

**REVISED**  
**MINUTES OF CHESHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS**  
**MEETING HELD IN TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON JUNE 1, 2023 AT 7:30 PM**

---

Board Members Present: Anthony Perugini-Chair; Adam Grippio-Vice Chair; Anne Harrigan-Secretary; Faith Ham, Samantha Rosenberg, Timothy White (8:15 pm)

Board Members Absent: Andrew Martelli;

Administrators Present: Jeffrey F. Solan, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools; Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Robin-Anne Carey, Director, Pupil Personnel Services; Mary Jocelyn-Gadd, Principal-Cheshire High School; Kristin Pelz, Assistant Principal-Cheshire High School; Mike Woods, Principal-Dodd Middle School; Katharine Carlucci-Assistant Principal-Chapman & Norton Elementary Schools; Kimberly Dessert, Principal-Darcey School; Kristin Lopa, Assistant Principal-Doolittle School; Kelly Grillo, Principal-Norton School; Kevin Hanlon, K-8 Curriculum Coordinator;

---

**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. Perugini led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**2. PRESENTATIONS**

**A. Recognition of Valedictorian and Salutatorian**

Cheshire High School Principal, Mary-Gadd presented the Valedictorian and Salutatorian to the Board of Education.

**Salutatorian** - Clyde D'Souza. Clyde D'Souza possesses a multitude of positive qualities including kindness, determination, and curiosity that have made him an outstanding contributing member of the Cheshire High School community. He is an exceptionally strong academic student and is an effective self-advocate who always takes the appropriate steps to find a solution. Not only does Clyde dedicate himself to his education, but he also commits himself to many areas including volunteer work, participating in Boy Scouts, and in the Greater New Haven Math League. Clyde is never afraid to take on new challenges, especially as a self-directed learner. To anyone who meets Clyde it is easy to see his maturity, affability, and genuine caring demeanor. Clyde connects with others, and these impactful traits will continue to serve him very well in his future at the University of Connecticut in the Honors Program where he plans to pursue a career path in molecular and cell biology.

**Valedictorian** - Shangyu Andrew Xu. Andrew was taking the most challenging coursework even before the day he stepped into Cheshire High School, having excelled in BC Calculus as a middle school student! Andrew is graduating with sixteen advanced placement classes from high school and countless accolades. His academic record is undeniably outstanding; however, what truly stands out about him is his humble nature and community involvement. Andrew's resume is well rounded and detailed, but there are a few things to point out. Andrew is passionately involved in an internship program through Yale University School of Medicine at the Zhao Lab doing research on biostatistics. Alongside his internship, Andrew is a top performer internationally for the American Math Competition and is a top 1% scorer. He continues to support the CHS Math League, as well as the Connecticut State A Team. Through DECA, Andrew helped the team earn first place in the Business Law and Ethics competition in 2021. These awards are in addition to his participation in high school athletics, honors societies, tutoring, and participation in the Connecticut Music Educators Association. Andrew will be attending Yale University in the fall.

**B. CABE Student Leader Awards**

Dr. Solan introduced two CABE Student Leadership Awards recipients and explained the program was developed to give local Boards of Education a chance to reward student leadership potential. These students were selected from among their peers to exhibit leadership qualities as defined by a list of criteria developed by a subcommittee of CABE's Board of Directors. Tonight the Board recognized Diana Byers, Dodd Middle School and Monica Ghaly, Cheshire High School.

**C. Recognition of CHS Robotics Team**

Cheshire High School Assistant Principal, Kristin Pelz introduced the members of the CHS Robotics Team, Team 999 Cheshire MechaRAMS. They competed in two state competitions, the New England District Championship and they were invited to compete in the world competition in Houston last April. In addition, they earned special recognition when they were they were provided an award for the sustainable program, in which the program defines manages and achieves ongoing objectives at the Harvard competition. They were also awarded the gracious professionalism award for helping other teams. At the end of the regular season, they were notified that they have been nominated for FRC Team of the Year. Board Members congratulated the team on their accomplishments,

**D. Student Representatives' Report and Recognition**

This year, Monica Ghaly and Michael DeJoseph, served as Student Representatives for the 2022/23 school year. The students gave their final report and thanked the Board for the opportunity. Board members thanked the students for their valued service to the Board of Education this year. The students were presented a certificate and small gift.

**E. Recognition of Retiring Personnel**

Each of the retirees was recognized for their service. Principals read a brief statement about each of the teachers. Retirees were presented with a gift.

<b>Teacher Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Years of Service</b>
Robert Bryden	Chapman	20
John Kuhner	CHS	22
Stephen Trifone	CHS	35
Moira Aitro	Darcey	36
James Goffin	Dodd	40
Lisa Raczka	Dodd	37
Tracy Ajello	Doolittle	29
Richard Szulczewski	Doolittle/Norton	26
Laurie Larson	Norton	24
Debrah Manke	Norton	36
Theresa Mostoller	Norton	22

**3. AUDIENCE**

None.

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**MOTION** by Mr. White, seconded by Ms. Harrigan

**MOVED** *"That the Cheshire Board of Education approves the Consent Calendar as presented."*

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**Consent Calendar Items:**

- **Approval of 2023-24 Tuition Rates**

Each year in accordance with Policy 3240 – Business – Tuition Fees, the Board of Education shall annually establish a tuition fee for non-resident students. The Business Office has calculated the elementary, kindergarten, middle and high school tuition rates using regular education per pupil expenditures. The per pupil elementary school regular education expenditures for the 2023-24 school year, with transportation expenditures removed, is **\$13,594**. The high school tuition rate is **\$15,266** with transportation expenditures removed.

*“That the Cheshire Board of Education establish the 2023-24 tuition fee for non-resident students at \$13,594 for elementary and middle school students and \$15,266 for high school students.”*

- **Approval of 2024 Board of Education Meeting Schedule**

Board of Education policy and Town Charter provisions require that the meeting schedule of the Board of Education be set on a calendar year basis prior to the beginning of the new calendar year. Presently, the Board of Education schedule is set and has been approved through December 2023. However, for the purposes of planning for the Cheshire Public Schools' 2023-24 academic year, a schedule has been drafted for the period January 2024 through December 2024 for your approval.

*"That the Cheshire Board of Education adopts the meeting schedule for the calendar year 2024, and further, directs the Superintendent to forward the meeting schedule to the Town Clerk and the Town Manager for public notice."*

**5. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**A. CURRICULUM**

**I. Approval of Textbook**

Based upon its review and following the public viewing period, the Curriculum Committee recommends to the Board approval of the purchase of the following textbook:

<b>Textbook</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Grade</b>
iReady Classroom Mathematics	iReady Classroom	6-8

**MOTION** by Ms. Ham, seconded by Ms. Harrigan

**MOVED** *That the Cheshire Board of Education approve the purchase of the textbook: iReady Classroom Mathematics.”*

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**B. FINANCE**

There was no formal finance report for this evening’s meeting.

C. **PERSONNEL**

I. **Report on Meeting Held June 24, 2023.**

Mr. White reported that the meeting was held in executive session to continue discussions on the Superintendent's Review. Those discussions will continue in executive session tonight after the meeting.

D. **OTHER STANDING COMMITTEES**

None.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** by Mr. Grippo and seconded by Ms. Ham

***MOVED** that the Cheshire Board of Education approve the Minutes from meeting held on May 18, 2023.*

**VOTE:** The Motion passed 5-0-1 (Mr. Perugini abstained).

7. **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

8. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Solan gave a brief presentation on his trip abroad to Singapore. He said it was an amazing experience to see how students on the other side of the world are educated in a country that has done exceptionally well. Their approach is very practical and also an enriching experience. He said in Singapore you learn to become employed. Their Department of Labor tells the Department of Education how many employees they need in each field and students are funneled into those places. He said it inspired him to think of our students and the practical application trades, knowing the demand for tradesmen in our country. He reported that we have about 40 students who are interested in doing internships with our local companies and we owe it to our students to expose them to these areas. He said he came back with a different mindset about school design and how the new school buildings can be a catalyst for learning and gave some examples. He said the trip made him re-think learner engagement.

Dr. Solan said that last week, we had visitors from South Korea to observe instruction at Norton, Dodd and Cheshire High School. He said it would be a great opportunity to have some of their teachers come to the United States and possibly send some teachers to South Korea. He said he would keep the Board up to date.

Mr. White said he is appreciative of what Dr. Solan is doing with alternative pathways for students but he is not entirely comfortable with his trip to Singapore. He said he has asked the Policy Chair to look at an international travel policy for the Superintendent.

Ms. Rosenberg said it is a very industrial age mindset over there and we are trying to get away from that. She asked Dr. Solan what are his next steps. She said she agreed with Mr. White about not being comfortable with the trip and his catching COVID. She said in the United States we educate everyone and in Singapore, there is a tracking system.

Dr. Solan said every day our world shrinks a little bit and we talk about globally prepared citizens. We need to teach our students how to compete and engage with their peers in other parts of the world. He said there are things we would want to replicate like their sophistication of trades instruction. Their students walk away job-ready. Many of our students elect to attend four-year universities, but not all do and had they been exposed to other opportunities, they may have chosen a different route. He said one of our next steps is to determine how we better prepare our students to engage in trades.

Ms. Ham said regarding the emphasis being completely on jobs, we are drifting in that direction. She said she does not want to push the bar so far towards career-end that we lose what has made US education unique by immersing our students in literature, the Arts and languages and making them lifelong learners. Dr. Solan said he did not mean to give the impression that we were going to start creating workers. He said he in no way wants to replicate Singaporean education that is not what he wants.

Chairman Perugini said that is not what he hears the Superintendent saying and said there is a trade's problem in the United States. He said he works in the "real-world" and works with interns who have recently graduated, and they are not prepared to work with global teams. He said we should look to other countries to see what makes them successful so we might get some good skills for our students. He said hopefully we can help our local companies who actually asked for our help with this matter.

Ms. Harrigan thanked Dr. Solan for taking this opportunity that he gleaned and see if we can make some comparisons and gain different perspectives.

Ms. Rosenberg said she appreciates the global comparison but would also like to see the national and state comparison because there are school districts with some state of the art schools here and she would rather he look at those.

Regarding School Modernization, Dr. Solan said they have initiated the visioning part of the process, working with the architectural team and a diverse group of stakeholders.

9. **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

The Chair had no report for this evening and read the upcoming meetings.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mr. White, and seconded by Ms. Rosenberg, the meeting was adjourned into Executive Session at 9:10 p.m., including Dr. Solan to discuss the Superintendent's evaluation.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Anthony Perugini, Board Chair

Attest:

---

Carol K. Jesensky, Board of Education Clerk

Filed at the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, Cheshire: 6/30/2023 Rev. 9/26/2023.