

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

October 1, 2019

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

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CELEBRATIONS/RECOGNITIONS:

- The new Student Council has formed.
- Thanks to the Lion's Club for a vision test on all students at Scotland Elementary.

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

A letter was received from EASTCONN Director Gary Mala regarding all districts having the right to a seat on the Board of Directors.

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:

#1-19/20 Motion to approve special meeting minutes from September 17, 2019, was made by Sherry Smardon, seconded by Scott Sears and carried unanimously.

8. FINANCE COORDINATOR REPORT:

A. Financial Report:

The Financial Reports were reviewed. A check was received from the town to pay off the new Security System.

B. Approval of Financial Statement:

#2-19/20 Motion to approve Financial Statement dated September 30, 2019, was made by Steve Kurcinik, seconded by Sherry Smardon and carried unanimously.

9. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

A. 2019-2020 Budget Update: Covered by the Finance Coordinator

B. Solar Panel Update:

The solar panels are producing and doing their job. There is a downward trend due to shorter days with the sun. 29,000 kw hours were produced in September which is above average use.

C. Lunch Program Update:

The September average for breakfast was 46 (down from last year of 61) and 80 for lunch (up last year from 73). The favorite was pizza.

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

E. Teacher Evaluation (TEVAL) Update:

The process of editing the plan will include pre and post observations and removing SBAC scores.

F. Propane Usage:

Propane usage for the buses from August 28 to September 28 is as follows: Bus #31 – average 4.698 mpg, Bus #32 – 4.156 mpg and Bus #33 – 4.843 mpg. The lowest average is impacted by hills on the route. Dr. Baran will provide a monthly report to the Board.

G. Number of BOE Meeting Recordings:

The Town Clerk who has been serving for 1-1/2 years reported that there have been 3-4 requests to listen to the BOE meeting recordings and no requests to obtain a copy.

H. Other:

- A good location was found for the Rain Garden with drainage from the gutters.
- A letter was sent home in backpacks regarding recommendations from the Eastern Highland Health District for things to be careful about with EEE.
- The Cross Country Meet will be held at Scotland Elementary (listed incorrectly on the back of the calendar at Chaplin Elementary).
- The Fire Marshall visited the school on September 23rd and will follow up with a written report.
- The new security cameras are working great. Someone dropped off a box at the school that turned out to be posters from the Fire Marshall.

10. PRINCIPAL REPORT:

Dr. Baran presented the Principal Report for Dr. Pinsonneault who could not attend tonight's meeting.

A. Professional Development Opportunities: No Report

B. Current Enrollment: Current enrollment is at 107.

C. Other:

Upcoming events include the following:

- October 9th – visit from the Scotland Fire Department
- October 10th – Friends of SES kick off fundraiser
- October 11th - Professional Development
- October 14th – No school
- October 25th – Family Luncheon with a Sock Hop theme

11. FRIENDS OF SES REPORT:

Michelle Murray presented the Friends of SES Report. Students are decorating bathroom stalls with positive thoughts. The pillar posts are marked with the school pledge for a positive school year.

12. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Board of Education Social:

Brynn Lipstreu contacted CABE regarding a BOE Social that can be held with a posted agenda. The BOE Social will be held on December 3rd at 6:00pm before the regular Board meeting.

B. Set Tuition Rate:

The Out-of-District Tuition Rate is reviewed annually according to Policy #5118 and was set at \$7,400 last year. Board consensus is to keep the rate the same.

#3-19/20 Motion to set the Tuition Rate for the 2019-2020 school year at \$7,400 for out-of-district students, was made by Sherry Smardon, seconded by Steve Kurcinik and carried unanimously.

13. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Recording Device Feedback:

Deb Wright listens to the recordings for the BOE meetings. They are clearer with little or no static. The voices are sometimes dim so anyone speaking at the meeting is requested to use a microphone.

B. School Climate Survey:

The new School Climate Committee is reviewing the survey report and hand written notes.

C. Board Goals:

Brynn Lipstreu presented draft of Board goals for Communication & Visibility, Culture & Climate, Fiscal Responsibility, Policies, and Student Achievement. Scott Sears would like to see Board representation as a liaison for the School Climate Committee. Sherry Smardon suggested one Board member attend the School Climate Committee meeting on a rotating basis to discuss the Board's role. Steve Kurcinik suggested asking the Committee for detailed feedback. The Board Goals draft will be emailed to Dr. Baran. Any edits or feedback should be directed to Dr. Barn and will be discussed at the next meeting.

D. Citizen's Advisory Committee:

An informational meeting will be held on November 5th at 6:30 PM for anyone interested in joining the Citizen's Advisory Committee.

14. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Climate Committee:

Rod Perry recommended the Climate Committee generate minutes for their meetings and include goals and a timeline to track their progress. Steve Kurcinik suggested Nick Caruso from CABE meet with the School Climate Committee.

B. Transportation Committee: No Report

C. Tri-town BOE Meeting Update:

Brynn Lipstreu contacted the Board Chairs from Chaplin, Hampton and Scotland regarding a Tri-town BOE meeting. Two of the three chairs are receptive to a meeting. A meeting will be held after the November elections and legislative meeting by Representative Doug Dubitsky to discuss programs and shared services.

D. CABE/EASTCONN: No Report

E. Readiness Council Report: The Readiness Council discussed their budget and Hampton’s application.

F. Policies Committee: No Report

G. Personnel Committee: No Report

H. Technology Committee: A meeting will be held in late November/early December.

15. SECOND AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS:

Michele Murray asked about the following: new date for Citizen’s Advisory Committee, looking at tuition rate in relation to raised taxes, who determines after school activities, Playup program for 6th graders, Friends of SES representation on the School Climate Committee, when School Climate survey results will be available to parents, are there established dates for the School Climate Committee.

Brynn Lipstreu reported the following: the new date for the Citizen’s Advisory Committee is November 5th at 6:30pm (October meeting was cancelled due to lack of an agenda).

Dr. Baran reported the following: some afterschool activities are in the budget (9 other activities including the Garden Club and Drama Club are in proposed grant), the Playup program is waiting to hear from RD11, representation on the School Climate Committee is in the Committee’s hands, the survey results have been shared with the Board and will be shared with the staff at their next meeting, the School Climate Committee meets every 2-3 weeks with no set date.

16. NEXT STEP HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:

- Brynn Lipstreu will do the special meeting agendas (Citizen’s Advisory Committee and BOE Social) for the November and December meetings.
- Brynn Lipstreu will email draft of BOE goals to Dr. Baran. Any edits or feedback should be directed to Dr. Baran for revision.

17. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS:

- EASTCON Board of Directors
- Recording Device Feedback
- SBAC Results
- Board Goals (Action Anticipated)
- Citizen’s Advisory Committee
- Monthly Propane Usage

Cassidy Martin suggested the Board look at the Stop the Bleed Initiative. Dr. Baran reported that the initiative is already in place by the school nurse along with training.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

#4-19/20 Motion to adjourn (8:11 PM) was made by Sherry Smardon, seconded by Rod Perry and carried unanimously.

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