

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
Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2019

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

The Board recited Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CELEBRATIONS/RECOGNITIONS:

- SES won the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge for the 4th straight year.
- Superintendent Award winners for 2019 are Chloe Reid and Taylor Kohanski who will be honored next Thursday at RHAM High School.
- The field trip to Providence for grades 4-6 to see the Broadway musical Aladdin was successful.
- Brynn Lipstreu commended Anne Stearns for her years of service on the Board.

#1-19/20 Motion to take a short recess to celebrate with Anne Stearns, was made by Steve Kurcinik, seconded by Sherry Sardon and carried unanimously.

The Board came back in session at 7:13 PM.

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

The 2019 Government Relations Committee and Proposed Solutions booklet was received from CABE and available in the office for any Board member interested.

5. COMMUNICATION WITH THE AUDIENCE: None

6. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – ADDITIONAL BUSINESS MAY BE CONSIDERED AT A REGULAR MEETING UPON A 2/3 VOTE OF THOSE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD PRESENT AND VOTING, PER STATE STATUTE: None

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

#2-19/20 Motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 1, 2019, was made by Sherry Sardon with the following correction: Item #3C should read – Brynn Lipstreu contacted the Board Chairs from Chaplin, Hampton and RD11 regarding a Tri-town BOE meeting. ***The motion was seconded by Scott Sears and carried with one abstention by Anne Stearns.***

8. FINANCE COORDINATOR REPORT:

A. Financial Report:

The Financial Reports were reviewed.

B. Approval of Financial Statement:

#3-19/20 Motion to approve the Financial Statement dated 10/31/19, was made by Steve Kurcinik, seconded by Sherry Sardon and carried unanimously.

9. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

A. 2019-2020 Budget Update:

The loan was paid off with the October bill.

B. Solar Panel Update:

The solar panels are still working with no problems. Minor inspections are done periodically. 16,600 kW hours were used in October. The summer reserve will be drawn down due to diminished production between November and April.

C. Lunch Program Update:

The October average for breakfast was 50 (slightly up from last year of 49) and 81 for lunch (slightly up from last year of 80). The favorite was French toast sticks.

D. Update on After School Grant Program: Waiting to hear.

E. Teacher Evaluation (TEVAL) Update:

Goals are being set and formal observations are being done.

F. Bus Propane Usage:

Bus #31 used 262 gallons of propane (down from last month 305).

Bus #32 used 216 gallons of propane (down from last month 276).

Bus #33 used 197 gallons of propane (down from last month 214).

The number of school days impacts the usage (November and December have less school days than September). Bus #32 was subbed out due to windshield wipers not working. Dr. Baran will continue to track usage and present to the Board each month.

G. Other: None

10. PRINCIPAL REPORT:

A. Professional Development Opportunities:

Professional Development included: NAEYC Ethical Conduct in the PreK classroom (3 Paras), 2019 Guidance Expo and CSDE Orientation for McKenney-Vento law (Guidance Counselor), Structured Literature (Spec Ed Teacher), Mandatory FBI Fingerprint Audit (Admin Asst), Student Engagement (2nd grade Teacher) and Title 9 Training.

Cassidy Martin expressed concerns with Scotland Elementary not participating in the Vertical Curriculum training where 7th/8th grade Parish Hill teachers work with the 6th grade teachers.

B. Current Enrollment:

Current enrollment is the same at 107.

C. Other:

- Thanks to the Friends of SES who ran the recent Book Fair and for their part in the Cowabunga fundraiser.
- There is no school on Veteran's Day.
- The Rain Garden has been installed to the right of the school entrance.

11. FRIENDS OF SES REPORT:

The Friends of SES are working on setting up a meeting and planning for Teacher Appreciation Week.

12. NEW BUSINESS:

A. SBAC Results:

Dr. Baran presented SBAC Scores tracking students for the past 5 years.

B. EASTCONN Board of Directors:

Anne Stearns was asked to write a description of her role on the EASTCONN Board of Directors. EASTCONN meets the 4th Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm with no meetings held in the summer.

13. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Board of Education Social:

A Board Social will be held on December 3rd at 6pm in the cafeteria before the regular Board meeting with refreshments. Cassidy Martin encourages teachers to attend.

B. Recording Device Feedback:

The recordings of the Board meetings are working well.

C. School Climate Survey: No Update

D. 2019-2020 Board Goals (Action Anticipated):

The Board was presented with Board Goals with a focus on Communication & Visibility, Culture & Climate, Finances and Policies with student achievement as the driving force. The Board will develop a Communication Plan.

#4-19/20 Motion to set 2019-20 Board Goal to Focus on Communication and Visibility and create a Communication Plan, was made by Steve Kurcinik, seconded by Anne Stearns and carried unanimously.

E. Citizen's Advisory Committee:

The Committee will concentrate on climate between parents, students, school and community to make the school more welcoming. There will be no more than 7 members. Anyone interested in joining the Committee should email Brynn Lipstreu with contact information by December 18th. The Citizen's Advisory Committee will become a standing agenda item.

14. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Climate Committee:

The Climate Committee met with Nick Caruso from CABE and will send him five thoughts on what they can do next. Dr. Baran sets up meeting dates but does not attend. Anne Stearns suggested the Superintendent and Principal each establish a personal goal for the Committee.

B. Transportation Committee: No Report

C. Tri-town BOE Meeting Update:

Brynn Lipstreu will contact the other Board Chairs after the December meetings.

D. CABE/EASTCONN:

The Board was presented with Workforce Task Report.

E. Readiness Council Report:

Discussion is being renewed with Hampton to join the Readiness Council.

F. Policies Committee:

The Committee worked on five policies related to legislation passed in 2019. The next meeting is scheduled for October 18th.

G. Personnel Committee: No Report

H. Technology Committee:

A meeting will be held in December.

15. SECOND AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS:

Celine Sullivan reported that she was contacted by the bus company regarding her children not riding the bus. Propane usage may be lower due to the bus not going down her street anymore. She also asked about the SBAC scores for Science and the selection of Citizen’s Advisory Committee members. Dr. Baran will present a breakdown of the SBAC Science scores for the next meeting. Sherry Smardon reported the Advisory Committee is a Committee of the Board. Rod Perry suggested having alternates for the Committee.

Dr. Baran responded to Cassidy Martin’s concerns regarding participation in Vertical Teaming training. The Scotland Administrators and staff attended several meetings previously and declined to continue due to the lack of direction and disagreement with how the meetings were conducted. Cassidy Martin asked Dr. Baran to attend the training as the group has started up again with a new direction.

16. NEXT STEP HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:

- Anne Stearns will make cookies for the Board Social.
- Brynn Lipstreu will draft and post a fun Agenda for the Board Social, make a flyer for the Citizen’s Advisory Committee and send a draft of the Board Goals to Dr. Baran.
- Dr. Baran will update propane usage with mileage and draft electricity report.

17. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS:

- Finalize Board Goals
- Election of Officers
- Committee Assignments
- BOE Communication Plan
- SBAC Science Results
- Policies

18. ADJOURNMENT:

#5-19/20 Motion to adjourn (8:51 PM) was made by Sherry Smardon, seconded by Cassidy Martin and carried unanimously.

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