

**MINUTES OF CHESHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS MEETING
HELD IN TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON SEPTEMBER 5, 2024 AT 7:30 PM**

Board Members Present: Samantha Rosenberg, Chair; Anne Harrigan, Vice Chair; Adam Grippo, Secretary; Anne Marie Cullinan; Mark Ecke; Anthony Perugini; Timothy White (7:34)

Administrators Present: Jeffrey F. Solan, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools; Vincent Masciana, Chief Operating Officer; 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; Maureen Reed, Ed.D., Assistant Principal, Cheshire High School; Daniel Tartarelli, Assistant Principal, Cheshire High School; John Perosino, Athletic Director, Cheshire High School; Kelly Grippo, Principal, Dodd Middle School; Ryan Murphy, Assistant Principal, Dodd Middle School; Diana Burns, Principal, Chapman Elementary School; Katharine Carlucci, Assistant Principal, Chapman & Norton Elementary Schools; Kimberly Dessert, Principal, Darcey School; Amy O'Brien, Principal, Doolittle School; Kristin Lopa, Assistant Principal, Doolittle School; Jodie Roden, Principal, Norton School; Scott Jeffrey, Principal, Highland Elementary School; Kevin Hanlon, K-8 Curriculum Coordinator; Christina Sherwood, Supervisor of Elementary Special Education; Marie Broadway, Supervisor of Secondary Special Education

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.*
Ms. Rosenberg led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

MOTION by Dr. Harrigan and seconded by Mr. Ecke.

MOVED to amend the agenda to add Executive Session after New Business to discuss teacher contract negotiations.

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously by those present.

2. AUDIENCE

None.

3. OPENING OF SCHOOL REPORT

Chairman Rosenberg asked Dr. Solan to report on the Opening of Schools. Dr. Solan thanked his administrators, Ms. Silano and Mr. Masciana for the work that they do for the district. He introduced Mr. Masciana to report on District Operations.

Mr. Masciana reported that the two new school projects are on track to open in August 2026. They have completed schematic design and are in the process of finalizing the detailed design. Next, Mr. Masciana gave an update on summer projects and reported on the installation of two portable classrooms being added to Highland School.

Mr. Masciana gave an update on each of his departments, noting Human Resources processed 46 new employees this summer, about 30 were teachers. Transportation has reported that busses are fuller than last year because of increased enrollment. Food and Nutrition is no longer offering free breakfast because the state eliminated the program. After a successful pilot program at Chapman, they will begin composting at Doolittle this year.

Assistant Superintendent Silano highlighted administrative team accomplishments over the summer including the Curriculum Writing Institute, the Educator Evaluation Committee, New Teacher Orientation and Transitional Kindergarten.

Dr. Solan reported on this year's Convocation program where they announced Christine DiOrio as Teacher of the Year and Elizabeth Crawford as Paraeducator of the Year.

The Superintendent reported on enrollment at each of the schools. Numbers are fairly close to projections with no big surprises. Total enrollment for the district as of the date of the meeting is 4,295, the projection was 4,239. Cheshire High School had 31 more students than were projected.

Lastly, the Superintendent reviewed the Cheshire Public Schools Strategic Planning Initiatives with the Board for their affirmation. He explained that in 2017 we adopted two goals focused on our Social Emotional Learning and Complex Thinking. Shortly thereafter, they reviewed and revamped the Cheshire Performance Standard. In 2021, we again reviewed our direction with the community and Board and affirmed our focus on Complex Thinking and Social Emotional Learning.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Affirmation of Strategic Plan.

MOTION by Dr. Harrigan and seconded by Mr. Grippo

MOVED that the Cheshire Board of Education reaffirms the Cheshire public school strategic objectives and goals for 2024-25.

VOTE: The Motion passed unanimously by those present.

Mr. Grippo asked Dr. Solan, due to the school shooting that happened that day in Georgia, how is our security situation. Dr. Solan said they had a District Security Meeting that day including Chief Dryfe and Officer Mike Kahn, one of our School Resource Officers (SRO). They were focused on ALICE training that was done last spring at Cheshire High School and they are preparing now to train freshmen who did not get the benefit of that training last fall, and we've arranged with Cheshire Police Department to do some dry runs this fall. Mr. Grippo asked if the SRO's are in place at the schools. Dr. Solan responded that we have two Cheshire Police Officers who are assigned as SRO's. He said right now the police department is underemployed and they are working feverishly to add new officers. For the time being, the SRO's will need to be pulled for traffic duty but are cleared for overtime to cover the schools when needed. He added that our prior SRO's still stop in at our schools as well. Mr. Masciana said our 911 response is not affected by this and reminded the Board that the SRO's role is to serve inside the school community and get to know the students.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Dr. Harrigan, and seconded by Mr. White, the meeting was adjourned into Executive Session at 8:50 pm to discuss the EAC contract negotiations to include Dr. Solan, Mr. Masciana and Ms. Silano, with no action to follow. Executive Session ended at approximately at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Rosenberg, Board Chair

Attest:

Carol K. Jesensky, Board of Education Clerk

Filed at the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, Cheshire: _____.