

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
February 6, 2024

Cassidy Martin called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Board members present were Brittany Santiago, Gracie Martin, Kaitlyn Shafer (online) and Lisa LaBelle. Administrators present were Superintendent Valerie Bruneau, Principal Ann Knowles and Finance Coordinator Michele Demicco (online).

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

3. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:

Resignations received from Part-time Custodian Will Schultz and School Counselor Chelsea Alejandro.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• **Regular Meeting of January 2, 2024:**

#1-23/24 Motion to approve January 2, 2024 regular meeting minutes, made by Lisa LaBelle with the following correction: Item #8A – correct spelling for Nick Caruso. The motion was seconded by Gracie Martin and carried unanimously.

5. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD OR DELETE AGENDA ITEMS: None

6. CELEBRATIONS: None

7. REPORTS

A. Chairperson's Oral Report: No Report

B. Superintendent's Report:

- Actively searching for full-time Guidance Counselor (experience as Social Worker, Guidance Counselor or School Psychologist – will consider Special Ed teacher with background in behavioral testing or social work).
 - Food Inspection for the kitchen done on January 11th went well. Repairs needed for the dishwasher (soap dispensed as wash ended and rinse started – repaired by changing the box) and gap in the grout and tile near the back door (will cover with mat until repaired).
 - Continuing work on required Diversity Policy (new legislation from the state) due in March.
- Grant updates – after-school grant started in January going well with great ideas for February (community member came today to do crocheting). The 2-part grant runs through June of next year (can buy things at the end of the year for next year). Another grant involves 4 million dollars of ARPA funds to take directly to the classroom partnered with Donors Choose (teachers build a list of items for a project up to \$1,000 and wait for it to be fully funded). Within 72 hours, there were 2400 projects for 600 schools with 18 stores to order from (already shipped). Scotland was successful with projects for one PreK, Kindergarten, Speech (shared staff), O/T (shared staff), grades – 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 (ordered a lot of books and science stuff).
- Working on insurance (should have quotes next week to decide what direction to go in).
 - Will meet with Joe Savino on bus contract (asking for increase). Cassidy Martin noted there is usually a Subcommittee for bus contracts (expects no response to RFP from any other bus companies).

- The audit is almost done.

C. Principal's Report:

- Enrollment is at 102 students.
- There is a lot of sickness with students and staff.
- The weather has been challenging with closures and delays (students continue going outside at recess for fresh air).
- Met with Katelyn and Beth from the Curriculum Committee (excited they are both Science teachers and agreed to partner in the future co-teaching units with Science Lab and Imagination Lab).
- Parent/Teacher Conferences coming up on March 7th and 8th (will partner with the PTO).
- Will be expanding more with family events using after-school grants.
- Professional Development on February 16th will be dedicated to Special Ed for all staff.
- Accreditation for PreK and Kindergarten is continuing (hoping for a visit in April or May).
- Working with the Boy Scouts for projects around the school (picnic tables on the Town Green - Eagle Project).
- The school's own Nature's Classroom is setup in the back woods – will continue with Phase II by expanding an area for outdoor Science lessons.

D. Special Education Report:

Valerie Bruneau reported work continues with Team and PPTs that are all in compliance. Regular meetings are held with Bloom (Behavioral Services) to make sure all the staff is aware of their services.

E. Financial Report and Contract Updates:

The budget is on track with about 50% spent to date. The Audit should be finished any day (received draft documents for review).

#2-23/24 Motion to approve January Financial Report, made by Lisa LaBelle, seconded by Gracie Martin and carried unanimously.

F. PTO:

Took down almost all the decorations on the Town Green. Movie Night was well attended (47 people) and went very well. The PTO will be present at Parent/Teacher Conferences (in the gym or on the playground with the kids - crafts and snacks in the cafeteria) and at March Madness. Getting ready for the Planetarium coming up next month.

G. Shared Services updates:

Bus contract is shared with Parish Hill. After-school programs are shared with Hampton - planning 6th grade end-of-year activities with Hampton (will include Scotland).

H. Liaison Reports including Readiness Council:

The Board Newsletter went out (Lisa has items to add for the next issue).

Policy – Brittany Santiago reported about policies on the school website that are not applicable (EASTCONN helped design the new website at www.scotlandes.org - working out the kinks).

Community Relations - Lisa LaBelle reported on starting conversation about vaping – Parish Hill working to ban flavored products that are very addictive (nationwide issue that starts in middle school - important to teach at this level). Survey going out to Parish Hill parents (would like to survey parents here). D.A.R.E. program was started here last year for Grades 5 and 6.

Regional Issues - Cassidy Martin reported about meeting held with Representatives Doug Dubitsky and Pat Boyd on Education. Any issues should be brought up before the next legislative session to present to the Education Committee. The new Education Chair is from East Hartford and more concerned about smaller district issues.

- Valerie Bruneau attended the Legislative Breakfast that was not well attended (about 6 districts). The conversation was mostly about PreK entrance, waivers for Reading and process for approving proposed legislation.

Curriculum & Instruction - Kaitlyn Shaefer and Beth Troeger thanked Ann Knowles for taking the time to meet on a Friday to discuss the following: current curriculum, understand how the Board can support goals for the school, offering and encouraging Professional Development opportunities, benefits of attending Regional Conference, partnering with other schools and school memberships.

8. BOARD BUSINESS

A. Item: 2nd Policy Read (4117.6) (Discussion & Action Anticipated):

Discussed policy regarding exit survey for resignations.

#3-23/45 Motion to approve Policy 4117.6, made by Gracie Martin, seconded by Brittany Santiago and carried unanimously.

9. OLD BUSINESS UPDATES: Liaisons (move to front of agenda), get opening statement from Bloomfield.

10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

11. OTHER ACTION ITEMS: None

12. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Regular Board Meeting March 5, 2024
- Items for Next Meeting and Assignments: Superintendent to present preliminary budget, contract update, revisit Newsletter, Website update, audit

13. ADJOURNMENT:

#4-23/24 Motion to adjourn (8:06 PM) made by Gracie Martin, seconded by Lisa LaBelle and carried unanimously.

***Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Scott
Recording Clerk***