

Sharon Board of Education
May 12, 2025 Minutes

A hybrid meeting of the Sharon Board of Education was held on Monday, May 12, 2025.

In attendance were Board members in person: Doug Cahill, Nancy Hegy Martin, Philip O'Reilly and virtual Anne Vance and Plamen Petkov.

Others in attendance: Superintendent Melony Brady-Shanley, Principal Carol Tomkalski, Casey Flanagan, John Brett and Board Clerk Cindy Webb.

Virtual: Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jeanine Rose, Carol Flaton, Lynn Kearcher, and Justine Smith.

Meeting was called to order at 6:06 PM.

Motion made by P. O'Reilly/2nd by N. Hegy Martin to add the Smith letter requesting continued enrollment of their children. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by N. Hegy Martin/2nd by Anne Vance to add verbal communication requesting Superintendent Brady-Shanley to share information with the Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by A. Vance/2nd by P. O'Reilly to approve the Consent Agenda as provided. Motion carried unanimously.

Principal Tomkalski congratulated the winner of the Superintendent Award: Joanna (Asia) Haratyk and the winners of the CABE award: Eloise (Lucy) Salazar and Keely Malone.

Public Comment: None

Written Communications: Letters regarding tuition students.

Motion made by P. O'Reilly/2nd by A. Vance to accept Sevilla Navarrete as an Early Kindergarten student. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by N. Hegy Martin/2nd by A. Vance to accept Ellis Porter to attend Early Kindergarten. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by A. Vance/2nd by P. Petkov to approve James and Matthew Smith to attend Sharon Center School at no charge. P. O'Reilly asked if there was a thought to charge tuition to staff members. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board of Ed accepted John DiMarco's retirement letter as of December 31, 2025 with regret.

Verbal communication: Superintendent Brady-Shanley met with Berkshire Taconic staff and Chip Krueger to discuss achievement and how to assist Sharon Center School in improving performance and to offer financial support to find avenues to support the Sharon Center School students academically. Superintendent Brady-Shaney was asked to bring to the board to see if there is interest in a theme based school (International Baccalaureate School). This may be further discussed at the June Board Retreat.

Principal Tomkalski, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Rose and Superintendent Brady-Shanley reviewed their reports.

First read of addendum to Tuition Policy. N. Hegy Martin asked if a page could be added to the end for the Principal to sign off.

Motion made by N. Hegy Martin/2nd by A. Vance to approve Policy 5114 pending the potential change. P. Petkov asked if the verbiage in the policy came from the state. Motion passed with four yes votes: D. Cahill, A. Vance, P. O'Reilly, N. Hegy Martin and one opposed: P. Petkov.

Tuition Rate: Discussion followed.

Motion made by P. O'Reilly/2nd by N. Hegy Martin to set the tuition rate at \$2,500 for the first child and \$1,250 for the second child. Motion passed with four yes votes: D. Cahill, A. Vance, P. O'Reilly, N. Hegy Martin and one opposed: P. Petkov.

Budget discussion and unexpended funds.

Motion made by A. Vance/2nd by N. Hegy Martin to approve carpeting the last four classrooms out of unexpended funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Long Range Planning Committee: Casey Flanagan reported to the Board the requests of the LRPC. The LRPC recommended that the BOS form a SCS Committee, but the BOS didn't believe it was in their scope. They recommended that the BOE consider the request, and the BOE will review it at their July Board Retreat. The second request was to commence dialog with the other towns to have open meetings to discuss possible regionalization or combining schools.

At the Board's meeting in July when discussing goals, a possible goal may be to be strategic and proactive.

Negotiation meetings: N. Hegy Martin nominated P. O'Reilly to be on the negotiating team for the certified contract. D. Cahill, P. O'Reilly, S. Herrick and M. Brady-Shanley will be the team. Motion made by A. Vance/2nd by N. Hegy Martin to approve the negotiating team. Motion carried unanimously. D. Cahill reached out to Tom Bartram with the information because a Board of Finance member sits in on meetings.

Public Comment: None

Board of Education Round Table: To pick a date for the Board Retreat the later part of June. A doodle poll will be sent out.

Board went into Executive Session at 8:00 PM.

Board returned from Executive Session at 8:28 PM.

Motion made by P. O'Reilly/2nd by N. Hegy Martin to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Webb
Board Clerk