

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
November 5, 2024

Chair Cassidy Martin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Board members present were Clark Stearns, Brittany Santiago, Beth Troeger, Gracie Martin, Kaitlyn Shafer and Lisa LaBelle. Administrators present were Superintendent Valerie Bruneau, Principal Ann Knowles, Special Ed Director Dawn Davis (online), Finance Coordinator Michele Demicco.

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 October 1, 2024:**

#1-24/25 Motion to approve October 1, 2024 regular meeting minutes, made by Lisa LaBelle, seconded by Kaitlyn Shafer and carried unanimously.

5. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD OR DELETE AGENDA ITEMS: None

6. CELEBRATIONS – BIRTHDAYS: Happy Birthday wishes (with cupcakes) to Lisa LaBelle and Cassidy Martin!

7. PRESENTATION OF SBAC SCORES (STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT):

SBAC scores presented with comparisons to other districts in the DERG (Scotland, Chaplin, Hampton, Brooklyn, Willington). Aim to have all students tested (1 exemption). Literacy is school-wide goal.

ELA (3 rd – 6 th grade)	43% met or exceeded expectations with 21% approaching
Math (3 rd – 6 th grade)	38% met or exceeded expectations with 35% approaching
Science (5 th grade)	58% met or exceeded expectations with 32% approaching

8. REPORTS:

A. Chairperson’s Oral Report:

The Back Sports Field at Parish Hill will be dedicated to Ken Henrici at 11:45 on Friday after the Veteran’s Luncheon (Ken’s favorite). There will be a plaque for the fence and a plaque for his family to take home.

B. Superintendent’s Report – grant & facilities updates; enrollment projections & Potential Staffing:

- HVAC results – failed in quite a few areas (about 26%) – will meet with company in Feb/Mar to discuss calibration of the vents.
- EASTCONN Technology paid for this year (tech person comes in twice a week). Slight increase in projected cost for next year.
- Oil locked-in at \$2.59 gallon for next year for consortium (Andover, Hampton, Scotland, and Town of Scotland). Current price is \$2.97 gallon.
- Teacher negotiations have begun with a calendar and schedule.
- Planning for the Health Wellness Fair with 20 vendors went well (not as well attended as hoped for). Flu vaccine attracted people from other area towns (21 administered). Planning again for next year and will try to do same day as Fire Department Open House.

- Food Service contract paid with reasonable price projected for next year.
- Roof inspected to find cause of brown spots on ceiling tiles in classrooms (found moss growing inside gutter, some worn shingles, solar panel bolts may need adjustment). Contractor will come back with Solar Company to look at.
- Insurance meeting will be held Dec. 18th for consortium (Scotland, Chaplin, Hampton, Parish Hill).
- Thank you to Beth Troeger who will attend EASTCONN January meeting (working on reconnecting).
- Funding lost for Title I and Title IV due to different criteria for federal funding (maybe related to problem with zip codes that affects voting or the ability to get federal funding – reached out to Joe Courtney and Chris Murphy).
- State ECS funding reformulated. Town's share for SES and Parish Hill is estimated at \$1.27 million for 2025 (estimated at \$850,000 by 2032).
- Started this school year with 19 – 6th graders with potential of starting next year with 10 less students. There are 4 – 1st graders this year - will need 2/3 combo for next year (2 teacher positions will be eliminated – offering incentives to leave).
- Will be out of the country week of Thanksgiving (Ann Knowles will be in charge with Superintendent Skarzinsky available for emergencies).

Gracie Martin left the meeting at 8pm.

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

- Added outplaced students (1) and STEM students (7) to enrollment.
- Very busy with family events that are well attended.
- P/T Conferences started today with 4, 5, 6 as a team with more on Thursday and Friday.
- Book Fair going on in the library with teachers posting wish lists for parents (scholastic dollars will be used to replaced older books).
- Attending Signs of Reading required for administrators (9 virtual sessions) with training available for educators. Push to get everyone to read (Hill Literacy tasked with statewide training).
- Great turnout of vendors for the Health Fair with incredible community resources and lots of freebies (community partners will be highlighted in the Principle's Newsletter).
- The 1st Cross Country meet was held in Chaplin (organized by the Scotland gym teacher – also doing fitness classes).
- PD was held today to roll out new Special Ed requirements coming out in January (IEPs and goals that align with standards).
- Marking period closes soon with Report Cards coming out after Thanksgiving.

D. Special Education Report:

- Special Ed is up and running with staff working really hard and getting ready for conferences.
- Census: 27 – IEP, 4 – 504 Plans, 4 – referral process, 1 – temporarily in therapeutic program.

E. Financial Report:

Michele Demicco reviewed summary of Financial Report with 24% of the budget spent to date.

#2-24/25 Motion to approve Financial Report, made by Lisa LaBelle, seconded by Clark Stearns and carried unanimously.

F. Shared Services updates: Covered already

G. Liaison Reports including Readiness Council:

Readiness Council – lot of changes coming - might turn into local governing group.

9. BOARD BUSINESS:

A. New Board Goals (Discussion and Possible Action):

Discussed Board Goals:

1. Vision

2. Policy Review
3. Community Relationships

#3-24/25 Motion to approve 2024-2027 Board of Education Goals, made by Kaitlyn Shafer, seconded by Brittany Santiago and carried unanimously.

B. Policies: Revised – 3000-3171 - 2nd read (Discussion & Possible Action):

- **#4-24/25 Motion to eliminate Policy 3000, made by Brittany Santiago, seconded by Lisa LaBelle and failed with the following vote:
NO: Clark Stearns, Brittany Santiago, Beth Troeger, Kaitlyn Shafer, Lisa LaBelle.**
- **#5-24/25 Motion to eliminate Policy 3010, made by Clark Stearns, seconded by Kaitlyn Shafer and carried unanimously.**
- **#6-24/25 Motion to approve Policy 3000, made by Clark Stearns, seconded by Lisa LaBelle and carried unanimously.**

Some policies not recommended or required by CAFE (Cassidy noted CAFE offers audit of policies – Valerie will check with CAFE). Table remainder of policies.

10. OLD BUSINESS UPDATES: Newsletter

Next issue will come out in January/February (Beth suggested posting on Facebook).

11. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

12. OTHER ACTION ITEMS:

Beth Troeger asked if funding is available anonymously so all students can purchase books at the Book Fair (PTO provided funding in the past, Scholastic Dollars available).

13. UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- **BOE/Superintendent to attend CAPSS/CAFE Convention November 15 & 16**
- **Regular Board Meeting December 3, 2024**
- **Items for Next Meeting and Assignments: Policies updates**

14. ADJOURNMENT:

#7-24/25 Motion to adjourn (8:59 PM) made by Clark Stearns, seconded by Brittany Santiago and carried unanimously.

**Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Scott
Recording Clerk**