

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

January 6, 2026

Chair Cassidy Martin called meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Board members present: Clark Stearns, Beth Troeger, Michael Gile, Lisa LaBelle, Morgan Conley (online). Administrators present: Superintendent Valerie Bruneau, Principal Ann Knowles, Special Ed Director Dawn Davis (online).

Board recited Pledge of Allegiance; Chair read Intro Statement.

2. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

3. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD: Received email regarding positive feedback on Meet & Greet.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **Regular Meeting of December 2, 2025:**

#1-25/26 Lisa LaBelle motioned to approve December 2, 2025 regular meeting minutes, seconded by Beth Troeger and carried with abstention by Lisa LaBelle.

5. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD OR DELETE AGENDA ITEMS: None

6. CELEBRATIONS:

Get Together went very well with about 40 people attending including: representatives from the Local Governance Council, Local Prevention Council, BOE (Chaplin, Hampton, Bozrah, Pomfret, Ashford) – very informative with everyone sharing resources. This event prompted upcoming Breakfast Meeting with Board Chairs from Scotland, Ashford, Hampton and Pomfret (Legislative Breakfast this Thursday at Coventry HS).

7. REPORTS:

A. Chairperson's Oral Report: Covered already

B. Superintendent's Report – grant, facilities & budget projections:

- Local Prevention Council Grants– covered some of Meet & Greet dinner, received Opioid Reduction Grant (\$5,000) for Narcan Training on January 23rd at 5:30pm and February 10th at 4pm for anyone interested in the 5 towns, applying for Juul Grant (\$10,000) for Smoking Cessation program.
- Wellness Fair is October 3rd – hoping Fire Department will have their event the same day.
- Andover, Scotland and Chaplin will be part of EASTCONN Grants for field trips and academic programs.
- 2 new custodians working well together – school is very clean.
- Repairs needed – replace oil pump assembly (\$8-\$11,000 - \$44,000 for new pump station), replace ceiling fan in boiler room (motor seized - \$300), replace expansion tanks (broken bladder inside \$8-\$13,000 - now made with parts replaceable inside), AC outside library needs work. Looking at 2% account, capital account and Drip Grant (\$30,000) coming end of the year from the State – need to confirm what is eligible. Washer/dryer up and running.
- Working on budget numbers. Looking at keeping PreK robust by bringing in 9-12 new kids to the program with 12 – 6th graders this year), 3% contractual salary increase, trying no bid for insurance by staying with Anthem to get a better price, oil locked in at \$2.49 gallon (budget review next month).

C. Principal's Report – curriculum & instruction updates:

- Enrollment at 86 students (actively marketing early childhood for outside families).
- Health and CPR associates coming in to train 5th and 6th graders (done every other year).
- Most students came back after holiday break (lots of sickness with families).

- Beginning to look at opportunities for the Lion Dens with older students getting leadership roles (Student Council with 12 members, morning announcement by 6th grader with new morning motto – be responsible, be safe, be kind).
- Upcoming family event – Family Paint Night with large canvases (family events very well attended).
- Music Concert held before the break well attended by families.
- Hoping for fabulous run for 2026.

D. Special Education Report – updates:

In normal routine for the school year with meetings for large group exiting to Parish Hill, 2 new referrals for Special Ed evaluations, gearing up for ESY.

E. Financial Report – audit update:

Finance Coordinator working on completing items for the auditor and end of calendar year expenditure reports for grants. Some areas over expended (total budget not expected to go over).

#2-25/26 Clark Stearns motioned to approve Financial Report, seconded by Michael Gile and carried unanimously.

F. Shared Services updates: Covered already

G. Liaison Reports: None

8. BOARD BUSINESS:

1. Item: BOE Vacancy (Discussion & Possible Action):

Julie Conley interested in filling BOE vacancy – 15-year teacher in Windham (couple years at SES), her girls went through SES and grandkids here now (wants to be part of best education they receive here).

#3-25/26 Lisa LaBelle motioned to have Julie Conley fill BOE Vacancy, seconded by Michael Gile and carried unanimously.

2. Item: 2000's Policies 2nd Read (Discussion & Possible Action):

#4-25/26 Lisa LaBelle motioned to approve existing SES 2000's Policies with amended pronoun changes, seconded by Michael Gile and carried unanimously.

3. Item: Liaison Assignments (Discussion & Possible Action):

Communications – Julie Conley & Morgan Conley, **Shared Services & Grants** – Lisa LaBelle, **EASTCONN & Regional Affairs** – Michael Gile, **Finance & Capital** – Clark Stearns, **Policy** – Morgan Conley, **Curriculum Instruction & Technology** – Beth Troeger, **CABE Leadership** – Cassidy Martin.

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 February 3, 2026 at 6:30pm, Legislative Breakfast, Narcan Training
- Items for Next Meeting and Assignments: Policies updates, Nick Caruso (CABE), Energy Audit

13. ADJOURNMENT:

#5-25/26 Clark Stearns motioned to adjourn (7:49 PM), seconded by Lisa LaBelle and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Scott

Recording Clerk