

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

June 10, 2015

Chairperson Alycia Sanders called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Present were Board members John Bolduc, Annemarie Burnham and Stacy Foster. Administrators present were Superintendent Ken Henrici and Principal Patricia King. Unable to attend were Board members Stephanie Harrington, Keri Johnson and Angelina Pearce.

Chair Alycia Sanders presented information from CABA on litigation regarding Student Activity Fund & Embezzlement and a California case on teacher tenure.

2. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD: None

3. AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS:

Motion to add to agenda Monthly Report before item #4, was made by John Bolduc, seconded by Stacy Foster and carried unanimously.

Nila Otilige presented the Monthly Report.

- The 1st grade had a field trip to Roger Williams Zoo sponsored by the PTO. They were also busy with end of year assessments and writing a published book.
- \$285 was raised for the victims of the Nepal earthquake.
- The 3rd and 4th grade visited CT state buildings. They elected a Governor for each class and voted on a new law to add more school days.
- The 4th grade participated in end of year Quest activities and team skills with Vallari's followed by a barbecue lunch.
- The 5th grade created magnetic bumper stickers, learned about Benedict Arnold, did writing activities, observed the different phases of the moon and visited Plimouth Plantation funded by the PTO.
- 4-6th grade students in SLAB participated in leadership projects including the Coventry Soup Kitchen and the SLAB Café. A fundraiser for the Hole in the Wall Camp will be held in the fall.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

A. Approval of Minutes – May 13, 2015:

Motion to approve the minutes of May 13, 2015, was made by Stacy Foster with the following corrections: The attendance should read – Unable to attend were Board members John Bolduc and Angelina Pearce. Item #4 should read – Each meal ended with the ORT Report and ORT song which the students performed for the Board. Item #6b should read – The administration was disappointed with the response from the attempts to partner with the School Readiness Council with Hampton and Scotland. Item #10 should read – Board of Finance Chair Dick Weingart encouraged all to vote at the referendum next Tuesday, May 19th. *The motion was seconded by Alycia Sanders and carried with one abstention by John Bolduc.*

B. Approval of Financial Statement:

Motion to approve the Financial Statement through June 3, 2015, was made by Annemarie Burnham, seconded by Stacy Foster and carried unanimously.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

A. Principal's Report:

Enrollment is at 173 students and there are no staffing changes.

- The talent portion focuses on T-Eval (all certified staff formal and information observations completed), PDEC has met to propose revisions to the T-Eval Plan, PD will be held on June 22nd and there are open positions for Instructional Consultant and Instructional Assistant.
- The academic portion focuses on Assessments (SBAC completed for 2015 with 17 students who did not participate), published writing (each student will produce one final published piece of writing that will go into their portfolio). Summer School will be held from June 29th-July 24th with 20 students enrolled.
- The culture and climate portion focuses on Memorial Day celebration held on May 22nd (very moving), school climate survey (collaborating with EASTCONN to oversee the distribution and compilation), school-wide summer reading incentive (book bags with two books going home with each student funded by the PTO and CREW).
- The operations portion focuses on technology (installed new Xerox copier in teacher workroom, email switch from Rackspace to Outlook, revised the Technology Grant).
- End-of-Year activities include the following:
 - Field Day – June 11th
 - Town Hall Meeting – June 12th 2pm
 - 6th Grade Promotion and Class Night – June 17th at 7pm
 - Awards Ceremony Grades 4-6 – June 18th at 10:30am
 - EOY Softball – June 19th

B. Superintendent's Report:

1. CABE Legislative Workshop – New Legislation: Child Abuse Reporting (penalty is now a felony), E-Cigarettes (same category as cigarettes and tobacco), Municipal Communications Regarding Referenda (extended to regional districts), Childhood Vaccinations (religious beliefs extended to parents), MBR (higher cap with more flexibility), Restraint and Seclusion (now applies to all students), Reporting of Data Regarding SPED Expenditures (expanded reporting requirements), Chronic Absenteeism (requires reporting truancy every year), Student Assessments (SBAC) (will be replaced in grade 11). Some districts have high opt out rates.
2. Small District Superintendent's Meeting – June 4 – Priorities for Small Districts:
The major focus is still the Excess Cost Grant and the MBR.
3. Capital Improvements -15/16 –Summer Projects – Window Blind Replacement, Tractor – Capital Improvement, Roof Repair – Non-Lapsing Account:
The Board of Finance has been very supportive with capital improvements.
4. Health Insurance Carrier Change – Update:
The transition to new insurance carrier is going smoothly.
5. Paraprofessional/Custodian Negotiations – Update – Next Session – June 17
6. Financial Assistant – CES Accounts Payable:
Val Garrison from Chaplin is working one day a week with a goal of assuming a larger financial role.
7. Central Office Committee – Assessment Ratio/Percentage:

Some residents from other towns feel that the present assessment ratio (75% for RD11 and 25% for CES) is not equitable. The Scotland Board of Selectman voted at their meeting the possibility of withholding assessments and proposed a 60/40 split. Any change to the compact needs to be made by the Central Office Committee.

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

A. Milone & MacBroom School Study Update:

Scotland is organizing a meeting with the four Boards of Education on June 30th to discuss the possibility of cooperative agreements. The CES Board would like to discuss what's best for the students and the best way to proceed.

Motion to move Item #9 Public Comment on Potential Cooperation with Surround Towns to Item #6A, was made by Alycia Sanders, seconded by John Bolduc and carried unanimously.

Marita Dubitsky from Chaplin asked the Board to keep an open mind with all the options from the school study. She expressed concerns with declining enrollment and high costs that are driving families out of town.

Eric Kemp from Chaplin encouraged the Board to read the Milone & MacBroom report that identified serious problems in the three towns. He also encouraged the Boards to come together and move forward.

CES teacher Lena Rossi expressed concerns with the size of the classes and proposed that amazing things could come out of schools that are age-based.

Tina Haesche from Chaplin agreed with the above comments and expressed concerns with poor communication on all levels. She also expressed concerns with the limited opportunities and being able to sell a house in town. The Boards need to formulate the next steps.

Board member Stacy Foster expressed the need to balance both sides of the opinion and work together to move forward.

B. Budget Projection Update (FY 14-15):

The budget projection deficit for FY 14-15 is \$160,000 as of May 21st. A lot of progress has been made to reduce the deficit. The budget has been frozen for many weeks.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Review of 2014-2015 Academic Year:

Principal King presented end of the year review of school-wide academic growth goal. Students had an average of 10 point RIT growth in reading.

B. Summer School Update: Covered under the Principal Report

C. Board of Education Summer Meeting Schedule:

Motion to cancel the July 8th meeting for this summer, was made by John Bolduc, seconded by Stacy Foster and carried unanimously.

Motion to move the date of the August BOE meeting from August 12th to August 19th at 6:30 PM, was made by John Bolduc, seconded by Stacy Foster and carried unanimously.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Committees May Report Information to the Board):

A. Policy Committee:

The Committee is making progress on policies and waiting for input from the administration.

B. Negotiations Committee:

Negotiations are ongoing with dates set for June 17th and July 15th.

C. Central Office Committee:

Discussion was held regarding the projected surplus of approximately \$9,000 and the percentage of ratio for assessments. The Superintendent Evaluation was completed.

D. By-Laws Review Special Committee: No Report

9. PUBLIC COMMENT ON POTENTIAL COOPERATION WITH SURROUNDING TOWNS:

Moved to item #6B.

10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

- Tri-town BOE meeting update
- Summer School
- End of Year Curriculum Assessments
- RIT Growth in Math
- School Climate Survey
- Budget

Motion to enter into Executive Session (8:25 PM) for the purpose of discussing Superintendent Evaluation and Legal Matter, was made by Stacy Foster, seconded by Alycia Sanders and carried unanimously.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:51 PM.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn (8:52 PM) was made by John Bolduc, seconded by Annemarie Burnham and carried unanimously.

*Respectfully Submitted by Kathleen Scott
Recording Secretary*