

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.

CHAPLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION
Chaplin, Connecticut
Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2009

Chairperson Lisa Rose called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM. Present were Board members Annemarie Burnham, Stephanie Harrington, Rachel O’Neill, John Bolduc and Shari Smith. Administrators present were Interim Superintendent Ken Henrici. Unable to attend was Board member Angelina Pearce and Principal Dan White.

2. PUBLIC BUDGET INPUT FOR FY 09 – 10:

Nancy Douton expressed understanding with a difficult budget year.

3. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:

A notice was received for the rescheduled date of January 26th at 2:00 pm in Hartford for the FOI complaint by Scotland for the COC.

A letter was received from First Selectmen Bob Dubos regarding actively serving on the Educational Options Committee. No committee has been formed and the issue is on the agenda as an open topic.

A budget letter was received from the Board of Finance requesting a minimum of two budget proposals (one being a 0% increase) along with fiscal and educational impact statements. The Board was also requested to provide the history of 5-year enrollment and enrollment projections for the next 3 years.

4. COMMUNICATION WITH THE AUDIENCE:

First Selectmen Bob Dubos offered more time for the CIP request.

Board of Finance Chair Dick Weingart asked the Superintendent about the reduction in education funding.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS:

A. Monthly Report:

Nancy Douton presented the monthly report. The students are lucky to have all the enriching experiences that they do at Chaplin School. Monday, they were entertained with stories and songs about the civil rights movement.

Selected students learned about fractal in December, which has since carried over into their art class.

Six students attended the Leadership Conference with Mr. O’Keefe in Enfield. Cory Harrington, Lauren Foster, Genesis Perez-Caban, from 4th grade and Molly Charland, Nick Neborsky and Alex Jacobs from 5th grade went to the conference. They took part in many activities to enhance their leadership abilities.

36 students participated in World Class Readers today after school. Seven staff members gave up their free time to meet with the students and share their thoughts about

a particular book. They do an activity together and then the various groups get together to hear what everyone else did. This is always a popular activity for both staff and students.

The preschoolers are learning about birds. They are charting all the birds that they see come to their bird feeder and are comparing them to the ever-popular penguin. This helps them understand about adaptations in nature.

Kindergarteners had a Family Breakfast before the Holiday break. The families brought in healthy food to share while they socialized with each other. Getting families involved in the school and giving them opportunities to meet with other parents helps to build a strong community. Now the students are preparing for a big 100-day celebration.

Getting to bed earlier and not giving parents a hard time about going to bed seems to be a popular new year's resolution in the first grades. They each wrote a new year's resolution when they returned to school after the holidays. We hope that they are successful in keeping their resolutions. The students are continuing their focus on comparing and contrasting different versions of the same story along with comparing and contracting fiction and non-fiction literature. Their reading strategies are being put to use in Math also, where they are working on solving story problems.

The 2nd graders are off to a great start having published 25 books so far this year. Right now, they are studying the states of matter (solids, liquids and gases). This fits nicely with their math unit on data collection and graphing along with their study of non-fiction literature. With their experiments, they are learning about the Scientific Process.

All the fifth graders are focused on preparing for the CMT. They have been working hard on all their skills. Right now, they are starting their unit on Colonial times that is always an interesting subject for the students.

The school wide collection of change for the Heifer Project netted \$360.95. Now we need to decide what animals we will buy with the money to help others.

For the second year in a row each student received a book from the staff for the Holidays. The books were purchased with the money earned from the A+ Snack Company. This is a group of students that takes care of billing and counting the money from the teachers' purchase of snacks.

The CMT clubs are well attended and a student was even heard to say that they were fun. They would come even if snacks weren't provided.

B. Principal and Superintendent Information:

Superintendent

1. FY 09-10 Budget:

The difficult times present a challenge to provide a budget that meets the educational needs of the students and still is fiscally responsible. Challenges to the budget include projected increases for fuel, electricity and health insurance (projected 12% increase for health and 8 % for dental).

2. CMT Preparation:

Meetings are held regularly with Dan White, Jen Meizels, Linda Rogers and Nancy Douton for preparation of the CMTs. There is a CMT prep course after school. Chaplin Elementary does not want to be on the list for not making adequate yearly progress two years in a row.

3. Enrollment/Staff Report: There are no staff changes.

4. Meeting with First Selectmen:

A meeting will be held tomorrow with the First Selectman and Special Ed Director to review facts and figures for a tuition proposal.

All three elementary schools have inquired about incorporating transportation for all students in their budget that could have a very negative impact the RD11 budget.

Superintendent Henrici presented enrollment figures for October 1, 2008 for Chaplin, Hampton and Scotland.

C. Enrollment/Staff Update:

There are no staff changes.

6. OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:

A. Approval of Minutes – December 17, 2008:

Motion to approve the minutes of December 17, 2008, was made by Rachel O’Neill, seconded by Stephanie Harrington and carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Financial Statement:

The budget is in good shape with 40% expended half way through the year.

Motion to approve the Financial Statement, was made by Stephanie Harrington, seconded by Rachel O’Neill and carried unanimously.

C. Stanley Kreminski Fund:

A memo from the Principal at the time the Stanley Kreminski Fund was established was presented to the Board. The funds were designated for the 6th grade. Barbara Walters who was on staff at the time the fund was established will present background information at the next meeting.

D. Leave of Absence Request (Action Anticipated):

Motion to approve Leave of Absence from Lena Rossi, was made by John Bolduc, seconded by Annemarie Burnham and carried unanimously.

E. Continued Review of Educational Options:

Discussion was held regarding letters that will be sent to nearby towns (Hampton, Mansfield, Eastford) to open line of inquiries regarding tuition arrangements (how does the district establish tuition rate and what’s included, what is the tuition cap for the number of students). Stephanie Harrington suggested contacting Windham. The Board also reviewed a list of future considerations that includes diversity, CMT and SAT scores, college placements, student to teacher ratios and criminal activities on and offsite.

Motion to send out letters of inquiry for educational options, was made by Rachel O’Neill, seconded by John Bolduc and carried unanimously.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. CABE/EASTCONN:

Didn’t meet due to the holiday recess.

B. Educational & Board Policies: No Report

- C. Personnel & Supervision Policies:**
Negotiations have begun with the Non-Certified staff.
 - D. Central Office:**
Discussion was held regarding the assessment question with Scotland.
 - E. Building, Grounds & Insurance:** No Report
 - F. Transportation:** No Report
 - G. Public Relations:** No Report
 - H. Preschool:**
The next meeting is January 20th at 5:30 PM.
 - I. Technology:** No Report
 - J. Dissolution Committee Report – Discussion of Letter Received from Dissolution Committee:**
The next meeting is January 22nd.
 - K. Addition/Withdrawal of Grades Committee Report:**
The meeting was rescheduled to this evening.
8. **SECOND AUDIENCE/COMMUNICATIONS:** None
9. **NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS:**
- Budget
 - Stanley Kreminski Fund
- The next meeting is February 11th at 6:30 PM.
10. **ADJOURNMENT:**
Motion to adjourn (8:02 PM) was made by Stephanie Harrington, seconded by Rachel O'Neill and carried unanimously.

*Respectfully Submitted by Kathleen Scott
Recording Secretary*