

Sharon Center School Board of Education

October 16, 2023 Minutes

A hybrid meeting of the Sharon Center School Board of Education was held on Monday, October 16, 2023 in the Library Media Center of Sharon Center School.

In attendance were Board members: Doug Cahill, Anne Vance, Kathleen Visconti, Monica Connor, and Deborah Rathbun. Plamen Petkov via Google.

Others in attendance: Lisa Carter, Superintendent; Dr. Jeanine Rose, Assistant Superintendent via Google; Carol Tomkalski, Principal via Google; Sara Cousins, Region 1 Board Representative; Heather Mathews; John Brett; A.J. Stack; Marissa Kent; Casey Flanagan via Google; Meghan Flanagan via Google; and Cindy Webb, Board Clerk.

Chair Cahill called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Board members Monica Connor, Deborah Rathbun and Amanda Thompson were recognized and thanked on behalf of the students, staff, administration for their integrity and value to the Sharon Board of Education.

Motion made by Anne Vance/2nd by Kathleen Visconti to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried with 5 yes votes(Cahill, Vance, Visconti, Connor, Petkov) and 1 abstention (Rathbun).

No public comment.

The Principal, Superintendent, and Assistant Superintendent reviewed their written reports and answered questions from the Board.

Motion made by Deborah Rathbun/2nd by Monica Connor to have Anne Vance be the second signer on payroll/payable checks. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Anne Vance/2nd by Monica Connor to move #9 Youth Voices Count survey to #7, #7 Kindergarten Legislation to #8, and #8 School Based Health Center to #9. Motion carried unanimously.

Youth Voices Count Survey Power Point was presented by Marissa Kent of the Housatonic Youth Service Bureau. Discussion followed.

Kindergarten Registration Legislation – Continued discussion from previous meeting regarding the new legislation stating Kindergarten students need to turn five by September 1 instead of January 1 to enter Kindergarten. The question to the Board was: Do you want to continue to offer Early Kindergarten? Discussion followed explaining the new law, the difference between Pre-K and EK and a Pre-K at Sharon Center. Sharon Center does not have the population to

offer a Pre-K at Sharon at this time. Heather Mathews reviewed the DIAL assessment used for placement of incoming students between Early Kindergarten or Kindergarten.

Motion made by Anne Vance/2nd by Monica Connor to continue the Early Kindergarten for the 2024-2025 year. Motion carried with 5 yes votes (Cahill, Vance, Visconti, Connor, Rathbun) and 1 no vote (Petkov).

School Based Health Care –Superintendent Carter gave the three options:

Option 1: One health care day and one mental health care day

Option 2: Two days of mental health care

Option 3: Give the grant to another school

Discussion followed. This is a three-year grant.

Motion made by Anne Vance/2nd by Monica Connor to accept the grant for two days of mental health coverage. Motion carried unanimously. Board member, Plamen Petkov, left the meeting prior to the vote stating that the Board did not choose to employ outside counsel to clarify language in regards to the School Based Health Center.

Principal Tomkalski gave a roof update. Discussion followed.

Motion made by Monica Connor/2nd by Anne Vance to accept the change order for the roof in the amount of \$8,923.15. Motion carried unanimously.

The following policies were presented for a first reading:

Policy 6159, 5125, 6162.51 and the 7000 series.

No action taken. They will be brought to the November meeting for a second reading and approval.

Motion made by Deborah Rathbun/2nd by Monica Connor to adjourn at 8:55 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Webb
Board Clerk