

These minutes to be accepted/amended at the October 17, 2022 Board of Education meeting.

Sharon Center School Board of Education

The regular meeting was held on Monday, September 19, 2022 via ZOOM.

PRESENT:

Board of Education Members: Doug Cahill, Monica Connor, Plamen Petkov,
Deborah Rathbun, Amanda Thompson, Anne Vance, and Kathleen Visconti

Sharon Representative to Region 1 BOE: Sara Cousins

Superintendent: Lisa Carter

Assistant Superintendent: Jeanine Rose

Principal: Carol Tomkalski

Board Clerk: Kathryn Amiet

SCS Staff: Allison Bryant, Cindy Webb

Guests: CATV6, Meghan Flanagan, Carol Flaton, Heather Socci

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 P.M. by Board Chair Doug Cahill

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

Principal Tomkalski recognized the valuable contribution the PTO provides to Sharon Center School in all that they do, and she thanked them for the highly successful family picnic they hosted on Wednesday, September 14th, after the school's Open House.

Board Chair Cahill then recognized and thanked all the members of the Principal Search Committee for their dedication and enthusiasm during this challenging process.

Motion by Monica Connor/2nd by Anne Vance to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mandy Thompson had several questions on the Cash Report.

Sara Cousins, Sharon Representative to the Region 1 Board of Education, introduced herself and spoke briefly as to her role on the Region 1 Board.

Lisa Carter told the Board that one of her goals this year is visioning the future of HVRHS and investigating what draws students to other private high schools.

Motion then carried by unanimous vote.

No public comment was heard.

There was discussion regarding the School's Non-Compliance with the Minimum Budget Requirement for 2022-2023. Region 1 Business Manager Sam Herrick is working with the State for better clarification on this issue. The Board of Education will then be better able to make a decision as to how to respond.

Principal Tomkalski began her report by telling the Board that the school is “off to a great start!!”

There were over 50 families at the school’s Open House and Picnic last Wednesday. Our theme this year is SOAR - building on our Strengths, capitalizing on Opportunities, maintaining a positive Attitude and cultivating Relationships.

The Leadership Team is working on a strategic plan for the 2022-2023 school year. Amy Tepper will be supporting Principal Tomkalski this year and will give her feedback to help meet the needs of the staff.

She is in contact with Jo Ann Frieberg, who is a school climate consultant, to provide professional development to the SCS staff to improve the climate and culture at Sharon Center School.

Michael Baldwin from the Sharon Playhouse will once again be working with SCS students through the Performing Arts Residency.

Enrollment is currently at 97 students

Principal Tomkalski then spoke of the many student activities that have been taking place since the beginning of school.

The Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent both reviewed their written reports.

Motion by Anne Vance/2nd by Monica Connor to approve the letter to the Sharon Board of Finance requesting that all unexpended funds from the 2021-2022 Sharon Center School budget be placed in the non-recurring account.

Motion carried by a vote of 5 YES to 2 NO.

YES: Doug Cahill, Monica Connor, Deborah Rathbun, Anne Vance, Kitty Visconti

NO: Plamen Petkov and Amanda Thompson

Motion by Anne Vance/2nd by Monica Connor that

“The board of education or governing authority 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.”

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Principal Tomkalski informed the Board that she is reviewing policies to be certain that they are the most updated versions.

Motion by Deborah Rathbun/2nd by Mandy Thompson to move into Executive Session, combining the two sessions into one, for the purpose of:

- 1. Discussing Certified Contract Negotiation Committee*
- 2. Reviewing the Superintendent's end of year evaluation 2021-2022*

Principal Carol Tomkalski and Superintendent Lisa Carter were invited to attend these Executive Sessions.

Motion Carried by unanimous vote.

The Board moved into Executive Session at 7:33 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:24 p.m.

No action was taken.

Motion by Kitty Visconti/2nd by Monica Connor to adjourn.

There was brief discussion regarding meetings going forward, whether they will be in-person or remote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Amiet
Board Clerk