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By Linda Amerighi at 9:32 am, May 31, 2023

These minutes to be accepted/amended at the June 12, 2023 Board of Education meeting.

Sharon Center School Board of Education

The regular meeting was held on Monday, May 8, 2023 in the school library.

PRESENT:

Board of Education Members: Doug Cahill, Plamen Petkov, Deborah Rathbun, Amanda Thompson, and Anne Vance

Monica Connor and Kathleen Visconti (via zoom)

Superintendent: Lisa Carter

Assistant Superintendent: Jeanine Rose (via zoom)

Region 1 Business Manager: Sam Herrick

Sharon Representative to Region 1 BOE: Sara Cousins

Principal: Carol Tomkalski

Board Clerk: Kathryn Amiet

SCS Teacher: Lilly Barnett

SCS Students: Lily Haxco and Zaia Celso-Cristobal

Guests: Meghan Flanagan, Katro Storm, Mrs. Haxo, Terry Vance, John & Patee Hecht

Via zoom: Leila Hawkins, Carly Leibrock, Nina K, Heather Socci, Cindy Webb, CATV6, Amanda, Lawrence Tregalia, Cory O'Kelly

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 P.M. by Chair Doug Cahill.

Chair Cahill requested the following amendments to the agenda:

#11 (policy 5118) moved to #5 position

#8 (letter from BOF) moved to #10 position

#10 is renumbered #11

Remainder of the agenda remains as numbered

In addition, he is requesting that a letter from Shipman and Goodwin be included in the discussion of item #10 (letter from BOF)

Motion by Anne Vance/2nd by Deborah Rathbun to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Katro Storm was recognized for his work and support of the students who were involved in the Troutbeck project. The Troutbeck Video, created by the 8th grade students, was then shown to the Board.

During Focus on Student Learning, Finian Malone was recognized as the recipient of the Litchfield County Superintendents Award, and Lily Haxo and Zaira Celso-Cristobal were recipients of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education Student Leadership Award.

Motion by Mandy Thompson/2nd by Anne Vance to approve the consent agenda.

There were three additions/corrections to the minutes of the April 17, 2023 BOE meeting. They are as follows:

Regarding the discussion of the "Youth Voices Count Survey", the motion should read as follows:

Motion by Deborah Rathbun/2nd by Monica Connor to approve this survey for the 7th and 8th grade students at Sharon Center School. Motion carried with four YES votes (Connor, Rathbun, Vance, Visconti) and two NO votes (Petkov & Thompson)

There was discussion regarding the Jacunski Humes Phased Proposal for the roof replacement. This is a 4 phase proposal, with a total cost of \$24,800, which is for preparation of schematic drawings to be used for the roof replacement bidding process.

There was an update on audio/video options for the Board meetings. Deb Rathbun, Anne Vance, Carol Tomkalski and Lisa Carter met on 4/17 with A/V consultant Graham Stone - who recently completed an installation for remote meeting technology at HVRHS - to make a proposal for similar A/V installment at Sharon for the BoE to review in the near future.

There was a question regarding the Employee Benefit "Classified Pension" line in the cash report, as to why this line item is showing an expenditure of 0%. The board clerk explained that the pension line refers to Non-Certified Staff, and because this is calculated on the total wages they received during the 2022-2023 school year, this must be done at the end of the year in order to have an accurate accounting of their gross wages.

Motion to approve the consent agenda as amended carried by unanimous vote.

Review of Policy 5118 -

Motion by Mandy Thompson/2nd by Monica Connor to amend the wording in this policy to clearly state that the Board will approve all requests for non-resident students to attend SCS and to bring this amended policy to the Board for a 1st reading. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Motion by Anne Vance/2nd by Monica Connor to approve the requests from 4 staff members and 1 Day Care staff member to allow their children to attend SCS during the 2023-2024 school year, and to also approve the two families who are requesting that their children be enrolled at Sharon Center School as tuition students in the 2023-2024 school year. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Public Comment: Meghan Flanagan requested clarity on Item #10 - letter to the CSDE, Item #13 - the roof asbestos removal report, Item #15 - the School Based Health Care Center.

The Principal, Superintendent, and Assistant Superintendent reviewed their written reports.

The updated Teacher Job Description was discussed.

Motion by Deborah Rathbun/2nd by Mandy Thompson to approve the Teacher Job Description. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Discussion of the communication from the BOF and the letter from Shipman and Goodwin. Some of the board members requested more time to review the documents.

Sam Herrick discussed the MBR and how it's computed, and reviewed the document he received from Shipman & Goodwin.

Motion by Anne Vance/2nd by Mandy Thompson to give Superintendent Lisa Carter and Business Manager Sam Herrick permission to send the April 26 letter to the State CSDE stating efficiency savings. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

A Special ZOOM Meeting of the BOE will take place Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by Monica Connor/2nd by Deborah Rathbun to hire MaryEllen Epstein as the new STEM teacher. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Roof update: Previous roof project did not remove the old roofing material. Rather, the replacement roof was installed over the existing roof. Of the 25 areas sampled for possible asbestos, only 2 came back indicating minimal asbestos, with percentages of 2% and 4%.

Motion by Deborah Rathbun/2nd by Anne Vance to approve the Region 1 Curriculum Committee Framework. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

There was discussion about School Based Health Centers. The board voted to apply for a grant. Legal council would help set up protocols.

Motion by Mandy Thompson/2nd by Plamen Petkov to move forward in finding another attorney who is experienced in health care practice. There were 3 YES votes (M. Thompson, P. Petkov, D. Rathbun) and 3 NO votes (M. Connor, D. Cahill, A. Vance)
This discussion and vote will be tabled until we learn if the school will receive the grant.

There was discussion about communication protocol, in response to a letter to the editor in the local paper. Proper protocols were followed in this instance. Anything that is written on behalf of the Board needs to be reviewed and approved by Chairman Cahill, Superintendent Carter, and Principal Tomkalski.

It was also stated that when the Board votes on something, all Board members should support that decision, regardless of their personal opinion.

Public Comments - The following individuals spoke:

John Hecht, Meg Flanagan, Paree Hecht, Cody O'Kelly, Heather Socci, Kitty Visconti

Motion by Mandy Thompson/2nd by A. Vance to adjourn at 9:14 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

Kathryn Amiet
Board Clerk