

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.

CHAPLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION
Chaplin, Connecticut
Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2016

Chairperson Stacy Foster called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Present were Board members Stephanie Harrington, Will Hooper, Jaclyn Chancey and Justin Rondash. Administrators present were Superintendent Ken Henrici and Principal Patricia King. Unable to attend was Board members John Bolduc and Jamie Spalding.

2. AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS:

A letter was read from Heather Zevetchin regarding concerns with the administration addressing issues and complaints. The Board was asked not to renew the Principal's contract.

- Shannon Joubert presented parent survey results regarding experiences at Chaplin Elementary and asked the Board to consider not renewing the Principal's contract.
- Cherilyn Desautels presented anonymous survey results from staff and teachers regarding morale and communication and asked the Board not to renew the Principal's contract.
- Melody Robitaille expressed concerns with the number of grievances and the cost with the current administration and asked the Board not to renew the Principal's contract.
- Melissa Strickett expressed concerns with the downward spiral of Chaplin Elementary and the large number of staff that has left the school. She asked if exit interviews were held to determine why.
- Jas Roman expressed concerns with safety and climate issues and asked the Board not to renew the Principal's contract.
- Jeff McCartney expressed concerns with the impact of education on attracting homeowners to town, the financial management and the cost to send children elsewhere. He asked the Board to consider these factors when reviewing the Principal's contract.
- Ms. Stone suggested the Board consider the results of both surveys with a large majority demanding a change in the administration and asked the Board not to renew the Principal's contract.
- Amy Ouimette has addressed her concerns to the Board many times and urged the Board not to renew the Principal's contract.
- Michelle Bolduc who did not receive the survey supports the school and the administration.
- William Jordan expressed concerns with having to send his child to another school.
- School Social Work Lisa Marie Rivera expressed concerns with bullying and the divide at Chaplin Elementary. She encouraged the Board to visit the school to view the school climate.
- Vanessa Maddaloni expressed concerns with how issues are handled and encouraged the Board to consider how many upset parents there are.
- A retired staff member expressed concerns with not being accepted as a substitute.
- Elizabeth Coulombe expressed concerns with the significant negative changes at the school.
- Glen Piaseczny expressed concerns with the treatment of parents and asked the Board to respond to parents at a public meeting.
- Katy Pearl expressed concerns with the number of grievances at a great expense and urged the Board not to renew the Principal's contract.

- Denise Stevens expressed concerns with the administration and asked the Board not to renew the Principal's contract.
- Chad Benjamin experienced no problems with the previous administration and asked the Board to consider parent concerns when reviewing the current Principal's contract.
- Elizabeth Barr expressed concerns with issues presented at tonight's meeting.

Stacy Foster reported that the number of grievances and costs presented are not correct. Accurate information is being compiled by the Superintendent. She also presented the procedure to address issues: Contact the teacher, then the Principal, then the Superintendent, then written notice to the Board. The Principal's contract expires next year. There will be an agenda item to discuss the school climate.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

A. Approval of Minutes – March 9, 2016:

Motion to approve the minutes of March 9, 2016, was made by Justin Rondash with the following corrections: Item #4A should read – Donna Dufresne and Instructional Consultant Sarah Haynes presented PowerPoint on educational tools with I pads that will be used as a tool to increase student achievement. Stacey Poole presented the Monthly Report. *The motion was seconded by Jaclyn Chancey and carried unanimously.*

B. Approval of Financial Statement:

71% of the budget has been spent to date. There is a budget freeze for non-essential expenditures.

Motion to approve the Financial Statement dated March 31, 2016, was made by Jaclyn Chancey, seconded by Will Hooper and carried with one abstention by Justin Rondash.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

A. Monthly Report: None

B. Principal's Report:

Enrollment is at 174 students.

- Smarter Balanced Assessment and Northwest Evaluation Association's Measures of Academic Performance will begin April 27th.
- There will be no changes to the payment structure for the remainder of the school year for PreK. The RFP for the School Readiness Grant has been submitted to the state.
- Invention Convention will begin April 15th with twelve students displaying their inventions.
- Earth Day Celebration will be held on April 26th with multiple learning stations setup for hands on science experiences. It will also kick off the schoolwide composting project.
- Star Gazing will be held on April 14th with Author Bob Crelin holding workshops for each grade.
- Town Hall meeting will be held on April 15th with topics to include: kicking off the annual assessments and PTO fundraiser.
- Screen Free Week will be held from April 25-29 with activities including: poster contest, family board game night and nature hike.
- The annual Road Race will be held on June 4th.
- ConServ in conjunction with Eversource has completed the building lighting project.

C. Superintendent's Report:

1. Education Cost Sharing Reductions-Appropriations Committee Recommendations, Governor's Proposal:
The Governor's budget has a large deficit and many areas will be cut including education cost sharing and municipal aid.
2. Mastery-Based, Personalized Learning:
Public education is advancing based on activities outside the classroom such as the school greenhouse at Chaplin Elementary.
3. Unfunded Mandates-Burden on Local Districts:
The state has the habit of establishing new mandates but not funding them with a huge financial impact to school districts. The legislature will be asked to not pose new mandates for at least one year and review the current mandate structure.
4. Board of Finance Public Hearing on CES 16-17 Budget-April 11:
The Chaplin Elementary budget and RD11 budget were presented at the BOF Public Hearing on April 11th. The Chaplin Elementary budget has a 2.94% increase with two variables that could reduce the increase: MBR (a strong case has been appealed to the state) and Early Retirement Incentive Plan (the opt-in date has been changed to May 16th).
5. School Security Audit-May 4:
A school security audit will be held on May 4th in coordination with the State Police and Homeland Security. Cameras will be installed in the corridors and an AC will be installed in the cafeteria.
6. Empty Bowl-April 28-4:00-6:00pm-Parish Hill:
The Empty Bowl is the community event of the year with a bowl for \$10 (made by students, staff and the community) that can be used to enjoy various donated soups. Proceeds will be donated to the Willimantic Soup Kitchen.

5. BUSINESS CARRIED OVER FROM LAST MEETING (OLD BUSINESS):

A. Tri-Town Education Update – Four Boards of Education and Subcommittee meetings:

The last meeting was cancelled and rescheduled for April 14th at Hampton Elementary from 7-9pm. The meeting is open to the public. The Cost Committee is compiling basic tuition costs to tuition out students including special education costs. The Survey Committee hasn't met. The Shared Services Committee will present an update in May.

B. Update on Early Retirement Incentive Plan:

A meeting was held to review changes with the teachers with an extended deadline of May 16th.

C. Proposal for Shared Technology Services for Town of Chaplin and Chaplin Board of Education:

The Technology Coordinator visited the Town Hall to do a technology assessment and will draft a formal proposal for the Board.

D. Final Approval of Board Policies:

a. #6000 Concept and Roles in Instruction:

Motion to approve Policy #6000, Concept and Roles in Instruction, was made by Jaclyn Chancey, seconded by Stephanie Harrington and carried unanimously.

b. #6010 Goals and Objectives:

Motion to approve Policy #6010, Goals and Objectives, was made by Jaclyn Chancey, seconded by Will Hooper and carried unanimously.

- c. **#6111 School Calendar:** Already approved
- d. **#6112 School Day:** Already approved
- e. **#6114 Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness:**
Motion to approve Policy #6114, Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness, was made by Will Hooper, seconded by Stephanie Harrington and carried unanimously.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Approval of Revised Assessment Ration for Central Office Committee:

The assessment ratio was changed to 69% RD11/31% CES to reflect enrollment except the Special Education Director which is 67%/33%. The position is part-time with two days at Parish Hill and one day at Chaplin Elementary.

Motion to add to approve Revised Assessment Ratio for the Central Office Committee, was made by Jaclyn Chancey, seconded by Will Hooper and carried with one abstention by Justin Rondash.

Motion to add to agenda as Item #6B, Approval of final Central Office Committee FY 2016-17 Budget, was made by Jaclyn Chancey, seconded by Stephanie Harrington and carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the final Central Office Committee FY 2016-17 Budget, was made by Jaclyn Chancey, seconded by Stephanie Harrington and carried with one abstention by Justin Rondash.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Policy Committee:

Stacy Foster asked the Committee to review policy on Bullying. Will Hooper will attend security audit and take notes for anything that impacts policies.

B. Negotiations Committee:

Commence date for teacher negotiations is August 12th and the BOF must be notified 30 days prior to that date.

C. Central Office Committee:

The Committee reviewed and approved the budget and assessments. They also reviewed and discussed a 457B Plan for the three Secretaries.

D. By-Laws Review Special Committee: No Report

8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

- Tri-Town Education Update – Four Boards of Education and Subcommittee meetings
- Shared Technology Services Proposal
- Preliminary Policies
- Update on Early Retirement Incentive Plan
- Discussion of School Climate

Justin Rondash asked for previous school climate surveys.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for May 11th

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn (7:59 PM) was made by Justin Rondash, seconded by Will Hooper and carried unanimously.

*Respectfully Submitted by Kathleen Scott
Recording Secretary*