

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
November 1, 2022

Chairperson Cassidy Martin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Board members Scott Sears, Rod Perry, Clark Stearns, Gracie Martin and Lisa LaBelle. Administrators present were Superintendent Valerie Bruneau, Principal Ann Knowles, Special Ed Director Susan Costa (online) and Finance Coordinator Tim Smith (online). Others present was First Selectman Gary Greenberg. Unable to attend was Board member Sherry Smardon.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

3. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:

Scott Sears presented letter regarding his resignation from the Board effective the end of this meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• **Regular Meeting of October 4, 2022:**

#1-22/23 Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from October 4, 2022, made by Scott Sears, seconded by Gracie Martin and carried unanimously.

5. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD OR DELETE AGENDA ITEMS:

#2-22/23 Motion to add to agenda Update on Disposition of Surplus as Item #7A1 moving Cooperative Agreement to #7A2 and Policy Updates to #7A3, made by Gary Greenberg, seconded by Clark Stearns and carried unanimously.

6. CELEBRATIONS:

- Welcome to new Business Manager Ron Mylnek. Transition with Tim is going well.
- Thanks to Scott Sears for handmade bench on display outside the nurse's office (made from trees that were taken from out front last year).

7. BOARD BUSINESS

A. Items for Discussion & Actions

1. Update on Disposition of Surplus:

A resolution was passed for 50% of the BOE surplus to go back into the CNR Account with the balance not to exceed \$150,000 (50% of this year's surplus of \$56,039 is \$28,015). The CNR Account balance is \$125,400 (will present at the next meeting for approval).

2. Item: Cooperative Agreement results and shared services (Discussion):

The non-binding vote passed for Scotland and failed in Hampton (the BOE also voted not to move forward with the agreement). Discussion was held regarding the exit poll and why the vote failed including: timeframe to begin in 2023-24 too short, some Hampton BOE members voted with the town, misreading politics (hostility between the BOE and town government), concerns from Hampton residents about not having a school in their town, the idea should have been worked on

by the two Boards who have the power to enter into a cooperative agreement (was started by the BOS), not a good deal (all that was presented was a possibility).

- Rod Perry expressed the need to plan as a Board how to manage the school with declining enrollment.
- Gary Greenberg suggested the Board initiate private conversations with the Hampton BOE and not give up on the idea of a cooperative agreement (will provide support and resources).
- Lisa Labelle suggested looking at more shared services.
- Valerie Bruneau shared the following: Scotland has the same number of actual students with 20 homeschooled children. The Superintendents (SES, HES, RD11) are looking at shared resources including: increase enrollment through a choice district to bring in students from other towns, constructive sharing of part-time staff, Food Service, and assistance from the unions. The Principals are looking at mandates for changes to curriculum. There are many opportunities for the schools and towns to work together on grants (Valerie is willing to help).
- Gary Greenberg suggested the Superintendents include with their discussions going back into the Central Office (Hampton and Scotland pulled out due to many money-related issues).
- Clark Stearns expressed the need to look at any and all possibilities before the state steps in. Shared Services will be added under Reports for future agendas.

3. Item: Policy Updates (discussion):

The Board reviewed Administration Policies 2000, 2000.1, 2100, 2112, 2121, 2131 with no changes. Will focus next month on Policies for new Board members. Clark Stearns suggested voting to approve the Policies (will include in next month's review).

8. REPORTS

B. Chairperson's Oral Report: No Report

C. Superintendent's Report:

- The water issue is fixed with a new panel that monitors the water level with alarms when it is low (replaces 2 panels that didn't talk to each other) at a cost of \$4,000. A final bill will be presented next month (recommends funding from the CNR).
- The custodian was slightly injured from an old wheelbarrow that was replaced (\$150). Looked at the rest of the equipment and replaced a snowblower (\$1,200 with \$150 trade-in for old one). Also reviewing all contracts (for best price and if needed) and the school's share of the CIRMA Policy (liability shared with the town).
- There is no grant funding to date to fix the doors (getting quotes to determine actual costs).
- Applied for Mental Health Grant (would provide one person for 3 years).
- The CABA CAPSS Convention will be held on November 18th and 19th.
- The new contract with EASTCONN began today (Ann will monitor).

D. Principal's Report:

- EASTCONN did a walkthrough for IT and they will be a good fit.
- The month of October closed with Halloween (PreK event had many dressed in costumes).
- Continuing with the new curriculum (Reading is challenging – teachers are doing a great job).
- Parent Teacher Conferences begin next week.
- Looking at Behavioral Specialist to deal with mental health challenges (several students struggling with behavior issues). Lisa Labelle asked if there are any Covid funds available (funds can be used for the needs of the kids with funds left to have someone come in).
- Academic Achievement has also taken a hit from Covid. Struggling with no one for math intervention (reached out to Eastern and UCONN for student volunteers).

- Field trips for all classes were successful with nature related for grades 2-6 through the CT State Dept of Ed Grants and the orchard for the younger kids.

E. Special Education Report:

- Attended training with Deb Wright on CT SEDS.
- Continuing PPT services for students and echoed the social/emotional needs.
- Continues brainstorming with Ann Knowles on math intervention.

F. Financial Report:

Transition with the new Business Manager is going smoothly (Tim was thanked for stopping in to the building to help out). Financial Reports were reviewed. Expenses include: \$1,200 for new snowblower and \$800 for water services.

#3-22/23 Motion to approve Financial Statement dated 10/25/22, made by Rod Perry, seconded by Clark Stearns and carried unanimously.

G. PTO Report:

Britney Santiago presented PTO Report. Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Activities include – the 2nd Annual Movie Night with popcorn and treats for the kids, working with the gym teacher on the purchase of a gaga ball pit, participated in the Parish Hill Trunk or Treat, working on participating in the Tree Lighting (students making ornaments in the classroom), working on another SES swag rollout. Valerie Bruneau commended the PTO for all their hard work on offering many activities.

H. Committee Reports:

Inter-district Cost Sharing, CABE/EASTCONN, Readiness Council, Policy Committee, Personnel Committee, Technology, Finance, Facilities, and Climate Survey Committee

EASTCONN – The retreat and last meeting were cancelled due to Covid. Insurance is expected to have a significant increase (about 25%) with a meeting scheduled on December 15th at 4pm at Parish Hill.

Readiness Council – Need to finish policies and try to get more parents to join.

Valerie Bruneau suggested a liaison to bring findings back to the Board.

9. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

10. OTHER ACTION ITEMS: None

11. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Regular Board Meeting December 6, 2022**
- **Items for Next Meeting:** Enrollment and Enumeration, Capital Projects/Expenditures, Contract Reviews, Vote on Policy Updates/Changes, Superintendent/Principal Goals Updates, Update on Tech Contract Transition, Begin Review of Potential Budget Areas, Professional Development, Reorganization, Advocacy

12. ADJOURNMENT:

#4-22/23 Motion to adjourn (8:40 PM) made by Clark Stearns, seconded by Scott Sears and carried unanimously.

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

1 Nov 22,

To Valerie Bruneau, Cassidy Martin and the Scotland Board of Education Members,

As of the conclusion of tonight's BOE meeting, I am officially resigning my position on the board.

It has been a privilege to serve on the board for the last 11 years, but now I find myself in a situation where I lack the time and motivation to a productive member.

As we saw a few months ago, there are several motivated individuals in the community that have an interest in serving. Although I would have liked to finish my full term, I feel now is an appropriate time to step down and let someone else fill my seat.

Sincerely,


Scott R Sears