

Note: Per C.G.S. 10 – 218, Board of Education meeting minutes are provided in a draft format within 48 hours of the date the meeting was held. With the exception of motions and votes recorded, these minutes are unofficial until they have been read and approved by a majority vote of the Board. Should edits be necessary, they will be made at the next regularly scheduled meeting, noted in the meeting minutes, and voted upon.

SCOTLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

Scotland, Connecticut

Special Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2020

Chairperson Brynn Lipstreu called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Board members Sherry Smardon, Steven Kurcinik, Cassidy Martin, Scott Sears, Rod Perry and Bill Trudelle. Administrators present were Superintendent Dr. Francis Baran, Principal Dr. Catherine Pinsonneault and Finance Coordinator Tim Smith.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CELEBRATIONS/RECOGNITIONS:

- The Afterschool program that runs four times a week started on January 13th and is very successful.
- The Football Celebration was held on Friday, January 31st with many fun activities by Karen Schenck.
- The 100th day of school was held on Friday, February 7th.

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

- Dr. Baran received the CABA Newsletter with Professional Development Opportunities.
- Dr. Baran was contacted by Peter Martin of the Parks & Rec Commission regarding a Board liaison to attend meetings. Dr. Baran will attend on behalf of the Board.
- An email was received from First Selectman Gary Greenberg regarding the need to reduce spending by 3%.

5. COMMUNICATION WITH THE AUDIENCE:

Union representative Lynn Johnson reported that a poll showed the staff was in favor of working on Veteran's Day to honor Veterans.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

#1-19/20 Motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 7, 2020, was made by Sherry Smardon, seconded by Rod Perry and carried with one abstention by Steve Kurcinik.

7. FINANCE COORDINATOR REPORT:

A. Financial Report:

The Financial Reports were reviewed.

Sherry Smardon asked about the STEM Tuition Rate. Dr. Baran reported the tuition is expected to increase 2-3% and there are currently 7 students attending the STEM Magnet School.

Rod Perry asked about the audit. First Selectman Gary Greenburg reported the audit will be presented on February 26th.

B. Approval of Financial Statement:

#2-19/20 Motion to approve the Financial Statement dated January 30, 2020, was made by Steve Kurcinik, seconded by Sherry Smardon and carried unanimously.

8. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

A. 2019-2020 Calendar Update:

There is no change since the last report. The last day for students is June 16th and June 17th for staff.

B. 2020-2021 Draft Calendar:

The Board was presented with two versions of a draft calendar. Version “A” has a full day on November 11th for Veteran’s Day with the last day for students on June 9th and June 10th for staff. Version “B” has no school on November 11th for Veteran’s Day with the last day for students on June 10th and June 11th for staff. Both versions are closely aligned with Parish Hill.

C. Fire Inspection Report:

An excess accumulation of leaves around the generator have blown back and will be cleaned out. An accumulation of storage materials in front of the mechanical box will be removed.

D. Solar Panel Update:

There was no Eversource electric bill. 15,000 kw hours will be carried over. As of March 1st everything starts over and a check will be issued for the remaining kw hours.

E. Lunch Program Update:

The January average for Breakfast was 44 and 87 for Lunch. The favorite was Personal Pizza.

F. After School Program Report:

The new afterschool programs are running well with a total of 145 participants along with drama and chorus. Someone from the state will be coming to the school to observe the programs.

G. Teacher Evaluation (TEVAL) Update:

Dr. Baran observed in the classroom with the Administration to collaborate.

H. Bus Propane Usage:

The buses ran 21 days in January with diesel buses used on 18 different days due to the maintenance schedule. 3,340 gals have been used to date with an average of 40 gals per day. 6,500 gals will be needed for the upcoming budget. The afterschool grant includes transportation.

I. Budget Timeline:

The 1st budget is due to the Town by April 30th. The Public Hearing will be held on May 7th. The final budget is due to the Town by May 14th. The Town Meeting will be held on May 21st.

J. FY2020-2021 Budget First Draft:

The Board was presented with the first draft of the budget with a 0% increase. Any questions should be directed to Dr. Baran.

K. Other: None

9. PRINCIPAL REPORT:

A. Professional Development Opportunities:

PMT training is finishing up. Dr. Pinsonneault and Deb Wright attended SBAC Administrator update in East Hartford. Work is being done on the SBAC schedule with ELA to begin in April.

B. Current Enrollment:

Enrollment was reported incorrectly last month (correct total is 107) and remains the same for this month.

C. Other:

Spirit Day will be held on Friday, February 14th. Students and staff are asked to wear red, pink or hearts for Valentine's Day.

10. FRIENDS OF SES REPORT:

A meeting was held on Saturday with many ideas generated. Movie Night will be held on March 13th.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Scotland First Selectman Gary Greenberg's perspective of the town of Scotland's financial status:

First Selectman Gary Greenberg addressed the Board regarding how the town is doing. The Undesignated Fund Balance is not healthy at \$400,000. The town cannot transfer funds to stop an increase to the mill rate. There are no resources to sustain the town. There are four houses up for a tax sale. Savings need to be made in education that is three quarters of the budget. Possible savings could be made with RD11 based on per capita instead of the number of students, shared services such as combining administration and combining schools with Hampton Elementary who has low enrollment. Townspeople need to petition their legislators to do something. Sherry Smardon asked how to bring people into town. Cassidy Martin asked how to increase revenues in town. The Economic Development Commission will help along with zoning regulations that have been made easier for a home business.

12. OLD BUSINESS:

A. First read Policies (5114 Suspension and Expulsion/Due process & 5144.4 Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students:

The Board was presented with two existing policies that need to be updated due to new legislation. The Board is asked to email any feedback to Dr. Baran.

B. School Climate Committee:

The Committee will meet in the spring to prepare a survey.

C. Citizen's Advisory Committee:

The Committee held their first meeting with elections of Celine Sullivan as Chair and Wendy Sears as Co-Chair. The first order of business will be to send out a survey on how the town feels about being welcomed into the school. The survey will be brought to the Board for approval. A tentative date for the next meeting is March 3rd at 6pm before the regular Board meeting. Cassidy Martin will attend as Board liaison.

D. BOE Communication Plan:

The Committee looked at a draft plan from another town and will present a draft to the Board by April.

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Tri-Town BOE Meeting Update:

Brynn Lipstreu reached out to the Board Chairs from the other schools and received the following responses: Hampton asked to wait to meet until after the budget, RD11 likes the idea and there was no word from Chaplin. Contact will be initiated again in March to schedule a meeting after the budget.

B. CABE/EASTCONN:

Rod Perry met with the EASTCONN Director and discussed the following: there are many programs offered, there is a need for a new kitchen to make food, there has been a loss of many state grants, and there is a new grant from Walmart for Adult Education.

C. Readiness Council Report:

The Readiness Council was discussing with Chaplin about joining the Readiness Council. Chaplin is no longer interested.

D. Policies Committee:

The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 24th.

E. Personnel Committee: No Report

F. Technology Committee:

The Committee will meet in the spring.

14. SECOND AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS:

First Selectman Gary Greenberg asked the Board if it was possible to contact parents via email or text. Sherry Smardon suggested Dr. Baran and Mr. Greenberg write a letter to be sent home to parents giving them the option of signing up for email or text. She also suggested setting up a table at Open House and Parent/Teacher Conferences to sign up.

Celine Sullivan asked the Board to consider rotations for the afterschool program next year.

15. NEXT STEP HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:

- The Board will review two policies with any feedback emailed to Dr. Baran before February 24th.
- The Board will review the draft budget with any questions directed to Dr. Baran.
- Dr. Baran will add average daily mileage to the Bus Propane Usage Report.

16. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS:

- Second Read Policies
- FY 2020-2021 School Calendar

17. ADJOURNMENT:

#3-19/20 Motion to adjourn (8:27 PM) was made Sherry Smardon, seconded by Cassidy Martin and carried unanimously.

***Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Scott
Recording Clerk***