

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
382 LONG HILL AVENUE
OCTOBER 26, 2011**

The Board of Education met at 6:33 p.m. in Conference Room C for discussion of Contract Settlements with the Finance Director, Assistant Superintendent and Director of Technology. Jay Francino-Quinn **moved to go into Executive Session** at 6:35 p.m.; seconded by Paula Ellis; vote 7-0; motion passed. Present were Arlene Liscinsky, Timothy Walsh, Win Oppel, Thomas Minotti, Paula Ellis, Kate Kutash, Jay Francino-Quinn, Freeman Burr, Allan Cameron (departed at 6:55 p.m.) and James Brant. Win Oppel **moved to leave Executive Session** at 7:00 p.m.; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Chairman Timothy Walsh called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:05 p.m.

Roll Call: (alpha order)
Paula Ellis
John Francino-Quinn
Kate Kutash
Arlene Liscinsky, Vice Chair
Thomas Minotti, Secretary
Win Oppel
Mike Pacowta (excused)
Timothy Walsh, Chairman
Kathleen Yolish (excused)

Quorum of 7 present; 2 absent.

Board of Education Administration present:
Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr
Assistant Superintendent, Lorraine Rossner
Finance Director, Allan Cameron
Executive Director of Curriculum & Support Services, Kathy Bender
Acting Director of Human Resources, James Brant

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Mark Lauretti read a proclamation to Paula Ellis in honor of her retirement from the Board after 25 years of service and declared November 1st as Paula Ellis Day.

Public Hearing

Sandra Zuraw, 143 Rocky Rest Road, and Faylynn Haight, 27 Waterford Lane, spoke on behalf of Shelton Education Association President Deborah Keller to praise Paula Ellis and express appreciation for her many years of service to Shelton Public Schools.

Lorraine Williams, 134 Prospect Avenue, and Carolyn Ivanoff, 21 Tibbets Road, Seymour, spoke on behalf of the Shelton Administrators Council to express gratitude and extend good wishes to Paula Ellis.

Approval of Agenda and Addendum

Win Oppel moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 7-0; motion passed. Win Oppel moved to approve the addendum; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Timothy Walsh moved to table addendum item VIII. B. 8. until the Regular Meeting of November 16, 2011; seconded by Win Oppel; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 28, 2011; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 6-0-1 (abstention by Timothy Walsh); motion passed.

Presentations

Dr. Beth Smith gave PowerPoint presentations on Advanced Placement and CAPT and addressed several questions raised by Board members. Handouts were provided.

Communications to the Board

Freeman Burr said notes to the Board were received from Anne Hamilton and Dr. Beth Smith expressing appreciation of the floral baskets sent on opening day of school. A letter was received from the 2011 Shelton Intermediate School Girls Volleyball team thanking the Board and John Niski for their new uniforms. A letter was sent to Chairman Walsh from James Cohen, President of Valley Community Foundation regarding the transfer of the Herbert M. Clark Revocable Trust's contribution to VCF, which will establish the Herbert M. Clark Sub-Fund of the Shelton Public Schools Endowment Fund.

Appointments

Win Oppel moved to approve the appointment of Sean O'Rourke to stipend position of Newspaper Advisor at Shelton Intermediate School; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Jay Francino-Quinn moved to approve the appointment of Larry Vieira to stipend position of Boys Head Hockey Coach at Shelton High School; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Win Oppel moved to approve the appointment of Allison Wells to stipend position of Assistant Boys Swim Coach at Shelton High School; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Retirements

The Board was informed of the retirement of Michael Tichy, Social Studies teacher at Shelton High School, after 33 years of service, effective November 11, 2011.

Resignations

Mr. Burr advised the Board of the resignation of Nicholas DeCesare, grade 4 teacher at Long Hill School, effective October 31, 2011.

Instructional Update

Superintendent Burr said last year's Shelton High Girls Soccer Team was named the Shelton Sports Persons of the Year by the Fairfield County Sports Commission. The Gaelettes captured the program's first Class LL state title as well as its first SCC crown. They were honored at a Sports Night awards dinner on October 17. Mr. Burr stated the District Improvement Plan was presented at the Lighthouse Workshop. Rigorous Curriculum Design Training for grades 7-12 will take place on November 8. All 7-12 core academic area teachers will receive an overview of the design model. There will be an additional follow-up with more intensive training for Department Chairs and representatives and Curriculum Leaders on December 2, conducted by Larry Ainsworth from the Institute for Leadership in Learning. Kathy Riddle and Sandra Zuraw, as well as representatives at each school, were commended for a successful Valley United Way Campaign, which raised over \$21,000.

Approved Field Trips

The Board was informed of approved field trips to Spain and the Regional Convention – JSA in Boston for Shelton High School students.

Items Voted On

Win Oppel moved to approve the Board of Education Schedule of Meetings for the 2012 Calendar Year; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 7-0; motion passed.

The regular meetings will be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., with the exception of December:

January 25	July 25
February 22	August 22
March 28	September 26
April 25	October 24
May 23	November 28
June 27	December 19

Thomas Minotti moved to approve Policy #5131.911, Bullying, which has sat for review since the last meeting; seconded by Paula Ellis; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Paula Ellis moved to approve the stipend position renewals listed on the attachment; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the recommended specifics regarding the three-year contracts of the Assistant Superintendent, Director of Finance and Director of Technology, and for the Superintendent to proceed with Board of Education Counsel to finalize these agreements; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee to reallocate the savings in the teacher salary accounts as designated in proposals; seconded by Win Oppel; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Thomas Minotti moved to endorse the Shelton Public Schools District Improvement Plan for 2011-2012 as presented during the Lighthouse Workshop on October 18, 2011; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Win Oppel moved to ratify the three-year mediated contract agreement settlement between the Shelton Board of Education and the Shelton Administrators' Council for 2012-2015; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Comments by the Board Chair

Chairman Timothy Walsh stated that the next meeting is scheduled prior to the swearing in of new Board members, which means, according to the Charter, the current Board will attend the November 16 meeting. Mr. Walsh expressed some personal remarks about Paula Ellis and thanked her for her 25 years of service.

Reports by Standing Committees

Athletics – Paula Ellis said the committee met on October 12, and John Niski presented information on booster clubs, which was well received by people in attendance. Mrs. Ellis reported that all sports teams are doing well and field renovations are ongoing.

Building and Grounds – Win Oppel said the committee met on October 11. The contract for solar panels at Elizabeth Shelton School is still under review by Attorney Welch. Topics discussed by the committee were the grounds work at Central Office; green cleaning issues; contract HVAC versus hiring an HVAC person; grease traps; possible grant to repair tennis courts; baseball field fencing; preliminary discussion regarding schedule to replace “rug” at the football field.

Cafeteria/Transportation – Kate Kutash reported on the meeting of October 4, at which the principals of Elizabeth Shelton and Long Hill discussed reasons for not participating in the breakfast program. Mrs. Kutash said the pre-made line at Shelton High School is going well, and a new item on the menu is buffalo pizza. At Perry Hill a portable swiping station is helping the breakfast program go more smoothly. Parents can view their children's balances on the Parent Portal. Kate Kutash said there are still some pending difficulties with buses. The next meeting of the committee will be on November 2 at 5:00 p.m. with representatives from First Student and will include a public portion. Freeman Burr stated his most recent Board Brief included a detailed outline about his meeting with First Student. Allan Cameron noted that based on the incident with bus 50, First Student has been asked to provide a full assessment of the buses. Since Friday, their Regional Maintenance Manager and Technician have been inspecting each one of our buses. We have asked for additional staff to answer phones. We are trying to align VersaTrans with what their drivers are actually doing; First Student has sent someone to the yard to help with this process. Runs will be reviewed with drivers and feedback will be provided. Two new drivers started this week and First Student has advertised for more drivers. Bus 50 is arriving to school on time. Steps are being taken to improve buses 13, 18, 24, 34 and 42, and changes in the next few days are expected to improve the timeliness of those runs.

Policy/Curriculum/Technology – Thomas Minotti discussed the meeting held on October 20: Dana Urban provided information on the next Parent Portal sign-up. Superintendent Burr gave a presentation of the District Improvement Plan revision and update. A presentation of proposed draft of Shelton Public Schools Technology Plan was given by Tina Henckel and Dana Urban. Report card templates were provided for review. Three items were discussed and referred to the Board to sit for review until the next Regular Meeting of the Board: Proposed Policy Revision #5145.4 Non-Discrimination (Students); Proposed Policy Revision #4118.11 Non-Discrimination (Personnel); Proposed Policy #1324.2 Fund-Raising and Solicitation, Sports Booster Clubs. The next committee meeting will be held on November 15 at 4:00 p.m.

Personnel – Arlene Liscinsky said the committee discussed the superintendent's goals and objectives for 2011-2012:

1. Complete implementation of STEM
2. District wide communication strategies – SPS Strategic Plan 2014
3. Explore Development of City and Board of Education technology strategic plan
4. District Improvement Targets for Student Achievement

Finance – Arlene Liscinsky noted that last year the Board said any savings that could be found would be used to restore positions, and she discussed specific positions that have been reinstated. Due to \$150,000 decrease in Title I State funding, we will be covering tutors from our budget that were previously paid for by the State.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve a revised Investment Policy Statement for the existing Shelton Board of Education 403(b) Plan, as presented and recommended by the Finance Committee; seconded by Win Oppel; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to direct the Superintendent of Schools, or his designee, to secure a separate Federal Employer Identification Number from the existing number used by both the City and the Board of Education, as recommended by the Finance Committee; seconded by Win Oppel; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Arlene Liscinsky said there are currently only two states that do not require the burden of proof in special education hearings – Mississippi and Connecticut. CES signed a resolution which was used as the model for Shelton's resolution. The CES Board will be meeting on December 1st and hopes their resolution will encourage discussion on the state level.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to adopt the following resolution regarding Burden of Proof in special education hearings; seconded by Win Oppel; vote 7-0; motion passed.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Shelton Board of Education proudly supports the expertise of its special education teachers and related service providers in developing and designing high-quality programs for children with disabilities in the Shelton Public Schools;

WHEREAS, the Shelton Board of Education supports Connecticut's adoption of the standards set forth in the United States Supreme Court decision in the Schaffer v. Weast case;

WHEREAS, the Shelton Board of Education believes that, in order to be a good steward of taxpayer dollars in Fairfield County, it is important to take any actions possible to eliminate waste and redirect funding in favor of programming to benefit children and away from unnecessary administrative expenses;

Be it RESOLVED that the Shelton Board of Education strongly supports changing the law to ensure that, like 48 other states in our nation, the burden of proof in special education hearings be placed with the party initiating the hearing.

CABE – Board members were reminded of the CABE Convention on November 18-19 at the Mystic Marriott. Timothy Walsh, Arlene Liscinsky, Kathy Yolish and Freeman Burr are registered. If there are any changes in the membership due to the election, new members will be encouraged to attend.

Arlene Liscinsky mentioned the Board Teamwork Self-Assessment Form included in the packet. She suggested a workshop for the Board directly after the election to address some of the topics addressed.

Adjournment

Paula Ellis moved to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Diane Luther

Diane Luther

Recording Secretary – Board of Education

November 1, 2011