

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.

**REGIONAL DISTRICT #11
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Chaplin, Connecticut
Special Meeting Minutes
October 29, 2007**

Chairperson Leslie Wertam called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. Present were Board members Jennifer Jones, Charles Bruckerhoff, Marion Taylor, George Askew, Bill Adams, and Jennifer Nelson. Administrators present were Interim Superintendent Dr. Ken Henrici and Interim Principal Joseph Fleming. Unable to attend was Board members Christina Moore and Eugene Winchester and Assistant Principal Dorothy Smith.

2. AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS (Approximately 10 minutes):

Bill Bullard from Chaplin asked the Board to consider dissolution since the deal failed with Brooklyn. The students could be tuitioned out for lower per pupil costs and expose students to other systems with larger curriculums.

Gay Wagner from Hampton presented a summary of remarks that included referendum results, Parish Hill enrollment, Focus Groups, NEASC Requirements, Academic Rigor and Finances. She suggested the Board use the Ad Hoc Committee Report as an outline.

Claire Doeller from Chaplin asked what happens to the monies promised for the Cooperative High School. The Legislature was written specifically for Brooklyn and RD11 and is no longer accessible.

Brian Murphy from Hampton suggested looking at focus groups, building on the positive and changing the attitudes and perceptions.

3. DISCUSSION OF BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE GOALS – HOW TO EFFECT POSITIVE EDUCATIONAL CHANGE FOR THE STUDENTS AT REGIONAL DISTRICT 11:

Dr. Henrici presented 5 goals brainstormed by the Administration.

- ◆ Improving student achievement
 - Add advanced placement courses
 - Academic rigor
 - Climate of higher expectations
- ◆ Professional Development
 - Instructional strategies
- ◆ Getting more engagement from parents, community and students
- ◆ Develop better system of organization with better procedures and protocols
 - Develop an organizational chart
- ◆ Vibrant safe and secure environment for all students

Marion Taylor presented information from the state regarding reorganizing small secondary schools.

Bill Adams asked the Board to consider purchasing supplies through government discount pricing and consolidation of classes to free up teachers and offer more electives.

Charles Bruckerhoff would like to see CMTs tracked year to year to follow the progress of specific students.

Jennifer Jones suggested the towns be charged with looking at where they want to go.

Board Goals are

- ◆ look at student success
- ◆ improve communication
- ◆ improve climate
- ◆ maximize success to public
- ◆ contact the state for help in keeping present administration to maintain consistency
- ◆ looking at a magnet program
- ◆ focus groups with a timeline and measurable performance

A subcommittee will assist the administration with the administration goals. Marion Taylor, Bill Adams and Jennifer Jones will serve on this committee.

4. **PUBLIC INPUT FORUM PLANNING:**

Open Forums will be held in each town to gather input from the community to see what direction to take. The Administration is charged with contacting EASTCONN and KREC for a facilitator and format.

5. **REQUEST TO WITHDRAW OR ADD GRADES TO THE REGION:**

A. **Review of Statutory Procedure:**

Motion to rescind motion of October 16, 2007 regarding the addition or withdrawal of grades study, was made by Jennifer Nelson, seconded by Marion Taylor and carried with the following vote:

YES: M. Taylor, J. Nelson, L. Wertam, J. Jones, G. Askew, B. Adams, C. Bruckerhoff.

B. **Board Recommendation for Study Committee (Action Anticipated):**

Motion that the Board recommend a study of the withdrawal or addition of grades in accordance with section 10-47b of the Connecticut General Statutes as requested by the Hampton and Scotland Boards of Education, was made by Jennifer Nelson, seconded by Marion Taylor and carried with the following vote:

YES: M. Taylor, J. Nelson, L. Wertam, J. Jones, G. Askew, B. Adams, C. Bruckerhoff.

6. **SECOND AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS (Approximately 10 minutes):**

Claire Doeller from Chaplin asked for the number of potential students that could attend Parish Hill including students that attend other schools and are homeschooled. She also expressed concerns with the expense to run Parish Hill with highly paid teachers and the turnover.

Melanie Johnston from Hampton commends the Board for forums and focus groups and encourages the Selectmen to be involved.

Dick Weingart from Chaplin also commends the Board and encourages the community to let the Board know what's on their minds.

Clark Stearns from Scotland expressed concerns with the lack of a Principal and Superintendent Search and encouraged the Board to work with the Boards of Education in each town.

Gay Wagner suggested the Board hire an opinion research professional to establish a format for the forum.

Brian Murphy from Hampton suggested guaranteeing stability for present students by getting public input, doing needs assessment and involving the community.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn (8:20 PM) was made by Marion Taylor, seconded by Jennifer Jones and carried unanimously.

*Respectfully Submitted by Kathleen Scott
Recording Secretary*