

These minutes to be accepted/amended at the March 13, 2023 Board of Education meeting.

## Sharon Center School Board of Education

The regular meeting of the Sharon Board of Education was held in person and via zoom on Monday, February 13, 2023.

### PRESENT:

Board of Education Members: Monica Connor, Mandy Thompson, Anne Vance, and Kathleen Visconti.

Plamen Petkov and Deborah Rathbun (via zoom)

Superintendent: Lisa Carter

Assistant Superintendent: Jeanine Rose (via zoom)

Principal: Carol Tomkalski

Board Clerk: Kathryn Amiet

Administrative Assistant: Cindy Webb

Region 1 Business Manager: Sam Herrick (via zoom)

SCS Staff: Liz Foster

Students: Juliana Farese, Mira Norbet, Soren Trivelli

Parent: Jaclyn Farese

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 P.M. by Board Member Anne Vance.

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

Principal Carol Tomkalski recognized and thanked Samantha Morosani, children's librarian at the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, for her story times and the many activities she has provided for the students at Sharon Center School.

During the "Focus On Student Learning" portion of the meeting, SCS counselor Liz Foster explained "Project Make a Difference" and told of the many benefits students gain from interacting with each other. Students in the program then shared their experiences and told what they enjoyed about working closely with a student in another grade level.

Principal Tomkalski read a letter from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, requesting the funds that are earmarked for their trip to Washington D.C.

*Motion by Mandy Thompson/2<sup>nd</sup> by Monica Connor to approve using the \$2,000 in the budget for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class trip to Washington, D.C. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

*Motion by Mandy Thompson/2<sup>nd</sup> by Monica Connor to approve the consent agenda as presented.*

Principal Tomkalski read letters from three staff members who will be retiring at the end of the 2022-2023 school year: Bruce Adam, computer technologist, Kathryn Amiet, board clerk, and Leslie Klish, technology teacher.

Principal Tomkalski also read a letter of resignation from Cathy Davidson, kindergarten teacher assistant.

Acting chair Anne Vance said that the Board accepts these resignations with great regret.

*Motion then carried by unanimous vote.*

No public comment was heard.

The Principal, Superintendent, and Assistant Superintendent briefly reviewed their written reports.

The Sharon Center School calendar for 2023-2024 was reviewed. Regional “Teacher Professional Development Days” will be November 8 and February 21. Principal Tomkalski proposed setting September 20, December 6, and March 13 as Sharon’s “Teacher Professional Development Days”.

*Motion by Monica Connor/2<sup>nd</sup> by Mandy Thompson to accept the 2023-2024 Sharon Center School calendar. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

The first draft of the Sharon Center School 2023-2024 Proposed Spending Plan was reviewed. After discussion, there was a consensus that the Board would meet during the week of February 20 – February 24 for additional time to review this proposed budget.

There were questions regarding the funds listed as “cafeteria transfer” (line 79) in the budget. The Board Clerk will send the cafeteria cash report and supporting documents to the Board members so they have a better understanding of the financials of the cafeteria program.

The Board no longer needed to consider covering the cost of student meals after the SMART funds run out in March, as Governor Lamont signed legislation extending free school meals for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year.

Superintendent Lisa Carter shared information regarding House Bill 5003 – *An Act Concerning Education Funding in Connecticut*. It appears that Sharon’s ECS grant (Educational Cost Sharing Grant) will be decreasing over time.

Second reading of Policy 5118 Resident and Non-Resident Attendance.

*Motion by Monica Connor/2<sup>nd</sup> by Kitty Visconti to approve policy 5118 as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

*Motion by Kitty Viscont/2<sup>nd</sup> by Monica Connor to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion and approval of Principal Carol Tomkalski’s salary*

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*for the 2023-2024 school year. Superintendent Lisa Carter was invited to join this session. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:10 p.m.  
The Board returned to Open Session at 8:25 p.m.

*Motion by Mandy Thompson/2<sup>nd</sup> by Monica Connor to increase Principal Carol Tomkalski's salary to \$129,000.00 for the 2023-2024 school year, with many thanks for a great year. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

No public comment was heard.

*Motion by Mandy Thompson/2<sup>nd</sup> by Kitty Visconti to adjourn.*

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Amiet  
Board Clerk