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

June 2, 2026

Chair Cassidy Martin called meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Board members present: Clark Stearns, Beth Troeger, Michael Gile, Lisa LaBelle, Morgan Conley, Julie Conley. Administrators present: Superintendent Dr. Valerie Bruneau (online), Principal Ann Knowles, Special Ed Director Dawn Davis (online), Finance Coordinator Michele Demicco (online).

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 May 5, 2026:**
     #1-25/26 Lisa LaBelle motioned to approve May 5, 2026 regular meeting minutes, seconded by Michael Gile and carried unanimously.

5. **OPPORTUNITY TO ADD OR DELETE AGENDA ITEMS:**
   #2-25/26 Michael Gile motioned to move Superintendent Report to 7A and Financial Report from 7E to 7B, seconded by Clark Stearns and carried unanimously.

6. **CELEBRATIONS:** None

7. **REPORTS:**
   A. **Superintendent's Report – grant, facilities & budget:**
      - Met with Finance Manager to draw down grants.
      - Working with Lisa on Local Prevention Council (met with Pomfret about resource for pamphlets).
      - Received Drip Grant for work this summer. Remainder of SEED Grant came in for work on summer ESY (met with Joe Savino for busing).

   B. **Financial Report – updates:**
      85.7% of budget spent to date. Clark Stearns asked about heating oil overspent about 40% (issues with furnace – needed additional delivery over contracted amount at market price), and asked where grant money used to offset budget expenses is tracked (will provide report end of the year).
      #3-25/26 Clark Stearns motioned to acknowledge receipt of Financial Report dated May 29, 2026 and postpone acceptance until next meeting, seconded by Michael Gile and carried unanimously.

   C. **Chairperson's Oral Report:**
      Concerned with 2 slides in PowerPoint presentation at Public Hearing (will be fixed for Annual Town Meeting). Scotland's share of Parish Hill Budget is $500,000 (based on student census as of October 1st - will go down next year). Residents asked about SES budget including: no revenue, BCBA services, out-of-town PreK kids, transparency, no meeting to present budget.

   D. **Principal's Report – curriculum & instruction updates:**
      - Busy with enrollment for next year - doing tours (13 confirmed for PreK3 – 11 from Scotland, 12 for PreK4). K-6 continuing with small classes (new Intervention Teams for Tier II instruction – WIND (what I need).

- Hiring 2 new teachers because of retirements.
- Coming to end of the year with many field trips and big adventure with a bat in the school.
- No new curriculum for next year (Learning Ally has resource for parents at home).
- Last in-school afterschool program today (steady group of kids daily), Movie Day tomorrow at Mansfield, Field Day with Bounce House on Friday.
- Continuing collaboration with LGP Early Start through EASTCONN (mandated - dependent on funding).
- Last day of school June 17th with 3 half-days the last week.

Michael Gile asked about Math and Reading curriculum for combined 3/4 class next year (different curriculums).

E. Special Education Report – updates:
Ramping up for summer program with 8 districts participating (most things in place). Visited 2 districts last week to meet the kids – will visit remainder next week (total of 52 students). Working with Principal on structure for delivery of services in the fall with some changes - small number of students need self-contained program (Cassidy noted funding received from the state for ESY transportation – grant will also offset cost of Bloom program).

F. Shared Services updates: Covered already.

G. Liaison Reports: None

8. <u>BOARD BUSINESS:</u>

A. Item: Budget (Discussion & Possible Action):
Board presented with video from Superintendent addressing comments from residents at Public Hearing. Overall budget increase of 3.9%. **Regular Instruction Wages** (Estimated $35,000 decrease - bought out 3 of 5 eligible employees retiring (1 permanent, 2 need to be replaced at lower amount), does not include few employees paid in PreK, still have to pay employer taxes); **Special Education Wages** ($74,000 decrease for Special Ed teacher - needs of student can be met through Bloom onsite – comes with paraeducator and can train staff); **Transportation** ($2,000 for extended bus contract 1 year); **Special Ed Tuition** (increase for existing student plus additional student that went into effect later in the year); **BCBA Services –** ($120,000 increase – initially brought in through a grant – will replace Special Ed teacher); **Repair Maintenance –** ($2,291 increase – bulk of repair will be done first through Drip Grant, then through Capital Account); **Building Grounds –** (increase with change up in custodial services, using Town Maintainers and part-time summer help); **Pupil Transportation –** ($17,500 increase – includes $2,000 for extended contract and planned increases for local transportation for next school year); **PreK –** (offset with grants known to be coming - already worked in with 2 classes so far, $5,000 tuition (resident or not - 10 out-of-town students this year), Early Start - $6,000 per slot through a grant). Overall increase of $96,239 (loss of staff member, loss of Special Ed teacher, continued BCBA Services without a grant).

9. OLD BUSINESS UPDATES:

Item: Rose Khourie Scholarship:
To change the Charter, would need to go before a judge (1st Selectman checking with Town Attorney). Board would like to award $900 Scholarship this year (can only withdraw from interest).

10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

11. OTHER ACTION ITEMS: None

12. UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- **Regular Board Meeting July 7, 2026 at 6:30pm**

- **Special Board Meeting July 21st at 5pm (Policies & Board Retreat)**
- **Items for Next Meeting and Assignments: Policies updates**

13. ADJOURNMENT:

#4-25/26 Clark Stearns motioned to adjourn (7:39 PM), seconded by Michael Gile and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,
Recording Clerk Kathleen Scott