

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**  
**October 3, 2023**

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

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **Regular Meeting of August 1, 2023:**  
*#1-23/24 Motion to approve August 1, 2023 regular meeting minutes, made by Brittany Santiago, seconded by Clark Stearns and carried with abstentions by Rod Perry and Lisa LaBelle.*
- **Regular Meeting of September 5, 2023:**  
*#2-23/24 Motion to approve September 5, 2023 regular meeting minutes, made by Clark Stearns, seconded by Brittany Santiago and carried unanimously.*

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

**6. CELEBRATIONS:**

Cassidy Martin thanked the Administration for all they have done this year and stands behind them 100%.

**7. REPORTS**

**A. Chairperson's Oral Report (Newsletter Draft):**

The Board was presented with draft Board Newsletter (add 7pm in the library to upcoming meetings).

**B. Superintendent's Report:**

- After School Grant (waiting to hear), Security Grant (not awarded - asked for list).
- Thanks to the First Selectman for keeping the Administration informed about the bridge project. Preliminary work has begun with Eversource moving poles and wires. A notice was sent to parents regarding the PreK circle being blocked off in case needed for equipment (orange snow fence put up for any potential flying debris).
- Reminder for the CABE Convention on November 17-18 (Board signed up and confirmed, meets the Superintendent's PD for the year).

**C. Principal's Report (SBAC results presentation):**

- Enrollment is at 101 students (pending 5<sup>th</sup> grader coming in would increase to 102).
- School is off to a good start. The construction has the Kindergarten students looking out the windows at the big trucks (one of the centers in the classroom made into a construction zone to capture their attention). Buses have been detoured with one bus coming in about 12 minutes late every morning.

- PD will be held this Friday continuing on curriculum, assessment programs, and CPR Certification (required for PreK).
- Preparing for NYAEC accreditation (needs to be submitted by January followed by a site visit in the spring).

- SBAC Scores for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade:

ELA (English Language Arts)

Level 4 (exceeding expectations) – 7%  
Level 3 (meeting expectations) – 37%  
Level 2 (approaching expectations) – 28%  
Level 1 – 28%

Math

Level 4 – 9%  
Level 3 – 28%  
Level 2 – 44%  
Level 1 – 19%

Many students were very close to meeting goal for the next level (will work on intervention). Out of all the students taking the test, 19 students are receiving services.

- Lisa LaBelle asked if there is anything that shows improvement since Covid (some improvement).
- Rod Perry spoke about the following: asked how Scotland compares to the ERG (comparable to the DERG in meeting and exceeding expectations – Scotland (44%), Chaplin (43.7%), Hampton (34.4%), Brooklyn (43.6%), Willington (35.6%); expressed concerns with only 4 students in Kindergarten; asked what the plan is going forward if number of students stays low (students put with the 1<sup>st</sup> grade for all the Specials – can continue or consider merging a class, hoping to get more kids including bringing back homeschooled kids).
- Clark Stearns asked about the small number of students taking the Science test (test only taken by 5<sup>th</sup> grade, an increase in the score may indicate more interest from extra activities such as Invention Convention); and suggested the bridge project is a great teaching opportunity to show the kids (Valerie suggested taking pictures to bring into the classroom).

**D. Special Education Report:**

- There was a great start to the school year thanks to SueEllen Henry and new Special Ed staff (Chuck Mayer, Sabrina Hosmer, Shaleen Barrett) who are off and running (met with teachers to determine needs and developed schedules).
- 2 staff members are working on IEP Quality Training (all Special Ed staff will be trained upon completion).
- CT SEDS system training is ongoing (managing with Deb and staying up-to-date with any changes).
- Bringing in more highly qualified Paras to fill in Special Ed roles.

**E. Financial Report and Contract updates:**

Lisa LaBelle asked about the Forecasted Unassigned Balance. Rod Perry is reluctant to approve the Financial Report without the Finance Coordinator here to answer questions and asked when to expect the final audit report (no word yet - Clark suggested an audit presentation to the Board).

**F. PTO:**

The PTO has been very busy - launched S.W.A.G; Pie fundraiser going out; signed contract for Planetarium Balloon for March in the gym (holds 100 students - doing 2 smaller 45-minute presentations) and reached out to other schools to split the day (they will pack up and move to another school nearby taking ½ hour to setup - Clark suggested Sprague). Teachers are on rotation to attend the PTO meetings and have requested getting the community into the classroom.

**G. Shared Services updates:**

Valerie Bruneau met with Superintendents from Sprague, Bozrah, and Franklin and discussed looking at potential Special Ed programs. Franklin is longer housing the Green Valley outplacement program (the region needs to determine the biggest need and consider housing a program there).

**H. Liaison Reports including Readiness Council:**

- EASTCONN – meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm on Route 6 in Hampton and can attend via Zoom (replacement needed for Rod – good for the Board to be represented).
- School Readiness is meeting here at SES this month. Getting ready for NYAEC accreditation.

**8. BOARD BUSINESS**

**A. Item: Set 23-24 Tuition (Discussion & Anticipated Action):**

The Current tuition is \$7,500 (attractive with lower rate than some nearby towns).

***#3-23/24 Motion to keep the current Tuition Rate of \$7,500 for the 2023-2024 School Year, made by Lisa LaBelle, seconded by Clark Stearns and carried unanimously.***

**9. OLD BUSINESS UPDATES:** None

**10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

Audience member asked if any teacher ever wanted to tuition in their children (not aware of any).

**11. OTHER ACTION ITEMS:** None

**12. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- **Regular Board Meeting November 7, 2023**
- **Items for Next Meeting and Assignments:** CABE Convention November 17 – 18, October 3<sup>rd</sup> Financials, Nick Caruso from CABE (after the elections)

**13. ADJOURNMENT:**

***#4-23/24 Motion to adjourn (8:14 PM) made by Clark Stearns, seconded by Lisa LaBelle and carried unanimously.***

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