

Sharon Board of Education

April 21, 2025 Minutes

A hybrid meeting of the Sharon Board of Education was held on Monday, April 21, 2025.

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

Others in attendance: Superintendent Melony Brady-Shanley, Principal Carol Tomkalski, Sara Cousins, Carol Flaton, Heather Mathews, Terry Vance and Board Clerk Cindy Webb.

Virtual: Casey Flanagan, Keeley Rossi, Justine Smith, Allison Bryant, Susan Bayer, Dallas Speranzo, Rebecca Smith, Blake Hutchins, Jill Drew, Audra Salazar and Mary Ellen Leen.

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Motion made by A. Vance/2nd by N. Hegy Martin to add number 7 for Fire Panel and action to the agenda.

Motion made by K. Visconti/2nd by N. Hegy Martin to approve the Consent Agenda. Superintendent Brady-Shanley requested that the two maternity requests be removed from the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: H. Mathews read a letter from the Sharon Center Association.

Written Communications: Letters regarding tuition students.

Motion made by A. Vance/2nd by K. Visconti to accept Charlotte Olsen to attend for the 25-26 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by A. Vance/2nd by N. Hegy Martin to accept Karsyn Johyns, if eligible as a tuition student for the 25-26 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Salazar request - no action - original decision stands.

Principal Tomkalski reviewed her report and Superintendent Brady-Shanley reviewed the Assistant Superintendent's and the Superintendent's reports.

Motion made by N. Hegy Martin/2nd by P. O'Reilly to approve the sitework bid from Metcalf Paving for \$103,906. P. O'Reilly asked if the motion had to say pending town approval. It does not. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by N. Hegy Martin/2nd by P. O'Reilly to approve \$47,112.65 to be taken from the nonlapsing account for the new fire panel. Motion carried with five yes votes - D. Cahill, N. Hegy Martin, P. O'Reilly, A. Vance, K. Visconti and one no vote - P. Petkov.

No discussion of Capital Plan, will wait for a report from the engineers.

Budget Discussion - The Board of Finance requested that the Board of Education cut their budget by \$68,979 to bring the budget in at a net 0%. Superintendent Brady-Shanley presented two options for budget cuts. Discussion followed.

Motion by A. Vance/2nd by N. Hegy Martin to send option 2 to the Board of Finance as presented. Discussion followed regarding that the total budget amount should be put in the motion. A. Vance withdrew the motion.

Motion made by A. Vance/2nd by P. O'Reilly to approve the reduction from the previously approved 2026 Sharon Center School budget by an additional \$68,979 for a total new budget of \$6,065,001. Motion carried unanimously.

Transportation Policy Discussion - The board gave Superintendent Brady-Shanley permission to work with Tom Mooney on adjusting the transportation policy.

Tuition Addendum Discussion - Superintendent Brady-Shanley proposed adding an addendum of a common application to the tuition policy.

At the May meeting there will be a first reading of the Volunteer Policy, Substitute Teacher Policy and Soliciting Prices/Bids Policy.

No Public Comment

Board of Education Round Table: Request to reach out to Maria Horn again regarding the MBR. Discussion regarding upcoming teacher negotiations. Discussion on some type of dedication for Irv Robbins, former teacher. The Community Relations Committee met and would like ideas on how to get the quality of the work of the committee and board out to the public. This will be put on the May agenda. The board will add a one page cover sheet to go with the budgets at the Town Hearing on April 25, 2025.

Motion made by P. O'Reilly/2nd by A. Vance to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Webb
Board Clerk