

SCOTLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Scotland, CT
Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, March 7, 2023
BOE and Public in person and via Zoom

PRESENT: Cassidy Martin, Gracie Martin, Lisa Labelle, Brit Santiago, Clark Stearns, Rod Perry

ADMINISTRATION: Valerie Bruneau, Superintendent; Ann Knowles, Principal; Susan Costa (via zoom), Special Education, Tim Smith- Finance (via Zoom)

1.0 Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance-Cassidy called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm

2.0 Comments from the Public-Wendy Sears is happy to hear the black tire pieces from the preschool playground will be going. It's been a long time coming.

3.0 Communications-one letter from a parent was sent to the full BOARD. The letter thanked SES for the success her daughter is seeing at Parish Hill and credits special education at SES with doing a great job, giving kudos to her teacher.

4.0 Approval of the minutes-motion was made by Gracie Martin to accept the minutes from the February 7th and February 28th meetings, seconded by Lisa Labelle.
Motion passed 6-0-1 (GM abstained)

5.0 Additions or deletions-none

6.0 Celebrations-Superintendent celebrated the BOE for Board Appreciation Month with a token gift but much appreciation for the work this board has done in the last year and its commitment to SES. Thank you!!

7.0 Reports-

Chairperson-no report but reminded the whole BOE that all are welcome when inviting new members. She received some comments about the references to a young candidate to fill the vacancy. She was saddened and wants all members to be open to potential candidates regardless of age.

Superintendent-handed out the state CGS mandates and will send electronically. Trying to make sure that every single mandate is being followed. The principal, nurse and super are working to address all, and we are in fairly good shape.

Principal- Preschool enrollment is looking great for next year; current enrollment is steady. Staff are working on de-escalation strategies and professional development. DARE and CPR are new additions to upper grades and are being widely welcomed.

Special Education- IN Bloom is presenting de-escalation training. We are offering strategies for teachers to address and reduce behaviors. CT SEDS training was also done and parents are now

getting a handle on the switch from IEP Direct to CT SEDS parent portal. Progress Reports are almost finished for parents.

Finance Report-reviewed. Rod Perry motioned to accept the report as is and it was seconded by Gracie Martin

MOTION PASSED 6-0-0

PTA-Munson's fundraiser is full swing. Order today. We are looking at a possible planetarium coming to the school for the kids. The gaga pit is coming.

Shared Services- Val spoke with other supers about a potential shared medical advisor. The BOE wants to have Cassidy speak to other chairs about a regionalization subcommittee. Cassidy will talk to them about a public meeting sometime in the near future.

Readiness Council- doing some policy work.

Lisa shared that the Youth Mental Health forum was postponed until April 15th.

8.0 Board Business

1. NEW BOE MEBMER -Beth Troeger comes to the BOE as a candidate to fill Sherry Smardon's vacancy. Violet withdrew her name. **Clark made a motion to accept Beth as the candidate to fill the vacancy until November, seconded by Lisa Labelle.**

MOTION PASSED 6-0-0

2. Capital updates- began the discussion on the projects being done and will revisit the status of the doors, boiler, etc in April.

3. Calendar for the 2023-2024 School year presented for approval. It mirrors Parish Hill with vacations and start times and included some professional development. **Motion made by Clark and seconded by Gracie to accept the calendar.**

MOTION PASSED 6-0-0

Valerie presented the new template for the first newsletter of the BOE, asking for the additional information by members. It will be sent out in April.

9.0 Comments from the Public – Scott Sears corrected the readiness report: the policy pertains to whether or not the IEP students can be charged for a portion of the day.

10 .0 Other Action items- none

11.0 Upcoming Meetings Regular BOE Meeting April 4

Items for the meeting: last of the previously discussed 9000 policies, updates on shared services and Cassidy reach out to BOE Chairs, and financial update (including grants).

12.0 Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Gracie Martin and seconded by Clark at 8:28 pm.

MOTION PASSED 6-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie E. Bruneau

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Superintendent of Schools