

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

March 24, 2021

Chairperson Brynn Lipstreu called the meeting to order at 7:01 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. COMMUNICATION WITH THE AUDIENCE: None

4. RESIGNATION:

A letter of resignation was received from Superintendent Dr. Francis Baran effective the end of the 2020-21 School Year.

#1 -20/21 Motion to accept with regret resignation from Superintendent Dr. Francis Baran, was made by Sherry Smardon, seconded by Scott Sears and carried unanimously.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE SEARCH:

Scott Sears reported that Dr. Mary Broderick from CABE does searches for this area. CABE will handle the entire process including screening and sending the best applicants for the school at a cost of \$9500. They also offer an a-la-cart option to request certain services. Sherry Smardon asked if there is a package deal for two administrators and a breakdown for the a-la-cart items. Brynn Lipstreu asked if CABE could identify the important things the Board needs to do if they choose the a-la-cart option (Scott Sears will follow up).

6. BUDGET 21/22 CONSIDERATIONS:

The Board reviewed the proposed 2021-22 budget.

Regular Ed – Teacher Salary increase includes 2 teachers changing career ladders. There were no shifts with staffing. STEM tuition is made in 2 payments for the year (the same number of students is projected for next year).

PreK – PreK Aide Salary is paid from local tuition and the grant. The Readiness Grant was submitted with 18 slots (next year is expected to be healthy).

Special Ed - There are 20 Special Ed students projected for next year with 6 that have 1 on 1 aides (reviewed annually and usually drops off after 2nd grade). There is an addition of 1.5 FTE for aides.

Health Office – Insurance was reallocated. In Service is for License. Other Professional Services is for Doctor Fees. Repairs and Maintenance is for equipment calibration. Nurse Substitutes were used more this year (rarely used in a normal year and a difficult position to fill).

Speech Pathology – Speech services contracted out as needed (position is difficult to hire). The cost in this year's budget is for summer work. Sherry Smardon suggested moving to Summer School in Other Professional Services.

PPT Services – Salary for staff person (1-day a week) who resigned was moved to Other Professional Services (contracted out and driven by student needs).

Technology – Dr. Baran will check with Savage Systems on type of equipment needed. Some Chromebooks will be purchased with some covered by grants.

Board of Education – In Service is for the CABA Conference. Dues and Fees are for CABA Membership.

Superintendent's Office – General Supplies includes a monthly lease for a printer that includes toner (printers were swapped). Sherry Smardon suggested comparing the cost for leasing to the cost of purchasing a new printer and toner.

General Administration - Rod Perry suggested the Board consider the Principal's Contract with a modified schedule and salary adjustment (done in other small districts). Sherry Smardon suggested waiting to see what CABA. There is a slight increase in the hourly rate for Legal Fees. Sherry Smardon suggested asking about bundling negotiations into a package price for cost savings. Other Professional Services was decreased for the GASB Report that is done every other year. There is an increase for the audit (same firm used by the town) with the state requiring additional recording.

School Office – Sherry Smardon suggested an increase to Administration for the new position and do the same for the Superintendent's Office.

Pupil Transportation – Fuel/Propane will remain flat. Propane is 45 to 50 cents more per gallon than the current price. There is a considerable amount of unused propane due to lack of bus service, making it difficult to project for next year. Sherry Smardon asked for update on propane with number of gallons used per bus and number of gallons used per month from the beginning of the school year (Dr. Baran will follow up). The price for Heating Oil is locked in and the number of gallons is based on what was used (used more this year due to windows being open for ventilation). Bus monitors are not included in proposed budget for next year. Sherry Smardon asked for projected cost of bus monitors for next year (Dr. Baran will follow up). Dr. Pinsonneault expressed concerns with the need for bus monitors for next year (would only be needed for buckling in PreK students if Covid goes away). They are not responsible for discipline that cameras help to monitor. Tim Smith expressed concerns with Scotland Elementary paying completely for bus monitors and cleaning supplies with Parish Hill paying nothing. Bus monitors should be covered by the ESSER Grant for the remainder of this school year.

Rod Perry asked about plans for afterschool activities in the fall. There are ongoing discussions with the state regarding the grant (Dr. Baran would like to do something now). Brynn Lipstreu asked if the grant could be used for take home activity bags. A survey sent home to parents received minimal interest.

Sherry Smardon asked for a breakdown of 53400 Other Professional Services (who contracted with, for what and how much paid). Bill Trudelle asked for a breakdown for Building and Grounds 54300 Contracted Services and an update on Covid Travel Restrictions.

Any questions on the budget should be directed to Dr. Baran or Tim Smith.

7. SECOND AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS: None

8. ADJOURNMENT:

#2-20/21 Motion to adjourn (8:20 PM) was made Sherry Smardon, seconded by Cassidy Martin and carried unanimously.

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