

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 2, 2019

Chairperson Brynn Lipstreu called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Board members Sherry Smardon, Steven Kurcinik, Cassidy Martin, Scott Sears, Rod Perry and Anne Stearns. Administrators present were Superintendent Dr. Francis Baran and Finance Coordinator Tim Smith. Unable to attend was Principal Dr. Catherine Pinsonneault.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CELEBRATIONS/RECOGNITIONS:

- Dr. Baran presented celebrations from Dr. Pinsonneault who could not attend tonight's meeting.
- Congratulations to 6th grader Ella Ausburger, the 2019 Scotland Elementary Bananagram Champion and runner up 4th grader Abby Sears.
 - Congratulations to Windham County State Fire Prevention poster winners 4th grader Taylor Lawrence and 5th grader Taylor Kohanski.

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

A letter was received from Scotland Town Clerk Christine Bright regarding request for number of births in Scotland which couldn't be provided due to confidentiality laws.

A letter was received from Recreation Commission Chair Peter Martin regarding evening use of the gym for recreation for Scotland residents.

5. COMMUNICATION WITH THE AUDIENCE: None

6. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – ADDITIONAL BUSINESS MAY BE CONSIDERED AT A REGULAR MEETING UPON A 2/3 VOTE OF THOSE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD PRESENT AND VOTING, PER STATE STATUTE:

#1-18/19 Motion to add to agenda Executive Session to discuss School Climate as Item #18B, was made by Scott Sears, seconded by Anne Stearns and carried unanimously.

#2-18/19 Motion to move Item #9A to Item #13D, was made by Sherry Smardon, seconded by Scott Sears and carried unanimously.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

#3-18/19 Motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 5, 2019, was made by Sherry Smardon, seconded by Scott Sears and carried with one abstention by Sherry Smardon.

8. FINANCE COORDINATOR REPORT:

A. Financial Report:

The Board reviewed the Financial Statements.

B. Approval of Financial Statement:

#4-18/19 Motion to approve the Financial Statements dated March 28, 2019, was made by Steve Kurcinik, seconded by Sherry Smardon and carried unanimously.

9. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

A. FY 19-20 Budget: Moved to Item #13D.

B. 2018-2019 Budget Update:

Legal Services are over budget due to negotiations (contracts are being finalized). Other items that are over budget are Regular Education Tuition, Special Education, Building/Grounds/Maintenance (due to replacing oil pump module, replacing back up batteries for fire system, fire suppression inspection in kitchen, replacing generator battery and fuel oil). Overages will be offset by other areas in the budget that are under budget.

C. Solar Panel Update:

Dr. Baran is following and tracking kilowatt use. January was about 27% and February was about 47%. Months that are expected to produce the most savings are May through September. The Solar Panel Learning Station will be brought to the school after a final inspection.

D. Fire Inspection Report Update:

A letter was sent to the Fire Marshall regarding completion of all listed corrections. A final inspection was held on April 1st with the Fire Marshall pleased about a job well done, especially in the Technology Room.

E. 2018-2019 Calendar Update:

To date, the school was closed three days due to a power outage and two snow days. The last day for students is Monday, June 17th and Tuesday, June 18th for staff. Brynn Lipstreu suggested moving back the last day of school. The issue will be discussed at the next meeting.

F. Lunch Program Update:

The March average participation for breakfast was 50 (down slightly) and 80 for lunch (up slightly). The top choice for lunch was Brunch for Lunch.

G. Other: None

10. PRINCIPAL REPORT:

Dr. Baran presented the Principal Report.

A. Teacher Evaluation (TEVAL) Update:

- The final round of classroom walkthroughs is wrapping up.
- Final goal meetings will be held in May.

B. Professional Development Opportunities:

Professional Development included the following:

- Mrs. Stefon and Dr. Pinsonneault attended Teacher of the Year Day at the Mark Twain House.
- The Nurse attended emergency training for bleed out conditions.

C. Current Enrollment:

Current enrollment is at 102 and expected to go down to 101.

D. Other:

The Drama presentation “Emperor’s New Clothes” will be held on April 3rd at 6pm.

11. FRIENDS OF SES REPORT:

Michelle Murray presented Friends of SES Report. Family Game Night will be held on Friday, April 5th. Activities are being planned to bring students together from the three elementary schools (Scotland, Hampton and Chaplin).

12. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Non-Renewal Non-Tenured Teachers (Action Anticipated):

#5-18/19 Sherry Smardon made a motion for the contracts for the following non-tenured teachers not be renewed for the FY2019-20 school year: Jessica Allaire, Joanne Lowney, Carol Sweat, Elizabeth Tucker and Michelle Wildowsky. The motion was seconded by Scott Sears and carried unanimously.

13. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Policy 1330 Community use of School Facilities (Action Anticipated):

Dr. Baran presented Policy #1330 with no changes. Anne Stearns and Sherry Smardon expressed concerns with this policy making use of the school not easily accessible by the community. Rod Perry expressed concerns with Security. Sherry Smardon suggested checking to see if another alarm panel can be obtained for access to a specific area. Approval of the policy is tabled pending Dr. Baran obtaining information on another alarm panel to isolate areas of the school.

B. Policy 6135 Eligibility to Participate in Inter-Scholastic Athletics at PHHS (Action Anticipated):

Dr. Baran presented revised Policy #6135 with changed wording for clarification.
#6-18/19 Motion to approve revised Policy #6135, Eligibility to Participate in Inter-Scholastic Athletics at PHHS as presented, was made by Anne Stearns, seconded by Sherry Smardon and carried unanimously.

C. Discuss Return of Funds to Town:

Discussion was held regarding returning funds to the town. Rod Perry reported that the town will lose \$91,000 in ECS funding, has the highest percentage of students at Parish Hill at a cost of \$263,139 and Teacher Retirement funding (not yet approved) that represents 3.2 mills. Dr. Baran presented a wish list of mostly small items from the teachers. The Board will provide items from the teacher’s wish list. Anne Stearns would like the Superintendent and Principal to develop a Wish List of large items that would benefit the school as a whole.

#7-18/19 Motion for Dr. Baran and Dr. Pinsonneault to purchase as many items as possible from the Teacher’s Wish List, look at the Reading and Writing programs, and develop a Wish List of large items (including outside activities with an educational value) for review, was made by Sherry Smardon, seconded by Cassidy Martin and carried unanimously.

D. FY 19-20 Budget:

The Board was presented with the FY 19-20 budget with a 0% increase. Changes to the budget from what was previously presented include: increase for the Audit (new auditor), increase for Food Services (3% increase by EASTCONN), decrease for PPT Services/Occupational Therapist (reduced from 2 days to 1 day with funding moved to other Professional Services and Unemployment), and decrease for Paras. Transportation is shared 50/50 with the town. The budget includes negotiated contracts. Brynn Lipstreu expressed concerns with the need for updated Reading and Writing programs.

#8-18/19 Motion to approve the Scotland Board of Education FY 2019-20 budget dated April 2, 2019 as submitted, was made by Steve Kurcinik, seconded by Anne Stearns and carried unanimously.

14. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Climate Committee:

The Committee is looking for a 6th member and surveys are being developed.

B. Transportation Committee: No Report

C. Tri-Town BOE Meeting Update: Waiting for meeting date

D. CABE/EASTCONN:

The EASTCONN Director is working on approving a plumber and electrician. A new Board liaison is needed to replace Anne Stearns who will not be running for re-election in November.

E. Readiness Council Report:

Grants are being written and will be finalized at the next meeting. Discussion was held regarding the enumeration letter. The Council reached out to the Superintendent of Chaplin and the First Selectman of Chaplin regarding joining the Readiness Council. The Superintendent expressed interest.

F. Policies Committee: Covered already

G. Personnel Committee: No Report

H. Technology Committee:

The next meeting will be held in May.

15. SECOND AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS:

Mr. Barton suggested converting the hot water heater to electric for savings. He also asked who would set the alarm on the night of a Board meeting that runs past 9pm if the Superintendent and Principal are absent. Dr. Baran reported that the custodian would need to stay to set the alarm.

Mr. Coporale thanked the Board for approving items on the wish list. The Chromebooks are great for the students but as a teacher, he relies more on a PC as a valuable resource.

Michelle Murray asked if the lunch program will continue with EASTCONN and if the Friends of SES need to provide a form to use the facility. Dr. Baran reported that the lunch program will continue with EASTCONN and a Facilities Use Form will be provided to the Friends of SES. Mrs. Murray also expressed concerns with communication between classes and consistent field trips (discontinuing Nature’s Classroom). Sherry Sardon reported that many students did not want to attend Nature’s Classroom and were more receptive to local field trips which reduced the loss of academic time at school along with cost savings. Class trips are normally led by parents with support from the Board. Dr. Baran expressed concerns with Dr. Pinsonneault not being present to address communication concerns.

16. NEXT STEP HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:

Dr. Baran will check on converting water heater, check with the alarm company on an alarm panel, and obtain the Building Use Form for the Board and Mrs. Murray.

17. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS:

- 2018-19 Budget Update
- Solar Panel Update
- 2018-19 Calendar Update
- Lunch Program Update
- CABE/EASTCONN Liaison
- Policy #1330 Community use of School Facilities

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION ANTICIPATED:

A. Review proposed 2019-2020 to 2021-2022 contract with the MEUI, SEIU Local 506:

B. Discussion of School Climate:

#9-18/19 Motion to enter into Executive Session (8:45 PM) for the purpose of discussing proposed 2019-2020 to 2021-2022 contract with the MEUI, SEIU Local 506; discussing School Climate and invite the Superintendent to attend, was made by Sherry Sardon, seconded by Scott Sears and carried unanimously.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:00 PM.

19. NEW BUSINESS:

A. 2019-2020 to 2021-2022 contract with the MEUI, SEIU Local 506 (Action Anticipated):

#10-18/19 Motion to approve the paraeducator 2019-2020 to 2021-2022 contract with the MEUI, SEIU Local 506, was made by Sherry Sardon, seconded by Scott Sears and carried unanimously.

20. ADJOURNMENT:

#11-18/19 Motion to adjourn (9:01 PM) was made Sherry Sardon, seconded by Rod Perry and carried unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Scott
Recording Clerk*