

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, AUGUST 24, 2021
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 7:08 pm. Present were Board members Kathy Freed, Stephanie Harrington, Sally Ireland, Susan Lovegreen, Cassidy Martin and Michael Smardon. Administrators present were Superintendent Ken Henrici and Principal Brian Tedeschi.
Cassidy Martin moved to add agenda item 7K, Approval of the Resignation of Nina Jeannotte. Kathy Freed seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:
Yes: Kathy Freed, Stephanie Harrington, Sally Ireland, Dennis LaBelle, Susan Lovegreen, Cassidy Martin and Michael Smardon
2. **Communication with the Audience** – none
3. **Written Communications to the Board** – none
4. **Approval of July 6, 2021 Minutes** – Michael Smardon noted in line item #2A, Election of Officers, that his last name was spelled “Smardone” rather than “Smardon”. Sally Ireland moved to approve the July 6, 2021 minutes. Michael Smardon seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:
Yes: Kathy Freed, Stephanie Harrington, Sally Ireland, Dennis LaBelle, Susan Lovegreen and Michael Smardon
Abstain: Cassidy Martin
5. **Approval of Financial Statements – July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021; July 2021** – Sally Ireland moved to approve the Financial Statement July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021. Kathy Freed seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:
Yes: Kathy Freed, Stephanie Harrington, Sally Ireland, Dennis LaBelle, Susan Lovegreen, Cassidy Martin and Michael Smardon
Sally Ireland moved to approve the Financial Statement July 2021. Kathy Freed seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:
Yes: Kathy Freed, Stephanie Harrington, Sally Ireland, Dennis LaBelle, Susan Lovegreen, Cassidy Martin and Michael Smardon
6. **Administrative Reports/Administrative Requests for Board Action**
 - A. **Principal** – Principal Brian Tedeschi acknowledged the work of all who helped to prepare for the 21-22 school year. He spoke of planned COVID mitigation strategies for the new school year, the US News and World Reports announcement that Parish Hill is the 68th Best High School of 206 in Connecticut, Niche.com’s #1 ranking of Parish Hill having the best teachers and Fall sports.
 - B. **Superintendent** – Superintendent Ken Henrici spoke to the Board about the current and future vaccination clinics, future booster clinics, the vaccination rate of adults and students, staffing updates, a vacancy in the Speech/Language position, the Governor’s Order mandating vaccinations for all school staff effective September 27th, Food Service, an update on the Summer Capital Improvement projects, Advanced Placement/SAT scores, the Maintenance Department’s great work with the floors in the building, the ESSER 2 & 3 funds and enrollment.
7. **Old Business/New Business**
 - A. **Appointment of Chorus Teacher** – Kevin Hurley – Sally Ireland moved to approve the

appointment of Chorus Teacher Kevin Hurley. Susan Lovegreen seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:

Yes: Kathy Freed, Stephanie Harrington, Sally Ireland, Dennis LaBelle, Susan Lovegreen, Cassidy Martin and Michael Smardon

- B. Appointment of School Nurse – Bethany Duval – Cassidy Martin moved to approve the appointment of School Nurse – Bethany Duval. Michael Smardon seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:**

Yes: Kathy Freed, Stephanie Harrington, Sally Ireland, Dennis LaBelle, Susan Lovegreen, Cassidy Martin and Michael Smardon

- C. Report by PHACT/PTSA – Sherry Smardon reported that a few meetings were held with the Executive Committee. September 15th will be their first official meeting. Kathy Freed will give the PHACT/PTSA report to the Board going forward. She also announced that the Parish Hill PTSA was named one of the National PTA Schools of Excellence.**
- D. Final Budget Forecast--FY 20-21 – Business Manager Jobina Miller announced that the FY21 budget is in the black with a surplus of \$22,000.00.**
- E. American Rescue Plan – ESSER III Grant – Superintendent Henrici said a large portion will go towards hiring interventionists and ventilation upgrades. He spoke of a presentation that was made at the F&P meeting by Swan Associates on the VRV System; this system would provide cooling, heating and ventilation in the classrooms and common areas. Principal Tedeschi said funds would also be earmarked for learning gaps, community outreach and website/social media presence. There are 5 areas requiring certain criteria that the \$326,000.00 would be applied to.**
- F. Report on 2021 SBAC Scores – Principal Brian Tedeschi said that we did not test in 2020 and lost 1/3 of the year’s instruction in 2021 due to the pandemic. This caused the assessments to be lower than previous years. 20% of our students participated in distance learning at home, whereas 40% of students in other districts did not attend in-person at all. We did well for a small school under these circumstances. He noted that 7th grade results overall were a concern, but particularly in Math.**
- G. Report on Vaccine Clinics – August 3 and August 24; Second Dose Clinic – September 14 – Superintendent Henrici reported a vaccination clinic was held today with 34 vaccinated. 14 of the 34 will receive their second dose in a few weeks. More clinics are to come. A good percentage of adults are vaccinated in all three towns and 42% of students are vaccinated as well.**
- H. Status of Re-opening of School and any Health Mandates – Superintendent Henrici reported on the recent Executive Order by Governor Lamont mandating that all school staff to be vaccinated with at least a first dose by September 27th. He is awaiting clarification on this within the next day or so. There are many questions that need to be answered as to how to proceed. Currently, approximately 1 teacher, 1 para and 2 food service staff are unvaccinated.**
- I. Approval of Region #11 Paraprofessionals Contract – July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024 – Michael Smardon moved that the Board to go into Executive Session at 7:49 pm and that the Board of Education hereby moves to provide funding for and to otherwise approve and accept the Tentative Agreement reached between the Board’s negotiation committee and the Para/Custodians’ Union for a successor collective bargaining agreement for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024. The Board further delegates to the Board Chair the authority to execute the final contract document on behalf of the Board. Kathy Freed seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:**
- Yes: Kathy Freed, Stephanie Harrington, Sally Ireland, Dennis LaBelle, Susan Lovegreen, Cassidy Martin and Michael Smardon**
- The Board returned to Public Session at 7:54 pm. Sally Ireland moved that the Board of Education hereby moves to provide funding for and to otherwise approve and accept the Tentative Agreement reached between the Board’s negotiation committee and the Para/Custodians’ Union for a successor collective bargaining agreement for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024. The Board further delegates to the Board Chair the authority to execute the final Contract**

document on behalf of the Board. Michael Smardon seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:

Yes: Kathy Freed, Stephanie Harrington, Sally Ireland, Dennis LaBelle, Susan Lovegreen, Cassidy Martin and Michael Smardon

- J. Approval of Para-Professional Wage Exception Based Upon Appendix I, C of Contract** – Special Education Director Deirdre Osypuk addressed the Board regarding a medically fragile student in our district who is in need of specialized services, some of which would require the para to go into the child’s home. This child is a fall risk. The parents of this child have been wonderful to work with and all they want is for their child to be educated within the district. There is currently no para who is able to provide such services to this child. She has someone who is qualified and is interested, but this person cannot accept the current para rate of \$14.00 per hour. This individual was this child’s para last year and is very familiar with the child’s needs. Deirdre is asking of the Board that they consider that the wage be increased from the current contract for this one para. Working hours would begin at 3 hours per day, 5 days per week, with the goal to get the child back in school. If the child returns to school with a full schedule, 2 paras would then be needed for this child. **Michael Smardon moved to approve the Para-Professional Wage Exception Based Upon Appendix I, C of Contract. Cassidy Martin seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:**

Yes: Kathy Freed, Stephanie Harrington, Sally Ireland, Dennis LaBelle, Susan Lovegreen, Cassidy Martin and Michael Smardon

- K. Approval of Resignation of English teacher Nina Jeannotte** – Cassidy Martin moved to approve, with regret, the Resignation of English teacher Nina Jeannotte. Michael Smardon seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:

Yes: Kathy Freed, Stephanie Harrington, Sally Ireland, Susan Lovegreen, Cassidy Martin And Michael Smardon

No: Dennis LaBelle

- L. Discussion of a Proposal to Shift Cafeteria Director Jessica Texera’s Salary into the General Funds of both Parish Hill High School and Chaplin Elementary School** – Sally Ireland moved to add agenda item L - Discussion of a Proposal to Shift Cafeteria Director Jessica Texera’s Salary into the General Funds of both Parish Hill High School and Chaplin Elementary School. Michael Smardon seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:

Yes: Kathy Freed, Stephanie Harrington, Sally Ireland, Dennis LaBelle, Susan Lovegreen, Cassidy Martin and Michael Smardon

Business Manager Jobina Miller spoke about the Cafeteria Fund deficit. She has tried to come up with options to get out of this deficit, and the one that she is proposing is that the Cafeteria Director’s salary should be moved out the Cafeteria Fund into either the General Fund or Central Office. Currently, Parish Hill pays 60% and Chaplin pays 40% of the Director’s salary. The Board discussed the proposal, and it was agreed that further discussion is needed. Chairperson LaBelle said he will bring the proposal before the Central Office Committee for discussion, then back to the Board with the results of that meeting.

8. Committee Reports/Requests for Board Action

- A. Fiscal & Plant** – Chairman Dennis LaBelle reported to the Board that the Committee met and listened to a presentation by Swan Associates on the proposed VRV Ventilation System. Overhead units disburse in 360 degree directions to introduce fresh air into classroom without having to open windows. We may use ESSER 3 monies to fund this project. Details have yet to be determined, but this is the most cost effective solution to our ventilation improvements. Replacing the windows would increase efficiency, but it is not necessary to do so. No decisions have been made, but the presentation was well received by the committee.
- B. Educational and Board Policies** – nothing to report, but Superintendent Henrici would like to hold a meeting once he receives clarification on the Governor’s Executive order and then develop an “Immunization Policy”.

- C. Central Office** – nothing to report. An in-person meeting is planned for next week in the library.
 - D. Technology** – Superintendent Henrici would like to hold a meeting very soon, but first wants to allow the new Technology hire to “get his feet wet” for a few weeks before meeting. He will set a meeting date for mid-September.
 - E. Personnel and Supervision** – A meeting is scheduled for August 31st at 5:00 pm in the library to review teacher negotiations.
 - F. Newsletter** – Superintendent Ken Henrici said a meeting was held where they discussed content and a timeline. They will try to get it out by the end of September. A new feature that will be included is a “Notable Alumni” section, featuring 1997 Parish Hill High School Graduate and Business Manager Jobina Miller.
 - G. CABE/EASTCONN** – Chairperson LaBelle said that CABE met virtually and spoke of the Governor’s Executive Order, COVID, etc. Kathy Freed said there wasn’t much to report for EASTCONN, but did mention that their website features the free admission to museums, etc. available to families.
- 9. Second Audience for Citizens** – Mr. Casey thanked the Board for their continued efforts. He asked why we currently do not have a reading interventionist. Superintendent Henrici said we will take another look at the ESSER 3 budget to see if we can hire one.
- 10. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – Cafeteria Account/Salary move to local budget, enrollment report, report on the first two weeks of school, Sept 14th second dose clinic, special education rates**
- 11. Adjournment –Michael Smardon moved to adjourn at 8:51 PM. Sally Ireland seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:**
Yes: Kathy Freed, Stephanie Harrington, Sally Ireland, Dennis LaBelle, Susan Lovegreen, Cassidy Martin and Michael Smardon

Respectfully Submitted,
Diane Ritchotte
Recording Secretary