

*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**

### **Regular Meeting Minutes**

**August 6, 2024**

**Cassidy Martin called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Board members present were Brittany Santiago, Beth Troeger, Gracie Martin (online), Kaitlyn Shafer and Lisa LaBelle. Administrators present were Superintendent Valerie Bruneau, Principal Ann Knowles and Finance Coordinator Michele Demicco. Absent was Board member Clark Stearns.**

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chair read the Intro Statement.

**2. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** None

**3. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:** None

#### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **Regular Meeting of July 9, 2024:** Tabled until next month

**5. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD OR DELETE AGENDA ITEMS:** None

#### **6. CELEBRATIONS – NEW HIRES, STUDENT UPDATES:**

Welcome to new Physical Ed/Health teacher Cory Hunt (online). Other new staff includes: Special Ed teacher Stacey Mosley, Full-time Social Worker Dr. Jara Rijs, Daytime Custodian Annie Scanlon, paraprofessional Antonia Viteritto (replaces Sue Martineau - retired).

#### **7. REPORTS**

##### **A. Chairperson’s Oral Report:**

The Board event went well with good feedback from RD11 and Hampton (want to do again). Meeting with the new Superintendent at RD11 on Friday (Board asked for any topics they wish to bring up).

##### **B. Superintendent’s Report:**

- Mental Health grant for Bloom services renewed (\$89,000).
- Afterschool Grant continues with the same funding as last year.
- Mental Health component for ESY will continue for next year.
- BOS will add approval to create 2% BOE Non-Lapsing Account to their August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda.
- ESY went well (small reimbursements from Hampton for expenses not covered).
- Received notification about radon not in compliance (required every 3 years - no forms on file for 2021) – coming Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Need to catch up on mandate for asbestos - Management Plan not in compliance (waiting for quote).
- HVAC compliance issue (expensive) requires hiring agency with subcontractors to look at everything – would need to close school for a week. Received quote from Fuss & O’Neil (First Selectmen approved using CNR funds and signed right to proceed.)
- Applying for DAS Grant (Department of Administrative Services).
- Received Stronger Connections Grant (\$3,492) available for Oct. Resource Fair (7 vendors confirmed).
- CABE Convention November 15-16 – (let Valerie know asap if attending – high attendance expected).

##### **C. Principal’s Report:**

- Getting ready to go back to school with enrollment at 98 students (ended this year with 98 students).

- Not offering Early Bird or Before Care this year (difficult to staff).
- Moving forward with yearly PMT Training (new paras the start of school, renewal for administration).
- Very excited to be fully staffed (great enthusiasm).
- Theme for this year is Adventures & Exploring - sent family packets out to parents.
- Very pleased with custodial staff that takes pride in their work.
- Excited about individualized learning with 6 students going to Parish Hill in the mornings for 7<sup>th</sup> grade Math.

Kaitlyn Shafer asked about number of STEM students – (discouraged with push for Science here at SES).

**D. Special Education Report:**

- ESY model for camp phenomenal (kids pulled out for services) with 15 students (not including PreK Boot Camp) and dedicated staff - loved interacting with Hampton. PreK Boot Camp very successful - went through daily routine in tandem with Bloom Camp.
- At 26 students with IEPs (some went on to Parish Hill). Compliant with all paperwork and referrals.
- Training opportunity for para educators provides free training and videos on all subjects (focus on building effective teacher/para relationships). Focus for Special Ed and General Ed -aligning IEP goals and objectives with state standards.

**E. Financial Report:**

98.6% of the budget spent for Fiscal Year 2024. Board presented with end of year requested transfers totaling \$14,326.51.

***#1-24/25 Motion to approve end of year requested transfers, made by Lisa LaBelle, seconded by Kaitlyn Shafer and carried unanimously.***

2.6% of the budget spent to date for the current fiscal year. The Business Office has a part-time college student working 15-20 hours a week. Moved forward with payroll service (more efficient).

***#2-24/25 Motion to approve August Financial Reports, made by Lisa LaBelle, seconded by Brittany Santiago and carried unanimously.***

**F. Shared Services updates:** Covered already

**G. Liaison Reports including Readiness Council & PTO:**

Technology – Administration asked if happy with EASTCONN (going well, consistently giving what's needed in a timely manner, only stumbling block is website - change in personnel).

Regional Issues – Negotiations coming up – need Board member (Kaitlyn volunteered).

Community Relations – Need Newsletter for beginning of the year (Beth suggested including October 19<sup>th</sup> Resource Fair) - will include with agenda for October meeting.

Readiness Council – will not meet until September.

PTO – not doing anymore (will do events through afterschool program). An incentive card program has started for families - stamped for each event attended (goes into prize drawing after 10 stamps).

**8. BOARD BUSINESS**

**A. Item: Approval of Contract with Fuss & O'Neil (HVAC Inspection – Discussion & Action)**

***#3-24/25 Motion to approve Contract with Fuss & O'Neil for HVAC Inspection, made by Lisa LaBelle, seconded by Brittany Santiago and carried unanimously.***

**B. Item: Continuation of BOE Evaluation (Discussion and Executive Session Anticipated)**

***#4-24/25 Motion to enter into Executive Session (8:05 PM) for the purpose of discussing BOE Evaluation, made by Brittany Santiago, seconded by Kaitlyn Shafer and carried unanimously.***

Gracie Martin logged off from the meeting.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:29 PM.

**9. OLD BUSINESS UPDATES:** None

**10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS:** None

**11. OTHER ACTION ITEMS:** None

**12. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- **Regular Board Meeting September 3, 2024**
- **Items for Next Meeting and Assignments:** Policies updates

**13. ADJOURNMENT:**

*#5-24/25 Motion to adjourn (8:45 PM) made by Kaitlyn Shafer, seconded by Lisa LaBelle and carried unanimously.*

*Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Scott  
Recording Clerk*