MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS MEETING
HELD SEPTEMBER 17, 2015 AT 7:30 P.M. AT TOWN HALL-COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Board Members Present: Gerry Brittingham-Chair; Sandra Pavano-Vice Chair; Marléna Soble-Secretary; Tod Dixon; Kathryn Fabiani; Cathy Hellreich; Anthony Perugini

Board Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Greg J. Florio, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools; Scott Detrick-Assistant Superintendent-Instructional Services; Vincent Masciana, Director of Management Services; Christopher Brown, Director, Pupil Personnel Services; Michael Woods, Principal-Dodd Middle School; Marlene Silano, Principal-Chapman Elementary School; Dr. Deborah Burns, Curriculum Coordinator K-8

1. CALL TO ORDER – 7:30 P.M.
   A. Roll for Quorum. The roll was called and a quorum determined.
   B. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.
      Mr. Brittingham led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. PRESENTATIONS
   A. 2015-2016 Student Representatives
      Mr. Brittingham asked Dr. Florio to introduce the 2015-2016 student representatives to the Board of Education. Dr. Florio introduced Olivea Kieffer. He read an introduction from Cheshire High School Principal, Jeffrey Solan that said Olivea is a young woman of integrity, compassion, and intelligence. She is able to light up a room with only her smile and then motivate the room to follow her lead. Throughout high school, Olivea has been highly involved in many aspects of our community. She is a very dedicated volunteer with the United Methodist Action Reach-Out Mission by Youth. As a member of the Mission, she annually assists the elderly and disabled with home improvement projects. Olivea has the ability to always see the good in all people and situations. Olivea’s personality is only complimented by her academic achievement. Olivea has earned extremely strong grades in very challenging courses. She applied her love for learning and by volunteering as a teacher’s aide in a sophomore English class last year. Her cooperating teacher raved about her work ethic, preparation for class, and dedication.

      After the introduction, Olivea gave her first report. She reported that thanks to Link Crew, the ninth grade class has made it through the first week of school! Cheshire High School held a Club Fair during lunch waves with many students signing up for various clubs. She reported on a reception for Medal of Honor Colonel Harvey Barnum, and she also reported on wins by the girls’ volleyball team and the football team.
The Board welcomed Olivea and thanked her for her report.

Dr. Florio noted that Jeremy Bennett, the second student representative was ill this evening and could not attend. He will be introduced at the October meeting.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

   A. **Approval of Minutes of the Board of Education (Business) Meeting Held August 20, 2015.**

      MOTION by Mr. Dixon; seconded by Ms. Pavano.

      **MOVED** that the Cheshire Board of Education approve the minutes of the Board of Education Business Meeting held August 20, 2015.

      VOTE: The motion passed 6-0-1 (Ms. Hellreich abstained).

   B. **Approval of Minutes of the Board of Education (Opening of School) Meeting Held September 3, 2015.**

      MOTION by Ms. Hellreich; seconded by Ms. Soble.

      **MOVED** that the Cheshire Board of Education approve the minutes of the Board of Education Opening of School Meeting held September 3, 2015.

      VOTE: The motion passed 6-0-1 (Mr. Perugini abstained).

4. **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

   Dr. Florio reported that they participated in the Fall Marketplace and it was at that event that Colonel Harvey Barnum highway was dedicated. He said it was a great event where they were able to reach out to the community and answer questions.

   He met with the architects who are working on the Facility Master Plan and are looking to confirm a date to review the initial report with community members.

   On September 30th, the Cheshire Education Foundation will be hold a concert, an evening of student performances, to celebrate their 20th anniversary.

   Cheshire High School once again held a very successful summer reading program in which students selected books that faculty and staff were including in their summer reading. Students will be meeting with their book groups on Monday, September 21st. He said his group will be discussing of two of Malcolm Gladwell’s books – THE TIPPING POINT and OUTLIERS.

   He reported that the School Business Partnership will hold its first meeting on Tuesday, September 22nd at 7:30 a.m. This group, which supports so many opportunities for
Cheshire students, will be focused on preparing for the Sophomore Career Fair that will be held on Tuesday, October 6th from 8-10:30 a.m. at Cheshire High School. This event requires over 100 volunteers who spend the morning sharing information about various career clusters with tenth graders.

Dr. Florio reported the State Board of Education is going to develop a strategic plan for the State. They will be doing this on a tight timeframe. In our area, ACES will conduct surveys and focus groups and provide information to the State Board of Education. ACES will have a focus group on October 8th and this will most like be the only time our Board can offer input.

Dr. Florio shared that he received a note from Darcey Principal, Ann Donnery, telling him that shortly before school started this year, there was a pile of mulch at Darcey to be moved and spread for their playground. The high school football team volunteered to do this. Mrs. Donnery said she was very grateful to the football team.

5. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A. CURRICULUM


Ms. Hellreich reported that the Curriculum Committee held a brief meeting prior to this evening’s business meeting. At the meeting, Mr. Detrick provided additional information regarding SBAC and where Cheshire stands in our DRG. She said overall the students did very well but noted this is the first year and there is nothing to compare the scores to.

The next item the Committee discussed was the addition of a Personalized Learning Initiative to the Cheshire Public Schools Strategic Plan. The initiative is as follows:

“Cheshire Public Schools’ staff will work collaboratively to research, plan and initiate the integrated use of academic standards, assessments, instructional strategies, resources and grouping practices for the implementation of a K-12 personalized learning approach to support advances in academic achievement and learner engagement.”

MOTION by Ms. Hellreich; seconded by Ms. Fabiani

MOVED that the Cheshire Board of Education reaffirms the Cheshire Public Schools Strategic Planning Initiative’s Strategic Objectives and Goals for 2015/16.

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously 7-0.
B.  FINANCE


Mr. Perugini reported that as it is early in the school year, there is nothing of significance to report. He asked Mr. Masciana to provide an update on Medical Benefits.

Mr. Masciana reported that the Affordable Care Act employer mandate took effect on July 1st. He said they are complying with the law and have established a plan where all employees who work over 30 hours are offered adequate and affordable coverage. Also on July 1st, the district’s Blue Care (HMO) plan went from fully-insured to self-insured. The impact of this will be that the claim base will be higher, about $740,000.

He said they began the year with a trust fund balance of $757,579. $1.54 million has been added. Claims were $860,194; however, this is five weeks of claims. The trust fund balance as of August 31st is $891,866. He said the fund now contains over one month of claims.

Mr. Perugini reminded the audience that the trust fund is not a “slush” fund and they require two months of claims in the account. Right now there is only enough funds to cover one month of claims.

C.  OTHER STANDING COMMITTEES

I.  Public Information Committee

Ms. Pavano, Committee Chair reported that the Committee met on September 3rd. The purpose of the Committee is to get information regarding Cheshire Public Schools out to the public on Channel 16 as well as the District website and school messenger. Segments will be included as part of Superintendent Florio’s CPS Today video program. Some topics to be included are SBAC results, the facility study update, full day kindergarten, foreign language implementation at the elementary level, educator evaluation and possibly updates on SEED. Ms. Pavano noted that members of this Committee include herself, Mr. Dixon and Mr. Perugini

Mr. Detrick added that the idea is for Board members to share information with the public about programs that are currently in place. He noted they will report information through a Board member’s eyes.

6.  AUDIENCE

None.

7.  OLD BUSINESS

None.
8. **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Brittingham reported that Town Council Chairman, Mr. Slocum, has named a Committee to work on the Cheshire High School concession stand issue. He noted there were some things reported in the Cheshire Herald today that are not accurate. He said the Committee must operate under Roberts Rules. This means that at the first meeting a Chairman and Vice Chairman will be elected by the five members. This Committee will report through the Board of Education Planning Committee (Dixon, Hellreich, Perugini) to the Board of Education. Mr. Brittingham said that the newspaper reported that Mr. Masciana will be the “leader”. He said this will not happen because Mr. Masciana is a paid employee and reports to the Board through the Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Masciana will offer options but will not be the Chair or Vice Chair. The meetings will be open to the public and records will be kept.

Mr. Brittingham set a meeting of the Personnel Committee for October 1, 2015, at 6:45pm, prior to the Board of Education Open Forum Meeting.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mr. Dixon, and seconded by Ms. Soble, the meeting was adjourned into Executive Session including Superintendent Florio at 8:10 p.m. Executive Session adjourned at approximate 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

_________________________________________
Gerald Brittingham, Chairman of the Board

Attest:

_________________________________________
Carol K. Jesensky, Board of Education Clerk

Filed at the Town Clerk’s Office, Town Hall, Cheshire: 9/25/15