

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

April 4, 2023

Chair Cassidy Martin called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Board members present were Clark Stearns, Brittany Santiago, Beth Troeger, Gracie Martin, Rod Perry and Lisa LaBelle. Administrators present were Superintendent Valerie Bruneau, Principal Ann Knowles, Special Ed Director Susan Costa (online) and Finance Coordinator Tim Smith (online).

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** None

3. **COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:** None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Regular Meeting of March 7, 2023:**
#1-22/23 Motion to approve the March 7, 2023 regular meeting minutes, made by Gracie Martin, seconded by Brittany Santiago and carried with abstention by Beth Troeger.

5. **OPPORTUNITY TO ADD OR DELETE AGENDA ITEMS:** None

6. CELEBRATIONS:

- The weather.
- Congratulations to Ann Knowles for organizing a staff vs students basketball game to celebrate March Madness. There were referees with Ann and Bob (custodian) manning the scoreboard. It was a great event enjoyed by everyone and will be an annual event.

7. REPORTS

A. Chairperson's Oral Report: No Report

B. Superintendent's Report:

- Looking at grants for any capital improvements needed as it gets closer to the end of the year (waiting on 3 grants).
- Doing very well with the new curriculum (received \$5,000 stipend from the state to supplement new Reading curriculum – will update Chromebooks).
- Online resources will be used in the classroom to get kids involved with other school districts including the Spelling Bee and Invention Convention.
- 2 men are working a couple hours as custodians on a trial basis (3rd Custodian not able to stay due to medical condition). They can work on a few small projects that requires manpower.

C. Principal's Report:

- In the process of registration for PreK (2 confirmed screenings) and Kindergarten (9 registered with 3 additional inquiries). Hope to break 100 for enrollment next year.
- Curriculum training continues with all teachers. Observations for PreK will be done in partnership with EASTCONN (up for accreditation in January 2025).
- Concentrating on Into Reading curriculum (will focus on Math next year) with training ongoing (teachers can select based on their needs).

- A school-wide Cornhole Tournament will be held on the last day of school from 10am – 12pm.
- Working on getting back school spirit and comradery.

D. Special Education Report:

- PPT and Section 504 meetings are about 95% complete.
- Transition meetings for the 6th grade with representatives from Parish Hill are going well.
- Evaluations and completion of IEPs are meeting state deadlines.
- New SEDS Training continues to offer new topics (will attend with Deb).

E. Financial Report and Contract updates:

The Financial Reports were reviewed. Rod Perry asked if 5110 Teachers that is at 92.42% will go over (will not go over – includes teacher contracts and balloon payments through the end of the year).

#2-22/23 Motion to approve Financial Report dated 3/27/23 made by Rod Perry, seconded by Gracie Martin and carried unanimously.

F. PTO Report:

- All Munson's Chocolates orders delivered thanks to Deb Wright (made almost \$600).
- SES Spirit Swag starts tomorrow.
- Working with the Parish Hill PTA on Spring Egg Hunt at Bowers Park.
- Looking for Parent Involvement to help with Field Day (give out popsicles) and Teacher Appreciation Week.

G. Shared Services updates:

- Valerie Bruneau was invited to meet with the Superintendents from Sprague and Franklin with the opportunity to share different resources including PD and Special Ed Transportation (Parish Hill purchased a van for Special Ed Transportation, Sprague is a school of choice for Parish Hill). Beth Troeger asked if any other towns are school of choice for Parish Hill (Brooklyn and Canterbury).

H. Liaison Reports including Readiness Council:

- Lisa Labelle asked about Inventory of State Mandates (working on aligning with policies with most in compliance) and is interested in hearing about updates to curriculum.
- Brittany Santiago reported the Readiness Council is still looking for parent participation, the grant application is due the end of April and evaluations are coming up.
- Rod Perry reported that EASTCONN is redesigning their mobile classroom to get back on the road with a focus on STEM.

8. BOARD BUSINESS

I. Items for Discussion & Actions

1. Policy 9325 (Discussion and Action):

The Board reviewed Policy 9325 adopted in October 2013 and amended in September 2019 (gives more power to the Board Chair).

#3-22/23 Motion to adopt original Policy 9325 dated October 1, 2013, made by Gracie Martin, seconded by Rod Perry and carried unanimously.

2. Capital Improvement Updates (Discussion):

- Some projects will depend on grants including: Having 2 kid friendly spaces in the library (taking down shelves) and replacing rubber mulch outside in the PreK area.
- Grant funds need to be spent (most expire June 30, 2023) and will be used for the following: IDEA – Special Ed Instructional Aides (replace computers for 2 teachers); ESSER – Professional Services and Supplies (replace teacher computers); ARP ESSER (AC for 2 classrooms). CT SEDS Implementation Stipend (salaries spent on training); E-Rate reimbursements can be used for any future technology needs (no deadline).

- Other small projects include: cabinets that need painting, replacing gray shelving units with wooden closets for the music room and Special Ed (will slowly replace all shelving units), replace the doors (scheduled for May – will come from Security Grant if approved).

Cassidy Martin thanked the Administration for making the school kid friendly with the Nurse’s Office, welcoming signs and kindness (showcase by the gym will focus on student recognition).

J. Old Business Updates: Newsletter “meet the BOE”:

The Newsletter with Board biographies will go out. Will discuss ideas for the Summer and Fall Newsletters.

9. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

10. OTHER ACTION ITEMS: None

11. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Regular Board Meeting May 2, 2023**
- **Items for Next Meeting and Assignments:** Budget Transfers – Finance, Superintendent Contract, report from Superintendent on end-of-year closeout & update on summer program

12. ADJOURNMENT:

#4-22/23 Motion to adjourn (7:57 PM) was made by Gracie Martin, seconded by Lisa Labelle and carried unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Scott
Recording Clerk*