

SHARON BOARD OF FINANCE
SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SHARON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Draft until approved at the next regular meeting

The Sharon BOF, BOS, and BOE special meeting was held January 13, 2026 at 5:30PM at Town Hall. Present were BOF members Fowler, Clare, Pastre, Flaton, Hecht, Robertson, Toppan, and Bartram via phone; the three BOS members; BOE members O'Reilly, Vance, Winburn, Hegy Martin, Jarvis, and Birnbaum, SCS Principal Tomkalski, Region 1 Representative Cousins, Region 1 Business Manager Herrick, Sandra Buergi, Jill Drew, and the secretary.

Vice Chairman Fowler, First Selectman Flanagan, and BOE Chairman O'Reilly each called the meeting to order at 5:32.

Mrs. Robertson made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Flaton, with all in favor.

Introductions were made around the room.

BOE Chairman O'Reilly, Vice Chair Hegy Martin, and Board member Terry Vance spoke on their Board's educational programming, authority, mandates, CT State Department of Education school district expectations, recent programming mandates, other selected mandates & their cost drivers, goal setting, budget creation and timeline. Ms. Fowler commented that she and Ms. Clare are working with Dr. O'Reilly to put in simple form the teacher salaries with their inclusion of steps. Principal Tomkalski spoke on programming, instructional learning, academic priorities, and a capital plan based on actual needs.

Region 1 Business Manager Sam Herrick spoke on the Region One BOE's duties, budget process and priorities. He commented on why there will be an increase in electricity costs, as well as in health insurance, and there may be a reduction in Sharon's costs to the Regional budget.

First Selectman Flanagan spoke on the BOS's executive and administrative responsibilities, budget process, how the Board will be looking at long-standing positions that will be replaced in the future, and the Town's capital needs & priorities. Selectman Brett commented on the potentially new Town printed newsletter, similar to the Town of Cornwall's. It will need some seed money. He also spoke about the need for better ZOOM meeting technology for the Chapin Meeting Hall. Ms. Kearcher commented on the monthly newsletter that Mr. Flanagan does.

Mr. Hecht spoke on the BOF's roles in town. He explained the Board's overall role, gave an overview of the Town's funds, their timeline concerning the budgets, the setting

of the mil rate, town expenses with revenues, duties, processes, priorities, and fiscal constraints and concerns.

Ms. Flaton commented that she feels that budget talks should happen earlier and asked what the long-term plan or goals are for the school with the current and projected decrease in enrollment. Dr. O'Reilly stated that his Board is looking into this and will get back to Ms. Flaton. There was also a question on tuition-paying students and the amount that the Town received.

Ms. Fowler emphasized that all of the Boards should be mindful moving forward with their responsibilities, while there are pressures on resources. Communication between all the Boards is vital, and any collaboration between the Town and the School will be welcomed. Perhaps the heads of the three Boards could get together at least quarterly to give each other updates on various issues. Reconvening in either July or August was also discussed as budgets would be set for the fiscal year.

BOS financial reports are provided to the BOF every quarter. Discuss is underway between Dr. O'Reilly and Ms. Fowler as to how/if the BOE's financial reports could also be provided to the BOF on either a monthly or quarterly basis.

It was agreed that the Chairs of BOF and BOE, along with the First Selectman, meet again next quarter, and to explore how a BOF meeting can be held at the school. This might include a tour as well of the school's facilities for BOF members.

With nothing further, there were various motions and seconds to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Pitcher, Recording Secretary