

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

April 7, 2026

Cassidy Martin called meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Board members present: Clark Stearns, Michael Gile, Lisa LaBelle, Morgan Conley (online), Julie Conley. Administrators present: Superintendent Valerie Bruneau, Principal Ann Knowles, Special Ed Director Dawn Davis (online), Finance Coordinator Michele Demicco (online). Board recited Pledge of Allegiance; Chair read Intro Statement.

2. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

3. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD: None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **Regular Meeting of March 3, 2025:**
#1-25/26 Lisa LaBelle motioned to approve March 3, 2025 regular meeting minutes, seconded by Clark Stearns and carried unanimously.

5. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD OR DELETE AGENDA ITEMS: Switch Item 8A with 8B.

6. CELEBRATIONS:

March was Board Appreciation Month (Board was on Zoom) – presented thank you gifts for all that they do.

7. REPORTS:

A. Chairperson's Oral Report: None

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

- No new grants (closing grants for this year). Same programming and funding for Afterschool Grant next year (2nd year) - Liaison Carol James coming to visit. Drip Grant funds coming by end of the year.
- Bookkeeper Natalie leaving in few weeks – replaced by Terry Smith (retired Business Manager) 2 days a week to do payroll and other work for Finance Coordinator.

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

- Enrollment staying same with peak time to recruit in the fall - marketing for PreK with flyers, sign near the green, and word of mouth (continue with 2 classes and push for a 3rd).
- Preparing for SBAC testing for grades 3-6 with lots of practice tests.
- Last PD scheduled in May on Learning Ally.
- Educator Christy Hazen visits grades 4-6 every Monday doing different Science experiments (students very attentive for frog dissection with only 3 students choosing fake kits). Looking at grant funding to bring back for next year (5th grade gets tested for Science).
- Family Speed Puzzles event held with 51 people attending (12 puzzles with 6 family winners).
- Spring Break is next week.
- Planning exiting stuff for next year – stay tuned.
- Cassidy Martin suggested No TV Week with different things to do every day after school (family events well attended this year).

D. Special Education Report – updates:

Excited for students transitioning to Parish Hill (3 of 6 meetings done with students coming in to meet Middle School representatives). Special Ed numbers stable at 23 (2 more in referral process found eligible

for total of 19 after 6th grade transition). ESY expanding collaboration with 9 districts (1 district dropped out) and 50-70 students coming. Director's meeting tomorrow – Superintendent will be there to talk about finances.

E. Financial Report – audit update:

New outplacement unanticipated (will seek to use Non-Lapsing Fund).

- Clark Stearns asked about 59100 Other Salaries Business Office overage in Forecasted Expense not carried over to Forecasted Unassigned (reassigning to different account).

#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:

- Thanks to Morgan and Julie Conley for the BOE Newsletter – looks great!
- Lisa LaBelle working with PTA Prevention Manager at Parish Hill to share resources (formed group of students to gather information on opioid) - link on Facebook with more information for parents.
- CABA doing legislative wrap up - CABA President will become National CABA President.

8. BOARD BUSINESS:

A. Item: RLE Update (Discussion & Possible Action):

Vince & Alex from RLE presented energy efficient solutions in partnership with Eversource. Proposal reworked from previous energy audit of \$218 cash positive to \$411 cash positive for lighting, pipe insulation (thermal jackets), aerators. Eversource comes out to verify and gives final approval.

- Clark Stearns asked how much money required up front (0% financing - \$95,000 divided into 84 monthly payments to Eversource).
- Lisa LaBelle asked what happens if Eversource comes out with another incentive next year if Board locks in this year (3-year program launched last year not retroactive).
- Clark Stearns asked about installation (RLE is general contractor and CCM recommended vendor - subcontracts installers).

B. Item: Budget (Discussion & Possible Action):

Adjustment to staff doesn't interfere with student services. Proposed budget presented last month with increase of \$253,000 reduced to \$93,000 with savings from Special Ed position (not renewing), savings from 1st staff retirement, and savings from 2nd retirement (need to replace) – working on budget to see if any additional savings.

C. Item: Teacher MOU's (Discussion & Possible Action):

Current Calendar has 4 snow days (Juneteenth not anticipated - would like to enter into MOU with teachers to reduce total number of school days from 182 to 180). Board asked to make June 17th the last day of school.

#3-25/26 Clark Stearns motioned to make June 17th the last day of school, seconded by Michael Gile and carried unanimously.

Offered parting packages to 5 eligible staff (2 accepted, 1 declined, 1 considering, 1 declined at this time). MOU has exact terms as discussed and irrevocable when signed.

D. Item: Heating Update/Capital Plan (Discussion & Possible Action):

Cost for heating system not as high as expected - bulk of work can be done by maintainers with Drip Grant (will have to hire licensed installer to repair or replace Backflow Valve).

- Clark Stearns asked to hold any outstanding bills from B & G Mechanical (Michelle will check).

E. Item: 2000's Policies – 2nd review suggestions for recommended additions (Discussion & Possible Action): Tabled

F. Item: 7000's Policies – 2nd review (Discussion & Possible Action):

#4-25/26 Lisa LaBelle motioned to approve 7000s Policies with Updated Legal Reference for Policy 7100, seconded by Michael Gile and carried unanimously.

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 May 5, 2026 at 6:30pm
- Items for Next Meeting and Assignments: Policies updates – 2000s, Rose Khourie, RLE proposal

13. ADJOURNMENT:

#5-25/26 Michael Gile motioned to adjourn (7:57 PM), seconded by Lisa LaBelle and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Scott

Recording Clerk