

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, HAMPTON, SCOTLAND AND REGIONAL DISTRICT ELEVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
CHAPLIN, CONNECTICUT 06235
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2022
7:00 PM
PARISH HILL MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance – Chairperson Dennis LaBelle called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. Present were Board members Stacy Foster, Joan Fox, Kathy Freed, Sally Ireland, Susan Lovegreen and Michael Smardon. Administrators present were Superintendent Ken Henrici and Principal Brian Tedeschi.**
2. **Communication with the Audience – none**
3. **Written Communications to the Board – none**
4. **Approval of January 18, 2022 Minutes – Stacy Foster moved to approve the January 18, 2022 minutes. Kathy Freed seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:
Yes: Stacy Foster, Joan Fox, Kathy Freed, Sally Ireland, Dennis LaBelle, Susan Lovegreen and Michael Smardon.**
5. **Approval of Financial Statement – January 2022 – Stacy Foster moved to approve the January 2022 Financial Statement. Sally Ireland seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:
Yes: Stacy Foster, Joan Fox, Kathy Freed, Sally Ireland, Dennis LaBelle, Susan Lovegreen and Michael Smardon.**
6. **Administrative Reports/Administrative Requests for Board Action**
 - A. **Principal** – Principal Brian Tedeschi updated the Board on the Virtual College Fair scheduled for tomorrow night, the February 18th PD Day, Parent-Teacher Conference to be held March 10th, Winter Sports Teams accomplishments and the March 2nd Awards Night.
 - B. **Superintendent** – Superintendent Ken Henrici spoke to the Board about the Part-Time Small District Superintendent Committee meeting last Tuesday. Topics discussed included mask mandates, budgets and how unanticipated Special Ed costs can impact a District. He also mentioned that we will be opening up the school to events and activities that we have been unable to hold due to the pandemic.
7. **Old Business/New Business – Stacy Foster moved to add as item 7E: “Discussion and Possible Action on Making Masks Optional if the Legislature Chooses to Make it so After February 28, 2022 and Follow CDC Guidelines Until the Policy Committee Meets Next”. Kathy Freed seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:
Yes: Stacy Foster, Joan Fox, Kathy Freed, Sally Ireland, Dennis LaBelle, Susan Lovegreen and Michael Smardon.**
 - A. **Report by PHACT/PTSA** – Kathy Freed thanked Lisa LaBelle for her work on the Diversity Grant and Digital Citizenship Grant.
 - B. **Budget Forecast FY21-22** – Superintendent Henrici said the budget is in good shape with 53% expended.
 - C. **Discussion and Possible Action on Membership in Regional Youth Services Board/Juvenile Review Board – Emily Morrison** – Emily Morrison, Director of Development at United Services, Inc. made a presentation to the Board about the benefits of membership in the Regional Youth Services Board/Juvenile Review Board. She explained all of the services they offer students, including working with families on truancy. This has become a huge problem due to anxiety and depression brought on by the pandemic. The ultimate goal is to get kids to feel comfortable coming back to school. She spoke of

after school clubs they provide and how they offer wholesome fun for the kids. If the Board is interested in becoming a member, she would then meet with Town officials to explain the benefits of having a designated Youth Services Board. Board members agreed that it would be a great idea to draft a letter of support from the Board to the three Town Selectmen. Emily said she would gladly attend a Town meeting to share her presentation with them. **Stacy Foster moved that the RD#11 Board of Education prepare a letter to the Board of Selectmen of all three towns showing their support for Membership in the Regional Youth Services Board/Juvenile Review Board. Sally Ireland seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:**

Yes: Stacy Foster, Joan Fox, Kathy Freed, Sally Ireland, Dennis LaBelle, Susan Lovegreen and Michael Smardon.

Superintendent Henrici and Chairperson LaBelle will draft the letter.

- D. Presentation of Preliminary FY22-23 Budget** – Superintendent Henrici said this was the most challenging budget he has ever presented with having to factor in significant increases in health insurance and unanticipated costs of outplaced students. He feels that a 2.43% increase is reasonable given these factors and keeping in mind that we need to provide a good education to the students while addressing the constraints of the Town. This is the largest increase he’s ever asked for but feels it’s a fair and responsible budget. He has flat lined all department budgets and will do everything possible to maintain the teaching staff. This budget is preliminary only. Joan Fox expressed concern that the Special Education costs are holding regular education students hostage because State funding for Special Education is lacking and this forces districts to make cuts to regular programs in order to meet the needs of Special Education. She thought it would be good for parents to form a group to address Special Education needs and possibly join other districts in Connecticut to bring a strong voice to the State. Stacy Foster said it is our responsibility to educate Special Education and regular education students.
- E. Discussion and Possible Action on Making Masks Optional if the Legislature Chooses to Make it so After February 28, 2022 and Follow CDC Guidelines Until the Policy Committee Meets Next** – Superintendent Henrici said the House voted to end the mask mandate. The Senate voted not to end the mask mandate, but to end the Executive Order on February 28th. He feels the mask mandate will end and be in the hands of individual districts. His recommendation would be for masks to be “optional” for students and teachers. He urged the Board of Education to concur. **Stacy Foster moved that the Board of Education accept the recommendation that we make masks optional if the Legislature chooses to make it so after February 28, 2022 and follow CDC Guidelines until the Policy Committee meets next. Susan Lovegreen seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:**

Yes: Stacy Foster, Kathy Freed, Sally Ireland, Dennis LaBelle, Susan Lovegreen and Michael Smardon.

No: Joan Fox

8. Committee Reports/Requests for Board Action

- A. Fiscal & Plant** – Chairperson Dennis LaBelle said that the committee met this evening and reviewed the budget and the financials. They received the maintenance report but did not have time to review.
- B. Educational and Board Policies** – The committee is planning to meet on March 11th at 3:30.
- C. Central Office** – Chairperson Dennis Labelle said the committee has not met but will schedule the next meeting soon.
- D. Technology** – the committee has not met.
- E. Personnel and Supervision** – there are no negotiations at this time.
- F. Newsletter** – The newsletter is almost complete. Superintendent Henrici will send out to the Board for review.
- G. CABA/EASTCONN** – Joan Fox said she attended the CABA Webinar titled “Communicating with the Public”. She did not attend the Legislative Breakfast. Kathy Freed said the EASTCONN meeting minutes are on their website. They are holding a vaccination clinic tomorrow. She also reported that they have won some CABA awards.

9. **Second Audience for Citizens** – Lisa LaBelle asked the Board if there are any ways we could think of to communicate to each town to sell our budget. Maybe we could hold some sort of open forum and offer refreshments. We could offer both in-person and Zoom options. Dennis LaBelle addressed the Board as a citizen and mentioned that we should have a statement in the footer of the Board agenda, similar to what he saw on Scotland’s agenda, which states something like “if you need a translator, please call this number three days in advance”. We really should have this service in place to those who need it. He will contact Scotland to get the exact verbiage and will give it to Superintendent Henrici and Carol Cyr. Stacy Foster noted that we should also state how long an audience member is allowed to speak.
10. **Agenda Items for Next Meeting – Final Budget, Mask Policy, COVID Isolation and Quarantine Policy, Addition of Statement to Agenda Footer**
11. **Adjournment – Kathy Freed moved to adjourn at 8:53pm. Stacy Foster seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:**
Yes: Stacy Foster, Joan Fox, Kathy Freed, Sally Ireland, Dennis LaBelle, Susan Lovegreen and Michael Smardon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Ritchotte
Recording Secretary