

BARKHAMSTED BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING –March 7, 2023

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: C. Shaw, R. Brainard, J. Dombrowski, J. Grant, S. Larson, M. Terzini

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: B. Vincent

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: J. Agostine, Superintendent
K. Plocki, Principal
E. Sacharko, Curriculum Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT: J. Kreske, Teacher/Community member
L. Hedenberg, Teacher
S. Petersen, Music Teacher
J. Cardillo, New District Hire

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 P.M. by Chair, C.Shaw.

J. Agostine introduced newly hired Administrative Assistant/Fiscal Manager to Superintendent, Julia Cardillo. She will start the cross-over training with Sheryl on April 3rd, 2023. She has an international business degree from Western New England College and is enrolled in a Master's Degree program. She also has the 085 Certification as a Business Manager. Her extensive resume and background will be a great asset to the school district.

J. Agostine presented and reviewed with the Board of Education members Draft #2 of the Superintendent's proposed budget for 2023-2024. This draft shows a 2.84% increase over the 2022-23 budget with the following changes from Draft #1 to Draft #2: reduction in the line item for oil by \$11,000 due to lock-in price of \$3.10 per gallon through the oil consortium and a reduction in the health insurance line item by \$9,000 due to a change in coverage election by an employee. An amount of \$5,000 was added to the building improvement line to cover some additional anticipated expenditures. The result is the 2.84% increase over the 2022-23 Budget. This is the budget that will be presented to the Board of Finance at its meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 21st.

An update on the grant for interior cameras was provided by J. Agostine. The grant that we were going to apply for is a reimbursement grant, which means the town would have to fund the entire project and then seek reimbursement once it is complete. The total funding for the interior cameras is \$19,000 so J. Agostine is looking for other funding options including the possibility of future funding through the Town's Capital Plan.

#2023-010 **MOTION** by S. Larson, **seconded** by J. Dombrowski, "to approve the Minutes of the Regular meeting of Feb. 7, 2023, as presented." **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

#2023-011 **MOTION** by R. Brainard, **seconded** S. Larson, "to adopt and approve Draft #2 of the proposed 2023-2024 BOE budget in the amount of \$4,654,124, a 2.84% increase over the 2022-23 budget, and to present it to the Board of Finance at it's March 21, 2023 meeting." **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

J. Agostine presented and reviewed the District Profile and Performance Report for the 2021-22 as required by state statute.

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Principal/Curriculum Coordinator Report consisted of the following updates: Equity and Diversity Committee participated in a Zoom meeting with Jovanna from Harwinton and a proposal for professional development was provided to us; the reading waiver was submitted by E. Sacharko on 2/24/23, which consisted of a ninety-nine page all encompassing document and we are waiting to see whether or not the document is accepted by the state; Kindness in Motion grants are in full swing, including a “Skip the Straw” option with orders for it being accepted through this Friday; book buddy teams sponsored a superbowl food drive which resulted in 400 non perishable items being collected and donated to the local food pantry; there have been five (5) snow days so far this year with the last day of school now extended to June 20th; Administration is working on a Juneteenth program for 6/19 as it is now a state requirement if school is in session on that date; new website has been rolled out and is up and running with new apps available; our ECAD service dog (Minnow)’s last day is Friday, 3/10; half-day PD day for staff and early release (1 p.m.)for students on Friday, 3/10 – the PD will consist of mini lessons with personalized training in the afternoon; Parent-Teacher conferences this month and the PTO Read-A-thon has already raised approximately \$5,000.

C. Shaw provided an update as the representative to Shared Services, which included the budget presentation to Barkhamsted.

J. Agostine reviewed the Disbursement Detail listing of bills and the Budget Expended Reports for February 2023.

J. Agostine and K. Plocki discussed the work that was done on the K-3 Reading Waiver by E. Sacharko. The waiver included information regarding what our district is doing with the science of reading, the Foundations Program and other materials we are using that show that what we are doing is working based on our exceeding the Connecticut standards in language arts. It was a massive project that required much time and effort and was done exceptionally well by E. Sacharko. J. Agostine, K. Plocki and the BOE members thanked her for her diligence and hard work on this project.

During the public portion of the meeting, J. Agostine informed the Board members and others in attendance that the students had voted on the name of our decoy coyote and the name Goose was chosen. Goose has been deterring the Canadian Geese from roaming the fields.

#2023-012 **MOTION** by S. Larson, **seconded** by J. Dombrowski, “to change the start times of the April 4th and My 2nd BOE meetings to 6 P.M..” **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

#2023-013 **MOTION** by S. Larson, **seconded** by C. Shaw “to adjourn this regular meeting of the Board of Education” at 7: 20 P.M. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaclyn Dombrowski,
Secretary

THESE ARE NOT APPROVED MINUTES. SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL AT THE NEXT REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING.