

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
December 14, 2011

Superintendent Ken Henrici called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM. Present were Board members Rachel O’Neill, Annemarie Burnham, Stephanie Harrington, Angelina Pearce and Jean Lambert. Administrators present were Principal Dan White.

Motion to add to agenda, Board Reorganization, was made by Annemarie Burnham, seconded by Rachel O’Neill and carried unanimously.

BOARD REORGANIZATION:

Annemarie Burnham nominated Rachel O’Neill for Board Chair, seconded by Jean Lambert. The vote to elect Rachel O’Neill for Board Chair carried unanimously.

Stephanie Harrington nominated Angelina Pearce for Board Vice-Chair, seconded by Annemarie Burnham. The vote to elect Angelina Pearce for Board Vice-Chair carried unanimously.

Angelina Pearce nominated Stephanie Harrington for Board Secretary, seconded by Jean Lambert. The vote to elect Stephanie Harrington for Board Secretary carried unanimously.

2. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:

A notice was received from EASTCONN regarding a Health Collaborative meeting on December 15th from 8-11am.

3. COMMUNICATION WITH THE AUDIENCE:

Doug Dubitsky expressed concerns with the proposed Political Activities Policy which he claimed restricted speech. Rachel O’Neill reported that the Policy was to limit activities on school property during school hours to protect the safety and welfare of the students and will be discussed later on the agenda.

4. CAPSS STUDENT LEADER AWARDS – ABBYGAYLE ANDERSON AND LESLIE HISMAN:

Chair Rachel O’Neill, Superintendent Henrici and Principal White presented CAPSS Student Leader Awards to Abbygayle Anderson and Leslie Hisman who were also honored at RHAM High School in November. The girls are impressive role models for the school and are involved in sports and music.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS:

A. Monthly Report:

The Board was presented with the monthly report. There are great things happening in the Math classes.

B. Principal and Superintendent Information:

Principal

School Climate & Anti-Bullying

- * PD-November 10, video on changing bullying to mean spirited behavior and intervention
- * Staff trained on anti-bullying legislation
- * Draft staff survey completed & reviewed
- * Waiting for state department of education survey for staff, students and parents
- ❖ Well Pump
 - * Final cost for replacement of pump – less than \$5,000
- ❖ Lighting – outdoor – ConServ
 - * Savings not significant enough at this time to pursue
 - * Will revisit in the spring
- ❖ Upcoming items
 - * Winter Concert – Thursday, December 15 @ 7pm
 - * Language Arts Collaborative Learning Walks
 - January 5
 - January 19
 - February 2
 - February 9
 - May 3
 - May 10
 - * Elementary Leadership Conference – Monday, January 9th
 - Three 4th grade and three 5th grade students will attend with Donna Dufresne in Enfield

Superintendent

1. Teacher Evaluation Conference; Teacher Evaluation Committee:
The entire Committee attended a CAPSS conference with breakout sessions. A nationally renowned speaker for effective teaching strategies gave the keynote address. The present evaluation model needs updating and revising. Discussion was held regarding CT applying for a waiver for No Child Left Behind with teacher evaluation being one element of the reform. This collaborative committee is open to any suggestions and input and will meet every three weeks to draft a plan to improve instruction.
2. K-12 Curriculum Coordination/Vertical Teaming Update-Student Success Plans:
The team is focusing on Student Success Plans and waiting for a template from the state.
3. Proposed EASTCONN Health Collaborative-Update:
Superintendent Henrici will attend meeting on December 15th on the Health Collaborative.
4. November 29 Meeting with Anthem Health Insurance Brokers:
An aggressive timeline is needed so that MDG Associates can go out to bid
5. Non-Certified Staff Negotiations:
The AFSME contract expires June 30th with negotiations to begin in February/March with no formal end date.
6. FY 12-13 Budget: Will discuss later on the agenda
7. Connecticut Transformation Project:
The project is proposed by CAPSS to resurrect reform principles that were not implemented and is endorsed by the new Commissioner of Education with the following recommendations for

transforming education: Raise the Bar, Make it Personal, Start with Early Childhood, Retool Assessments and Accountability, Offer More Options and Choices, Reform Leadership, Boost Quality Teachers, Involve Students and Parents, Leverage Technology and Continue the Transformation Process.

C. Enrollment/Staff/Facility Update:

Enrollment is at 182 students and there are no staffing changes. The current last day of school for students is Tuesday, June 19th.

D. CMT Update:

The CMT Club will begin after the holiday break with 18 students enrolled in Math and 17 students enrolled in Language Arts. The Club will be coordinated by Nancy Douton and Linda Rogers. CIT meetings will be held every six weeks with the next meeting scheduled for January 9th and February 23rd. DRA testing has begun and is due January 27th with a report presented to the Board in February.

E. Preliminary Discussion of FY 12-13 Budget:

Superintendent Henrici presented a preliminary update of the FY 12-13 budget that will be more challenging due to an approximate 3% increase for contractual salaries, large increases in health insurance and heating oil.

F. Non-Certified Staff Negotiations: Discussed under Superintendent information

6. OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:

A. Approval of Minutes: November 3, 2011

Motion to approve the minutes of November 3, 2011, was made by Annemarie Burnham, seconded by Angelina Pearce and carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Financial Statement:

Approximately 33% of the budget has been spent to date.

Motion to approve the Financial Statement dated July 1, 2011 to November 30, 2011, was made by Angelina Pearce, seconded by Stephanie Harrington and carried unanimously.

C. Board Committee Assignments:

CABE/EASTCONN - Vacant

Education & Board Policies – Angelina Pearce, Annemarie Burnham

Personnel & Supervision Policies – Rachel O’Neill, Stephanie Harrington, Annemarie Burnham

Cooperative Committee – Angelina Pearce, Stephanie Harrington

Building, Grounds & Insurance – Stephanie Harrington, Rachel O’Neill

Transportation – Angelina Pearce, Annemarie Burnham

Public Relations – All Board members

School Readiness - Vacant

Technology – Rachel O’Neill

D. Approval of Safe School Climate Plan:

The Board was presented with the November minutes from the Policy Committee regarding the Safe School Climate Plan. Any significant changes will be brought to the Board by the Policy Committee. The Safe School Climate Plan was presented to the Board for formal approval.

Motion to accept November Policy Committee minutes and formally accept the Safe School Climate Plan, was made by Annemarie Burnham, seconded by Jean Lambert and carried unanimously.

Motion to approve Chaplin Elementary School Safe School Climate Plan, was made by Annemarie Burnham, seconded by Angelina Pearce and carried unanimously.

E. Tentative Approval of Board Policy 1311.2 – Political Activities in Chaplin Elementary School:

The Policy was from CAFE, revised to make it less restrictive and reviewed by the Board Attorney. Stephanie Harrington suggested clarifying political activities and school hours. Annemarie Burnham suggested separating political activity from political speech.

Motion for tentative approval of Board Policy 1311.2 – Political Activities in Chaplin Elementary School, was made by Stephanie Harrington, seconded by Annemarie Burnham and failed unanimously.

The Policy will be sent back to the Policy Committee. The Board directed the Superintendent to consult with the Attorney regarding court cases and review other policies.

Stephanie Harrington left the meeting at 8:11 PM.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Committees May Report Information to the Board):

A. CAFE/EASTCONN:

Discussion was held regarding the School Climate Plan and Bullying. In-service training is available online. Attorney Sue Scott spoke about being mean spirited versus bullying.

B. Educational & Board Policies: Discussed policies presented tonight.

C. Personnel & Supervision Policies: No Report

D. Central Office:

The next meeting will be held in January to develop a budget.

E. Building, Grounds & Insurance:

Angelina Pearce asked for clarification on the bidding process.

F. Transportation: No Report

G. Public Relations: No Report

H. School Readiness/Discussion:

The next meeting is January 21st. A joint grant with Scotland and Hampton was submitted for \$4,000. The additional funding will be used for Professional Development for PreK Certified Staff and Paraprofessionals coordinated through EASTCONN.

I. Technology: No Report

8. SECOND AUDIENCE/COMMUNICATIONS: None

9. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS:

- FY 12-13 Budget

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL AND/OR LEGAL MATTERS: None

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn (8:18 PM) was made by Annemarie Burnham, seconded by Jean Lambert and carried unanimously.

*Respectfully Submitted by Kathleen Scott
Recording Secretary*