

SHARON BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 - 5:30 PM
@
VIA GOOGLE MEET (RECORDED)
Draft Minutes

In attendance:

School Board: Chantelle Brackett, Sam Potter, Don Shaw

Other: Jamie Kinnarney (Superintendent, left the meeting at 6:07 pm), Keenan Haley (Principal), Raymond Ballou (Technology Manager at WRVSU), Tara Weatherell (Business Manager at WRVSU), Nicole Antal (Sharon Board secretary), Jessica Redmond (Encore Renewable) , Ralph Meima (Green Lantern Solar), 2 unidentified callers.

1. Call to Order

Don Shaw called the meeting to order 5:43 pm

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

None

3. Assign times/time keeper

4. Consent Agenda

- 4.1. Approve the Minutes of Tuesday, August 11, 2020 (Regular)
Tabled for next meeting.

5. Board Communications

Shaw reported he has received an email from Cynthia Powers (SU Grant Coordinator). She thanks the Sharon board for all the years of interaction. She is not coming back to her position next year.

6. Public Comments

None

7. Reports to the Board

7.1. Superintendent's Report

Kinnarney shared with the Board a document prior to the meeting (see sharonelementary.org/minutes-agenda/ or Google Drive to view the report)

Kinnarney also reported the followings:

- There are more students in the 4th-grade and 5th-grade enrolled in the Virtual Academy than expected - 43 students. Kinnarney is looking into hiring a teacher to cover those students, which would be a per diem hire.

- Kinnarney had heard that the first day of school went great in Sharon. Brackett confirmed that the drop-off and pick-up, as a parent, went very smoothly.
- Kinnarney testified before the legislature today to argue it would be detrimental, in his opinion, to prohibit school boards from having a floor vote on budgets. He thinks it is crucial to explain and talk to constituents before voting on a budget.

7.2. Business Manager's Report

Weatherell shared with the Board a document prior to the meeting (see sharonelementary.org/minutes-agenda/ or Google Drive to view the report)

Weatherell reported to the Board that her team have submitted all the materials for the FY 20 pre-audit. The Business Team has received the FY20 Audit checklist and are working to get all the information gathered.

Weatherell reported that the AOE extended the FY20 STAT Book collection to September 15 from August 15. This requires a manual line by line account code crosswalk from our system generated excel reports to the AOE's excel file and then additional worksheets breaking down expenses and revenues into different categories
 Financial break: USDA & Child Nutrition Program extended the Summer Food Service Program through 12/31 which allows us to continue to serve free meals to all children up to age 18.

Weatherell reported:

- We have not been told how much CRF Funds our SU will have available; but we submitted our application which was due 9/2. We have been given our ESSR Funding amount which we will need to provide up to roughly 11% to the Independent Schools within our footprint (Sharon Academy & Brookhaven)
- Superintendent Kinnarney, COVID Coordinator, Shane Oakes and I have met to review

the initial items that we are in hopes to obtain funding reimbursement for; we will continue to meet as these needs progress through the opening and first few weeks of school

FY 20-21 Report: Weatherell asked the Board to give her and Kinnarney pointers about what they would like to see in the budget this year. They are building budgets from scratch this year, instead of taking the current year's budget and building on top.

7.3. Principal's Report

Haley shared with the Board a document prior to the meeting (see sharonelementary.org/minutes-agenda/ or Google Drive to view the report)

- The opening of the school has been a challenge due to COVID. The staff has worked hard to make this possible.

- Our staff participated in two Professional Learning sessions during our inservice. We worked with Aimee Toth on our literacy work, focusing on the first 6 weeks of school and assessments. We also worked with Mary Ellen Simmons on mathematics and its first weeks of school and assessment. They are focusing on really looking at best practice for teaching literacy instead of just looking at it from a program perspective.
Don Shaw wanted to make sure that the goal of adopting “Fountas and Pinnell” across the SU was to have common educational techniques and themes, to have consistency throughout the SU and throughout the grades. He is hoping it doesn’t get lost by diverging from 100% Fountas and Pinnell.
- Thursday, September 3rd, Meg Hopkins presented Anti-racist curriculum ideas to the staff. It was powerful and sparked a lot of conversation between staff. Our first goal will be to inventory our book selections within our classrooms to see what percentage of books have characters of color in them. We will look to build diverse libraries in our classrooms.
Haley recommended to other principals to have her do a presentation for them, as it has been well received by his staff.
- The Principal Team is meeting weekly. That is something new and it has been very helpful, to be able to talk with peers about issues and finding solutions together.
The Nurses across the SU have been doing that as well. Haley is seeing new collaborations throughout the SU, and he sees that as a benefit for everyone.

7.4. Policy Committee

Kinnarney reported that 3 policies will go to the Executive Board soon: a superintendent board relation policy, a budget policy, and policy on complaints. These were policies that were recommended to pursue.

8. Discussion Items

8.1 Solar Project Presentations

Jessica Redmond from Encore Renewable Energy presented a potential solar project. The company works with non-profits, schools, government entities to offer a net metered solar project.
Ralph Meima from Green Lantern Solar talked to the Board about a possible solar project also, a similar project than Encore Renewable Energy. He didn’t go into the specifics and offered the Board to offer specifics numbers and potential savings by having access to the electrical statements.

The Board showed interest to learn more about these, but that some clarifications were needed before moving forward. Haley will contact previous principal Barrett Williams to inquire about the rooftop solar project, as this would limit the scope of what the Board

can pursue in terms of solar project.

8.2 Social/Emotional Data Report

Haley talked more about MTSS that has been the focus of new Superintendent Kinnarney. In the past, there was no real system in place in collecting and addressing behavioral issues when students were sent to office. A note was done and filed, but Haley is hoping that with the SWIS WRVSU purchased. Using a data collection program will help us see trends that can in turn help us to plan interventions for students who are struggling to meet behavioral expectations. This often leads to lack of academic time, thus affecting academic achievement.

8.3 Sharon Elementary School Continuous Improvement Plan

Mary Ellen Simmons helped Haley with making the yearly Continuous Improvement Plan requested by the state. We are supposed to do every year and it is tied to funding.

8.4 COVID-19 Updates

Haley didn't have any updates.

8.5 Board Recognition

Shaw, Brackett, and Potter congratulated Haley on completing the Principal's certification.

8.6 2021-2022 Budget Discussion

See Business Manager's report

9. Action Items

9.1 Act to approve the Sharon Elementary Continuous Improvement Plan

Brackett made a motion to approve the Sharon Elementary School Continuous Improvement Plan as presented by Haley. Potter seconded. Motion carried.

10. New Hires

10.1 Andrew Evans - Grade 6 Teacher

Haley reported that Evans will be a great fit for the school. He is very well versed in Google Classroom. He has an extensive background in education, literacy, has taught 20 years of 6th grade.

10.2 Suzanne Rousseau - Night Time Custodian

There was an increased demand due to COVID for cleaning hours. COVID CARES money will cover the extra hours needed.

11. Confirm Next Meeting Dates

11.1. Tuesday, October 13, 2020 - 5:30 PM @ VIA GOOGLE MEET (Regular)

Confirmed

12. Adjourn

Brackett made a motion to adjourn at 7:22 pm. Potter seconded. Motion carried.