

Sharon Center School Board of Education

March 11, 2024 Minutes

A hybrid meeting of the Sharon Center School Board of Education was held on Monday, March 11, 2024 in the Library of Sharon Center School.

In attendance were Board members: Anne Vance, Philip O'Reilly, Nancy Hegy Martin, Plamen Petkov, and Kathleen Visconti.

Others in attendance: Superintendent, Lisa Carter; Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Jeanine Rose; Principal, Carol Tomkalski; Allison Bryant and Heather Mathews, teachers; Holly, therapy dog; and Cindy Webb, Board Clerk.

Meeting was called to order at 6:12 PM.

Principal Tomkalski thanked the Board of Education for their service.

Focus on Learning - Primary Team: Heather Mathews and Allison presented a slide show on Primary Science of Reading.

Motion made by Philip O'Reilly/2nd by Nancy Hegy Martin to approve consent agenda. Discussion - Nancy Hegy Martin asked if there was a difference between "Spending Plan" and "Budget" and to use or the other for consistency. Motion carried unanimously.

Public comment - none

Written communication: Letter from Sarah Ives requesting her sons Landon and Finnlay to attend Sharon Center School for the 24-25 school year.

Motion to invite Landon and Finnlay to attend Sharon Center School for the 24-25 by Nancy Hegy Martin/2nd by Philip O'Reilly. Discussion followed. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Nancy Hegy Martin spoke to the Board about starting a Frequently Asked Q & A page on the website.

Healthy Food Certification:

Motion made by Philip O'Reilly/2nd by Nancy Hegy Martin:

Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Sharon Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Philip O'Reilly/2nd by Nancy Hegy Martin:

The Sharon Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Nancy Hegy Martin/2nd by Philip O'Reilly to approve the Region 1 Action Plan and Sustaining Efforts to Increase Educator Diversity as written to the State Department of Education. Discussion followed. Motion carried with four yes votes (P. O'Reilly, A. Vance, N. Hegy Martin and K. Visconti), one opposed (P. Petkov).

Motion made by Philip O'Reilly/2nd by Kathleen Visconti to spend \$15,750 to repair the elevator. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Kathleen Visconti/2nd by Plamen Petkov to accept the snow removal and lawn care bid from Sharon Lawn and Landscaping. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Early Release Days the last week of school:

Motion made by Nancy Hegy Martin//2nd by Plamen Petkov to grant the request for early

dismissal days on June 10, 11, 12. Discussion followed regarding the impact on parents. Motion passed with four yes votes (A. Vance, N. Hegy Martin, P. Petkov, K. Visconti) and one opposed (P. O'Reilly).

Motion made by Philip O'Reilly/2nd by Kathleen Visconti to appoint Nancy Hegy Martin as the Region 1 alternate. No discussion, motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Plamen Petkov/2nd by Nancy Hegy Martin to propose keeping the tuition rate the same as it is currently. Discussion followed. Motion carried with four yes votes (A. Vance, P. Petkov, K. Visconti, N. Hegy Martin) and one opposed (P. O'Reilly).

Motion made by Philip O'Reilly/2nd by Nancy Hegy Martin to purchase the new dishwasher at \$19,764 and \$350 for installation. Discussion followed. P. O'Reilly would like to ask the Board of Finance to consider reimbursement for the dishwasher as a capital expenditure. The motion is not contingent on the Board of Finance. Motion carried unanimously.

First Reading of Policy 5141.29.

Budget Presentation: Principal Tomkalski reviewed the budget and the changes made. Discussion followed.

Motion made by Philip O'Reilly/2nd by Nancy Hegy Martin to accept the fiscal budget at \$4,328,390, -4.12%. Motion carried unanimously.

No public comment.

Motion made by Kathleen Visconti/2nd by Plamen Petkov to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 PM, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Webb
Board Clerk