

SHARON BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2019 - 5:30 PM
@
THE NEWTON SCHOOL
DRAFT MINUTES

In attendance:

School Board: Samantha Potter, Chantelle Brackett, Don Shaw

Staff: Keenan Haley (Principal), Tara Weatherell (Business Manager), Bruce Labs (Superintendent), Cheslee Morrison (Preschool Director)

Public: Nicole Antal (Sharon recording secretary)

1. Call to Order
Don Shaw called the meeting to order at 5:53pm.
2. Adjustments to the Agenda
Haley asked to add a Fridge Issue under Discussions
3. Assign times/time keeper
None
4. Consent Agenda
 - 4.1. Approve the Minutes of Tuesday, August 20, 2019 (Special)
Brackett moved to approve the minutes of Tuesday August 20, 2019 as written and submitted. Shaw seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
 - 4.2. Approve the Minutes of Tuesday, August 13, 2019 (Regular)
Shaw moved to approve the minutes of Tuesday August 13, 2019 as written and submitted. Brackett seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
 - 4.3. Approve the Minutes of Thursday, August 1, 2019 (Emergency)
Potter moved to approve the minutes of Tuesday August 1, 2019 as written and submitted. Shaw seconded. The motion carried unanimously. (With an adjustment to the executive session time: going in at 1:02pm)
 - 4.4. Approve the Minutes of Monday, June 24, 2019 (Wagon Wheel)
Brackett moved to approve the minutes of Monday June 24, 2019 as written and submitted. Shaw seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Board Communications
None

6. Public Comments

None

7. Action Items

None at the moment

8. PreK Thoughts for the Future - Cheslee Morrison

Haley explained Morrison's role at the school. He invited her to speak to the board about her role and how she sees the future of the preschool program in Sharon.

Morrison explained her new role: she is at the school on a limited bases, as she is also the preschool director in Norwich (M-Th in Norwich, and then in Sharon on Fridays). She is helping through the transition for next year, as she plans to not be in Sharon anymore: two teachers took on that transition and are helping with the day-to-day tasks of the director job. She explained that her position has changed over the years she has been director. There has been a growth in partnerships with other school (a requirement of Act 166 to get funding through the state), and the STARS program through the state.

She wants to leave Sharon in the best shape possible. She thinks the director position is outgrowing the part-time position that it has been assigned, and she doesn't think that it is sustainable to have part-time teachers either, as it is hard to retain teachers on a part-time basis. The board thanked her for her feedback.

9. Reports to the Board

9.1. Principal's Report

9.1.1 Paving update & Town Office Connection

Joe Ronan (chair of selectboard) met with Haley about the parking and plowing. The snow removal has been talked about, and will hopefully continue for this winter. The town is interested in better communication with the school.

Haley talked about the paving project of the existing parking, Horizons gave an estimate and it is more than what he expected. He doesn't think we will have enough money to do a new parking, as just the repaving would use almost all of the Building Reserve Fund.

9.1.2 Emergency Planning Committee: ALICE date set

Haley formed an Emergency Planning Committee. Chemical spill on the interstate. Contact the state, look at the building. State police for an issue, was not immediate.

9.1.3 Open House/PotLuck Review

There was a potluck/open house on Thursday, Sept. 5. The school invited family to visit classrooms, staff was introduced, as well as the reading initiative.

Feedback from parents and staff: good event.

9.1.4 Teacher Evaluation Update

Haley is in the process to send the teachers their goals to assess them.

9.1.5 Classroom Visit Experience

Haley has been visiting classrooms: he sees quality teaching, good classroom management. He is really proud of the staff for their quality work in the classrooms.

9.1.6 VT State Police Call

VT State Police call had to be made after an incident at school, and was reported right away to Labs.

10. Discussion Items

10.1 Budget - current numbers

Weatherell shared her hopes to get budget by the 1st of the month, every month. Her goal this year is to get information out faster, by email, so the board has time to digest the material BEFORE the meeting, and can come with questions instead of trying to read a report while conducting the meeting. She shared the financial state of the school with the board. No discussion about the report.

10.2 Opening of School

Haley shared that the beginning of school went very well, with steady numbers for enrollment.

The Board and Haley discussed our free and reduced lunch numbers. Weatherell encouraged Haley to encourage parents to apply. There was a discussion about how to make parents to apply, if they qualify. Weatherell suggested that the school and school staff be removed from the equation, parents might be more open to divulge their financial situation if the SU is to collect that information directly. She reminded the board that this affect not only our lunch program, but also grant applications. She thinks we are at 36% free and reduced lunch, compared to about 50% a few years ago.

10.3 Building Repairs Update

Shaw asked what is being done about the insulation in the kitchen area. It was decided it was best to wrap the pipe. Dayco said it would be our best option in that little space, instead of spray insulation.

Preschool building has some issues, with leaks in the winter months. Will need to be addressed before winter.

10.4 Driveway update

(talked about in the Principal Report)

10.5 School Fridge.

The fridge in the kitchen keeps leaking, despite small repairs. There is no line item in the budget for kitchen equipment. Haley wants to replace the fridge, and according to estimates gathered, it will be \$3000-4000. The board said they will need to approve this in a special meeting at a later date after Haley and Weatherell gather information on grants available and where the money could come from from the budget. Shaw asked if the Building Reserve Fund could be used for this. Weatherelle said possibly, she will let the board know asap, as the fridge needs t be replaced sooner than later.

11. Confirm Next Meeting Dates

11.1. Tuesday, October 8, 2019 - 5:30 PM @ Sharon Elementary School
Confirmed by the board unanimously.

12. Future Agenda Items

13. Adjourn

Shaw made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:39pm. Brackett seconded. Motion carried.