

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
July 11, 2023

Chair Cassidy Martin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Board members present were Clark Stearns, Gracie Martin, Rod Perry and Lisa LaBelle. Administrators present were Superintendent Valerie Bruneau, Principal Ann Knowles and Finance Coordinator Tim Smith (online). Unable to attend were Board members Brittany Santiago and Beth Troeger.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

3. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:

A letter of resignation was received from Jen Morelli. Also leaving are Kim Ausberger, Bob and Ms. Lowney. Well wishes to all of them.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• **Regular Meeting of June 6, 2023:**

#1-23/24 Motion to approve June 6, 2023 regular meeting minutes, made by Gracie Martin with the following correction: Item #7E should read – AC for 2 rooms - \$17,000. The motion was seconded by Lisa LaBelle and carried with one abstention by Clark Stearns.

5. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD OR DELETE AGENDA ITEMS: None

6. CELEBRATIONS: None

7. REPORTS

A. Chairperson’s Oral Report: None

B. Superintendent’s Report:

- Waiting on the state for Safety & Security Grant and Mental Health Worker Grant.
- Completed Read to Write Grant (\$11,000 over 2 years) that will be used for PD or supplies for the state approved Reading curriculum.
- Submitted application for After School Grant - \$75,000 for 5 days a week for the whole school year (including: Budzies for enrichment, Math combined with Music, SEL component, Wellness - OTPT sensory, Rec component, Fun Friday events).

C. Principal’s Report:

- Working on getting the school ready and doing maintenance (most teachers have switched their classrooms and are getting ready for the new school year).
- 2 teachers will be here for the summer.
- Hot Lunch is popular with popsicles and ice-cream.
- Using the same curriculum for Reading (Into Reading) and Math (working more on).
- The PreK playground is finished with new mulch, 2 picnic tables, sensory table and sandbox.

- A nature wall was painted in the PreK room thanks to the Martins' and Karen Shafer. Another teacher in the lower grades is interested in having a wall done (will use leftover paint).
- New faces coming in include: Grade 1 teacher, Special Ed teacher, Speech (Ms. Sabrina), OT/PT.
- Work is ongoing with School Climate - working on a School Climate Committee, invested in banners and posters for around the school to encourage positivity.

Rod Perry asked about the need to use 2 rooms for PreK due to increase in enrollment (currently use the 2nd room for some activities – will discuss later on the agenda).

D. Special Education Report:

Valerie Bruneau reported that ESY is taking place with Suellen Henry and Ms. Claudia who will sub in the fall. Rod Perry asked if evaluations are done for ESY (not done separately) and how many students in ESY (9 students).

E. Financial Report and Contract updates:

Grants that had to be used by June 30th are complete (some other grants will carry over to next year). There is a small surplus of about \$5,000 that will be returned to the Town. Clark Stearns asked about the \$300 surplus in the transfer column of the General Fund Summary (error that should be "0" – Tim will correct and add to surplus to return to the Town).

#2-23/24 Motion to approve Financial Report, made by Rod Perry, seconded by Clark Stearns and carried unanimously.

F. PTO:

Ann Knowles presented PTO report. An assembly with a portable planetarium will be held early in the school year sharing with Hampton (Cassidy suggested also sharing with Sprague). The Gaga Pit is finished thanks to the Santiagos' and Nate Musser. It is called the Dust Bowl and the kids are having a blast!

G. Shared Services updates:

The Superintendent and Principal are working on diversity grants and will share activities with Hampton.

H. Liaison Reports including Readiness Council:

Lisa LaBelle presented new legislation that affects the Board including: Kindergarten eligibility (will discuss later on the agenda), New Board member required training (mandated reporter, sexual harassment), CT School Climate Policy, Bullying, Play Base Learning, Education Diversity Plan (due by March 24, 2024), Curriculum and Board meetings with any handouts need to be made available to the public (will post on the website). Most of these are in compliance per the Superintendent.

8. BOARD BUSINESS

A. Item: Policies (2nd read) 9121,9122,9123,9125, 9131, 9134, 9210, 9230, 9260, & 9300 (tabled from May) - Discussion and Anticipated Action:

The Board reviewed the above policies and made some changes (will revisit Policy 9260).

#3-23/24 Motion to approve Policies 9121, 9122, 9123, 9125, 9131, 9134, 9210, 9230, 9300 with discussed changes, made by Gracie Martin, seconded by Rod Perry and carried unanimously.

B. Item: Finance and end of year closeout report - Discussion:

FY 2022-23 end of year reports and end of project and expenditure reports for grants are complete thanks to Tim Smith (his replacement Michelle will take over next month with FY 2023-24).

C. Item: ESY & Grants - Discussion: Discussed already

D. Item: Long Term Planning (Tech, Curriculum, Capital) – Discussion/updates:

Tech – moved to the library, new tech staff is tagging inventory (Town is looking for update to worksheet for insurance – Valerie suggests using a company that prints a book with inventory that includes depreciation and can be updated yearly for \$150).

Capital – all broken pavers are fixed, sidewalk is scheduled to be fixed, Impact Fire was here today to do Inspection.

Curriculum – implementing and updating with Committee 3 year/5 year for Literacy, Math, Science (will post on the website).

E. Item: Enrollment PreK – Discussion and Anticipated Action:

PreK enrollment is strong. New legislation for next year requires children to turn 5 on or before September 1st of the school year in order to be automatically eligible to enroll in school (a waiver can be filled out at the discretion of the administration). This will put a financial strain on the budget for either PreK or Kindergarten for one year and may require additional staff for PreK (minimum age of 2 years/9 months) which is optional (hoping for grant funding). There are 21 definite for PreK with 4 more that have inquired (don't want to turn anyone away). The administration is proposing for this year to open 2nd room permanently (could separate by age for curriculum and doesn't affect the budget – would be covered through savings from grants plus tuition).

#4-23/24 Motion to authorize the Administration to hire a 2nd staff member for the 2nd PreK room if needed, made by Gracie Martin, seconded by Lisa LaBelle and carried unanimously.

F. Item: August meeting date confirmation – Discussion and Anticipated Action:

The August meeting will be held on August 1st.

Old Business Updates:

Only the Probate Court can amend the Rose Khourie Scholarship Trust. The Board's lawyer will have to talk to the Trust's lawyer (Cassidy will look for the Trust document).

9. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

10. OTHER ACTION ITEMS: None

11. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Regular Board Meeting August 1st or 8th**
- **Items for Next Meeting and Assignments:** SBAC results presented (Principal), Superintendent & Board evaluations, revisit Policy 9260

12. ADJOURNMENT:

#5 -23/24 Motion to adjourn (8:49 PM) made by Clark Stearns, seconded by Gracie Martin and carried unanimously.

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