

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
December 5, 2023

Superintendent Valerie Bruneau called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Board members present were Cassidy Martin, Clark Stearns, Brittany Santiago, Beth Troeger, Gracie Martin (online), Kaitlyn Shafer and Lisa LaBelle. Administrators present were Principal Ann Knowles and Finance Coordinator Michele Demicco (online).

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

3. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD: None

4. NOMINATION OF BOE CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR, SECRETARY (VOTE BY MEMBERS):

- *#1-23/24 Lisa LaBelle nominated Cassidy Martin for Board Chair, seconded by Clark Stearns. The vote to elect Cassidy Martin for Board Chair carried unanimously.*
- *#2-23/24 Clark Stearns nominated Lisa LaBelle for Board Vice-Chair, seconded by Gracie Martin. The vote to elect Lisa LaBelle for Board Vice-Chair carried unanimously.*
- *#3-23/24 Clark Stearns nominated Gracie Martin for Board Secretary, seconded by Lisa LaBelle. The vote to elect Gracie Martin carried unanimously.*

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Regular Meeting of November 7, 2023:**
#4-23/24 Motion to approve November 7, 2023 regular meeting minutes, made by Lisa LaBelle, seconded by Clark Stearns and carried with abstention by Kaitlyn Shafer.

6. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD OR DELETE AGENDA ITEMS:

- *#5-23/24 Motion to add to agenda as Item 7A – Appoint New Board Member and Item 9#2 – Standard Opening Statement for Beginning of Every Board Meeting, made by Clark Stearns, seconded by Lisa LaBelle and carried unanimously.*

7. CELEBRATIONS: Welcome to new Board member Katelyn Shaefer.

A. Appoint New Board Member:

#6-23/24 Motion to appoint Brittany Santiago for remainder of 2-year term, made by Kaitlyn Shafer, seconded by Gracie Martin and carried unanimously.

8. REPORTS

A. Chairperson’s Oral Report: CABE conference:

The Board spoke about different workshops they attended at the CABE Conference including: How Discipline Works with Social Media, Board Chair Check-in, Using Social Media to Your Advantage, Video on How to Attract New Teachers to Fill Positions (includes interviews from teachers in the building), Mental Health and the Importance of Sharing Resources with Students and Guardians (Cartwheel

offers virtual services), AI - Teaching How to Use as a Tool (CABE has template policy), Standards of Reading on How Children Should Read and the Science Behind It to Develop Fluency and Comprehension, Writing Policies, Writing Board Goals, Board Retreats.

B. Superintendent's Report:

- Districts in the region could apply for a waiver if they did not have approved Reading program for K-3. Many neighboring districts applied including Chaplin with no effect to Scotland or Hampton (results released today).
- Interim Superintendent for RD11 will start next week.
- The Board Newsletter will be out soon.
- No new grants, waiting to hear about next year's After School Grant.

C. Principal's Report:

- Enrollment at 101 students (1 student returning Monday).
- Registrations for PreK at 21 students (one teacher is out on leave with long term sub doing well).
- Majority of students are getting lunch with few getting breakfast.
- PreK is deep into working on accreditation with help from the EASTCONN liaison (hoping to submit by year end and looking to schedule visit in April or May).
- The 1st Marking Period has closed with Report Cards coming out Monday.
- Thanks to the PTO for the Harvest Fest that was a huge success with parent volunteers at different stations and the Polar Bears shopping that is happening now (would like to see the PTO grow with more parent involvement).
- Maggie Pearson is back doing Interim Special Ed.
- Waiting for School Calendar from RD11 (they try to follow the EASTCONN Calendar).

D. Special Education Report:

Maggie Pearson is doing PPTs.

E. Financial Report and Audit Update:

Michele Demicco presented General Fund Summary that is on track with 32% of the budget spent to date. Clark Stearns asked about Dues & Fees being overspent (will transfer from grants for CABE Conference).

#7-23/24 Motion to approve Financial Report as presented, made by Clark Stearns, seconded by Lisa LaBelle and carried unanimously.

A Board member is needed to attend meetings (can attend via Zoom) to look at options for renewal of health benefits (in Consortium with Scotland Town & School, Chaplin, Hampton, Parish Hill). A pre-meeting will be held on Tuesday in the Parish Hill Library (Clark will follow up with the First Selectman).

F. PTO:

The PTO is very busy with Polar Pals that is going well (older students did well on their own, helped younger students with picking gifts) and wrapping gifts to send home. Beth Troeger asked where the gifts came from (used a company this year instead of going out to shop). Meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 3:15pm (need more people to join).

G. Shared Services updates:

Valerie Bruneau met with the Superintendents and discussed creating policy (to share regionally) for waiver of Kindergarten screenings due to change in legislation.

H. Liaison Reports including Readiness Council:

Talked about accreditation in the Principal's Report.

9. BOARD BUSINESS

Items for Discussion & Actions:

1. Item: Liaison Assignment (Discussion):

Curriculum & Instruction-Katelyn, Beth	Finance-Clark	School Readiness-Brittany, Katelyn
Infrastructure, Health and Safety-Clark	Technology-Gracie	Policy-Cassidy, Brittany
Community Relations, Spec Programs-Lisa	EASTCONN-Lisa	Regional Issues-Cassidy

2. Standard Opening Statement for beginning of every Board Meeting:

Clark Stearns presented opening statement from Bloomfield that is read at the beginning of every Board meeting and explains what the Board is here for (draft statement will be presented at the next meeting for review). Lisa LaBelle suggested reminding everyone what the mission statement is (Clark suggested adding it to the bottom of the agenda).

Gracie Martin left the meeting at 8:15 PM.

10. OLD BUSINESS UPDATES: ROSE KHOURIE UPDATE:

Thanks to Beth Troeger for her research on the history of Rose Khourie (1888-1978 - buried in Scotland). Thanks to the following for information: Kevin Ring from the Historical Society for oral history interviews from Fred Fredette about Rose, Lucille Smith (lives in Rose’s house) for articles from the Highland Herald and some drawings by Rose’s students, and information from Cynthia Bass.

- Rose was born in Beirut, Lebanon; came to New York as an infant and placed in foster care. She worked full-time as a nurse while attending school to become an Art Teacher. Many of her friends in New York City taught during the summer at a school in Willimantic (now the Noble School) and purchased a farm on Toleration Rd that she visited. They convinced her to purchase a summer home in Scotland. The trust was established from selling her home to an orphanage with not much available on the criteria. The Town is the Trustee and only the state can change it (Cassidy will follow up).

11. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

12. OTHER ACTION ITEMS: None

13. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Regular Board Meeting January 2, 2023 (CABE visit)
- Items for Next Meeting and Assignments

14. ADJOURNMENT:

#8-23/24 Motion to adjourn (8:32 PM) made by Clark Stearns, seconded by Lisa LaBelle and carried unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Scott
Recording Clerk*