

SHARON BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020 - 6:00 PM
@
VIA GOOGLE MEET
DRAFT MINUTES

In attendance:

Sharon School Board: Don Shaw, Chantelle Brackett, Sam Potter

Others: Raymond Ballou (Technology Manager, WRVSU), Keenan Haley (Sharon Elementary Principal), Tara Weatherell (Business Manager, WRVSU), Jamie Kinnarney (Superintendent, WRVSU), Lyall Smith, Nicole Antal (Sharon Recording secretary)

1. Call to Order
Shaw called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm
2. Adjustments to the Agenda
None
3. Assign times/timekeeper
Shaw will act as timekeeper
4. Consent Agenda
 - 4.1. Approve the Minutes of Tuesday, November 10, 2020 (Regular)
 - 4.2. Approve the Minutes of Monday, November 23, 2020 (Special)
Potter made a motion to approve the minutes with some spelling corrections. Brackett seconded. Motion carried.

The minutes of Monday, November 23, 2020, are tabled until the next meeting - they were not in the package sent by the SU.

5. Board Communications
None
6. Public Comments
None
7. Reports to the Board
 - 7.1. Superintendent
Kinnarney reported that it is budget season at the SU. All the Supervisory unions across the state have received the annual education tax rate letter to better build a budget. They are forecasting an increase of about 9% in education property tax. Kinnarney is spending 50% of his time right now on drafting budgets. They are great things happening around the SU that Kinnarney is excited about. He shared his enthusiasm that school is still in in-person session, as of December 8. He

shared that students in Virtual Academy are maintaining knowledge, but are not demonstrating growth.

7.2. Principal

- Haley shared the data he collected from a School Climate Survey. All students participated. He was pleased overall, and some aspects will be discussed and looked at with staff.
- The Sharon Food Shelf has started its backpack program: they offer a backpack of food for the weekend. 3 families are taking advantage of that. Haley has dropped the food off, as the Food Shelf is very generous and the backpack is packed with food.
- Holiday season: Church has offered a stocking program: 8 families. The Sharon PTO also offered to buy gifts for the Holidays for families in need. Haley reported that about 4 families will be looking to utilize their help.
- The evaluation process for all the teachers is currently happening.
- Dec. 21st is in-service time for teachers. Haley and 3 teachers designed a program for the day on 'self-care during the pandemic'. 3 teachers will run 3 different workshops. On the 22nd, there will be an address from the SU, followed by a Professional Day.
- 8 students and 2 staff quarantined after Thanksgiving.
- Brackett asked how many students at this point were enrolled in Virtual Academy. Haley didn't have the exact number. 5 came back to school after having been enrolled. He believes they are 5 remaining.

7.3. Business Manager

FY20 audit update: Auditors were in the office on 11/18 & 11/19 to complete the in-person portion of the audit.

In her report, Weatherell shared that the auditors had selected Title 1, IDEAB, Food Service, and OnePlanet for the Federal Single Audit. But they did not to do the audit on the One Planet program after all. The auditor will be back. They are on target to be done in December. They will start with the SU, as the SU impacts each individual district.

8. Discussion Items

8.1 Paving Project

Smith gave an update on the paving project. He contacted Horizon Engineering. The project has changed. They don't recommend reusing the asphalt, as the recycling truck would not be in town working on the Howe Hill project anymore (it made sense to offer that option last time, as the Town was also working on a paving project).

The new recommendation is to rip out the old pavement, about 20 inches deep, and making the soil what we want it to be. There might be some electrical wire under. The drain also has failed and might need to be repositioned in the kitchen area. Horizon Engineering will have an RFP ready to go out for the second week of January. Shaw: to

meet the budgetary needs, will that be enough time? Weatherell: the amount, as last time, is not large enough for a bond, so just like last time, she will recommend going directly to the lender. Potter inquired about how the process for borrowing money would play out if it needs to be approved by the Town first. Weatherell explained that it would need to be in the budget and presented to the town in the School Budget to be approved, for the next 4 years depending on our terms with the lender. But that's how the school board was thinking of going forward with the project last year.

8.2 Draft 3 of 21-22 Budget

Weatherell presented a draft of the budget.

- Some areas that will need to be revisited: where the students are going to school for next year (Haley will survey students to have a better picture of the secondary tuition).
- Telephone system: the school had to upgrade the phone system to be E911 compliant. It has increased significantly the monthly bill (\$800/month). Haley has a meeting with Barsanti (tech person) to try to find an alternative.
- Food Service is added to the budget this year (\$35,000)
- Field trips is still in the budget, but could be decreased, Kinnarney added.
- PD could also be decreased.

- *Public written question in the chat:*
Antal asked "What is the ADM this year, and how it relates to the budget? (And how many people are homeschooling vs last year)"
The SU is still waiting for those numbers from the state. But Kinnarney said that for ADM, lawmakers moved to freeze the ADM to last year's numbers. The decrease in the yield has more to do with the loss of revenue from taxes, Revenue and Meals taxes, etc.

- Shaw said to the rest of the board that we are looking at a hard budget this year. He proposed to look at the worst-case scenario, which would be to move to a 100% Virtual. Kinnarney: If we were to go 100% virtual we would save on some staffing position. But he wouldn't recommend at exploring that idea. Shaw asked if the board could at least explore it to show taxpayers that we explored all options. Kinnarney It would be a hard argument to go virtual for budget reasons. Brackett said she wouldn't be in favor of exploring that option. Kinnarney will come back at the next meeting with different budgets for the board to explore.

- Transportation: Haley said that at this moment, only 2 children are riding the bus in the morning. There are more kids utilizing the bus in the afternoon. He asked the board if we needed that bus to run in the morning. Weatherell explained to the board that transportation is also a revenue source from the state (not dollar to dollar).

- *Public written question in the chat:* Antal asked "I have another question about

the increase in library and increase in guidance. When Melissa Z. resigned, part of her role was transferred to the library position (from a .60 to a .80). I see that the guidance (*budget*) is increasing but the library is also increasing. What is the reasoning for the increase in guidance?”

Kinnarney explained that there is no increase in FTE for guidance. In FY21 budget, the salary depicted is the salary for the current counselor, added to that are benefits increases, worker comps increases, a new teacher health assessment, etc.

- Kinnarney suggested to the school board to have our own report this year instead of being at the end of the Town report. The School Meeting will probably be by the Australian Ballot due to COVID this year, having a report to explain what the school and SU is doing this year with our own report might be a better option. The school board agreed. The SU will move forward with a plan to have a report for the Sharon School District.

8.3 Policies (policies listed were warned for adoption)

9. Action Items

9.1 Act to adopt warned policies

- 9.1.1 A24 Boards/Superintendent Relationship
- 9.1.2 B22 Complaints about Personnel Instructional Materials
- 9.1.3 B34 Records Retention
- 9.1.4 D1 Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements
- 9.1.5 F28 Disposition of Assets
- 9.1.6 F29 Investment
- 9.1.7 F30 Budgeting

Potter made a motion to approve the following policies: A24, B22, B34, D1, F28, F29, F30, as written and submitted. Brackett seconded. Motion carried.

10. New Hires

The school doesn't have any new hires.

11. Confirm Next Meeting Dates

- 11.1. Tuesday, January 12, 2021 - 6:00 PM @ VIA GOOGLE MEET (Regular)
Confirmed.

12. Adjourn

Brackett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 pm. Potter seconded. Motion carried.