

Note: Per C.G.S. 10 – 218, Board of Education meeting minutes are provided in a draft format within 48 hours of the date the meeting was held. With the exception of motions and votes recorded, these minutes are unofficial until they have been read and approved by a majority vote of the Board. Should edits be necessary, they will be made at the next regularly scheduled meeting, noted in the meeting minutes, and voted upon.

**CHAPLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
CHAPLIN, CONNECTICUT  
MEETING MINUTES**

**April 13, 2022**

**6:30 PM**

**CHAPLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER**

- 1. Call to Order – Vice-Chairman Eugene Boomer called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm. Board Members present were Laura Anderson, Victor Boomer, William Hooper and Joseph Klar. Also in attendance were Superintendent Kenneth Henrici and Principal Kevin Chavez.**
- 2. Audience for Citizens - *Members of the public may address the Board regarding items on the agenda. If you wish to speak, please raise your hand and wait to be recognized by the Board Chair. Comments may also be sent in advance to [ChaplinBOE@chaplinct.org](mailto:ChaplinBOE@chaplinct.org); please clearly indicate if you wish for them to be read aloud. Individual speaker—2 minutes; Public participation—15 minutes* – Chaplin’s Board of Finance Chairman Dick Weingart addressed the Board. He expressed the Board of Finance’s concerns regarding the increase of 2.75% to the FY23 Board of Education Budget. The Board of Finance originally requested a 0% increase. Mr. Weingart said he cannot see the Chaplin taxpayers absorbing an increase of any kind. He feels that health insurance is over budgeted and that there is a considerable amount of savings in Special Education for this fiscal year. He sees no reason to increase the Special Education budget for FY23. He said the mill rate has not increased in several years, but the BOE budget continues to increase every year. We just cannot move money around without considering the impact to Chaplin. With the Special Education savings this fiscal year, he feels the Board of Education can absorb the 2.75% increase and present the taxpayers with a 0% increase to the FY23 budget. He also said that we need to improve the process of budget approval. A Public Hearing will take place on April 25<sup>th</sup> and he encourages everyone to attend to listen to what the townspeople have to say.**
- 3. Approval of Minutes and Financial Statement**
  - A. Approval of Minutes – March 9, 2022 – Victor Boomer moved to approve the March 9, 2022 minutes. William Hooper seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:  
Yes: Laura Anderson, Eugene Boomer, Victor Boomer, William Hooper and Joseph Klar.**
  - B. Approval of Financial Statement – March 2022 – Victor Boomer moved to approve the General Fund, Cafeteria, Grant and Pre-K financial statement for March 2022. William Hooper seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:  
Yes: Laura Anderson, Eugene Boomer, Victor Boomer, William Hooper and Joseph Klar.**
- 4. Administrative Reports**
  - A. Monthly Report – Mrs. Rossi reported that the 2 Kindergarten classes joined together and split into groups for Phonics lessons. 1<sup>st</sup> Graders are also working with Phonics as well as addition and subtraction of multiples of 10. 5<sup>th</sup> Graders are working on improving writing skills and are planting seeds in Science. Mr. Hill tilled the Chaplin Elementary School garden. 6<sup>th</sup> Graders are wrapping up their unit on energy and will focus on ecology for the remainder of the school year. In Art, most classes are finishing up painting units. Two Spring concerts will take place on May 26<sup>th</sup>.**
  - B. Principal’s Report – Principal Kevin Chavez updated the Board on enrollment, poor attendance in March due to a stomach bug that went through the school, in-school suspensions, COVID cases, the**

“One School, One Book”, Spring testing, future Professional Development days, Learning Academies, Summer Learning, grounds work to be completed during April vacation, the new fire alarm panel and ABS controls for boilers.

- C. **Superintendent’s Report** – Superintendent Ken Henrici spoke of the great relationship we have with the Chaplin Board of Finance. He understands Mr. Weingart’s concerns and plans to have further discussions with him regarding the FY23 budget. He also spoke of the Excess Cost Grant, A/C in the building, the Empty Bowl Event, the Sport Teams helping to clean-up Chaplin, the need for repairs to the school building which is 25 years old, the Chaplin Bi-Centennial Celebration and the CT SEDS Special Education Data System, a state-wide repository for all IEPs. We are in good shape to input our data into this system.

**5. Old Business/New Business**

- A. **Update on Food Service Department** – Food Service continues to be in good shape and is affording itself. If the Free Lunch program comes to an end, it could be a factor.
- B. **COVID-19 Related Updates and Discussion** – Mr. Chavez previous discussed, but did want to add one more item to his report. He sent students home with COVID-19 test kits and asked families to please use them before returning to school after the April vacation.
- C. **Updated Budget Forecast FY21-22** – This was previously discussed.

**William Hooper moved to add to the agenda as item 5D “Discussion of FY22-23 Board of Education Budget” and to move item 5D, “2022-2023 Capital Improvement Projects” to item 5E. Victor Boomer seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:**

**Yes: Laura Anderson, Eugene Boomer, Victor Boomer, William Hooper and Joseph Klar.**

- D. **Discussion of FY22-23 Board of Education Budget** – Superintendent Henrici said he and Principal Chavez had a conversation with Dick Weingart regarding the FY23 Board of Education Budget increase. We’ve always had a great relationship with the Board of Finance and they, of course, have the final say on our budget. In that conversation, Mr. Weingart reviewed each line item and proposed a few suggestions to Superintendent Henrici and Mr. Chavez. Mr. Chavez asked for \$25,000.00 to replace some of the aging smart boards. Other areas were reviewed and changes were suggested. After much discussion, the Board of Finance agreed to fund \$45,000.00 to replace all smart boards out of the non-lapsing account and Capital Improvement Plan projects such as the parking lot, window caulking and security upgrades would not be funded at all this year. If we move \$47,000.00 from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Plan and take these three projects out of the Capital Improvement Plan, the FY23 Budget increase would change from 2.75% to 1.56%. Mr. Weingart suggested we take the \$45,000.00 from the non-lapsing account and purchase a few smart boards, using the remainder to fix leaks, etc. We can use the \$45,000.00 as we wish. Superintendent Henrici addressed Mr. Weingart’s comments about health insurance being over funded and explained how he arrived at the proposed budget figures. He said we are not hedging at all on our projections of health insurance. He also mentioned that another potential student with special needs may be coming to our school and this could have a significant impact on the FY23 budget. He feels a 1.56% increase is a fair and honest budget. Mr. Henrici said he will be at the Public hearing on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

- E. **2022-2026 Capital Improvement Projects** – previously discussed.

**6. Committee Reports**

- A. **Policy Committee** – The committee has not met.
- B. **Negotiations Committee** – No negotiations are scheduled at this time.
- C. **Central Office Committee** – Nothing to report.

**William Hooper moved to add as item 6D to the agenda “Discussion of the 2021-2022 School Calendar”. Joseph Klar seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:**

**Yes: Laura Anderson, Eugene Boomer, Victor Boomer, William Hooper and Joseph Klar.**

**D. Discussion of the 2021-2022 School Calendar** – Principal Chavez announced that we have used 3 snow days to date. This brings us to 180 days. Are we making up the 3 days? We are currently ending the school year on Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. William Hooper suggested we run to June 10<sup>th</sup>. This will make 181 student contact days. Superintendent Henrici suggested we add this to the May meeting so as not to make a hasty decision. Principal Chavez said parents are asking when the last day of school is going to be. A suggestion was made to hold a Special Meeting right after the April vacation. It could be held virtually for convenience to everyone. It was decided that a Special Meeting will be held on Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM via Zoom meeting. Superintendent Henrici will send all the details to everyone by email before then.

7. **Agenda items for Next Meeting** – No particular items were added.
8. **Second Audience for Citizens** – Mr. Weingart noted that when Kevin Chavez, Jacklyn Chancy and Jobina Miller came to the Board of Finance meeting, it was mentioned that the Board of Finance was very appreciative of the hard work done to get the Cafeteria fund in the plus. He wants to finalize the CIP and needs the Board of Education’s input. He will send what he has and Superintendent Henrici, Principal Chavez and Maintenance Director Andrew Barillari will make adjustments. Mr. Weingart also suggested that a delegation from Chaplin Elementary School and Parish Hill High School should come to speak to the Board of Finance about the FY23 budget. Townspeople are looking for answers. He also said we will not have much time to make any changes as the Public Hearing is April 25<sup>th</sup> and the Town Meeting is May 9<sup>th</sup>. Any adjustments to the budget would need to be finalized the night of April 25<sup>th</sup> as they need to be uploaded to the website by May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
9. **Adjournment – Victor Boomer moved to adjourn at 7:57 pm. William Hooper seconded and the motion passed with the following vote:**

**Yes: Laura Anderson, Eugene Boomer, Victor Boomer, William Hooper and Joseph Klar.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Diane Ritchotte  
Recording Secretary