

*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**  
**August 9, 2022**

Chairperson Cassidy Martin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Board members Sherry Smardon, Scott Sears, Rod Perry, Clark Stearns and Gracie Martin. Administrators present were Superintendent Valerie Bruneau and Principal Ann Knowles. Others present was First Selectman Gary Greenberg and Selectman Wendy Sears.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD: RESIGNATIONS OF BILL TRUELLE, JUDY BENSON CLARKE, LYN JOHNSON:**

- An email was received from Bill Truelle that he moved out of town effective July 31, 2022 leaving a Board vacancy (advertised on Facebook, through emails and on the website).
- Letters of resignation were received from Special Ed teacher Judy Benson-Clarke and Reading Specialist Lynn Johnson.

**3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS: None**

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **Regular Meeting of July 12, 2022:**  
*#1-22/23 Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from July 12, 2022, was made by Sherry Smardon with the following correction: Item #11 correct Regular Board Meeting to August 9, 2022. The motion was seconded by Gracie Martin and carried unanimously.*
- **Special Meeting of June 16, 2022:**  
*#2-22/23 Motion to approve the special meeting minutes from June 16, 2022, was made by Sherry Smardon, seconded by Gracie Martin and carried unanimously.*

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

*#3-22/23 Motion to move Item #9H1 to Item #8 with Item #9I becoming 9H, was made by Sherry Smardon, seconded by Gracie Martin and carried unanimously.*

**6. CELEBRATIONS:**

- New hires to start the new school year include: new gym teacher to replace Karen Schenck, Art teacher (one day a week) to replace Lyn Johnson, close to hiring a 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher (doing screenings).

**7. PRESENTATION OF CITATION FOR KAREN SCHENCK FROM DOUG DUBITSKY:**

Wendy Sears presented legislative citation to Karen Schenck in recognition of her retirement after 40 years of teaching special education and the renaming of the Scotland School gymnasium in her honor. The citation was introduced by Representative Doug Dubitsky of the 47<sup>th</sup> district (apologized for not being able to attend and sends his best wishes) and Senator Mae Flexer of the 29<sup>th</sup> district.

**8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & ACTION:**

**Item: Appointment of Replacement BOE member (Action Anticipated):**

The Board received 4 letters of interest to fill the Board vacancy (Katelyn Shaefer, Kristen Goyette, Donna Lussier, Lisa Labelle).

- Lisa Labelle has been involved in education for about 13 years and started the PTA at Parish Hill. She is involved in advocacy work, coached in Leadership and Conflict Resolution, works at UCONN, uses the student first approach, has strength in listening and wants to hear both sides before making a decision.
- Katelyn Shaefer recently gave up her teaching position in Canterbury (Science teacher) to be available for her family (husband grew up in Scotland and went to school here). She started a small upholstery business in town and has lots of experience (12-year teaching career in 5 different districts) with leading initiatives in the schools, finding grants and keeping an open mind with communication being very important.

Kristen Goyette and Donna Lussier are invited to speak at the next meeting.

- ***#4-22/23 Motion to table the vote on appointment of Board member until the September 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, was made by Sherry Smardon, seconded by Scott Sears and carried unanimously.***
- ***#5-22/23 Motion to accept resignation from Judy Benson-Clarke, was made by Scott Sears, seconded by Clark Stearns and carried unanimously.***
- ***#6-22/23 Motion to accept resignation from Lynn Johnson, was made by Scott Sears, seconded by Sherry Smardon and carried unanimously.***

**9. REPORTS**

**A. Chairperson's Oral Report:** No Report

**B. Superintendent's Report: Grants, Safety Updates:**

- A meeting will be held Friday morning with Mr. Barrow and Mr. Beck to go through changes from a vulnerability assessment to the Safety Plan.
- Scotland hosted a Stop the Bleed and Heart Saver training through the summer grants. PMT was offered to everyone to help them feel prepared and was well received with a number of staff trained. All staff will receive a face shield to perform CPR if needed.
- Emergency backpacks were replaced through grants and will be recognized as bright orange (everyone should know what's in there and checked on a regular basis). Children should know how to use them (some items changed to child friendly). Training will start with the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade by Nate Hall. There are clipboards that close (holds importance classroom papers) with red on one side and green on the other (red tells emergency responders that someone is missing, green tells them you are okay).
- Grants are going well and shifting funding sources where necessary for projects not completed (two splitters still to go into classrooms) or another funding source (contract work through Speakology for in-person speech services). This year's grants are anticipated to be for security.

**C. Principal's Report: Hiring of PE Teacher, Updates:**

- Enrollment is currently at 94 students (still in the process of registering families that moved in).
- Hot Lunch is free this year for all students.
- The Curriculum Committee has chosen 2 new curriculums – Into Reading and Illustrated Math. Empowering Writers will be used for K-6. Teachers will be busy with a lot of PD and teachers from other districts that are interested in coming to share what they have learned.
- There are 3 Teams for this year – K-1 Team, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Team and 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Team (teachers can find support from each other).
- Continuing Foundations (huge success with the students), Mystery Science and Science Dimensions.
- Will be doing STEAM activities on engineering and the design process.

- SBAC scores will be presented next month.

**D. Financial Report:**

The Board reviewed Financial Reports sent by Tim Smith. Rod Perry asked about the following: supplies related to summer school for FY 22/23 (reimbursed from grants), is the FY 21-22 report final (final report with about \$35,000 surplus), the audit (Valerie will check on) and the part-time Special Ed position (hope to fill by the beginning of the school year). Clark Stearns asked about replacement for Finance Manager (tough position to fill because of the hours - other towns doing part-time remote (Tim has agreed to remain as long as needed). Sherry Smardon asked about the \$1 in Pupil Transportation Special Ed (new line opened to keep separate for outplaced students).

***#7-22/23 Motion to approve Financial Report dated August 1, 2022, was made by Sherry Smardon, seconded by Scott Sears and carried unanimously.***

**E. Enrollment Report:** Discussed under Principal's Report.

**F. PTO:** No Report

**G. Committee Reports:**

**Inter-district Cost Sharing, CABE/EASTCONN, Readiness Council, Policy Committee, Personnel Committee, Technology, Citizen's Advisory Committee and Climate Survey Committee**

Inter-district Cost Sharing – Gary Greenberg reported that the Committee is close to being done and would like to present the proposed report, staffing and budget to the two Boards (Scotland and Hampton) jointly at a BOS special meeting as soon as possible (will be held on August 25<sup>th</sup> at the Scotland Firehouse at 7pm). The Cooperative Agreement could address the difficulty in filling positions (not able to offer enough hours for the Finance Manager). Hoping to schedule Public Information meetings in September followed by an advisory vote (vote is entirely up to the 2 Boards).

CABE/EASTCONN – A meeting will be held with the new Executive Director to discuss new programs and the direction to move in.

Remove Citizen's Advisory Committee from list of Committee Reports.

**BOARD BUSINESS**

**H. Old Business updates**

- **BOE Goals:**

The Board will redo their goals for a First Read at the September meeting.

**10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

Lisa Labelle suggested putting something out about the Co-op meeting for potential new Board member.

**11. ACTION ITEMS:** None

**12. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Regular Board Meeting September 6th
- Items for Next Meeting: IT Contract, SBAC result Presentation, Vote to appoint BOE member, First Read BOE Goals

**13. ADJOURNMENT:**

***#8-22/23 Motion to adjourn (8:13 PM) was made by Sherry Smardon, seconded by Scott Sears and carried unanimously.***

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