

*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**

### **Regular Meeting Minutes**

**March 3, 2026**

**Cassidy Martin called Zoom meeting to order at 6:32 PM. Board members present: Clark Stearns, Michael Gile, Lisa LaBelle, Morgan Conley, Julie Conley. Administrators present: Superintendent Valerie Bruneau, Principal Ann Knowles, Special Ed Director Dawn Davis, Finance Coordinator Michele Demicco.**

Board recited Pledge of Allegiance; Chair read Intro Statement.

**2. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** None

**3. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:** None

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- **Regular Meeting of February 3, 2026:**  
*#1-25/26 Lisa LaBelle motioned to approve February 3, 2026 regular meeting minutes, seconded by Michael Gile and carried unanimously.*

**5. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD OR DELETE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- *#2-25/26 Lisa LaBelle motioned to add to agenda before Board Business as new Item 8 – Executive Session to discuss MOU for Personnel Matter and Special Ed Student Matter, seconded by Clark Stearns and carried unanimously.*
- *#3-25/26 Lisa LaBelle motioned to delete Items 9B & C - Policies Review from agenda and move to next month, seconded by Clark Stearns and carried unanimously.*

**6. CELEBRATIONS:**

March is Board Appreciation Month – thanks to the Board for all the work they do for the children.

**7. REPORTS:**

**A. Chairperson's Oral Report:**

Busy with CABC, Breakfast with area Board Chairs, Breakfast with group of Board Chairs & Superintendents (Killingly, Pomfret, Putnam, Thompson, Ashford, Woodstock, Hampton, Eastford) - discussed legislative session (Education Committee meets tomorrow). Hundreds of testimonies submitted in support of House Bill 5002 and Senate Bill 7 (ECS funding) - Cassidy sent letter on behalf of the Board.

**B. Superintendent's Report – grant, facilities & budget:**

- Joined Committee to look at Medicare billing (Special Ed services billed out for reimbursement) - starting focus group on how to get assistance.
- Reached out to legislators - Mae Flexer coming here Thursday at 9am.
- Hoping for increase in SEED funding for Special Ed expansion (currently about \$14,000 for Scotland) – hired para to work with behavioral issues.
- Drip Grant for repairs and maintenance (facilities and operations – receive automatically) – will use to offset this year's heating and next year's heating, alarm system and roof repairs.
- Will meet with Julie and Morgan to do Newsletter and meet with Lisa on resources needed for Local Prevention on Nicotine.

**C. Principal's Report – curriculum & instruction updates:**

- Enrollment at 87 students with new PreK 3 student (total PreK – 22). Big push to put up signs for PreK around the community and flyers for other towns that use the gym.
- Celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday on Monday for Read Across America Week and celebrating Social Worker Appreciation Week with dedicated wall that includes something of importance from every student (thanks to Suellen Henry and Ms. Mosely).
- New staff – Ms. Shelby (para) and Kyra Garrison (P.E. teacher) – Cory Hunt left for another district.
- New literacy components for curriculum – Amplify with dedicated iPads for teachers to report assessments and Learning Ally for reading books online (training this Friday).
- March is here – excited for Spring and Daylight Savings with longer daylight to lift spirits.
- Custodial staff doing fabulous job maintaining the school with the snow.
- Getting ready for SBAC (end of April).
- Family event next week for St. Patrick's Day – looking forward to setup of many crockpots of corn beef and Irish Step Dancers.

**D. Special Education Report – updates:**

Excited about Learning Ally with access for students with reading difficulties. Special Ed at 23 students (2 new students identified, 2 more in referral process) - 6 students with IEP moving on to Parish Hill in June. Held 1<sup>st</sup> Director's meeting for Collaborative ESY program at SES with 8 districts interested including SES (2 more have reached out).

**E. Financial Report – audit update:** 61.7% of budget spent to date.

***#4-25/26 Clark Stearns motioned to approve Financial Report as presented, seconded by Lisa LaBelle and carried unanimously.***

**F. Shared Services updates:** Covered already

**G. Liaison Reports:** Covered already

**8. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS MOU FOR PERSONNEL MATTER AND SPECIAL ED STUDENT MATTER:**

***#5-25/26 Lisa LaBelle motioned to enter Executive Session (7:07 PM) to discuss MOU for Personnel Matter and Special Ed Student Matter, seconded by Clark Stearns and carried unanimously.***

Board came out of Executive Session at 7:38 PM.

***#6-25/26 Lisa LaBelle motioned to allow Superintendent to arrange MOU with Potential Teacher's Retirement, seconded by Michael Gile and carried unanimously.***

**9. BOARD BUSINESS:**

**A. Item: Preliminary Budget Presentation (Discussion & Possible Action):**

Board presented with preliminary proposed budget – looking at increase of \$253,226 (10.27%) for anticipated expenditures including: BCBA services through Bloom (grant funding ends this year), Special Ed Tuition with Transportation, about 7% increase for medical insurance, reduction of 1 Special Ed teacher. Working on reducing the increase including savings from anticipated teacher retirement (Cassidy noted RD11 Superintendent pushing to focus on dollar amount of budget increase).

**B. Item: Heating update (Discussion):**

Clark Stearns met with BG Mechanical asking for explanation of cost to replace motor and pump (replacing boiler not needed after all, special motor cost \$800 to ship – Clark found exact model in CT for \$520). Boiler #2 always acting up and boiler #1 pretty reliable per maintainers Ryan & Nate - can make it to end of season with single boiler, then shut system down to look at without expensive emergency service calls. Clark has concerns with service contract and other issues (hot water control components freezing and failure of large backflow valve) - would like to look at other HVAC providers.

**10. OLD BUSINESS UPDATES:** None

**11. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS:** None

**12. OTHER ACTION ITEMS:** None

**13. UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

- Regular Board Meeting April 7, 2026 at 6:30pm
- Items for Next Meeting and Assignments: Next Step Budget, Policies - 2000s and 7000s 2<sup>nd</sup> review

**14. ADJOURNMENT:**

*#7-25/26 Clark Stearns motioned to adjourn (8:00 PM), seconded by Lisa LaBelle and carried unanimously.*

*Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Scott*

*Recording Clerk*