

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
April 8, 2009

Chairperson Lisa Rose called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. Present were Board members Annemarie Burnham, Angelina Pearce, Rachel O’Neill, John Bolduc and Shari Smith. Administrators present were Interim Superintendent Ken Henrici and Principal Dan White. Unable to attend was Board member Stephanie Harrington.

2. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:

A letter was received from a parent that will be addressed under Item 5F.
Information was received from area schools that will be addressed under Item 5C.

The Board welcomed back John Bolduc.

Lisa Rose read a statement in response to parent’s letters of concern regarding personal matters and the operation of the school and job performance of the school administrator. The difference between professional conduct and personal matters has to be considered.

3. COMMUNICATION WITH THE AUDIENCE: None

4. INFORMATION ITEMS:

Motion to move Item 5D Bus Bid Update to Item 4A1, was made by Rachel O’Neill, seconded by John Bolduc and carried unanimously.

A. Monthly Report:

Nancy Douton presented the monthly report. Chaplin Elementary School completed CMT testing. There seemed to be a more positive attitude this year and the teachers felt that the students did better and put more effort into it. We are confident that the scores will go up.

The whole school has started fundraising for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital by participating in the Math-a-Thon. Students get pledges by doing math problems. Over vacation they will recruit sponsors and then do the math problems when we return. The students feel great about helping other children and they also get practice with their math.

The 6th graders have returned from a successful trip to Nature’s Classroom. We can’t tell you about it because they will be doing a presentation at the next Board meeting. Today they spend the day in Willington at Hall Memorial School as part of their work with the DEP on the water.

5th graders attended an Opera at Hyde Cultural Center and as usual we were told what a well-behaved group we have. They have really enjoyed participating in the Read to the Final Four event in school along with the 4th and 6th graders. Groups from each grade put on presentations about their choice to try and convince others to vote for it. Everyone is anxious to learn the results tomorrow.

The greenhouse is very busy lately, as the 4th graders get ready for the Plant Sale. Working in the greenhouse always seems to be a highlight of 4th grade.

The 3rd grades went to Tobacco Road Farm in Lebanon to learn about the process of producing sap and turning it into maple syrup. They also went to the Hyde Cultural Center to hear the New Haven Symphony Orchestra. They learned about American composers and the different sections of an orchestra. The music of Sousa was very popular.

Kindergarteners are studying about their community and will have a special guest come to talk about safety. One of the student's fathers is a state trooper and will be coming in to talk to the children. They will also be going to visit community businesses.

The 2nd grade class visited the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center in Mystic. This was part of their study on soil and mapping. The teachers were thrilled that the activities were all linked to our state standards. The students are enjoying having a student teacher and will surely miss her when she has to leave.

To go along with their study of different artists, the preschoolers went to the Wadsworth Athenaeum. At the museum, they heard a story about the artists and then saw the artists' actual paintings. Many students were able to recognize the famous artists that they had learned about.

We hope that you all enjoyed the art show in our school during Parent/Teacher Conferences. The students have done a terrific job and Mrs. Avis put a lot of time into displaying their work.

Yesterday, the Spring Valley Puppetry treated the whole school to a performance of Jack and the Beanstalk. After the play, the puppeteer answered questions and demonstrated how he did certain things. The students were enthralled.

As you can see, this has been a month full of cultural events. Our students are lucky to be able to have these experiences and it shows that great things are always happening at Chaplin Elementary School.

1. Bus Bid Update:

Contact Manager Susan Guarino from First Student and Superintendent Henrici presented information regarding extending the bus contract for one year with a 2.5% increase.

Motion to approve extended one year bus contract with First Student, was made by Annemarie Burnham, seconded by Rachel O'Neill and carried unanimously.

B. Principal and Superintendent Information:

Principal

◆ CMTs

- Completed and returned to Measurement Incorporated
- Results to arrive in July or August
- Students' efforts were outstanding

◆ Lena Rossi

- Delivered baby girl today – Irene – 9 pounds
- Susan Cote – long-term substitute – transitioning since March 26

◆ Upcoming Dates

- Public Hearing on Chaplin budgets – April 13, 7:00 pm – Senior Center
- Preschool Screening – Saturday, April 25 – CES – 9:00 – 12:00
- Chaplin Community Clean-Up – Saturday, May 9th
- Annual Town Meeting – Budget – Monday, May 11th
- CES Drama Production – Oliver Twist – CES – May 14th at 7:00 pm
- Plant Sale, Car Wash, Tag Sale – Saturday, May 16th – CES – 8:00 – 1:00

- Defender's Game Playscape Fundraiser – Sunday, May 17th – Dodd Stadium, Norwich – 1:05
- CES Spring Concert – June 4th @ 7:00 pm – CES Auditorium
- Applebee's Breakfast – Grade 6 fundraiser – Saturday, June 6th – 8:00 – 10:00 am – East Brook Mall
- PTO Father/Daughter Dance – CES – 6:00 – 8:00 pm
- Grade 6 Class Night – Wednesday, June 17th @ 7:00 pm – CES
- Last day of school – Friday, June 19th

Superintendent

- 1. FY 09-10 Budget:** Covered already
- 2. Bus Contract Extension – One Year:** Covered already
- 3. Additon/Withdrawal of Grades Study Committee-Referendum on April 29th:**
Information forums will be held in Scotland on Tuesday, April 21st and in Hampton on Wednesday, April 22nd.
- 4. CES/PHHS Coordination/Joint Activities:**
Monthly meetings are held to coordinate year end activities and explain clubs and activities that are offered by the choral and drama group.
- 5. ARRA (Stimulus Grant):**
The application for the Stimulus Grant is still not on the website but due by April 30th.

Friday, June 19th is Graduation for Parish Hill. Chaperones and donations are needed for Project Safe Graduation.

C. Enrollment/Staff Update:

There are no staff changes and enrollment is at 179 students.

D. Final Approval of 2009-2010 Calendar:

RD11 has given tentative approval of their calendar. Lisa Rose attended the RD11 meeting and expressed the importance of continuity. The Board agreed to align their February and April vacation with RD11.

Motion to approve 2009-2010 Calendar with February vacation from February 15-19th, April vacation from April 19- 23rd and last day of school June 16th, was made by Rachel O'Neill, seconded by Angelina Pearce and carried unanimously.

E. Emergency Planning Presentation – Jim Randall:

Emergency Preparedness Director Jim Randall presented information on the installation of an antenna on the vestibule to accommodate a ham radio at Chaplin Elementary which is designated as a shelter. Wires would be run into the teachers' room and where the radio would be operated from.

Motion to approve the installation of antenna on back of the school vestibule, was made by Annemarie Burnham, seconded by Rachel O'Neill and carried unanimously.

F. Talented and Gifted (TAG) Presentation – Donna Dufresne:

Enrichment Coordinator Donna Dufresne presented a packet of information on the TAG 3-Tier program (Talent Pool, Enrichment Cluster and Classroom Enrichment), graph of number of students in each cluster, school-wide enrichment data, an article written by Ms. Dufresne and published in the National Social Studies Journal “Linking Standards and Service with Authentic Enrichment” and a children’s musical that she wrote “Speaker for the Earth” that will be performed on June 11th. The Talent Pools meet one hour per week and do real-life research into areas of high interest with a product outcome such as the Literacy Garden with a brochure. The Enrichment Clusters use hands on activities, field trips and investigations such as Latin for kids, Shakespeare Group and Invention Convention. The Classroom Enrichment uses grade level enrichment projects and school-wide assemblies. An explanation of each cluster is sent home to parents at report card time.

The logo is hot air balloons where every mind gets to soar. The Board suggested the logo would make a great t-shirt fundraiser.

5. OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:

A. Approval of Minutes – March 9, 2009:

Motion to approve the minutes of March 9, 2009, was made by Rachel O’Neill, seconded by Annemarie Burnham and carried with two abstentions by Angelina Pearce and John Bolduc.

B. Approval of Financial Statement:

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

C. Continued Review of Educational Options:

The Board received information from Mansfield Public Schools and Woodstock Academy in response to letters sent by the Board regarding available space and tuition.

D. Bus Bid Update: Moved to Item 4A1

E. Healthy Food Certification:

The Board was presented with Healthy Food Certification Statement with a list of updated foods for review and to be approved at the next meeting.

F. Parent Request (Action Anticipated):

A CES family has moved to Lebanon and requested her three children be allowed to finish the remainder of the school year at Chaplin Elementary.

Motion to allow the Macha children to remain at Chaplin Elementary until June, was made by Annemarie Burnham, seconded by Shari Smith and carried unanimously.

6. FY 09-10 BUDGET:

The Public Budget Hearing will be held April 13th at the Chaplin Senior Center.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. CABE/EASTCONN:

Shari Smith presented the guide to EASTCONN programs. Paula Cohen went to Washington to find out about funds that are expected in April and how they can be used. There is a \$450,000 risk due to the new Autism program and a staff member illness. There was a vote to eliminate positions and freeze increases so they would not have to raise tuition or cut programs.

B. Educational & Board Policies: No Report

C. Personnel & Supervision Policies:

Negotiations have begun with the Non-Certified staff. The next meeting is April 28th at 5:30 PM.

D. Central Office: No Report

E. Building, Grounds & Insurance: No Report

F. Transportation: Covered already

G. Public Relations:

Rachel O'Neill expressed concerns with misinformation printed in The Chronicle and a conflict of interest with signs posted on school property for another PreK program (Care-a-Lot). The Board is writing editorials to correct the information. The signs for Carelot will be removed from school property.

H. Preschool:

The 3rd newsletter went out. The Wednesday playgroup has attracted more families. A Parenting Workshop was held at the Library with daycare provided for parents. The next meeting is April 28th.

I. Technology: No Report

J. Dissolution Study Committee Report:

The Committee will start analyzing data and start the report. The next meeting is tomorrow in Hampton at the Grange. The following meeting will be held on April 23rd in Scotland at the Community Fire Complex.

K. Addition/Withdrawal of Grades Committee Report:

There are informational forums in Hampton and Scotland followed by a referendum on April 29th.

8. SECOND AUDIENCE/COMMUNICATIONS:

Chaplin Town Clerk Cathy Wilson commended the Board for their hard work in complying with statutes. The annual Town Meeting is May 11th.

9. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS:

- Healthy Food Certification
- Nature's Classroom Presentation
- Budget

- Special Education, Mary Donnelly

The Tri-Town meeting is May 4th, followed by May 5th referendum.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL:

Motion to enter into Executive Session (8:51 PM) for the purpose of discussing Personnel, was made by Rachel O'Neill, seconded by Annemarie Burnham and carried unanimously.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:54 PM.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn (8:55 PM) was made by Anne Burnham, seconded by Angelina Pearce and carried unanimously.

*Respectfully Submitted by Kathleen Scott
Recording Secretary*