

*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 12, 2010**

**Chairperson Rachel O'Neill called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. Present were Board members Annemarie Burnham, Stephanie Harrington, John Bolduc, Megan Hicks and Jean Lambert. Administrators present were Interim Superintendent Ken Henrici and Principal Dan White. Unable to attend was Board member Angelina Pearce.**

### **2. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:**

A thank you note was received from Sandy Dunnack for the wonderful lunch provided to the staff. A thank you card (made by Rebecca Goettel) was received from Jamie P. for the yummy lunch provided to the staff.

### **3. COMMUNICATION WITH THE AUDIENCE: None**

### **4. NATURE'S CLASSROOM UPDATE: Postponed until June meeting**

### **5. INFORMATION ITEMS:**

#### **A. Monthly Report:**

Nancy Douton presented monthly report. Thank you for the wonderful lunch from Blimpies. Everyone enjoyed it and felt appreciated. The staff was spoiled with two other lunches for staff appreciation week as well. They had a pizza lunch from the office staff and a variety of dishes from the Mansfield Restaurant from the PTO. It is great to be a part of such a supportive community.

The 6<sup>th</sup> graders went on a field trip to the fish hatchery as part of their water study. The students were very interested in seeing how professionals raise trout and what their trout will look like. The fish hatchery has an 85% survival rate. Unfortunately, the trout are not doing very well and they are now down to 5 trout. After the fish hatchery, the class went to a fish ladder at a dam in Norwich. They counted the fish as they came up the elevator-like ladder. It was important to learn how man helps the fish to survive after an obstacle has been put in their way.

The preschoolers took a trip to Pine Acres as part of their study about their community and its workers.

2<sup>nd</sup> grade hosted its buddies from the Imagination Project. They do many creative activities and write poetry. The weather was a little cool but they enjoyed all the outside activities.

The whole school enjoyed the mini presentation of Annie by the Windham Players and was thrilled to see some familiar faces in the cast.

The Preschool is busy working to get recredited. Some requirements have changed since the last time and they are making adjustments to meet the new regulations.

After vacation, everyone was treated to two days with Scott Kessel. It started with an assembly where he demonstrated the instruments that he has made by recycling used materials. The entire audience was fascinated with how he had turned ordinary materials into instruments that could actually play music. During the two days, each class was able to meet with him to

make their own individual instruments. There were many drums and homemade harmonicas. At the end of the second day, the whole school saw a performance by students from third through sixth grade and then there was an Earth Day Parade with all students using their instruments. It got everyone excited and involved and most of all smiling.

## **B. Principal and Superintendent Information:**

### **Principal**

- Preschool Screening Update (held on May 1<sup>st</sup>)
  - Great turnout and interest with 22 children
  - 30 PreK students on list already for next year
- CMT Information
  - Student Demographic Data Verification 5/25-6/10
  - Student Performance Data – anticipate early July
- CIP
  - Painting - \$5,000 – approximately 12 rooms
  - Playscape - \$45,000
- Upcoming Events
  - Early Release Day – Professional Development – 5/14 @ 1:15
  - Budget Referendum – 5/17 – 12:00 noon – 8:00pm
  - Drama Presentation – Tom Sawyer – 5/20 - @ 7:00pm
  - Plant Sale & Car Wash – 5/22 – 8:00am – 1:00pm
  - Memorial Day Program – 5/27 @ 2:00pm
  - History Day Performance – 6/1 @ 6:30 – CES Auditorium
  - Chaplin Road Race – 6/5 @ 10:00am
  - Spring Concert – 6/10 @ 7:00pm
  - Grade 6 Class Night – 6/16 @ 7:00pm
  - Grade 4-6 Award's Assembly – 6/17 @ 9:30am
  - Last Day of School – 6/18 – Early Release @ 1:15
  - School Readiness Council Meeting – 6/22 @ 5:30

### **Superintendent**

1. FY 2010-2011 Budget Annual Meeting Approval; Referendum on May 17<sup>th</sup> :
  - Covered by the Principal
2. Mandarin Chinese After-School Enrichment:
  - Bio was received on the Chinese teacher who is a married 34 year-old with a Kindergarten child. She is highly proficient in English. The program is highly competitive in China with only 1 in 200 applicants selected. There was an article in the New York Times about the culture shock with the informality of our education versus China education. Superintendent Henrici will email the article for any Board member that is interested. The teacher will be introduced to the Board at a future meeting.
3. Phase II Race to the Top Grant:
  - In Phase I, only 2 states (Delaware and Tennessee) received the grant out of 40 districts. Connecticut ranked 25 out of the 40. Connecticut is more optimistic for Phase II and the deadline for MOU is May 19<sup>th</sup>.
4. TEAM Teacher Support Program (Replacement of BEST):
  - A meeting will be held soon to build support system. There will be an opportunity for teacher reflection.

5. CALI Modules Training:

- Training went well. Each teacher has password to go online at CTreports.com to review the data. Hard copies are available as well.

**C. Enrollment/Staff/Update:**

Student enrollment is at 174.

**D. Staff Configuration Options 2010-2011:**

Principal White presented two staff configuration options pending return of current teacher on leave.

**6. OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Approval of Minutes: April 14, 2010**

*Motion to approve the minutes of April 14, 2010, was made by Stephanie Harrington, seconded by Annemarie Burnham and carried unanimously.*

**B. Approval of Financial Statement:**

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

**C. Discussion of FY 2010-2011 Budget:**

The 0.01% budget was approved.

**D. PreKindergarten Tuition:**

The current tuition is maximum \$25 day for full-time and maximum \$12.50 day for half-time and works on a sliding scale. Principal White recommended reducing tuition to \$20 day for full day and \$10 day for half-time.

*Motion to reduce PreKindergarten tuition to \$20 day maximum for full-time and \$10 day maximum for half-time, was made by Annemarie Burnham, seconded by Megan Hicks and carried unanimously.*

**E. PreKindergarten Classroom Renovation:**

PreKindergarten is a combined classroom with a door in between. As part of NEYAC accreditation, there is a need to increase activity of moving freely and keep students in sight. The renovation would include removing 16 ft. of a non-bearing wall and electrical work. The project would cost approximately \$3,700 and would be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

*Motion to approve PreKindergarten Classroom Renovation, was made by John Bolduc, seconded by Annemarie Burnham and carried unanimously.*

**F. Race to the Top – Phase 2 Grant – Memorandum of Understanding:**

The Race to the Top Grant is a great opportunity and Chaplin has several of the implementations already in place.

*Motion to approve Race to the Top Phase 2 Grant and authorize Board Chair to sign Memorandum of Understanding, was made by Stephanie Harrington, seconded by John Bolduc and carried unanimously.*

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

**A. CABE/EASTCONN:**

Richard Murray from CABE presented awards to EASTCONN for the following: community relations (videos on Dangerous Driving by ACT students), community brochures on the various programs and Connections newsletter. EASTCONN will be leaving Windham Mills and moving to a new 15,500 square foot building behind the Hampton building. The new building will include new technology with 30 geothermal wells. The ground breaking will be held in June. Discussion was held on the Race to the Top and legislative updates for shared services (health care and transportation). There will be no increase for present services. The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual CABE conference will be held on May 25<sup>th</sup> at 3pm with keynote speaker Gary Marks. All Board members are invited to attend.

**B. Educational & Board Policies:** No Report

**C. Personnel & Supervision Policies:** No Report

**D. Central Office:**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 26<sup>th</sup>.

**E. Building, Grounds & Insurance:**

Liability and Worker's Compensation insurance is being reviewed with KERMA.

**F. Transportation:**

The bus contract is finalized and was sent to First Student.

**G. Public Relations:** No Report

**H. School Readiness/Discovery:**

The Discovery Group and School Readiness will meet separately. A \$25,000 grant was received from the Graustein Memorial Fund.

**I. Technology:**

Teacher laptops will gradually be replaced.

**8. SECOND AUDIENCE/COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**9. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS:**

- Nature's Classroom
- Staff Configuration Update

**10. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL (TEACHER LEAVE REQUESTS) AND/OR LEGAL MATTERS:** None

**11. ADJOURNMENT:**

*Motion to adjourn (7:24 PM) was made by Stephanie Harrington, seconded by Megan Smith and carried unanimously.*

*Respectfully Submitted by Kathleen Scott  
Recording Secretary*