

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2009**

Chairman Timothy Walsh called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call

In Attendance: Board of Education Members: Paula Ellis, Kate Kutash, Arlene Liscinsky, Tom Minotti, Win Oppel, Michael Pacowta, Chairman Timothy Walsh, and Kathy Yolish.

Absent: Jay Francino-Quinn

Also in Attendance: Director of Finance, Allan Cameron.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

ACTION: Win Oppel moved to approve the agenda.
Michael Pacowta seconded the motion.
A vote was taken with all in favor. Motion carried.

It was the purpose of this meeting to present the Budget Mitigation Strategies for 2009-2010 and possible presentation of the Superintendent's Budget Estimate for 2010-2011 and to consider authorizing the board chairman to approach the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen for additional funds.

Superintendent Freeman Burr explained the process that was undertaken in order to mitigate the budget. Meetings were held with all of the bargaining units on November 30, 2009. The Central Office Leadership Team was in attendance at those meetings. The \$2 million deficit was explained as well as how \$1.3 million in cost savings was arrived at. Revenue sources were reviewed as well as the expectation of a reduction in Excess Cost Reimbursement Grant. Mr. Burr discussed furlough days with the different groups and asked them to discuss this with their respective members and provide an answer by December 7, 2009. All Board of Education employees were invited to a voluntary meeting on Friday, December 4th.

Mr. Cameron provided the board members with a document entitled Shelton Board of Education 2009-2010 Budget Mitigation Strategies that included the Superintendent's recommendations:

- Elimination of up to 9 certified staff positions (e.g. coaches, facilitators, support service personnel) at an estimated cost savings of \$150,000.
- Elimination of approximately 60 non-certified staff positions (e.g. tutors, reading assistants, secretaries and paraprofessionals, and part-time staff) at an estimated cost savings of \$540,000.

Mr. Burr, in answer to board members questions, explained that the cut in certified and non-certified personnel would include Central Office as well as the schools. He said there would be no new hires. Teacher resignations would be replaced with certified substitutes.

Mr. Walsh explained that he had previously mentioned that if the board voted he would request that the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen reconsider the BOE budget and try to contribute toward helping with the mitigation budget.

ACTION: Mr. Minotti moved for consideration of the Board to authorize the Board Chairman to write a letter to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen regarding the mitigation amount and plans and to request additional funding.
Mrs. Ellis seconded the motion.
Discussion: Mrs. Ellis felt strongly that approaching the City was necessary regardless of what the outcome might be.
A vote was taken with all in favor. Motion carried,

Mr. Walsh thanked the Administrators for their approval of the furlough days. He mentioned that he and Mr. Burr have had two meetings with the Mayor. The Mayor was receptive to the situation in view of the difficult economy. Mr. Walsh indicated that next year's budget would also be difficult with State contributions going down.

Mr. Walsh asked for a recommendation to accept the Superintendent's mitigation strategies.

ACTION: Mrs. Liscinsky moved for consideration of the Board to approve the 2009-2010 Budget Mitigation Strategies, as recommended by the Superintendent, effective January 15,2010, subject to the applicable provisions of Section 10-151 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
Mr. Oppel seconded the motion.
Discussion: Mr. Pacowta asked that if nothing else changes, would \$690,000 mitigate the entire remainder of the deficit. The response was affirmative.
Mr. Burr reminded the Board that there is no control over out of district unfunded, mandated placements. Those would be unpredictable expenses. The Special Education Department is looking into bringing some students back to the district. Mr. Walsh told the Board that another \$38,000 court ordered out-placement has just been received.
A roll call vote was taken with 6 in favor and 2 abstentions (Kate Kutash and Kathy Yolish). Motion carried.
(Expressions of regret and anguish regarding having to make this vote were made.)

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Mr. Burr explained as the next steps in the process they would be looking at the effected positions and meeting with the bargaining units and the department heads, housemasters, and principals to discuss the impact. If after that they are still without respite or support from City Hall or wherever else they might go, they will then proceed with the lay-off process.

Adjournment

ACTION: Paula Ellis moved to adjourn the meeting.
Win Oppel seconded the motion.
A vote was taken with all in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Faith B. Hack
Recording Secretary