

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
BOOTH HILL SCHOOL
544 BOOTH HILL ROAD
MARCH 24, 2010**

The Board met at 6:40 p.m. in the Booth Hill Media Center for the purpose of discussing a leave of absence and non-renewals in Executive Session. In attendance were Timothy Walsh, Arlene Liscinsky, Win Oppel, Thomas Minotti, Kate Kutash, Paula Ellis, John Francino-Quinn, and Kathy Yolish. **Arlene Liscinsky moved to go into Executive Session at 6:41 p.m.; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 8-0.** Invited to stay were Freeman Burr, Rita McDougald-Campbell and Allan Cameron. **Motion to leave Executive Session at 7:08 p.m. was made by Jay Francino-Quinn; seconded by Paula Ellis; vote 8-0.**

Chairman Timothy Walsh called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:15 p.m.

Roll Call: (alpha order)

Paula Ellis

John Francino-Quinn

Kate Kutash

Arlene Liscinsky, Vice Chairman

Thomas Minotti, Secretary

Win Oppel

Mike Pacowta (Excused)

Timothy Walsh, Chairman

Kathleen Yolish

Quorum of 8 present, 1 absent.

Board of Education Administration present:

Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr

Assistant Superintendent, Lorraine Rossner

Director of Finance, Allan Cameron

Director of Human Resources, Rita McDougald-Campbell

Operations Manager, William Banfe

(2 tapes on file in City/Town Clerk's Office)

The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Walsh expressed appreciation to Principal Kathy Sheehy and her staff for hosting the meeting and to the parents who have supported the budget shortfall on behalf of their children. He noted continued support is needed to fulfill the goal of providing a quality education to Shelton's students.

Chairman Walsh and Superintendent Burr made introductory comments regarding the budget and potential consequences of layoffs and elimination of programs.

Approval of Agenda and Addendum

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

Approval of Minutes

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 24, 2010; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Public Hearing

The following students, parents, staff and community members addressed the Board concerning budget matters:

Deborah Keller	311 Pheasant Glen
Joshua Kopac	12 Deer Run Lane
Cynthia Brouillette	78 Maple Avenue
Georgina Fatibene	36 Fawn Hill Road
Michael Kaminsky	5 Bona Vista Terrace
Stephen Arena	121 Village Drive
Jonathan Groth	40 Fieldstone Drive
Stefano Sanzo	27 Green Acre Drive
Jenn Sicinski	47 Pawtucket Avenue
Kelsey McDonnell	127 Toas Street
Brittany Lampert	42 Mustang Drive
Danielle Swanson	30 Forest Avenue *
Daniel Dompierre	4 Fir Drive
Elizabeth Llera	18 Chestnut Street
Jenn Recker	46 Rolling Brook Lane
Linda Sicinski	47 Pawtucket Avenue
Kristen Miller	12 Pine Tree Hill Road
Sohaib Qureshi	16 Bodyk Place
Kelli Freer	94 Walnut Tree Hill Road
Jason Shnipes	18 Surrey Drive
Maggie MacDonald	7 Tulip Lane
Adreanna Vukovic	119 Thoreau Drive
Melissa Taylor	65 Valley Road
Robert Moody	32 Vista Drive
Stephen Kennedy	186 Thoreau Drive
Mark Hopco	48 Richard Boulevard
Nate Shnipes	18 Surrey Drive

(*Note: Tape 1, Side B – 8:20 p.m.)

Rebecca Ercolani	40 Old Dairy Lane
Tina Tassitano	79 Plaskon Drive
Cheryl O'Brien	153 Village Drive
Alex Farley	141 Coram Road
Tyler Gaetano	19 Greenfield Drive
Jessica Hartmayer	198 Meadow Street *
Matthew Hellauer	35 Long Meadow Road
James Szabo	9 Suren Lane
James Cajigas	45 Woodfield Drive
Tracey Sedlock	65 Village Drive
Glen Gaetano	19 Greenfield Drive
Jennifer and Abby Brand	9 Sanford Drive
Emma Shriver	159 Isinglas Road
Michael and Anthony Tartaglia	14 Meghan Lane
Paula Gill-Lopez	3 North Street
Lisbeth Condo	106 Chamberlain Drive

(*Note: Tape 2, Side A – 9:24 p.m.)

No one else from the public spoke and the Public Portion was closed.

Win Oppel moved to recess at 9:45 p.m.; seconded by Paula Ellis; vote 8-0; motion passed.

(The meeting reconvened at 10:02 p.m.)

Presentations

Booth Hill Principal Kathy Sheehy presented information to the Board concerning CAPT/CMT data, School Improvement/Accountability Plan and progress to date.

Assistant Superintendent Lorraine Rossner discussed modifications to the calendar for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year. Ms. Rossner explained that during mitigation the teachers' union offered 1½ deferred furlough days; and, in order to accommodate those days back into the calendar, it has been decided that May 28 will be a half day for students and faculty, and June 21 will be the full day owed to teachers for the compensating time off for parent/teacher conferences. Half days will occur on June 16, 17 and 18. The last day of school for students will be June 18 (the 180th day). Graduation will take place on June 18, rain or shine.

Kate Kutash moved to approve the calendar for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year as recommended and discussed; seconded by Paula Ellis. Discussion – It was clarified that June 21 will be a non-attendance day. Vote 8-0; motion passed.

Freeman Burr presented and discussed results of the four-question parent/staff survey regarding the school calendar. Topics were preference for a two-year calendar; start of school before or after Labor Day; shortened February recess; school attendance on Veterans' Day. The survey was inconclusive on some points. Lorraine Rossner reviewed the 2010-2011 calendar in detail, noting that school will start before Labor Day due to the lateness of the holiday this year. Veterans' Day will be a school attendance day for staff and students with a requirement that each school will have an observance. Mr. Burr explained that Veterans' Day is a contractual paid holiday for 12 month employees, and negotiations will take place with the bargaining units affected. February recess will include the additional day for Presidents' Day.

(Note: Tape 2; Side B – 10:45 p.m.)

Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the 2010-2011 school calendar; seconded by Kate Kutash and Kathy Yolish. Discussion – Relative to the February recess, Freeman Burr noted the impact in January and February with delayed openings and snow days. The four-year trend data on average shows a minimum of two delays and the loss of two instructional days. In response to Win Oppel's question, Lorraine Rossner responded that last year's makeup day in April for the high school due to the fire was the first day used as a makeup day during April break in 15 years. Vote 6-2 (Nay – Win Oppel, Paula Ellis); motion passed.

Appointments

Paula Ellis moved to appoint Vincent Convertito to the position of head girls' lacrosse coach at Shelton High School, due to a resignation; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Win Oppel moved to appoint Stephen Kennedy to the position of head boys' lacrosse coach at Shelton High School, due to a resignation; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Resignations

Freeman Burr advised the Board of the following resignations:

- Theresa Binck, paraprofessional aide at Long Hill School, after more than four years of service, effective March 5, 2010
- Scott Smith, head boys' lacrosse coach at Shelton High School, effective immediately
- Barry Smith, assistant boys' volleyball coach at Shelton High School, effective March 15, 2010

Leaves of Absence

Win Oppel moved to approve a two-month unpaid leave of absence through April 30, 2010 for Melissa Lantz; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Chairman Walsh noted he will refer the issue of leaves of absence to the Personnel Committee so the Superintendent can act independently on decisions without involving the Board, the same as with resignations.

Instructional Update

Freeman Burr announced that Desiree Conway, a media specialist at Mohegan School, was selected for *The Weller Excellence in Teaching Award* for her project entitled "Let it Snow." Desiree will be honored at the Annual Weller Awards Banquet at Fairfield University in May and will receive a Certificate of Honor and an honorarium of \$500.

School Facilities Report

Bill Banfe's written report was included in board packets.

Items Voted On

Win Oppel moved to adopt a three-tiered Voluntary Early Retirement Incentive Plan as outlined in the Memorandum of Agreement crafted between the Shelton Education Association and the Board and Superintendent; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Arlene Liscinsky moved that the contracts of employment for the individuals listed under Groups A & B on the attached not be renewed for the following year upon their expiration at the end of the current 2009-2010 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools be directed to advise such person(s) in writing of this action; seconded by Win Oppel; vote 7-1 (Nay – Jay Francino-Quinn).

Comments by the Board Chair

Timothy Walsh addressed comments made by Apportionment and Taxation Chairman Mark Holden at the Board's budget hearing. Mr. Holden had remarked that there were a number of buses that were not at full capacity and suggested a plan to have buses available at need. Chairman Walsh noted the law dictates that there must be a seat on a bus for each student, and the cost to dispatch transportation at need would be at least \$45,000 per bus plus additional clerical help. Allan Cameron confirmed that such a service would be expensive and would be extremely difficult to manage. Mr. Walsh responded to a statement made by Mayor Lauretti about "mismanagement" of our budget. Chairman Walsh discussed a City ordered audit three years ago which revealed nothing. He noted that the books are audited every year by a City auditor.

Reports by Standing Committees

Athletics – Paula Ellis reported there will be postings for three assistant coaches. She said spring sports participation is the highest ever. SHS wrestler Pat Gillen won the Connecticut State Championship, Connecticut State Open Championship and the New England Championship and will competing in the National Championship in Virginia Beach.

Building and Grounds – Win Oppel noted that the minutes were emailed.

Cafeteria/Transportation – Kate Kutash reported the high school breakfast program is doing well and the SIS program is struggling but will continue.

Curriculum/Policies/Technology – Thomas Minotti stated the minutes are on the website. He said a public complaint policy form was proposed and is being finalized for approval by the Board. At the last meeting, Ken Saranich and Dana Urban presented an inter-district electronic calendar. Further discussion is planned for high school proposed graduation and promotion requirements.

Personnel Committee – Rita McDougald-Campbell reported that two grievances were resolved and letters are being sent.

Finance – Arlene Liscinsky stated the report was filed and given to Board Members.

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Report was included in packet.

CABE – Timothy Walsh said he and Arlene Liscinsky attended the regional CABE breakfast in Stratford. He noted Shelton's request to change from area 7 to area 6, which is a closer geographical range. Arlene Liscinsky said discussion took place at the breakfast concerning the mandated release of special education burden of proof on districts and mandated seatbelts on school buses, which came out of committee. The financial burden on the latter is over \$1.4 million to retrofit 53 buses, which obviously is not in the budget.

Freeman Burr thanked the Board Members for their service in honor of National School Board Member Recognition month. He stated that Board Members are elected and volunteer their time.

Adjournment

Paula Ellis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 p.m.; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Diane Luther

Diane Luther

Recording Secretary – Board of Education

March 30, 2010