

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
382 LONG HILL AVENUE
JULY 27, 2011**

The Board of Education met at 5:15 p.m. in Conference Room C for discussion of the superintendent's evaluation and updates of SAC contract negotiations and secretarial union impact bargaining. Thomas Minotti **moved to go into Executive Session** at 5:15 p.m.; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 7-0; motion passed. Present were Arlene Liscinsky, Win Oppel, Thomas Minotti, Paula Ellis, Kathy Yolish, Mike Pacowta, Jay Francino-Quinn (arrived 6:10), Kate Kutash, Freeman Burr (departed room at 5:40; returned 6:55), and James Brant. Paula Ellis **moved to leave Executive Session** at 7:05 p.m.; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Acting Chair Arlene Liscinsky called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:22 p.m.

Roll Call: (alpha order)

Paula Ellis

John Francino-Quinn

Kate Kutash

Arlene Liscinsky, Acting Chair

Thomas Minotti, Secretary

Win Oppel

Mike Pacowta

Timothy Walsh (excused)

Kathleen Yolish

Quorum of 8 present; 1 absent

Board of Education Administration present:

Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr

Director of Finance, Allan Cameron

Interim Director of Human Resources, James Brant

Acting Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Support Services, Kathy Bender

(1 tape on file in City/Town Clerk's Office)

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Hearing

No one spoke from the public.

Approval of Agenda

Paula Ellis moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Win Oppel; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 22, 2011; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 7-1 (Paula Ellis abstained); motion passed.

Mike Pacowta moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 20, 2011; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Thomas Minotti motioned to move item VII.A – Appointments to the beginning of agenda; seconded by Win Oppel; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Appointments

Paula Ellis moved to appoint Michele Good to the position of Special Education teacher at Shelton Intermediate School; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Win Oppel moved to appoint Michael Cooper to the position of Art teacher at both Booth Hill and Sunnyside Schools; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Thomas Minotti moved to appoint Jason Collette to the position of Special Education teacher at Elizabeth Shelton School; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Win Oppel moved to appoint Megan LaPorta to the position of English teacher at Shelton High School; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Kate Kutash moved to appoint Robert Yamnicky to the position of Science teacher at Shelton Intermediate School; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Superintendent Burr noted that the previous and following appointments are filling vacancies, which are sometimes filled with people from the recall list. Nobody on the current recall list has a right to these positions due to certification.

Win Oppel moved to appoint Brandon Freshefski to the position of Special Education teacher at Perry Hill School, pending certification; seconded by Paula Ellis; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Thomas Minotti moved to appoint Michelle Lovallo to the position of Special Education teacher at Elizabeth Shelton School; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Kate Kutash moved to appoint Rachel Santorelli to the position of School Psychologist at Shelton Intermediate School, pending certification; seconded by Win Oppel; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Thomas Minotti moved to appoint Kathryn Dowling to the position of Special Education/Pre-Kindergarten teacher at Long Hill School; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Win Oppel moved to appoint Mark Bilotta to the position of part-time Band teacher at Shelton Intermediate School; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Paula Ellis moved to appoint Kathleen Bender to the position of Executive Director of Curriculum and Support Services; seconded by Win Oppel; vote 6-2 (Kathy Yolish and Jay Francino-Quinn voted nay with comment.); motion passed.

Jay Francino-Quinn yielded his comments to Kathy Yolish, as he was in agreement. Mrs. Yolish requested that the following read statement be included in the minutes: "I would like to clarify my "no" vote for the Executive Director of Curriculum and Support Services by stating that my vote has no bias towards the candidate, but rather the responsibilities of the position. I have discussed my concerns with the Superintendent as well as several Board members, so my statement and vote should not be unexpected. One of the first key responsibilities for the position ad posted in the job description is: Curriculum Development – to ensure K-12 curriculum is aligned with CT and National Standards for all students and is supporting the achieving school goals in accordance with Adequate Yearly Progress benchmarks. I wholeheartedly agree with this statement, for it is a known fact that curriculum drives instruction. It is also said that curriculum exists to support the teaching and learning process. Therefore, I feel it is imperative to have an expert in curriculum leading this position; one who has a strong background in the wide range of curricula for grades K-12. Supporting my premise is the recently released CMT results on the State of Connecticut Department of Education's website where Shelton has flat lined in their scores for the most part, but Reading and Writing in specific grades have declined noticeably. Also supportive of my belief is the recently released NEASC report where several references are made in the curriculum areas. Being a resident of Shelton for more than 50 years, a recognized and multi-awarded teacher of 35 years in Shelton and presently a volunteer in an elementary school one day per week throughout the school year, I feel that I needed to make my position known even though I may be the sole "no" vote with regard to this position."

Resignations

The Board was advised of two resignations:

- Kevin Chavez, Girls' Basketball Freshmen Coach at Shelton High School, effective June 21, 2011
- Wayne Young, Tennis Head Coach at Shelton High School, effective June 21, 2011

Communications to the Board

A letter was received from Boys Lacrosse Head Coach Stephen Kennedy regarding recognition of the team for a Sportsmanship Award, the first award received since the commencement of the program in 2005.

Instructional Update

Freeman Burr stated a letter was sent to Jack Ribas, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club, granting permission to begin a before and after school program at Perry Hill School in the fall of 2011. Mr. Burr announced a confirmed date of August 11 (4-8 p.m.) and a tentative date of August 12 (8 a.m.-noon) for a Board retreat with CBE and CSDE for discussion of our data analysis as well as district and school improvement plans. Superintendent Burr will ask for an alternative date due to possible conflicts. Freeman Burr gave a broad overview of CMT/CAPT results and discussion was held. The Board will receive presentations with detailed analysis at the August and September meetings. Mr. Burr said he will notify Board members of a date for Larry Ainsworth from Center for Leadership and Learning to give an overview of grades 7-12 curriculum development. The Center for Leadership and Learning is also doing a two-day statewide presentation on September 13-14 in New Haven. Attendees will be selected, and Title I monies will cover cost to attend. Mr. Burr will send invitations to Board members to attend his back to school presentation on August 30.

Items Voted On

Kate Kutash moved to approve the renewal of Sodexo's contract for 2011-2012 as the district's food service provider; seconded by Paula Ellis; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Thomas Minotti moved to approve three requests to conduct fundraising activities during the 2011-2012 school year; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 8-0; motion passed.

- Request of Elizabeth Shelton School
- Request of Long Hill School PTA
- Request of Shelton High School Quarterback Club

Paula Ellis moved to approve the reappointment of the stipend position holders listed on the attached; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Comments by the Board Chair

Arlene Liscinsky reported on Timothy Walsh's recuperation. Mrs. Liscinsky stated it is time for the Board to set superintendent goals for 2011-2012. An ad hoc committee will be established with Win Oppel and Kate Kutash appointed as members. Board members were asked to submit comments and 4-5 goals and objectives by August 15.

Reports by Standing Committees

Athletics – Paula Ellis reviewed the proposed Pay to Participate fee structure which will hopefully increase student participation in sports and activities.

Paula Ellis moved to adjust the Pay to Participate fee structure to reflect an approximate 25% reduction in the fees resulting in the following amounts for the year 2011-2012:

- **SHS Sports with officials (now including Hockey): \$300**
- **SHS Sports without officials: \$225**
- **SIS Sports with officials: \$150**
- **SIS Sports without officials: \$100**
- **SHS Activities: \$100**
- **Family Cap: \$600**

Motion seconded by Kathy Yolish. Discussion – Freeman Burr clarified that the fees go directly to the Board and are exclusive of any booster club activities, which are optional for parents. Paula Ellis stated the booster club policy will be addressed shortly. Vote 8-0; motion passed.

Building and Grounds – Win Oppel said the committee will meet in August to discuss energy saving opportunities and will look into questions raised by Dr. Smith.

Cafeteria/Transportation – Kate Kutash said all Versatrans maps have been updated. About 600 unused bus stops have been removed. The runs are planned out for the new school year. Steps are being taken to avoid the problems of last year. The intermediate school and Perry Hill are down to three combined runs; all the rest are segregated. Driver test runs will take place August 1-5. An Alert-Now will go home the evening of August 14 to advise parents that bus information will be on the website August 17. Hard copies will be available at libraries and school offices; runs will not be published in the newspaper. Any changes to bus runs can be made after September 19. There will be a full dress rehearsal for all drivers on August 18.

Policy/Curriculum/Technology – Thomas Minotti gave a summary of the committee meeting of July 20; minutes are posted. Tina Henckel gave a curriculum update and revision plan on behalf of Kathy Bender. Mrs. Henckel also reported on the district plan for expectations of teacher and district websites. A new bullying policy was received from CAPSS as well as a new state mandates overview. Board members were sent a copy of the draft bullying policy for review.

Mr. Minotti said Title IX is being revisited with concerns raised by the school community that there is an appearance of disparity between athletic facilities for male and female junior varsity and varsity teams. Equitable facilities must be provided regardless of gender as well as equal distribution of booster funds. Tom urged communication with state representatives about unfunded mandates. The next meeting will be held August 22 at 4 p.m.

Personnel – Mike Pacowta stated the committee did not meet and no report was given.

Finance – Arlene Liscinsky stated the committee met earlier tonight to discuss line item transfers. A copy of the proposed transfers was distributed to members with an explanation by Allan Cameron.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the budget line item transfers as presented on page 2 of 2 and recommended by the Finance Committee; seconded by Win Oppel. Discussion – Thomas Minotti questioned how long it will be before our technology equipment needs replacement. Arlene Liscinsky said a needs assessment for technology should be presented to the Board of Aldermen. Vote 8-0; motion passed.

Reports of Special Committees

CES –The next meeting will be in September.

CABE – There was nothing new to report.

Adjournment

Paula Ellis moved to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Diane Luther

Diane Luther

Recording Secretary – Board of Education

August 1, 2011