

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, MAY 18, 2021  
7:00 PM  
Zoom Meeting**

- 1. Call to Order – Chairman Dennis LaBelle called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Present were Board members Kate Donnelly, Stacy Foster, Joan Fox, Kathy Freed, Cassidy Martin and Michael Smardon. Sally Ireland joined the meeting later. Administrators present were Superintendent Ken Henrici and Principal Brian Tedeschi.**
- 2. Communication with the Audience – Audience member Kathy Donahue requested that 200K to 300K of the fund balance be released. She would also like an email on the numbers voted on this evening. Audience member Gary Greenberg would like a copy of the Capital Improvement Plan and the ESSER I & II details. He feels that many voters are uninformed about these. He also felt the recent budget referendum had the wrong numbers on the ballot.**
- 3. Written Communications to the Board - None**
- 4. Approval of April 6, 2021 Minutes – Stacy Foster moved to approve the April 6, 2021 minutes. Kathy Freed seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:  
Yes: Kate Donnelly, Stacy Foster, Joan Fox, Kathy Freed, Dennis LaBelle, Cassidy Martin and Michael Smardon.  
Approval of May 3, 2021 Tri-Town Annual Budget Meeting Minutes - Stacy Foster moved to approve the May 3, 2021 Tri-Town Annual Budget Meeting minutes. Kathy Freed seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:  
Yes: Kate Donnelly, Stacy Foster, Joan Fox, Kathy Freed, Dennis LaBelle and Michael Smardon  
Abstain: Cassidy Martin**
- 5. Approval of Financial Statement – April 2021 – Stacy Foster moved to approve the Financial Statement through April 2021. Kathy Freed seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:  
Yes: Kate Donnelly, Stacy Foster, Joan Fox, Kathy Freed, Dennis LaBelle, Cassidy Martin and Michael Smardon.**
- 6. Administrative Reports/Administrative Requests for Board Action**
  - A. Principal – Principal Brian Tedeschi spoke to the Board about Advanced Placement Testing, the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade field trip to Empower Adventure Park, the High School Awards Ceremony, the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony, the May 28<sup>th</sup> early dismissal, Senior exams, the Middle School Award Ceremony, the June 11<sup>th</sup> Commencement, the last day of school on June 14, the Junior and Senior Proms and the Baseball, Softball and Track Teams.**
  - B. Superintendent – Superintendent Ken Henrici started by commending the Track team on their fantastic performance despite having no facilities. He spoke of the CAPSS meetings, the ESSER III Grant, the 2021 Graduation, and the upcoming June 2, 2021 Referendum for the Revised FY 21-22 Budget. The revised budget will see a reduced increase of 0.35% rather than the original increase of 0.60%.**
- 7. Old Business/New Business**
  - A. Report by PHACT/PTSA – Lisa LaBelle noticed that there is no appreciation day for Superintendents. She would like to recognize Mr. Henrici and thank him for the countless hours he spends and his support**

of the PTA. Board of Education Appreciation Day was in March. Lisa thanked the Board for their efforts. She also spoke of the newly elected PTA officers who begin their terms July 1<sup>st</sup>, the Teacher of the Year award, Teacher Appreciation events and the National PTA School of Excellence application.

- B. Budget Forecast--FY 20-21** – Tony Caldas reported to the Board that the budget is in a favorable trend with a 75.44% spend. He also spoke of getting all invoices in before the fiscal year-end and transferring COVID expenses over to the ESSER II grant.
- C. Capital Improvement Projects – FY20-21 to FY 24-25** – Superintendent Ken Henrici reported on the last three meetings and that there is much work to be done.
- D. Discussion of 2020 Commencement Ceremony** – Superintendent Henrici reported that he is very excited to hold the ceremony with unlimited participation this year. The Graduation will take place on June 11, 2021 with rain dates of June 12 & June 13.
- E. Discussion and Possible Action on Requiring In-Person Learning with Limited Flexibility for SY 21-22** – Superintendent Henrici said that the State is promoting in-person learning for next year. We would be wise to wait until the June meeting to make any decisions should additional guidance come out. No action was taken at this time.
- F. Discussion and Action on Revised FY 21-22 Budget Due to Defeat in Referendum; Discussion of Method of Voting for Adoption of Budget** – Superintendent Henrici discussed the revised budget of \$6,507,420.00. This new total reflects a reduction of \$16,000.00, resulting in a revised budget increase of 0.35% over last year’s budget. Areas reduced include Substitutes, Group Insurance and World Language. This budget would go to Referendum on June 2, 2021 from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the respective polling places in all three towns. **Stacy Foster moved to approve the revised FY21-22 Budget at a total of \$6,507,420.00 at a 0.35% increase. Kathy Freed seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:**  
**Yes: Kate Donnelly, Stacy Foster, Joan Fox, Kathy Freed, Dennis LaBelle and Michael Smardon.**  
**No: Cassidy Martin**
- Fa. Stacy Foster moved to add agenda item “Fa. – Discussion and Possible Action on the Offset to the Assessment”. Kathy Freed seconded and the motion was defeated with the following vote:**  
**Yes: Stacy Foster, Kathy Freed and Michael Smardon.**  
**No: Kate Donnelly, Joan Fox, Cassidy Martin and Sally Ireland**  
**Abstain: Dennis LaBelle**  
After some discussion on the offset, Stacy Foster moved to rescind the previous motion and moved to approve the FY21-22 Budget of \$6,507,420.00 and move to Referendum on June 2, 2021 between 12:00 PM and 8:00 PM in the respective polling places of the three towns. Kathy Freed seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:  
**Yes: Kate Donnelly, Stacy Foster, Joan Fox, Kathy Freed, Sally Ireland, Dennis LaBelle and Michael Smardon.**  
**No: Cassidy Martin**
- G. Final Approval of Board Policy:**
  - a. Title IX – Sexual Harassment Prevention and Response**  
Stacy Foster moved to approve Board of Education Policy #P5145.44: Title IX – Sexual Harassment Prevention and Response. Kathy Freed seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:  
**Yes: Kate Donnelly, Stacy Foster, Joan Fox, Kathy Freed, Sally Ireland, Dennis Labelle, Cassidy Martin and Michael Smardon.**
- H. Addition of Agenda Item 7H** – Stacy Foster moved to add as agenda item 7H “Discussion and Action on the Resignation of School Nurse Elizabeth Swagger”. Kathy Freed seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:  
**Yes: Kate Donnelly, Stacy Foster, Joan Fox, Kathy Freed, Sally Ireland, Dennis Labelle, Cassidy Martin and Michael Smardon. Redi-Nurse services will be used to fill this vacancy.**

**8. Committee Reports/Requests for Board Action**

- A. Fiscal & Plant** – Chairman Dennis LaBelle reported to the Board that the Committee met this evening and reviewed the budget, maintenance reports and the Capital Improvement Plan.
  - B. Educational and Board Policies** – No meetings are scheduled for the future.
  - C. Central Office** – Chairman Dennis LaBelle reported that the committee met on May 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - D. Technology** – The committee has not met, but may hold a meeting in June.
  - E. Personnel and Supervision** – Superintendent Ken Henrici reported that the first negotiations meeting was held to establish ground rules, etc. Additional meetings are scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> if needed.
  - F. Newsletter** – Superintendent Ken Henrici said the newsletter came out prior to the last Referendum.
  - G. CABA/EASTCONN** – Kate Donnelly had nothing new to report for CABA. Kathy Freed had nothing new to report for EASTCONN.
- 9. Second Audience for Citizens** – There was a lengthy discussion regarding whether the offset to the assessment was voted on and passed at the same time as the budget or only after the approval of the budget. Gary Greenberg, Kathy Donahue, Lisa LaBelle and several Board members expressed various concerns and spoke of their recollection of past voting methods. At the conclusion of the discussion, Chairman Dennis LaBelle asked Superintendent Ken Henrici to please research and report on the last 10 years of voting data.
- 10. Executive Session—Discussion of Employment of Superintendent** – **Stacy Foster motioned to move to Executive Session at 8:40 PM and invite Superintendent Ken Henrici to Discuss Employment of the Superintendent. Kathy Freed seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:**  
**Yes: Kate Donnelly, Stacy Foster, Joan Fox, Kathy Freed, Sally Ireland, Dennis Labelle, Cassidy Martin and Michael Smardon.**  
**The meeting resumed at 8:54PM.**
- 11. Public Session - Possible Action to Elect, Re-Appoint and Re-Employ the Superintendent** – **Stacy Foster moved to Elect, Re-Appoint and Re-Employ the Superintendent according to the contract proposed and discussed in Executive Session. Kathy Freed seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:**  
**Yes: Kate Donnelly, Stacy Foster, Joan Fox, Kathy Freed, Sally Ireland, Dennis Labelle, Cassidy Martin and Michael Smardon.**
- 12. Agenda Items for Next Meeting** – **Next Referendum, Discussion and Possible Action on Assessment Offset, Student Awards, Discussion and Possible Action on In-Person Learning, Executive Session for Eva Award Nomination. The next meeting will be changed from June 15<sup>th</sup> to June 8<sup>th</sup> and will be in-person. F&P will be held at 6:15 PM and BOE will be held at 7:00 PM.**
- 13. Adjournment** – **Sally Ireland moved to adjourn at 9:06 PM. Stacy Foster seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:**  
**Yes: Kate Donnelly, Stacy Foster, Joan Fox, Kathy Freed, Sally Ireland, Dennis Labelle, Cassidy Martin and Michael Smardon.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Diane Ritchotte  
Recording Secretary