

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 8, 2015

Chairperson Alycia Sanders called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM. Present were Board members John Bolduc, Stacy Foster (6:50) and Angelina Pearce. Administrators present were Superintendent Ken Henrici and Principal Patricia King. Unable to attend were Board members Annemarie Burnham, Stephanie Harrington and Keri Johnson.

2. AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS:

Chairperson Alycia Sanders read the following letters:

- Letter from John Smith regarding parental concerns and its effect on children.
- Letter from Vanessa Maddoloni regarding concerns with bullying and administration salary in the budget.
- Letter from Amy Ouimette regarding concerns with changes in programs, reduction in speech services and teacher layoffs.
- Letter from Ashley Costas regarding concerns with the number of students in 2nd grade (would like the class to be split), the amount of time allotted to speak during audience for citizens and a teacher being moved to part-time.
- Letter from Joanna Martin regarding concerns with cuts or non-renewal of staff.
- Letter from Heather Spaulding regarding concerns with 1.5 teachers being cut, combining two 1st grades that were previously split and change in when music is offered.
- Letter from Katie Pearl regarding concerns with teacher being let go and uncertainty with the PreK program.
- Letter from Shannon Joubert regarding how the school is being run and similar complaints mentioned.

Nila Ottilige expressed concerns regarding students that could benefit from speech services and do not qualify for special education. She also expressed the need for the early intervention reading program.

Brad Caron expressed concerns with disconnect between parents and the leadership. He suggested finding a way to communicate and help parents understand what's going on.

Alycia Sanders reported that staff must be notified by May 1st that a reduction in force may happen based on the budget.

Principal King reported that staffing for the building has not been determined yet for the coming school year.

Superintendent Henrici reported that the outplaced student has moved out of the district as of April 1st.

3. BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

- The Board was sent information on the web page.
- A trial hearing on an overpayment was held on March 25th with a decision pending.
- Information on a CABE Web Seminar is available for any interested Board member.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

A. Approval of Minutes – March 11, 2015 and March 19, 2015:

Motion to approve the minutes of March 11, 2015, was made by John Bolduc with the following corrections: Item #9E should read – The secretarial position has a highly favorable salary as compared to the other secretaries in the tri-town region. Hampton Elementary and Scotland Elementary are not assessed a share of the Central Office budget. *The motion was seconded by Angelina Pearce and carried unanimously.*

B. Approval of Financial Statement:

As of March 19th, there is a deficit of approximately \$200,000 in the budget.

Motion to approve the Financial Statement through March 30, 2015, was made by Angelina Pearce, seconded by Stacy Foster and carried unanimously.

5. MONTHLY REPORT (CES STAFF):

Nila Ottilige presented the monthly report.

PreK – The theme for March is Dinosaurs with a visit to the CT Science Center with 18 different activities.

Kindergarten – is working on informational pieces of writing, math and focusing on new social skills.

1st Grade – is reading about the arrival of spring and sweet maple syrup, learning about evaporation and filtering and visited a local sugar shack.

2nd Grade – is writing poetry for poetry month and some poems were shared with those in attendance.

3rd Grade – is supporting writing by drafting a weekly letter to home about their week and also doing comic strips.

4th Grade – held a March Madness with top 16 books placed into a brackets for a tournament. There were two overtimes that were closer than the UCONN basketball games.

5th Grade – worked on improving work habits with reading, writing, math and sharing opinions in language arts. They reviewed the pros and cons of zoos by writing poems and learned how to make persuasive bumper stickers.

6th Grade – is working on new concepts with ratios and proportions, reading short fantasy and writing their own short fantasy.

Thanks to Mr. Roman, parents and staff who built new tables and fixed up the greenhouse. The 5th grade will be planting seeds for the Plant Sale in May. A tool shed and composter are needed and the school is looking for donations of tools, potting soil and watering cans.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

A. Principal's Report:

- Enrollment is at 171 students.
- The Talent portion focused on forming a T-Eval Committee to review the current Teacher Evaluation Plan and determine if revisions are necessary. Professional Development will be

held on April 10th on Smarter Balanced Assessment prep, Foundations of Reading practice, Recognizing the Signs of Autism workshop and Understanding Dyslexia webinar. The technology staff conducted a site visit of Tourtellotte Memorial High School to participate in collaborative networking session.

- The Academics portion focused on Smarter Balanced Assessment and Measures of Academic Performance to be held April 27-May 27. Representatives from Chaplin School Readiness Council met with members of the Hampton/Scotland regional SRC to discuss joining forces. CES will roll out new report card format for the fall of 2015.
- The Culture and Climate portion focused on Town Hall Meetings with topics that included: school wide kindness initiative, building a mindset of cooperation, and highlighting the 5th grade's zoo thesis project and SLAB's well project kick off. Family Night was held on March 18th as an opportunity for parents/guardians to learn about the Common Core, the new standardized report cards, curriculum and intervention programs.
- The Operations portion focused on a new Xerox copier for the teacher's room with an annual savings of \$200.

B. Superintendent's Report:

- The new insurance carrier is ConnectiCare. A meeting was held on April 6th with the bargaining units of all entities. Coverage will be comparable or better than Anthem. Open enrollment will be held in May.
- The Vertical Teaming Committee focused on what incoming 7th graders know or need to know about technology. The 6th grade teachers will create a technology skills survey. All schools will use the same assessment tools.
- School Readiness was covered in the Principal's Report.
- The budget picture is bleak for the state budget. ECS Funds are projected to be flat funded (same as the last 4 years) and state reimbursement for breakfast (10 cents per meal) may be eliminated. A major fiscal issue is the excess cost grant.

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

A. Milone & MacBroom School Study Update:

The report for the school study is available on the website. Hampton Chairperson John Burnham suggested the Boards from all three towns meet on April 29th to discuss the study. The next Public Hearing for the School Study will be held on April 21st.

Motion to add to agenda Retirement Letter from Linda Rogers as Item #8B, was made by John Bolduc, seconded by Alycia Sanders and carried unanimously.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Executive Session/Business Item – Discussion and Action Regarding Non-Renewal and/or Reduction in Force of One or More Certified Teacher(s):

The teachers affected by non-renewal and/or reduction in force requested discussion and action be held in open session.

Motion for Non-Renewal of contract of Heidi Hand based on budgetary reasons, was made by Stacy Foster, seconded by Alycia Sanders and carried unanimously.

Motion for Reduction in Force from 1.0 FTE to .5 FTE for the 2015-2016 school year for Kaitlin Beavan, was made by Stacy Foster, seconded by Alycia Sanders and carried unanimously.

B. Retirement Letter from Linda Rogers:

Motion to accept with regret Retirement Letter from Linda Rogers effective the end of the 2014-15 School Year, was made by John Bolduc, seconded by Stacy Foster and carried unanimously.

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

A. Policy Committee:

An additional member is needed on this Committee.

B. Negotiations Committee:

The next meeting will be held on April 23rd at 7pm.

C. Central Office Committee:

The Committee will meet before the end of the year.

D. By-Laws Review Special Committee: No Report

10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

- Milone & MacBroom School Study Update
- Sick Bank Update

11. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

*Respectfully Submitted by Kathleen Scott
Recording Secretary*