

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
May 13, 2009

Chairperson Lisa Rose called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM. Present were Board members Annemarie Burnham, Stephanie Harrington, John Bolduc and Shari Smith. Administrators present were Interim Superintendent Ken Henrici and Principal Dan White. Unable to attend was Board members Angelina Pearce and Rachel O’Neill.

2. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:

A thank you card was received from Barbara Walters for the wonderful lunch.

A letter was received from RD19 Superintendent Bruce Silva in response to the possibility of Chaplin students attending E.O. Smith.

3. COMMUNICATION WITH THE AUDIENCE: None

4. INFORMATION ITEMS:

A. Nature’s Classroom:

Chris Blair, Barbara Walters and their 6th grade students Nick, Alex, Nicole and Abby presented information on their trip to Nature’s Classroom. Students were divided into different field groups with Hampton and Scotland that participated in different activities that included: team building challenges, hikes (learned about animals, trees and plants), night hikes with no flashlights, making bottle rockets filled with water and pressurized air and added a tip to the top to make the rocket aerodynamic, edible soil class, made hot air balloons out of tissue paper and glue, dissection of fruit, frog and a fetal pig, comedy improve class with games to think on your feet, built foam bridge with duct tape to walk across, simulation of homelessness (learned not necessarily a bum, could be someone down on their luck), produced a newspaper “NC News” (handwritten to focus on good writing skills), Thursday Night Live with movie skits, scavenger hunt with clues to find missing stuffed animals on April 1st, Underground Railroad simulation of slaves and ended the night with a sing down with the counselors with guitars (the words to the song were projected on a screen for students to follow along). Students experienced cabin life living with their classmates, learned about their habits and making new friends from Hampton and Scotland.

B. Monthly Report:

Nancy Douton presented activities from Donna Dufresne on the Enrichment Program and the Monthly Report.

Things seem to get even busier as the school year winds down. There are many field trips and culminating activities going on.

Last week, the teachers were spoiled with three wonderful lunches. Thank you for the delicious meal from Blimpies. They were also treated by the office staff to pizza and by the PTO to a lunch from Mansfield Hollow Family Restaurant. This week everyone started a diet.

The Kindergartens went on a field trip to We Li Kit as part of their study of community. They saw a working farm and dairy business. Now they are working on a song about their experience. We are sad to see Lee Anne Miller leave us but are happy for her upcoming addition to her family and their new house. She will be missed for all that she added to the staff and wish her well on her new adventure.

Eight students from the Invention Convention went to the state convention at UCONN. Lauren Foster, a 4th grader, won in her division with her invention of the Adjustable Bathtub Table. She thought of the idea because she loves to read and she couldn't do it in the bathtub. Thanks to her invention, now she can.

The 1st grades went to Roger Williams Park and Zoo on the only day that it didn't rain last week. They had a great time. They also had their annual trip to the hospital where everyone received a hat and pages to color about the various departments.

5th graders went to Mystic Seaport to learn about boats and fishing villages of the past. The students thought it was the "best field trip ever". Now they are writing essays about their trip.

The 6th graders have been extremely busy. They had their Grandparents Dinner which was a great success. They released 34 trout that they had hatched and raised in the Natchaug River. They visited Willi Water Works and a fish hatchery in Central Village. This is all part of their study of the watershed through a grant with EASTCONN and the Trout in the Classroom program.

The students in 6th grade also visited Parish Hill to learn about the school that they will be attending next year. The guidance counselor from Parish Hill came to the school to talk to the students beforehand and explain how things work. This is when it starts to really sink in that they will be leaving Chaplin Elementary School.

The school-wide Math-a-Thon has concluded. The total isn't final yet but over \$1,000 was raised for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Even in tough financial times, Chaplin is a caring and giving community.

C. **Principal and Superintendent Information:**

Principal

- ◆ Kindergarten
 - Lee Anne Miller – last day May 22
 - Sheen Martin – long-term substitute – started May 11
- ◆ PTO Meeting – May 12th
 - Approved approximately \$2,100 in teacher requests
 - Box Tops for Education check received for \$455.30 – current contest ends May 22nd
- ◆ Professional Development – May 8th ERD
 - StoryTown Reading Anthology Presentation
 - SERC Literacy Grant evaluation
 - Spelling Program discussion
- ◆ Summer Reading Challenge
 - Free book from ½ priced Book Fair (May 26-28) – sponsored by PTO and grant funds
- ◆ Upcoming Events
 - CES Drama Production – Oliver Twist – CES – May 14th @ 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
 - 7th Annual Chaplin Country Road Race – May 30th @ 10:00 am

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

Superintendent

1. ARRA (Stimulus) Funds:

The IDEA application went online today with the Title I application to follow. Funding is primarily for Title I (instructional improvement and professional development) and IDEA (Special Education). Chaplin will be receiving approximately \$30,000.

2. CES/PHHS Events – Orientation, Music Performance:

6th graders visited Parish Hill and are excited about the transition. The Student Assistance Team and teachers from 6th and 7th grade have met to focus on curriculum coordination and student services. Hampton and Scotland are participating in this effort as well.

3. Graduation Requirements Committee – Parish Hill:

Algebra I, a gatekeeper course for college will be required for all students. The Commissioner of Education Secondary School Reform Plan as part of school reform will eventually mandate a Personal Success Plan for all grades 6-12. Parish Hill is receiving a grant for being a Project Opening Door school which advances AP programs.

D. Enrollment/Staff Update:

There are 180 students.

E. Mary Donnelly – Director of Special Education - Presentation:

Mary Donnelly presented a history of the Special Education process. It is a long process and students should be identified early for intervention. There are 29 students in Special Education (22 in district and 8 outplaced). Costs per student ranges from \$12,000 to \$37,000 and does not include transportation. There may be additional costs for related services such as transitional services, O/T, P/T and speech services. Not having services in-house can be challenging. A coordinator is needed to maintain and monitor IEPs, maintain records and file state reports.

5. OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:

A. Approval of Minutes – April 8, 2009 and April 23, 2009:

Motion to approve the minutes of April 8, 2009, was made by Annemarie Burnham, seconded by John Bolduc and carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2009, was made by Annemarie Burnham, seconded by Shari Smith and carried with one abstention by John Bolduc.

B. Approval of Financial Statement:

Motion to approve the Financial Statement, was made by Annemarie Burnham, seconded by John Bolduc and carried unanimously.

C. Continued Review of Educational Options:

Lisa Rose will email information from the Ad Hoc Committee that will be presented to the Dissolution Committee tomorrow night to each Board member. Annemarie Burnham will summarize responses from other schools in a chart for review at the next meeting.

D. Healthy Food Certification – Action Anticipated:

Motion to approve Healthy Food Certification, was made by Stephanie Harrington, seconded by John Bolduc and carried unanimously.

6. FY 09-10 BUDGET:

Motion to approve the CES 1.2% budget increase in the amount of \$3,114,234 for FY 09-10, was made by John Bolduc, seconded by Annemarie Burnham and carried unanimously.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. CABE/EASTCONN:

Regional Council meetings are available free of charge in the areas of Language Arts, Math, RTI, Science and Technology. EASTCONN will offer assistance to anyone needing help in applying for the ARRA fund. Rates for Special Education have not increased this year. The Technology Plan was approved. The roof will be replaced on the Columbia building. The annual meeting will be held at ACT on May 26th at 3 pm. The keynote speaker will be the Commissioner of Education.

B. Educational & Board Policies: No Report

C. Personnel & Supervision Policies:

Negotiations continue with the non-certified personnel

D. Central Office:

A tentative meeting will be held on June 16th at 6:00 PM.

E. Building, Grounds & Insurance: No Report

F. Transportation:

Principal White suggested including 1st and 2nd graders in the policy to not drop students off at home unless someone is visible. Information will be sent home in the newsletter. The Board will revise the handbook and Drop-Off Policy.

G. Public Relations: No Report

H. Preschool:

A performance was held by Mike Kachuba who sang songs and played several instruments at the Chaplin Library. It was well attended and enjoyed by all. There were new faces at the playgroup. The School Readiness Council supported Clean-Up Day with good food and music at Garrison Park. There were 15 children at the Preschool screening on April 25th. Meetings will be held once a month to review bylaws, work on

expanding and recruiting new members. Dinner and child care are included. The next meeting is Tuesday, May 19th at 5:30 PM.

I. Technology: No Report

J. Dissolution Study Committee Report:

The Committee is formulating a timeline for the final dissolution report. The next meeting is Thursday, May 14th at the Chaplin Senior Center.

K. Addition/Withdrawal of Grades Committee Report: Remove from the agenda

8. SECOND AUDIENCE/COMMUNICATIONS:

Chris Blair asked for progress on the Magnet School. The Director of Magnet Schools from the state suggested filing an operations plan for state approval and developing educational specifications while waiting for the outcome of dissolution.

9. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS:

- Revise Student Handbook
- Drop off Policy
- Summer Meeting Schedule
- Budget

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

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn (8:50 PM) was made by Stephanie Harrington, seconded by John Bolduc and carried unanimously.

*Respectfully Submitted by Kathleen Scott
Recording Secretary*