agrees but does not know who would want to take on more.
- Ms. Philbin commented that having co-chairs is a great idea. One of the founding principles of the Board was doing the hard work in the subcommittee meetings. She recommended ironing this out this evening and there is an opportunity to discuss it. This Board has proven to support each other and having heard the reports from the Curriculum Committee with the co-chairs it is very fluid and works. Ms. Lundgren commented that she does not believe a decision needs to be made this evening and would like to let people think about this.
- Ms. Griffin commented that she is disappointed. This is Mr. Holt's first meeting back after being out of the country for a couple of months and she thinks it would be nice to give him the benefit of the doubt and allow him to work through his Committee and

scheduling. She was in touch with Mr. Holt regarding Policy 3010 while he was gone and encouraged everyone to give him time. She has confidence that he will be on top of the policies on the list.

- Ms. Besaw commented that she agreed with Ms. Griffin. Mr. Holt did a lot before and attended meetings. He is back and she would like to give him room to make up for the meetings that were missed. If there continue to be issues, they can look at it at that time.
- Ms. Shaikh commented that she believes the co-chair idea is great perhaps even for all of the committees. No one is blaming or faulting Mr. Holt but for months of Policy meetings to be missed or not have taken place is a problem. Everyone is volunteering and the work needs to get done. She believes that while Mr. Holt has the best of intentions and an ability to bring a lot to the table, he has not done so in the past few months. This is fine but they need an alternate plan.
- Ms. Philbin commented that everyone has family and business obligations. Mr. Holt's took him out of the country for 4 months twice. She is concerned with the comment that Ms. Griffin made that she has had conversations with Mr. Holt regarding Policy 3010 because they are not supposed to be having conversations that lead to making decisions outside of the public eye. It is concerning and walks a fine line. They need to be doing the work as a committee and Mr. Holt has not been in attendance. He has not been a part of 4 months of the conversation. Ms. Philbin commented that this is "simply a dereliction of duty" and believes they need to focus on mitigating the issue. She added that another Board member's business could call them away and there should be a safety net so 4 months of meetings are not missed. Then they would not have this conversation when they could be talking about the Superintendent, faculty, staff, or students – what they are sworn in to do. Ms. Philbin expressed concern if Board members are making decisions outside of public session.
- Ms. Plourd commented that from the FOIA presentation, Board members are allowed to speak to each other one-on-one and decisions are not being made.
- Ms. Lundgren commented that this is something to be discussed but the decision does not need to be made this evening.

N. FUTURE

- Math Curriculum Presentation, June 23, 2021

O. NEW BUSINESS – none

P. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Marie motioned to adjourn at 9:03PM.

Ms. Plourd seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Pascuzzi
Clerk

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA ITEM BACKGROUND

ITEM: Celebrations

ITEM SUBMITTED BY: Walter Willett, Ph.D., Superintendent

FOR BOE MEETING: June 9, 2021

ITEM SUMMARY:

The Tolland Public School regularly celebrates student successes and amazing achievements!

Some of the amazing achievements for this Spring are:

SPORTS:

- Senior Adriana Rhodes and Freshman Charlotte Pacheco have both earned All-Conference for the Central CT Conference, All State and All-American honors in Gymnastics.

- CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CCC CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS!
 - GIRLS LACROSSE – Central Division (Coach Kate Tellers)
 - BOYS LACROSSE- South Division- (Coach Dan D’Amato)
 - THS GOLF TEAM – East Champions – (Coach Auggie Link)
 - TOLLAND BOYS AND GIRLS OUTDOOR TRACK TEAMS CCC EAST CHAMPS
 - Boys Coach Brandon Elliott and Connor Gagliardi
 - Girls Coach Peter Leeds and Tom Callis

INVENTION CONVENTION:

Through the dedication of Stephanie Cassidy and Faye Sleeman, Tolland Middle School students were once again represented well at the CT Invention Convention. The following students received recognition for their inventions:

Grade 6

Sophia Ash (Cozy Canine Cradle)- Recognized Inventor
Kylie Krol (Kylie's Bracelet Board)- Recognized Inventor
Cecelia Ruiz-Giro (Oxyhydrogen Generator for Household Appliances)- Recognized Inventor

Grade 7

Vaughn Coombs (Simply Crunchy 2.0)- Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE) Award

Grade 8

Audrey McKown (Breathe Better Buzz Box)- Recognized Inventor and National Finalist. Audrey will compete with more than 400 finalists at the Invention Convention US Nationals, and winners will be announced during an online awards ceremony hosted on the Invention Convention Worldwide and The Henry Ford’s social channels on June 24, 2021.

TEACHER RECOGNITION:

I would like to highlight the dedication and work of Michelle Campbell. Her flexibility this year to take things as they come; train a new math teaching partner, teach in a pandemic, pilot a new math resource among all the other demands on her plate was clearly evident daily. She exemplifies what it is to have a professional productive struggle and persevere with a positive growth and math mindset. She shined as a teacher leader within the TMS math department. Her take on a new instructional routine and her determination and enthusiasm to support all her learners illustrates how she is a model educator who truly cares about her craft, personal growth, fellow teachers, and her students. Thank you for all you do every year but especially this one Michelle! - Jen Webster

TOLLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL PRESIDENTIAL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE:

Presidential Award for Excellence	Mia	Artiaco
	Lewis	Bode
	Shaelyn	Bojarski
	Chrystalla	Constantinou
	Savanna	D'Onofrio
	Lincoln	DiVenere
	Sophie	Field
	Natalie	Frechette
	Kaylee	Garritt
	Maya	Godi
	Zachary	Guglielmore
	Nikki	Hang
	Ryan	Herd
	Abigail	Jagiolo
	Ember	Kober
	Kylie	Krol
	Rebecca	Langlais
	Chad	Lincoln
	Lauren	Lockward
	Adelaide	Looney
	Kayla	McGee
	Beckett	Murray
	Kevin	Niderno
	Ella	Paciga
	Julian	Prytko
	Dayanna	Rodriguez
	Victoria	Rozea
	Cecilia	Ruiz-Giro
	Grace	Vaitses
	Asher	Vallo
	Colleen	White
	Charles	Wlodarczyl
	Jonathan	Belair
	Alexander	Blanchard
	Devon	Bryden
	Mason	Byam
	Cora	Collins
	Corey	Culhane
	Emma	Dowgiewicz
	Cassidy	Flor
	Tyler	Himes
	Kayla	House

	Kira	Hudson
	Sonia	Kaushal
	Erica	Kleinberg
	Abigail	Levesque
Presidential Award for Excellence	Cecilia	Martens
	Benjamin	Pope
	Weston	Prechtl
	Taegan	Rainha
	Daniel	Santiago
	Anne	Singer
	Camden	Soucy
	Asha	Taylor
	Elisa	Testa
	Nick	Zocco
	Eliana	Barber
	Lillian	Brody
	Alyssa	Castagna
	Evan	Clark
	Emerson	Foster
	Leila	Ghiaei
	Sydney	Ingraham
	Brooke	Lincoln
	Elsie	McCaffrey
	Cailin	McCann
	Maryn	Millington
	Dorisabel	Mojica
	Karolina	Prytko
	Brendan	Raykoff
	Meerah	Shaikh
	Gabriella	Trovato
	Cameron	Urban

FINANCIAL SUMMARY: N/A

BOARD ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

BOE ACTION DESIRED: Review

SUPPORTING MATERIALS ATTACHED: None



TOLLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

51 TOLLAND GREEN · TOLLAND, CONNECTICUT 06084
860-870-6850 · FAX: 860-870-7737

OFFICE OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Walter Willett, Ph.D.
Superintendent

TO: Board of Education

H2

FROM: Mark S. McLaughlin, Tolland Public Schools Business Director



RE: Monthly Financial Report for May 2021

Date: June 2, 2021

CC: Walter Willett, Ph.D. Superintendent of Schools

Please find attached the monthly financial report for the FY 2020-2021 fiscal year. The month of May 2021 is the 11th month of the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The monthly financials for this school year may look a little different do to the COVID pandemic but the goal remains to provide for student needs and success. The attached report is only a temporary financial snapshot identifying nine months of activity. As with any financial report generated during the school year, not all purchase orders have been created, not all materials purchased and not all staff hired. This monthly financial attachment is provided in an object format to clearly show the adopted budget and the YTD expenditures. This summary report provides the essential groups of accounts so the BOE can better understand the functional areas of the budget. The object line items follow the reporting format required by the State Dept. of Education. The line items show the approved budget, 11 months of expenses, encumbrances and available balances as generated through the financial software.

Since this report identifies many line items such as salaries, health insurance, FICA/Medicaid & Social Security, retirements, legal and audit services, utilities, tuition, transportation, textbooks, professional services etc. have not all been encumbered or spent. This is normal for this time of year. The budget balance of \$832,193 will be converted into encumbrances or expenditures over the next month.

The attached May 2021 financial report shows an available balance of \$832,193 or 2.08% of the BOE's current budget. As previously stated, this amount will reduce over the next month. It is extremely important to understand that this available balance is somewhat normal occurrence considering the worldwide COVID19 pandemic. Currently the timing of budget spending, needs of the students and expense patterns are cyclical in nature. Items like, health Insurances will only be booked after teachers return to school, substitute expenses start in September, special education student tuitions will continue to increase, utility transfer to the town is complete, transportation routes are still being booked or adjusted, and instructional supplies will be spent as needed for the balance of the year. Some line items cannot be encumbered and will always have available

balances such as substitutes, overtime, course reimbursement, consultants, unemployment compensation, workers compensation, and severance.

Considering the worldwide pandemic, the current school budget is impacted both positively and negatively. There could be additional financial shake out on the current and long-term budget resulting from the impact of the virus. Since the virus continues, all preventative measures will also remain in place. The continued impact from the virus will change how we track, spend, monitor, and educate our students. The situation remains fluid and changes are based on health guidelines, government closure or reopening directions and the safety of the community. The Superintendent will be the focal point to distribute information when it becomes available.

In a typical year, the budget is built 18-20 months from implementation, based on the best know data and assumptions from the town, state of Ct, grants, interest rates, market conditions, contacts, negotiations, Department of Ed. Mandates, and professional services etc.

The Budget for FY20-21 was Town Council approved for \$40,017,290. The BOE is anticipating spending the allocated budget by year-end in accordance with CGS 10-222. As in the past, any budget balances, may be returned to the town or the BOE will request to transfer the balance to the Educational Reserve Fund after final approval. The district received the first excess cost payment in February 2021 from the state for \$548,825. The second payment of \$220,506 was received in May 2021.

The FY21-22 Superintendent's budget was submitted in January 2021 and approved by the BOE in February 2021 and voted by referendum in May 2021.

Tolland Public Schools

MM OBJ A Expenditure Report Summary (by OBJ - ???)

From Date: 7/1/2020

To Date: 5/31/2021

Fiscal Year: 2020-2021

- Subtotal by Collapse Mask
 Include pre encumbrance
 Print accounts with zero balance
 Filter Encumbrance Detail by Date Range
 Exclude Inactive Accounts with zero balance

Account Number	Description	GL Budget	Range To Date	YTD	Balance	Encumbrance	Budget Balance	% Bud
0100.0000.110.00.000.1	Salaries	\$22,522,117.53	\$18,301,602.94	\$18,301,602.94	\$4,220,514.59	\$3,888,901.84	\$331,612.75	1.47%
0100.0000.120.00.000.1	Substitutes	\$367,228.00	\$263,462.73	\$263,462.73	\$103,765.27	\$44,141.37	\$59,623.90	16.24%
0100.0000.130.00.000.1	Overtime	\$218,870.00	\$202,105.39	\$202,105.39	\$16,764.61	\$5,525.70	\$11,238.91	5.13%
0100.0000.150.00.000.1	Stipends	\$389,839.90	\$267,976.77	\$267,976.77	\$121,863.13	\$184,851.38	(\$62,988.25)	-16.16%
0100.0000.190.00.000.1	Pension/Severance	\$205,561.00	\$99,973.08	\$99,973.08	\$105,587.92	\$121,675.40	(\$16,087.48)	-7.83%
0100.0000.200.00.000.1	Employee Benefits	\$535,750.00	\$492,058.38	\$492,058.38	\$43,691.62	\$0.00	\$43,691.62	8.16%
0100.0000.210.00.000.1	Health/Life/Disabl Ins	\$5,252,093.00	\$4,906,910.90	\$4,906,910.90	\$345,182.10	\$420,458.15	(\$75,276.05)	-1.43%
0100.0000.220.00.000.1	FICA/MED/Soc Sec	\$727,048.40	\$537,734.14	\$537,734.14	\$189,314.26	\$89,763.52	\$99,550.74	13.69%
0100.0000.240.00.000.1	Retirement (ICMA)	\$262,917.61	\$205,078.66	\$205,078.66	\$57,838.95	\$24,253.05	\$33,585.90	12.77%
0100.0000.250.00.000.1	Course Reimbursement-Degree Ch	\$50,000.00	\$15,770.00	\$15,770.00	\$34,230.00	\$0.00	\$34,230.00	68.46%
0100.0000.260.00.000.1	Unemployment Compensation	\$50,981.00	\$25,475.23	\$25,475.23	\$25,505.77	\$13,026.02	\$12,479.75	24.48%
0100.0000.270.00.000.1	Workers' Compensation	\$265,612.00	\$256,932.99	\$256,932.99	\$8,679.01	\$0.00	\$8,679.01	3.27%
0100.0000.300.00.000.1	Purch Prof & Tech Svcs	\$55,842.00	\$26,557.55	\$26,557.55	\$29,284.45	\$0.00	\$29,284.45	52.44%
0100.0000.310.00.000.1	Benefits Consultant Services	\$65,280.00	\$58,926.63	\$58,926.63	\$6,353.37	\$26,390.00	(\$20,036.63)	-30.69%
0100.0000.320.00.000.1	Prof Educ Svcs	\$241,004.00	\$325,852.93	\$325,852.93	(\$84,848.93)	\$170,042.17	(\$254,891.10)	-105.76%
0100.0000.330.00.000.1	Professional Tech Svcs	\$34,482.00	\$8,336.88	\$8,336.88	\$26,145.12	\$500.00	\$25,645.12	74.37%
0100.0000.340.00.000.1	Legal/Audit/Consult Svcs	\$203,145.00	\$143,542.28	\$143,542.28	\$59,602.72	\$11,963.83	\$47,638.89	23.45%
0100.0000.350.00.000.1	Tech Services	\$470,460.50	\$444,778.34	\$444,778.34	\$25,682.16	\$99,044.59	(\$73,362.43)	-15.59%
0100.0000.410.00.000.1	Sewer/Water	\$33,931.00	\$33,931.00	\$33,931.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
0100.0000.420.00.000.1	Cleaning/Rubbish Services	\$135,458.00	\$80,295.52	\$80,295.52	\$55,162.48	\$34,838.82	\$20,323.66	15.00%
0100.0000.430.00.000.1	Repair and Maint Svcs (Facil)	\$246,783.00	\$108,418.42	\$108,418.42	\$138,364.58	\$25,171.04	\$113,193.54	45.87%
0100.0000.440.00.000.1	Rentals	\$173,565.00	\$155,142.38	\$155,142.38	\$18,422.62	\$6,420.35	\$12,002.27	6.92%
0100.0000.510.00.000.1	Student Transp Svcs	\$2,808,995.00	\$1,639,996.36	\$1,639,996.36	\$1,168,998.64	\$1,119,026.51	\$49,970.13	1.78%
0100.0000.520.00.000.1	Property/Liability Insurance	\$204,069.00	\$200,641.69	\$200,641.69	\$3,427.31	\$0.00	\$3,427.31	1.68%
0100.0000.530.00.000.1	Telephone/ Postage	\$66,870.00	\$63,045.93	\$63,045.93	\$3,824.07	\$10,195.26	(\$6,371.19)	-9.53%
0100.0000.540.00.000.1	Advertising	\$18,000.00	\$22,577.00	\$22,577.00	(\$4,577.00)	\$3,320.00	(\$7,897.00)	-43.87%
0100.0000.550.00.000.1	Printing and Binding	\$19,327.00	\$12,737.60	\$12,737.60	\$6,589.40	\$3,422.62	\$3,166.78	16.39%
0100.0000.560.00.000.1	Tuition Educ Agency	\$1,844,555.00	\$1,155,162.03	\$1,155,162.03	\$689,392.97	\$162,250.88	\$527,142.09	28.58%
0100.0000.580.00.000.1	Travel and Conference	\$26,159.00	\$6,397.19	\$6,397.19	\$19,761.81	\$3,135.00	\$16,626.81	63.56%
0100.0000.590.00.000.1	Public Officers & State Troope	\$91,994.00	\$8,667.10	\$8,667.10	\$83,326.90	\$17,500.00	\$65,826.90	71.56%
0100.0000.600.00.000.1	General Supplies	\$140,753.00	\$90,290.75	\$90,290.75	\$50,462.25	\$57,065.59	(\$6,603.34)	-4.69%
0100.0000.610.00.000.1	Instr Supplies/Mat'ls	\$317,986.37	\$260,402.08	\$260,402.08	\$57,584.29	\$91,423.27	(\$33,838.98)	-10.64%
0100.0000.620.00.000.1	Energy	\$1,611,759.00	\$1,489,864.82	\$1,489,864.82	\$121,894.18	\$116,764.14	\$5,130.04	0.32%
0100.0000.640.00.000.1	Textbooks	\$121,123.99	\$88,988.63	\$88,988.63	\$32,135.36	\$42,471.10	(\$10,335.74)	-8.53%
0100.0000.650.00.000.1	Films and Videos Supl	\$1,050.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,050.00	\$500.00	\$550.00	52.38%
0100.0000.660.00.000.1	Computer Software	\$44,690.00	\$55,638.84	\$55,638.84	(\$10,948.84)	\$429.77	(\$11,378.61)	-25.46%
0100.0000.690.00.000.1	Misc Supplies	\$49,059.00	\$99,170.28	\$99,170.28	(\$50,111.28)	\$24,672.31	(\$74,783.59)	-152.44%
0100.0000.730.00.000.1	Equip Instruct - New	\$89,734.00	\$123,520.53	\$123,520.53	(\$33,786.53)	\$31,571.05	(\$65,357.58)	-72.83%
0100.0000.760.00.000.1	Equip - Spec Ed - Instr - New	\$850.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$850.00	\$0.00	\$850.00	100.00%
0100.0000.810.00.000.1	Dues and Fees	\$52,346.95	\$54,922.59	\$54,922.59	(\$2,575.64)	\$1,493.75	(\$4,069.39)	-7.77%
Grand Total:		\$40,017,290.25	\$32,332,886.56	\$32,332,886.56	\$7,684,403.69	\$6,852,210.48	\$832,193.21	2.08%

End of Report

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA ITEM BACKGROUND

ITEM: Education COVID Relief Fund (CRF)
ITEM SUBMITTED BY: Walter Willett, Ph.D., Superintendent
FOR BOE MEETING: June 9, 2021
ITEM SUMMARY:

**Education COVID Relief Fund (CRF) Proposed Agreement
12/23/2020**

The Tolland Town Council is considering the creation of a COVID Relief Fund (CRF) for the use by the Tolland Board of Education to provide funds for COVID related funding needs. This agreement provides an outline of the intended use of these funds by the Board of Education and disposition of any excess funds once the fund is no longer required. I am seeking approval of this agreement by the Board of Education for subsequent submission to the Town Council for consideration.

I. Contributions

Contributions to the fund shall be received from:

- A.** Moneys received by the Town from government grants, FEMA payments or payments received from the State CRF fund for reimbursement of COVID related costs from a prior year.
- B.** Special appropriations made from savings resulting from the Board of Education budget at June 30, 2020, designated for the purpose of using those savings by the Board of Education, after the completion of the audit and emergency appropriations consistent with the Town Charter.

II. Custody of fund; investments

The fund shall be in the custody of the Treasurer of the Town of Tolland and all or any part of the moneys in said fund may, from time to time, be invested in any securities in which public funds may lawfully be invested. All income derived from such investments shall be paid into the general fund and become a part thereof. The moneys so invested shall at all times be subject to withdrawal for use as provided within this agreement.

III. Use of moneys from fund

A. COVID-related activities.

(1) Moneys paid to this BOE CRF shall be used by the Superintendent of Schools or designee for non-budgeted COVID related activities and for those COVID related activities that exceed available resources, provided that all such expenditures shall first be presented to and approved by the Board of Education.

B. Moneys in the fund may be used to provide matching funds for related programs, if required, by any grants received from the State of Connecticut or federal emergency management programs.

C. In the event that the fund is no longer required, the Town Council agrees to transfer the remaining amount up to the amount that was not transferred to the Education Reserve fund for the fiscal

year ending June 30, 2020 allocation. The total ERF allowable amount for June 30, 2020 was \$399,756. The amount allocated by Town Council for that period is to be determined in April, 2021. Any difference between that April, 2021 allocation to the Education Reserve fund and the allowable amount of \$399,756 will be eligible to be transferred to the Education Reserve fund upon closeout of this fund. Any remaining balance will revert back to the General Fund – Unassigned Fund Balance.

- D.** The funds which remain at the close of each fiscal year within the BOE COVID Relief Fund shall remain in the fund balance of said fund and shall not, therefore, be lapsed to the balance of the general fund until such time that the fund is no longer required. The Town Treasurer/Director of Finance shall exercise control over the investment of funds and administration of the fund will be by the Board of Education in accordance with their duties under the Town Charter or School Policies.

IV. Duration of Agreement

The status of this agreement and fund shall be reviewed by the Board of Education and Town Council annually between June 1st and September 1st for the purpose of determining its continuation or termination.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

Fund was \$283,508.

BOARD ATTORNEY REVIEW:

N/A

BOE ACTION DESIRED:

Review, and consider reaching out to Town Council to meet on status of the fund and its continuation or conclusion.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS ATTACHED:

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA ITEM BACKGROUND

ITEM: AASA National Superintendent Certification Program

ITEM SUBMITTED BY: Walter Willett, Ph.D., Superintendent

FOR BOE MEETING: June 9, 2021

ITEM SUMMARY:

The AASA National Superintendent Certification Program®

Program Description:

The program offers the highest quality curriculum and the ability to join professional networks that today's superintendents need to become the excellent leaders for our children, and our nation. In light of the pandemic, the AASA National Superintendent Certification Program® provides a real-time focus on key issues that superintendents are facing.

AASA has planned a robust experience that focuses on sharpening the skills that successful superintendents acknowledge are needed to thrive on the job and provides relevant experiences for our members. It is clear that political and economic pressures of the job are exacerbated by growing intrusions into local control and a prevailing attitude that educators do not have the solutions, and indeed, are part of the problem. Our certification program will help our members thrive in these difficult conditions.

- Transformational Leadership and Visioning
- Understanding and Developing Effective Board-Superintendent Relations
- Understanding and Ensuring Equity
- Navigating Community, State and National Politics
- The Impact of Economic Pressures, Budgeting and the Global Pandemic
- Effective Instructional Leadership and Continuous School Improvement
- Impactful and Effective Communications including Social Media for All Stakeholders
- Serving Effectively as CEO and Education Leader in the District and Community

Our robust **curriculum** has been developed with extensive input from leading superintendents from around the nation and is personalized and delivered by dynamic lead superintendent teachers and expert guest presenters.

- July 29, 30, 31 (Virtual)
- October 29, 30 (Virtual)
- November 5, 6 (Virtual)
- February 2022 (Nashville – TBD, National Meeting)
- July (2022) Virtual or Location unclear (July 28, 29, 30)
- February (2023) San Antonia (National Meeting, end of program)

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

\$6,000.00 + any related travel costs

BOARD ATTORNEY REVIEW:

N/A

BOE ACTION DESIRED:

Review, and if in agreement, approval

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
INFORMATION SESSION

TOLLAND TOWN COUNCIL
ZOOM REMOTE MEETING

MAY 24, 2021 – 6:30 P.M.

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
TOLLAND, CT

2021 MAY 25 PM 3:05

Stephen Pagan

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tammy Nuccio, Chair; Steve Jones, Vice Chair; Brenda Falusi; Sophla Johnson; Lou Luba; Kurt Schenher

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Reagan

1. Call to Order

Ms. Nuccio called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Ms. Nuccio welcomed members of the Board of Education, Birch Grove Building Committee, and Town of Tolland Staff.

2. Summary of Miracle Field proposal by project proponents

Ms. Nuccio invited Laurel and Steven Leibowitz to present their proposal to build a Miracle League Field on the current site of the Birch Grove Portables. *See attached presentation.*

Mr. and Mrs. Leibowitz thanked the Town Council for the opportunity to present the proposal. They then acknowledged and introduced members of their Miracle Field Committee.

3. Input from Town and BOE staff on proposal's vision

Ms. Nuccio invited Town and BOE staff to share input on the proposal.

Dr. Willett (Board of Education) shared that he has been involved in four meetings regarding the Miracle Field. In response to Ms. Nuccio's question about the usability of the asphalt, he confirmed that the blacktop would not be an obstacle. The asphalt could provide options in the winter that might not otherwise be available.

4. Questions by Town elected and appointed officials specific to the proposal, with questions being directed by the Town Council Chair to the appropriate body for response

Ms. Nuccio invited questions from Town elected and appointed officials.

Ms. Besaw (Board of Education) thanked the Leibowitzes for their proposal and noted her support of the idea. She asked about the general maintenance of the field. Is power washing needed? Mr. Putnam (Executive Director, Parks and Recreation, Town of East Lyme) from The Miracle League of Southeastern Connecticut shared that his field is located behind the Flanders Elementary School in East Lyme and does not require power washing. It is maintained with a backpack blower. Material and/or debris is blown off the field every once in a while, as needed.

Ms. Besaw noted that the Michigan Miracle Field referenced in the video presentation cost around \$800k with an additional \$200k for future maintenance. Why is the Tolland proposal so much less? Mr. Liebowitz explained that the Michigan field is bigger and more elaborate. The East Lyme field cost about \$550k. Mr. Putnam reiterated what Mr. Liebowitz said and further explained that the Michigan field has an elaborate entry and backstop. Ms. Besaw noted that the East Lyme project is still nearly \$200k less than the Tolland proposal. Mr. Penney (Engineer, Town of Coventry and member of the Tolland Miracle Field committee) explained that much of the initial work has been done in Tolland. Approximately \$200k is not included in the project estimate because the site will already be prepped through the Birch Grove Building project.

Mr. Luba shared that his greatest concern is that the Miracle Field proposal is coming to the Town Council and Birch Grove Building Committee just weeks before the portables are scheduled for removal though initial talks about the concept occurred three years ago. Why has it taken this long to come to the Town Council and Birch Grove Building Committee? Mr. Liebowitz explained that initial meetings with the town began three years ago. Various locations were mentioned as potential sites. Discussions were stalled during the year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted that discussions were further held up at the Tolland Recreation Department. When the proposal committee became aware of the contract with D'Amato Construction, it approached Dr. Willet regarding the Birch Grove site. That was on March 1, 2021.

Mr. Luba asked if any project funds are available at this time. Mr. Liebowitz shared that he and Mrs. Liebowitz are committing \$80k to the project to be sure the blacktop is finished and the space is usable. Mr. Liebowitz confirmed that the \$80k will come from their personal funds. Mr. Luba explained that the open lot is not usable in its current state. The State is paying 100% of the cost to return the portables site to a usable field. If this action is not taken now, the State will not pay. This is a current contractual obligation. Mr. Liebowitz expressed his faith in the Tolland community and cited Adam's Adventure Park as an example of what Tolland can do. He noted that only 4 or 5 Miracle Fields will be allowed in the state. Ms. Nuccio noted that Adam's Adventure took years to complete. Mr. Luba asked if The Miracle League has been a part of the discussions and if they will provide financial help. Mr. Liebowitz confirmed that the Miracle League will match funds up to \$25k. Mr. Luba asked if the committee Mr & Mrs Liebowitz have formed is a 501c3 organization. Mr. Liebowitz responded that the committee could be under the Miracle League of CT but for now, it is within the Tolland Athletic Foundation. That organization has been dormant for years since it is not actively raising money for the high school anymore. Mr. Luba asked about ongoing maintenance and if there a plan in place to secure funds for that. Mr. Liebowitz noted that an additional \$370,000 in fundraising is included in Phase IV of the proposed plan. Mr. Luba expressed concern, as a similar strategy was planned for the high school turf and Tolland, is now in a position of finding the funds for maintenance.

Mr. Jones asked about the turf and Mr. Liebowitz confirmed it is $\frac{3}{4}$ " turf. Mr. Sztaba (Tolland Public School Facilities Director) noted it is a different surface than that used at the high school. It is thicker and would require less maintenance. Mr. Jones asked if a similar field maintenance agreement is anticipated. Mr. Sztaba expects that his staff will handle the general maintenance. Mr. Jones asked if use by outside organizations will limit the field's use. Mr. Sztaba anticipates that an agreement similar to that use for the turf field would be in place with Tolland Recreation utilized for cleanup and closing.

Mr. Watt (Director of Recreation, Town of Tolland) first clarified that he does not feel the delay in bringing this proposal to the Town Council should be blamed on the Recreation Department. When asked about the logistics of scheduling use of the new field, Mr. Watt explained that he does not anticipate issues. All town facilities are listed within the online system. Outsiders can see who is using

the sites and for what purpose. The Miracle Field could be added to the system with applicable fees and rules and regulations noted. The rental fund for the turf field currently goes into a fund that pays down the note on the field.

Mr. Jones referred to the seven-year warranty for the field and asked who is responsible for fixing it. Mr. Sztaba stated that it would depend on the cause of the issue. If it's a manufacturing problem, they would look to the maker of the product. If vandalism-related, it would be an insurance claim.

Mr. Jones referred to the design outlines provided on page 8 of the proposal packet and asked what percentage of the site would be designated for the Miracle Field. Mr. Penney suggested that roughly 20-25% would be for the Miracle field and 75-80% could be restored. Mr. Schenher asked about the current plans for that space. Ms. Murray (Chair, Birch Grove Building Committee) confirmed that the contract calls for field restoration. The modulars will be removed and the field will be restored to grass. The subfloor and insulation will be removed, topsoil would be returned to the area and hydroseeding would be done.

Mr. Schenher asked about fundraising and if naming rights to the field had been discussed. Mr. Hurlburt (member of the Tolland Miracle Field committee) confirmed that the idea has been considered. Ms. Nuccio noted that Attorney Conti would need to weigh in on the subject as the site is on town-owned property. Attorney Conti agreed and noted that he is keeping a list of questions that will need to be addressed. Mr. Hurlburt asked if sponsor signs on the field would be permitted. Ms. Nuccio said this has been done before but, again, Attorney Conti will need to weigh in. Mr. Schenher expressed concern related to the timeline of the proposal noting that the Cross Farms site was discussed at the February meeting with the Recreation Department. The Birch Grove site was then considered in March and is now being discussed at a special meeting at the end of May. He also noted the lack of capital from the group is concerning.

Ms. Johnson shared that her elder son was a Challenger athlete and this is her first time hearing about Miracle Fields. She noted this is a huge opportunity for a safer environment for these athletes. She suggested that a feasibility study for needs assessment and financial obligations should be done. A feasibility study takes years to complete and she is concerned about jumping into a project without having funds in place to support it. Has a request for proposal for the field been considered? Or, are the plans proprietary? The State of Connecticut has guaranteed funds for a specific plan. Can those funds be used towards a different plan on the same site? How many athletes in Tolland would benefit? Has the Miracle League provided a letter of intent or other documents in support of this project? She expressed concern about not having time to review this capital project. Mr. & Mrs. Leibowitz shared that there were twenty players this year and that number was lower due to the pandemic. They have never actively advertised the program to other towns but could. Mr. Penney shared that his charge from the Leibowitz committee in the summer of 2019 was to look at area sites that would be feasible and considered the pros & cons of those sites. The Birch Grove site, lower Crandall, upper Crandall, and the woods adjacent to Adam's Adventure Park were considered. With the pandemic, the ball was dropped and the project planning lost a year. Each of the sites has its pros and cons. Being close to Adam's Adventures would be a pro, but construction costs would be three times higher because of the wooded lots, fill needed, and adjacent wetlands. Although a formal feasibility report was not prepared, the pros and cons of each site were considered. The Birch Grove site presented a cost-saving opportunity that the other sites did not. Ms. Johnson noted that as the field would be located on a public asset, it should be presented to the public. Is there enough time to introduce the proposal to the community? Holding the project could result in time for fundraising, request for proposals (if other contractors are allowed to bid), and public engagement.

Mr. Luba clarified that the State would require contract amendments and time is very short for that. Ms. Murray shared that she has talked with representation from the Miracle League and expressed her opinion that state money cannot be used for anything other than what is detailed in the contract. A separate contract with D'Amato Construction would be needed for work on the Miracle Field. The \$5,000 cost savings on the Birch Grove project would be returned to the State. Ms. Johnson again inquired about letters of intent from the Miracle League. If there is a shortfall, where will the money come from? Ms. Nuccio asked and Ms. Murray confirmed that a change order would result in a \$5k refund back to State and then \$80k would be the cost for the blacktop under a new contract with D'Amato.

Ms. Falusi thanked the Liebowitzes, Mr. Penney, and the committee for their work and dedication to the community. She asked Mr. & Mrs. Leibowitz to talk about physical access to the field. Mr. Sztaba noted in his attached letter of support that the Birch Grove site is the best and most cost-efficient for this project. Ms. Falusi asked for specifics on the anticipated frequency of use. Mr. Liebowitz shared that Challenger athletes practice on Tuesday and Thursday evenings but may expand that schedule. He also noted that TOPS practices on one weeknight and weekend day. Mr. Garritt (President, Tolland Soccer Club) representing TOPS shared that the Tolland Soccer Club has not taken a position for or against this project. He expressed concern that published reports state that TOPS soccer is going to use this field. TOPS practices on Wednesdays and Saturdays on the Turf field and it has been working great. The high school field has lights which are helpful for the evening practices. He referenced the site plans and shared that he is not sure how much can be used for TOPS but he is willing to hear more about that. Losing the Birch Grove fields has been challenging and now, post-pandemic, they are busting at seams for space.

Ms. Falusi expressed excitement for this opportunity and encouraged all to look at other successes in Tolland. We have shown that we want these types of investments in our community. Ms. Lundgren (Chair, Board of Education) thanked the Liebowitzes for the proposal. She asked about usability, viability, and upkeep and asked if there are any financial commitments in writing. Mr. Putnam shared that the Miracle League pledged and followed through on a \$25k donation and has remained active in fundraising activities. Ms. Lundgren asked again about written commitments. Mr. and Mrs. Leibowitz shared that fundraising efforts have been difficult without having a location commitment. Ms. Lundgren suggested that if there is funding, an endowment or trust should be established to grow the return and ensure longevity. Mr. & Mrs. Leibowitz shared that they are experienced in fundraising and have many great ideas for this project. Ms. Lundgren asked if a joint venture with other communities or surrounding towns is possible. Mr. & Mrs. Leibowitz have not spoken with other towns. East Hartford and South Windsor each have teams but all towns are individual right now. Ms. Lundgren noted that this is a long-term project and written commitments should be secured. Mr. Hurlburt shared that a location is needed before corporate funding can be pursued.

Ms. Hancock (Director of Finance, Town of Tolland) noted that many of her concerns have been discussed already. She shared that the proposal sounds like an awesome program and opportunity. She shares the concerns regarding timing and funding. She questioned the mentioning of taking personal loans to fund the field. What would be the collateral? If the loan defaults, what happens? Mr. and Mrs. Liebowitz clarified that the loan they referenced would be from a personal line of credit (home equity). They are passionate about this project and would like to make it happen now to potentially save \$200k. Mr. Luba agreed it's an outstanding opportunity but has concerns about a personal (equity) loan. What happens if the project doesn't move forward or we don't meet the fundraising goals? The improvement on town property has now been made with your own money.

Ms. Nuccio noted that an \$80k gift to the town will cover the cost of blacktop but if the project stalls or fails there will be blacktop and no field. Mr. Luba suggested the need for a feasibility study and input from other townspeople and a determination of liability issues. The short timeframe and too many unanswered questions make this a significant gamble. Ms. Besaw asked for clarification on the warranty? It is seven years or ten years. Mr. Putnam confirmed that is it a 7-year full replacement warranty on the turf. Replacement is typically needed between 10-15 years. Mr. Leibowitz added that the full replacement of the turf portion is estimated to cost \$180k. Ms. Besaw reminded that the track field was supposed to be self-supporting and now the town has to find \$750k to resurface it. She encouraged the Leibowites to do the fundraising upfront. She asked if it is pay-for-play at other locations. Mr. Leibowitz shared that Miracle Leagues charges a registration fee and players receive a baseball jersey (rather than t-shirt). Ms. Besaw suggested that Sustainable CT may be a good partner.

Ms. Murray was asked about establishing a new contract with D'Amato. Is D'Amato available to do the work? Ms. Nuccio noted that this project is on town property and would be handled through the Town Manager's Office rather than a project handled by the Leibowitzes. Ms. Murray shared that D'Amato has indicated that they could do the work while they are onsite. Once they leave, it would be a different story. She also confirmed that D'Amato would need a specific timeline and she cannot support anything that would result in a delay in the Birch Grove project. Mr. Jones agreed that the project would have to be overseen by the town or Board of Education and that it would need to fit into the town timeline (not affecting other projects). Ms. Nuccio noted that a look at the broader picture in consultation with Attorney Conti will be needed.

Ms. Philbin (Member, Board of Education) thanked the Leibowitzes for coming this evening and asked them to share more on what this project could do for the not average athlete or student. Mr. and Mrs. Leibowitz shared stories from their experiences with Challenger athletes.

Ms. Johnson noted there is no disputing the value of the proposal but there are fiduciary and legal obligations that need to be considered. It is difficult to imagine that all can get done within the proposed timeline.

Ms. Murray shared comments from the Birch Grove Building Committee. Are there any drainage concerns at the site? Mr. Penney does not anticipate issues with the existing infrastructure in place. Ms. Nuccio stated that the town would need to review the plan to decide about potential drainage issues. Ms. Murray asked if there are any concerns related to leaving insulation under the field. Mr. Penney noted that he just became aware of the relatively small credit for leaving it and suggested that the insulation should be removed as it is not worth the credit. He anticipated that the gravel would be removed but the change order reads that the topsoil would be put on top of the gravel. Ms. Nuccio clarified that there is no change order currently in play. If the asphalt was not put down now, what rework would be needed later if the proposal is postponed? Mr. Penney explained that if the asphalt is not put down now, excavation of the topsoil would be needed later and then bringing in gravel and covering with asphalt. Ms. Murray asked what the additional cost would be? This could help determine if this project needs to be started right now or if it should wait for funding and other questions to be addressed. There appears to be a misunderstanding about the credit, Mr. Penney noted, and will speak with Ms. Murray offline for clarification. Ms. Murray noted that about 477 students would benefit from this site; those in special needs programs and Birch Grove students.

Mr. Leibowitz is encouraged to hear support for the proposal. He noted that even if it is not approved for this specific site at this specific time, he and Mrs. Leibowitz are committed to bringing a Miracle Field to the town of Tolland.

Ms. Falusi encouraged that Sustainable CT be brought into the funding discussion. Their funds are available for a limited time. She also noted that the Miracle Field could bring additional tourism dollars to the town. Mr. Luba agreed that this is an outstanding project and needs to be done but has concerns about doing it right now. There are too many unanswered questions to fit this into the building committee timeline right now. Mr. Schiedel noted his appreciation for the information presented. He challenged the Town Council and the Birch Gove Building Committee to find a way to establish a dual-use for the short term and reserve a section of the field for future use. He encourages finishing the field as intended but looking forward to this project. Ms. Nuccio noted that talks with the Town Council, Board of Education, town engineer, and town attorney are needed. Ms. Johnson encouraged more public participation. Ms. Nuccio asked for D'Amato's timeline for a change order. Ms. Murray couldn't offer a definite timeline but expects that if a change order was approved with one month, the work would be started in the fall. Ms. Nuccio and others did not see that timeline as a realistic option. Ms. Murray will ask D'Amato for a hard date for a change order.

5. Adjournment

Mr. Jones motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 PM.

Ms. Falusi seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Galli
Substitute Recording Clerk

The Miracle League Began in Conyers, GA as a Youth Baseball Program For Individuals With Disabilities

- The first field opened in Conyers, GA USA in April 2000
- The Miracle League is now in 46 states Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico and Australia
- 325 plus Miracle Leagues across the country
- Serving over 450,000 participants



They Have The
Determination



They Have
The Heart



Now All They
Need Is A Field



THE FIELD



**FLAT AND
SMOOTH
ACCESSIBLE
FOR ALL**

**Now Everyone
Can Play!**



It's More Than Just A Game!





It's Building
Self-Esteem!



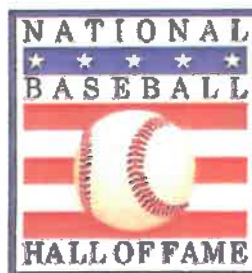
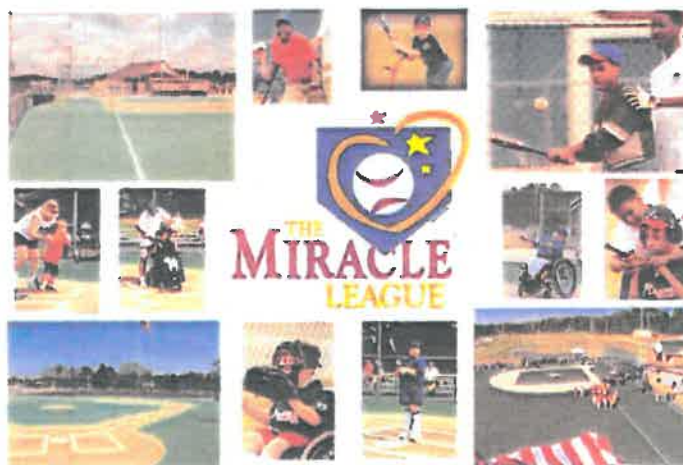
It's Building Friendships!





It's Changing Lives!

National Baseball Hall of Fame



**Baseball Hall of Fame
The Miracle League Field**

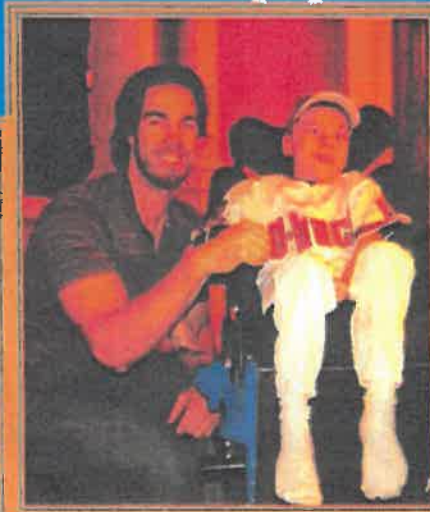
March 24th in Cooperstown, New York



MLB Player Support (to name a few)



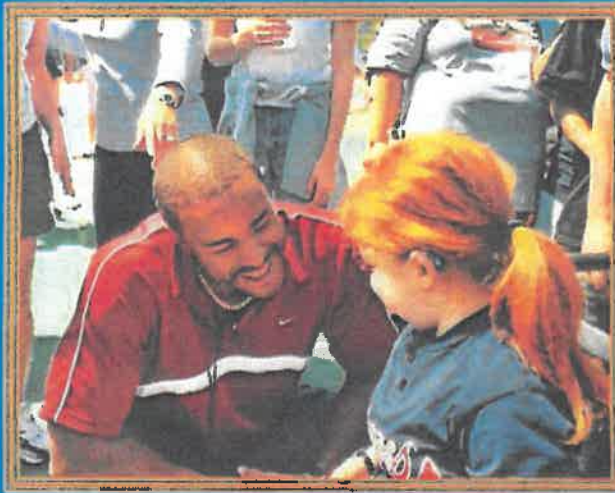
Chicago Cubs — Aron Barrett



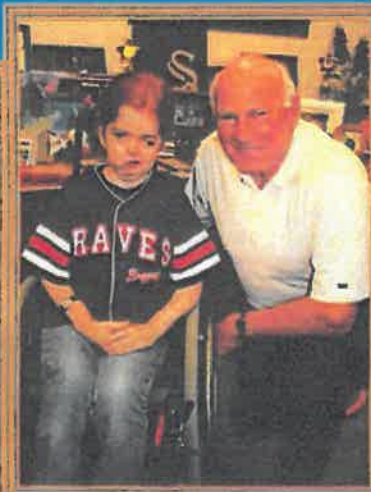
LA Dodgers — Dan Haren Jr.



Atlanta Braves — Chipper Jones



Atlanta Braves — Brian Jordan



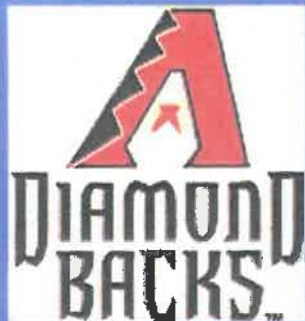
MLB — Jason Kendall



Pittsburgh Pirates — Freddy Sanchez



MLB Clubs That Proudly Support The Miracle League and Their Community (to name a few)



Videos

<https://youtu.be/7oavvYil40M>

[\(499\) Miracle League Surfacing Partners - YouTube](#)

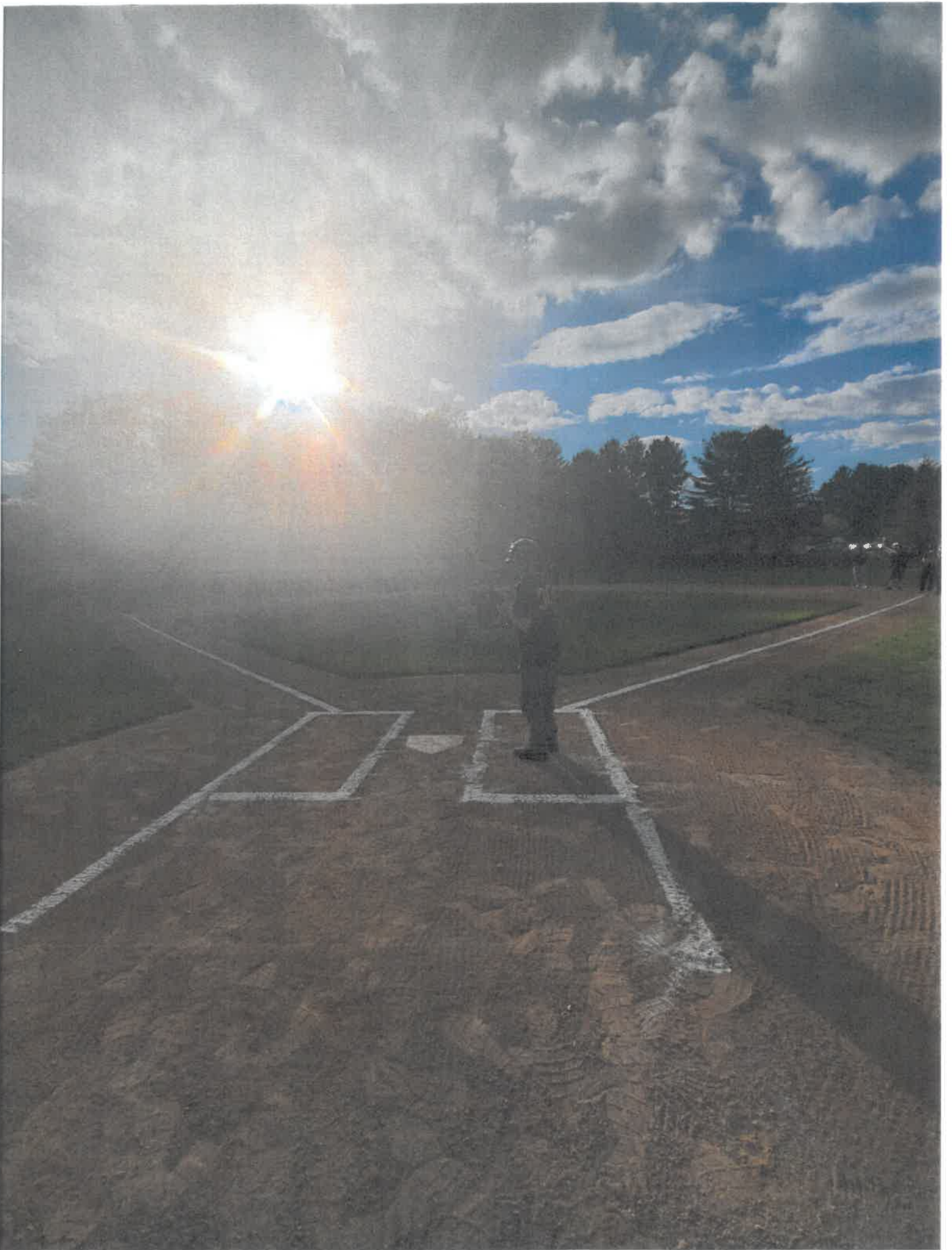










Exhibit B

OPINION OF CONSTRUCTION COSTS
MIRACLE FIELD FIELD CONSTRUCTION - BIRCH GROVE PORTABLE RESTORATION AREA

MARCH 31, 2021

Prepared by: Todd M. Penney, P.E.

ITEM	QUANT.	PAY UNIT	UNIT COST	COST
A - MIRACLE FIELD - SITE CONSTRUCTION ITEMS				
FINE GRADE, PAVEMENT & FENCING ONLY				
EARTH EXCAVATION	0	CY	\$12.00	\$0.00
FORMATION OF SUBGRADE	0	SY	\$2.00	\$0.00
STRIP (4" THICKNESS) AND STOCKPILE EXISTING TOPSOIL	0	CY	\$5.00	\$0.00
*GENERAL FILL (BORROW MATERIAL)	0	CY	\$20.00	\$0.00
PROCESSED AGGEGATE BASE	0	CY	\$40.00	\$0.00
FINE GRADE	22226	SF	\$0.25	\$5,556.50
BITUMINOUS CONCRETE	426	TON	\$110.00	\$46,860.00
A-TURF SYNTHETIC TURF CX140	0	LS	\$180,000.00	\$0.00
FURNISH & INSTALL BACKSTOP FENCING	80	LF	\$80.00	\$6,400.00
FURNISH & INSTALL 6' HIGH CHAIN LINK FENCING (DUGOUTS)	150	LF	\$35.00	\$5,250.00
FURNISH & INSTALL 12' WIDE CHAIN LINK GATE	1	EA	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
FURNISH & INSTALL 4' HIGH CHAIN LINK FENCING	298	EA	\$25.00	\$7,450.00
MECHANICAL SCOREBOARD	0	EA	\$7,500.00	\$0.00
PLAYING FIELD DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS (UNDERDRAINS, ETC.)	0	EA	\$20,000.00	\$0.00
TOTAL MIRACLE FIELD SITE CONSTRUCTION				\$74,016.50
B - ENVIRONMENTAL ITEMS - NOT APPLICABLE				
TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ITEMS				\$0.00
C - TRAFFIC ITEMS - NOT APPLICABLE				
TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ITEMS				\$0.00
D - CONSTRUCTION COST (A+B+C+D)				
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS				\$74,016.50
E - MINOR ITEMS CONTINGENCY COST				
5% OF (A+B+C+D)				\$3,700.83
TOTAL CONTINGENCY COSTS				\$3,700.83
F - LUMP SUM ITEMS (PERCENTAGE OF A+B+C+D)				
MOBILIZATION/DEMOLITION/BONDING (5.0%)	1	LS	\$0.00	\$0.00
CONSTRUCTION STAKING (1.0%)	1	LS	\$740.17	\$740.17
CLEARING & GRUBBING (1.0%)	1	LS	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL LUMP SUM ITEMS				\$740.17
TOTAL PROJECT COST				
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST (A+B+C+D)				\$74,016.50
TOTAL MINOR ITEMS CONTINGENCY COST				\$3,700.83
TOTAL LUMP SUM ITEMS (F)				\$740.17
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST				\$78,457.49
PRE-CONSTRUCTION COST				
FINAL DESIGN / ENGINEERING (ESTIMATE)(5% OF A-F)				\$0.00
CONSTRUCTION, INSPECTION & ADMINISTRATION (ESTIMATE)(5% OF A-F)				\$0.00
TOTAL				\$0.00

Exhibit C

**OPINION OF CONSTRUCTION COSTS
MIRACLE FIELD FIELD CONSTRUCTION - BIRCH GROVE PORTABLE RESTORATION AREA**

MARCH 31, 2021

Prepared by: Todd M. Penney, P.E.

ITEM	QUANT.	PAY UNIT	UNIT COST	COST
A - MIRACLE FIELD - SITE CONSTRUCTION ITEMS				
FORMATION OF SUBGRADE	0	SY	\$2.00	\$0.00
STRIP (4" THICKNESS) AND STOCKPILE EXISTING TOPSOIL	0	CY	\$5.00	\$0.00
*GENERAL FILL (BORROW MATERIAL)	0	CY	\$20.00	\$0.00
PROCESSED AGGEGATE BASE	0	CY	\$40.00	\$0.00
FINE GRADE	25300	SP	\$0.35	\$8,855.00
BITUMINOUS CONCRETE	485	TON	\$110.00	\$53,350.00
A-TURF SYNTHETIC TURF CX140	1	LS	\$180,000.00	\$180,000.00
FURNISH & INSTALL BACKSTOP FENCING	80	LF	\$100.00	\$8,000.00
FURNISH & INSTALL FENCED DUGOUTS (WITH BENCHES)	4	EA	\$7,500.00	\$30,000.00
FURNISH & INSTALL 12' WIDE CHAIN LINK GATE	2	EA	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00
FURNISH & INSTALL 4' HIGH CHAIN LINK FENCING	342	EA	\$25.00	\$8,550.00
MECHANICAL SCOREBOARD	1	EA	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
PLAYING FIELD DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS (UNDERDRAINS, ETC.)		EA	\$20,000.00	\$0.00
TOTAL MIRACLE FIELD SITE CONSTRUCTION				\$301,255.00
B - ENVIRONMENTAL ITEMS - NOT APPLICABLE				
TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ITEMS				\$0.00
C - TRAFFIC ITEMS - NOT APPLICABLE				
TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ITEMS				\$0.00
D - CONSTRUCTION COST (A+B+C+D)				
TOTALCONSTRUCTION COSTS				\$301,255.00
E - MINOR ITEMS CONTINGENCY COST				
10% OF (A+B+C+D)				\$30,125.50
TOTAL CONTINGENCY COSTS				\$30,125.50
F - LUMP SUM ITEMS (PERCENTAGE OF A+B+C+D)				
MOBILIZATION/DEMOLITION/BONDING (5.0%)	1	LS	\$0.00	\$0.00
CONSTRUCTION STAKING (1.0%)	1	LS	\$3,012.55	\$3,012.55
CLEARING & GRUBBING (1.0%)	1	LS	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL LUMP SUM ITEMS				\$3,012.55
TOTAL PROJECT COST				
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST (A+B+C+D)				\$301,255.00
TOTAL MINOR ITEMS CONTINGENCY COST €				\$30,125.50
TOTAL LUMP SUM ITEMS (F)				\$3,012.55
FINAL DESIGN / ENGINEERING (ESTIMATE)(5% OF A-F)				\$15,047.69
CONSTRUCTION, INSPECTION & ADMINISTRATION (ESTIMATE)(5% OF A-F)				\$15,047.69
TOTAL PROJECT COST				\$364,488.42
RECOMMENDED BUDGET				\$370,000

"7 years old and has multiple special needs. She uses a wheelchair, has vision and hearing issues, has trouble controlling her arms and hands, and can not speak. Because of all of these she has trouble communicating and can not get around on her own. She doesn't like being in her wheelchair and usually complains when she is in it. But when she is playing Challenger Baseball, she WANTS to be in her wheelchair. She absolutely loves interacting with everyone and being part of the game. She smiles and laughs nonstop when she gets out on the field. And now on days when she gets home from school and doesn't have baseball, she will grab her wheelchair and complain to let us know she wants to go play baseball. She's never begged to get in her wheelchair and go anywhere before.building a Miracle Field in Tolland would further exemplify Tolland's commitment to being an inclusive community."

Tia and Jeff Donofrio

"Every one of the parents whose children play Challenge sports face hurdles and decisions equally as momentous, with huge risks and rewards, and many uncertainties. A decision to grant land usage for the benefit of these residents doesn't seem as challenging by comparison, particularly since there will be no cost to the residents of this town as the proposal being presented outlines."

~David Hutchinson

"We also have players of different ages and abilities, so some require different seating, but we need to bring our own, as it is incumbent upon us parents to provide for our differently abled children, as a one size fits all bench doesn't work in our team's case. The idea of installing a Miracle Field for the town is a dream come true, not just for our Challenger Baseball team, but for the town, surrounding areas and State itself. We would be a shining example of how we truly believe that anyone with a disability might be different, but they are not less. " ~Alison Faye Johnson

"Challenger baseball was one of the few activities my daughter could participate in that gave her a chance to be with typical children. Buddies are one of the key foundations of Challenger baseball and in our case, the only interaction our daughter, as an only child, had an opportunity of inclusivity with typical children. She could participate with them, be outside getting fresh air, learning the fundamentals of sports; batting, running, and catching." ~ Lisa Daniels

"Our son,(a player) and daughter(a Buddy) and us as parents have made great friends and connections while participating. Even now Austin, at age 26 still asks when can he go back to play baseball with Coach Steve." ~ Alison and Todd Lentocho

"My 34-year old son, Scott, participated on the very first baseball and soccer teams started in Tolland and continued as an excited and enthusiastic athlete on both teams until he turned 21 in 2008. He was invited to re-join the TOPS soccer program as an assistant coach and played/coached for more 8 years until he moved away from Tolland. Participation on these teams allowed Scott to have a youth/adolescent athletic experience just like his brother and sister did! He was always so proud!"

~Collette L. Bement Ph. D.

"While there are obvious benefits to these programs for people like Dylan with different abilities, there is an extension of these programs and reliable field access to them that far outreaches any individual practice or game or timeslot. In those moments on the field the children are simply having fun with their peers, just like their siblings. And for the siblings? There is the opportunity to buddy for their siblings and/or other players. Both Troy and Kyle have been Challenger and TOPS buddies (and the opportunity has extended to Dylan now, too). For those siblings, there is a community of other kids with a brother or

sister with special needs. Other kids that “get it”. For the moms and dads? There is community with other moms and dads, raising all of their children as best that they can. And for an hour or so, relax, share the joys, put the concerns aside for a bit, and have some fun and cheer on the kids on a field in their community, like any other family would.” ~Melissa Rolland

“My favorite thing about baseball was hanging out with the Buddies” ~ player

A note from Pete Sztaba, Facilities Director at Tolland Public Schools

In Summary.

In assessing the Tolland Public Schools portfolio of properties for the installation of a fully ADA accessible "Miracle Field", few of our sites meet such a criteria without spending exorbitant amounts of money. The Tolland Middle School which contains a significant amount of acreage does not have any accessible routes from the parking lots to any of the current playing fields. The fields are quite far away so designing a fully accessible route to such fields will require a significant outlay of money and design. The Tolland Intermediate School does not really contain enough useable land to be able to consider a Miracle Field based upon the development of the Parker Senior Housing Project, the Recreation Center and shortages with available parking spots. Lastly, the High School which already contains a synthetic surface turf field, has an abundance of ADA accessible spectator viewing areas with the bleachers and ADA parking on the upper lot, but it does not really promote ADA accessible field access for players. In order to access the field a security chain must be dropped and there are only (2) lower level ADA parking spots servicing the baseball and softball fields. So while technically meeting the ADA code the field is not entirely conducive to disabled players that may want access to the turf field.

The Birch Grove Primary School serves as the most practical location to consider a Miracle Field. The rest of the new school is ADA accessible and all the routes and parking lots in and around the new school will meet current ADA codes. The soccer field area where the portable classrooms are now currently will have accessible routes to the restored soccer field regardless if a Miracle Field gets approved or not.

Laurel, I would also talk about TOPS soccer maybe using it as well. From the school side the type of surface could work for a school gym class, allows classes to be held more often outside as we don't need to necessarily worry about wet grass or mud for example that you might worry about on a grass field. We also run into issues with grass fields with treating for ticks, and at times with the population of flowering clovers an abundance of bees in which we wouldn't have to contend with. Also, currently in K-8 school environments, per the DEEP we are not allowed to fertilize or conduct weed control activities except with organic based products. This would obviously not be needed on a synthetic surface like the Miracle Field.

Let me know if I can help further.

Take care,

Pete Sztaba
Facilities Director
Tolland Public Schools

MINUTES

TOLLAND TOWN COUNCIL ZOOM REMOTE MEETING May 25, 2021 – 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Jones, Vice Chair; Brenda Falusi, Sophia Johnson; Lou Luba, John Reagan, Kurt Schenher

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tammy Nuccio, Chair

OTHERS PRESENT: Lisa Hancock, Director, Finance & Records/Treasurer; Mike Wilkinson, Director of Administrative Services; John Littell, Fire Chief/Director of Public Safety; Scott Lappen, Director, Department of Public Works

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited

3. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Observed

4. **PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS:**

4.1 Proclamation Recognizing June as LGBTQ+ Pride Month

Mr. Jones noted that Ms. Nuccio requested that Ms. Falusi read the Proclamation.

Ms. Falusi read the Proclamation.

5. **PUBLIC PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** (*on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Town Council*) (*2-minute limit*) - none

6. **PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS:** none

7a. **REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES RESPONSIBLE TO THE COUNCIL**

Tourism – Ms. Falusi noted that there was no meeting; however, they are doing a lot on the Facebook page. She encouraged people to like and share the page and shared the analytics.

Ms. Johnson inquired about how interested people could be appointed to Tourism and the selection process. Ms. Falusi explained that it is a state-appointed position with a 3 year term. It was brought to the Council 3 years ago when they were looking for an appointment.

Sustainable CT – Ms. Falusi noted a meeting was held this morning. A presentation was held 2 months ago on how the program is being updated with information on categories including: inclusive and equitable communities including equity training, thriving local economies, steward of lands and natural resources, cultural ecosystems, resilient and dynamic planning, creating inclusive engaging communications and healthy, efficient, and diverse housing.

Mr. Luba inquired if one has had equity training outside of Sustainable CT if the person can provide documentation so the town may receive points. Ms. Falusi explained that one would need to attend the Sustainable CT training; however, there are options where the town may create areas for its own points, and she will look into this.

7b. **REPORTS OF TOWN COUNCIL LIAISONS**

- Permanent Celebration Committee – Ms. Johnson provided an update.
- Blight Committee – meeting cancelled
- Historic District Commission- meeting cancelled
- Planning & Zoning Commission – Ms. Falusi provided an update.
- Mental Health and Substance Use Task Force – Mr. Schenher and Mr. Reagan provided an update.
- Birch Grove Building Committee – Mr. Luba provided an update.
- WPCA – Mr. Reagan provided an update of the May 18th meeting.
- Conservation Commission – Mr. Jones provided an update of the May 17th meeting. Next meeting: May 27th via Zoom.
- Water Commission – Mr. Jones provided an update of the May 17th meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS):

- 8.1 Consideration of a resolution to approve a bid waiver or the purchase of Diesel Oil from Dime Oil for the period of July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021

Mr. Wilkinson provided background information on this item.

The town's current contract with Dime Oil runs through June 30th. Due to the pandemic and the mild winter, there will be about 25K remaining gallons of the original 118K. To avoid paying upfront liquidation fees for the 25K gallons, this item would allow the town to blend out any issues with the remaining gallons over the next year and lock in at a lower number. Thus, they are asking for a bid waiver.

Mr. Luba confirmed that this is similar to what was done last year in terms of locking in the price. Mr. Wilkinson explained that they have done this periodically when it is beneficial.

Ms. Falusi motioned:

WHEREAS, the Town of Tolland has in the past purchased Gasoline, Diesel and Fuel Oil in conjunction with the Board of Education through the Capitol Region Purchasing Council and the current contract that Tolland has with Dime Oil for the purchase of Diesel expires June 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Purchasing Council normally goes out to bid for Diesel in March which requires that we approximate the prices for budget purposes; and

WHEREAS, Dime Oil has offered the option to the Town and Board of Education of locking in at the current market rate at this time for the period of July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 for Diesel; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the requirements for bidding Diesel is hereby waived in accordance with Town Policy A-126 11D(7) and the Tolland Town Council hereby authorizes Michael Rosen, Town Manager, to execute an agreement with Dime Oil for the purchase of Diesel for the period of July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022.

Mr. Luba seconded the motion.

Discussion: Ms. Falusi inquired if they should include "authorizes Michael Rosen, Town Manager or his designee". Mr. Jones responded that he does not believe so. Mr. Wilkinson confirmed that Ms. Rosen would sign the contract.

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.2 Consideration of a resolution to declare equipment as surplus property within the Town.

Mr. Wilkinson provided background information on this item.

The Fire Marshal's vehicle was up for replacement. It was ordered, equipped, and is now ready. The vehicle it is replacing is beyond its useful life for the town and by declaring it as surplus, the town will be able to sell it. Chief Littell explained that it would be beneficial to the town to surplus it and allow him sell it as a complete vehicle to another municipality on GovDeals.

Mr. Luba motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED that the following attached list of equipment is hereby declared surplus and may be disposed of in accordance with Policy A176-4, Policy Concerning Disposal of Surplus Personal Public Property.

Ms. Johnson seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.3 Consideration of a resolution authorizing the Town Council Chair to enroll Tolland into the .gov program.

Mr. Wilkinson provided background information.

He explained that changing to the designation of .gov provides more security to the town. The GSA oversees the security of .gov and hosts the registry. Multiple towns are doing this and there will be a transition period so items sent to .org will be forwarded to .gov. He noted that minor changes will be needed such as changes to the town's letterhead. He noted that Mr. Rosen explained that on the application it is tollandct.gov. While tolland.gov is available, there are other towns with the same name in the country. Mr. Wilkinson noted that Ms. Nuccio has signed off on this because the federal government recognizes the signature of a town's chief elected official.

Ms. Johnson asked if switching designation would include the SSL certificate. Mr. Wilkinson responded that he will need to check on this.

Ms. Falusi commented that the naming convention requires that the town and state are included. She would like to consider continuing to own the rights to tolland.org to prevent someone from creating a page. Mr. Wilkinson responded that he will note this.

Chief Littell commented that as the Director of Public Safety he has been involved with Homeland Security since 1998 and CT Intelligence Center (CTIC). CTIC supports this and .gov provides a higher level of security protection. The town's IT person sits on CTIC and this has been discussed for the past couple of years. He added that there are assurances in place that items sent to .org will be redirected and he highly recommends switching the designation to .gov.

Mr. Luba noted that he is in support of switching the designation.

Mr. Luba motioned:

WHEREAS, it has been identified that it is beneficial for the Town to enroll in the .gov program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tolland Town Council Chair, Tammy Nuccio, sign a letter enrolling the Town into the .gov program.

Ms. Falusi seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

8.4 Discussion regarding Eversource Gas Line Expansion

Mr. Schenher explained that he requested that this item be discussed to gauge the Councilors' interest in speaking with Eversource and other gas suppliers about a gas line expansion.

Ms. Falusi commented that the Planning & Zoning Commission (PZC) also requested that the town look at expanding sewer and gas. In terms of equity, she commented that when utilities are expanded around town centers there can be more diverse and dense housing which is more affordable housing. Tolland has 3.7% affordable housing and this could be an opportunity to bring the number closer to 10%. If they are looking at the center of town or an area that has access to the highway and public transportation, it is more likely that there could be more diverse and affordable housing stock. Ms. Falusi explained that gas lines are not the only way to do this and there are other options. She would like to see a map of where the lines are and other heating options.

Mr. Luba asked for input from Chief Littell, Mr. Lappen, and Mr. Ferrigno (Eversource). Chief Littell noted that he brought this up several years ago and provided background information. There is a gas line that goes to the industrial park. He noted that Eversource and CNG are different firms. Chief Littell commented that they should plan ahead and cited the multiple times the roads were dug up for the expansion of the water lines. Mr. Lappen explained that typically they will provide utilities with a copy of the 5 year plan so if there are intentions of upgrading systems they can work in conjunction with each other. In terms of gas, it provides a reliable source of fuel during major weather events. Mr. Ferrigno explained that Mansfield is supplied by CNG and he has had preliminary discussions with the Eversource gas account executive and Mr. Rosen about possible expansion toward the area around Big Y. While Eversource is always looking for expansion opportunities, a lot goes into

calculating the best route from existing infrastructure as well as how many, and what kind of properties (i.e. residential, commercial) would hook up to the infrastructure. He can share a blueprint of the existing infrastructure and set up a meeting with the gas team to discuss the possibility of expansion in town. At this time, he cannot say whether it would be a possibility.

Mr. Luba commented that he appreciates the synergies and efforts of the DPW and others on this item. It is a great opportunity and a needed resource within the town.

Mr. Schenher asked Mr. Ferrigno to send the blueprints noted and if it would be more beneficial, before the meeting, for Eversource to know where the Council would like to see gas lines in town or if it is better to first see where it is feasible and then have another meeting with the Council. Mr. Ferrigno responded that in an ideal situation they would like to know where the Council would like to see the lines, and it would be helpful, but the utility will need to calculate if any expansion is realistic.

Ms. Johnson asked if there will be an opportunity for a public hearing and if the gas line would bypass through Tolland or if residential customers would have the option to tap into the gas line. Mr. Ferrigno explained that they do residential and commercial gas expansion projects but it depends on what is in place, the routes that could be taken, and the cost/benefit analysis. Mr. Jones speculated that if there is a potential to move forward, and public dollars are needed for bonding, then it would go through a public hearing process in terms of authorizing town funds or setting a referendum.

Chief Littell commented that there are propane farms with different vendors in town and his department goes out frequently. As the community grows, a gas line expansion is something to consider for future planning.

Ms. Falusi commented that they should loop in PZC which is currently reviewing and updating the regulations. If the Commission knows there would be a gas line expansion it may impact its thinking in regard to incentives or commercial development options.

Mr. Jones asked Mr. Ferrigno if he could share with the Town Manager or Fire Chief examples of other accounts or towns that are doing expansions and the timeline and costs involved. Mr. Jones asked if the establishment of gas lines is a wholly private endeavor or if public engagement or governmental partnership is taken into consideration. He cited the American Rescue Plan funds and using them for community development or infrastructure. Mr. Ferrigno responded that he can provide some examples of gas expansion projects in similar type towns to provide information on the scope of the work and the cost. He will need to research the second question. Mr. Jones asked Ms. Hancock if she knew of any historical examples such as the water system where there have been public/private partnerships in regard to extending utilities. Ms. Hancock responded that as far as she knows they have not but when Big Y came in the sewer line was expanded and paid for by the town to promote business growth. During her career, she has seen where there have been agreements with developers to install water lines, sewer lines, or pump stations where the town takes ownership of those systems. Mr. Lappen noted that in other municipalities where he has worked developers have brought in infrastructure if available and then turned it over to the town.

A straw poll was taken as to if the Councilors would like to continue to explore natural gas extensions.

- Luba – in favor
- Falusi – in favor, would like to include other energy sources as well
- Johnson – in favor
- Reagan – in favor, sees this as a larger conversation in regard to housing
- Schenher – in favor
- Jones – in favor, would like to consider water line extensions

Mr. Luba commented that Ms. Falusi noted exploring other energy sources. If there are other companies she recommends or would like to call on to see about bringing proposals on other energy sources he would like to see those proposals brought forward so they can be included in the discussion. Ms. Falusi explained that it may not be another utility company but alternative energy sources that developers could use. Examples included propane, heat exchange systems, and solar. She would like to do some comparisons. Gas will be part of Tolland's future but they can enhance offerings and look to the future about what else might be available.

Mr. Luba motioned to mark this off and bring it up under Old Business at a later meeting.

Ms. Falusi seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

8.5 Consideration and potential action on renewal of Fields and Grounds Maintenance Agreement between the Town and the Board of Education

Mr. Wilkinson noted that this Agreement comes up annually. The only changes thus far is to have a 3-year agreement rather than a 1-year agreement with language that it can be brought up at any time by either party and changes to item 5 regarding the required attendees at the annual meeting. Mr. Wilkinson noted that Mr. Rosen recommended that this be tabled because they will be discussing this tomorrow to ensure there are no additional changes. Mr. Lappen explained that in the past the frontline people review the areas of responsibilities in the Agreement and bring it to Dr. Willett and Mr. Rosen before it goes to the Council. He noted that behind the new Birch Grove School there is a new area that Public Works will need to mow.

Mr. Luba motioned that agenda item 8.5 be marked off without action at today's meeting to be reclaimed as Old Business for a future Town Council meeting.

Ms. Falusi seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

8.6 Appointments to vacancies on various municipal boards/commissions. - none

9. **OLD BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS):** none

10. **REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER** - none

11. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

11.1 May 11, 2021 Remote Regular Meeting Minutes

Ms. Falusi motioned to adopt the May 11th Remote Regular Meeting Minutes as laid out in 11.1.

Mr. Reagan seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

12. **CORRESPONDENCE TO COUNCIL**

- 3 e-mails about zero-energy buildings
- e-mail about building electrifications
- e-mail with questions about the Library's hours; answered by the Town Manager
- 5 letters of support and additional information about the Miracle Field
- letter with questions about the Miracle Field.

Ms. Johnson commented that prior to becoming a Councilor she sent a letter with questions regarding the town and coordinating events with political parties. She does not believe it was mentioned and she did not receive a response. Ms. Johnson explained that there was an Earth Day event that was in coordination or in cooperation with the Recreation Center and asked if there any legal concerns with the town partnering or coordinating with different political parties. Mr. Jones explained that he believes that while submitted prior to becoming a Council member, this would be more germane under item 14. He would have to defer to the minutes to see if it was mentioned. Ms. Falusi noted that she may have missed the meeting after it was received and is unsure who took up the correspondence. In regard to correspondence, they are not required to respond to every e-mail. Ms. Johnson commented that this is a legal question. She explained that the e-mail was for clarification regarding if this is allowed and if there is a process or procedure. Ms. Johnson reserved her opportunity to speak on this until item 14.

Mr. Luba noted that the Council received correspondence before tonight's meeting from a resident who is also a veteran. The writer asked about the Veterans Recognition Commission, the status of the wall, and why the town never

went forward with the stone wall that was originally proposed. A brief discussion took place including if this should go to the Veterans Recognition Commission or possibly be looked at by the Council. Mr. Wilkinson noted that the information is on the wall inside Town Hall and it can be updated as needed.

13. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Jones highlighted the following:

- Memorial Day and PCC event – Mr. Jones encouraged residents to engage as they are comfortable doing so and, when available, to visit the Green, the shops, the museum, and do the walking tour.
- Pride Proclamation Presentation event – June 1st, 4-5PM, Town Green
- Tolland Senior Center Facebook Page – Mr. Jones noted that this page has been established and encouraged people to give it a Like. The page includes information about the Ice Cream Social to be held in June.

14. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS FROM COUNCILPERSONS

- Ms. Johnson commented that as previously mentioned she saw that there was an Earth Day event that was worked on, promoted, or publicized as something that involved the Recreation Center. She found this exciting but questioned if it was appropriate for the town or if the town is allowed to coordinate with political affiliations or political parties etc. because where she is from this is unheard of so she was surprised. This allows an opportunity for the town to show support for different members and constituents and their opinions and parties they support. She was looking to substantiate whether this is something that is appropriate for the town as a body that is, from what she understands, to be separate from political affiliation. Once people become Council members, they are members of the town and not necessarily attributed to a political affiliation. Ms. Johnson explained that she did not receive any follow up to her question. If the town is allowed to work and collaborate with political parties then this is something that should be extended but she is unsure if legally it may do so. She explained that there needs to be clarification on flyers etc. so people know if something is a collaboration recognized by the town and not just town departments. Mr. Wilkinson responded that he will look for the correspondence and address it with the Town Manager so that they can provide clarification. Mr. Jones noted that the Adopt-A-Spot program is utilized by political parties and as a point of information they are seen as civic organizations.
- Mr. Luba noted that as they approach Memorial Day Weekend he would like to recognize the sacrifices that many veterans made in service to our country. As has been addressed earlier in correspondence, there are many people affiliated with Tolland who gave their lives protecting our country. This is an outstanding time for to recognize that it is more than just barbecues and parades. There are people that need to be recognized and one should remember the reason for Memorial Day Weekend. Mr. Luba petitioned for a future agenda item to discuss the veterans' wall. As a veteran and in speaking with other veterans in town, while the Wall of Honor in Town Hall is outstanding and allows people to be recognized, he explained that having one's name on a piece of paper leaves a lot to be desired after some gave their lives in service of their country. There has been a groundswell of support within the veteran community within town as well as with other organizations that have brought forward the idea of putting in a permanent wall. Further, Mr. Luba would like the Veterans Recognition Commission to be brought before the Council as well as updating the town code provision which is outdated and does not include the Space Force. Further, Merchant Marines who served during World War II can be recognized and are not included. The Veterans Recognition Commission is the only board that restricts its membership – only veterans. Mr. Luba believes it would be appropriate to include veterans' immediate family members since they are the ones most directly connected with those who are either overseas, returning home or dealing with the issues of being a veteran.
- Ms. Falusi commented that her husband served for over 20 years with the Connecticut Air National Guard. Families serve alongside their service member and may be able to provide assistance to the Commission. In regard to Mr. Jones' comment, political groups in Tolland have been robust and supportive of the town's Adopt-A-Spot and have participated in maintenance of trails, and provided donations to the Library, programs, events, buildings, and upkeep of town facilities. Both political parties are an integral part and involved. Ms. Falusi recognized their contributions, many of which are behind the scenes. She appreciates when political parties look at the requirements for using things such as the trails and facilities and she recognizes that permission was received. Ms. Falusi commented that 1 year ago today George Floyd was murdered and it has created a global reckoning and brought a movement for social justice. In Tolland, they have seen many protests, discussions, and inquiries from residents to help promote social justice, to address systemic racism, and to try to provide true equality. A family is protesting to declare racism as a public health crisis every

Friday afternoon on the Green. Ms. Falusi commented that she sees them, hears them, and wants to partner with them to help achieve the equity and equality that every resident deserves.

- Ms. Johnson commented in regard to the family that is petitioning or picketing on the Green. She explained that she had an opportunity to approach them and spoke with them. Ms. Johnson introduced herself as a Council member and that she would like to learn more about the issues and concerns that have the family on the Green saying that racism is a public health crisis but she did not receive any follow up. Ms. Johnson explained that as a person of color she would like to be part of the solution but they did not engage in any dialogue. She noted that she is here to listen and be an advocate and part of the discussion. Mr. Jones noted that he would send Ms. Johnson correspondence so she can see some of the context of the conversations. Ms. Falusi asked if they could provide Ms. Johnson copies of the correspondence from the past 2 years. Mr. Jones noted that he will relay this to Mr. Rosen. Ms. Johnson requested the correspondence regarding declaring racism a public health crisis that was not on the agenda and read into the minutes.

15. **PUBLIC LISTED PARTICIPATION** *(on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Town Council)*
(3 minute limit)

Marilee Beebe, 90 Rhodes Road, commented on access to the correspondence. The law is pretty unambiguous that it has to be available. She added that she received correspondence from the Town Manager when this was discussed in January or February and will forward it for dissemination. She believes it had an opinion in regard to access that may be helpful.

Jon Crickmore, 31 Cook Road, commented that with all of the discussions of Memorial Day coming up he is curious as to why the flags are not up on the Green as usual. He asked if the town is planning to put flags up on the poles along the road. *Mr. Wilkinson noted that he will bring this up with Mr. Lappen.*

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

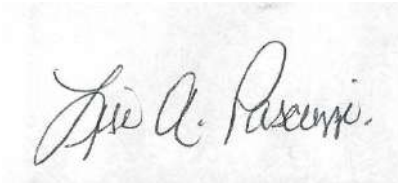
Mr. Luba motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 PM

Ms. Falusi seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,



Lisa Pascuzzi
Town Council Clerk

Town Council Chair