

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Board of Education Administrative Offices  
382 Long Hill Avenue  
Board Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**June 12, 2018**

Chairman Mark Holden called the Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Mark Holden, Chairman

Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman

Kate Kutash, Secretary

Anne Gaydos

David Gioiello

José Goncalves

Amanda Kilmartin (via Skype)

Darlisa Ritter

Kathleen Yolish

Full Quorum

Board of Education Administration present: Christopher Clouet, Superintendent of Schools; Lorraine Rossner, Assistant Superintendent; Ed Drapp, Finance Director; Carole Pannozzo, Human Resources Director

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Agenda**

**Thomas Minotti moved to approve the agenda; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.**

**Discussion of Final 2018-19 Budget**

**Thomas Minotti moved to rescind Item #14, Assistant Principal, from the Budget Reduction Worksheet as approved by the Board on June 6, 2018; seconded by Kate Kutash. Discussion** – In response to a question concerning funding from David Gioiello, Dr. Clouet stated the district received several federal grants (Consolidated Grants) and is allowed by law to carry over a certain percentage of those funds. From some of the money carried over in Title I, approximately \$55,000 will be removed to fund a position and thereby save a teacher from being bumped, as well as maintain the position of Assistant Principal at the elementary level. Mrs. Yolish asked if the .5 Reading Specialist position could be funded by the grant as well. Dr. Clouet responded it is possible to do something about that position by consolidating/eliminating the use of some tutors that are hard to keep and trade off. Darlisa Ritter felt the needed additional teachers at SOI would have an impact on a larger number of students versus an Elementary Assistant Principal, and perhaps that could come from the grant, as well. Dr. Clouet stated there is not a bottomless pit and added the School of Innovation will be expanded next year to include grades 7 and 8 with the budget as adopted with a small amendment. There was discussion of incremental approach to reduce the administrative interns from 4 to 2, noting those positions require expensive substitutes when they are doing administrative intern work. There was additional discussion of cutting Reading Specialist position at SIS and possible impact on service

to students. Point of Order by David Gioiello that discussion is not germane to the motion. Dr. Clouet said Assistant Principal Jamie Weber is certainly a valuable key member and discussed the numerous duties performed including evaluation of six teachers at LHS; conducts approximately ten mini-observations; Chair of PBIS at LHS; and she chairs PPTs at LHS when needed. At ESS, Jamie is a key member of PBIS, meets with students who are experiencing difficulty with behavioral expectations and communicates with parents regarding these concerns. Jamie represents both schools on the Attendance Committee and has been working with Bobbi Tar and secretarial staff to implement changes with parents to improve attendance. Jamie assists with a number of PPTs and 504 meetings that take place in each school, which can total several hundreds of hours. Kate Kutash noted Jamie is PMT certified for crisis situations. Darlisa Ritter said the \$55,000 might help defray the cost of Pay to Participate. There was no further discussion. **Motion passed with vote of 7-1-1 (Nay – Darlisa Ritter; Abstention – Kathy Yolish).**

Principal Beverly Belden thanked the Board for supporting Principal Andrea D’Aiuto, Jamie and herself and extended an open invitation to board members to visit their schools to see what happens on a daily basis or to reach out directly with any questions about Jamie’s role.

There was further discussion about SOI. Dr. Clouet confirmed that all of the grade 7 students currently in the current SOI are able to participate in the grade 8 SOI. It is anticipated the number of incoming students will be very similar but will be organized differently with no impact on student enrollment.

Kathy Yolish explained her abstention vote stating she feels strongly against eliminating a Reading Specialist, indoor track and bringing back Pay to Participate. Chairman Holden stated it appears indoor track can be brought back without a negative impact on the budget, since Pay to Participate fees will cover the expense. Superintendent Clouet stated he does not like Pay to Participate either, but the district is revenue starved. He said similar guidelines (reduced amount for Free and Reduced, cap for families) will be followed as in the past but will be easier for families with online payment. Discussion followed regarding possible reduction in family cap for Free and Reduced.

Darlisa Ritter followed up on topics she had questioned at previous meeting and discussion ensued. Dr. Clouet stated some of the issues are still being reviewed. In particular, the Work Experience program is very complex with a lot of moving pieces that could result in cost savings or additional cost, depending on the number of students. He stated that we are lacking revenue and thought we would be coming to this meeting potentially with some kind of agreement with the City to allow us to use the buses paid for by the taxpayers. Had that happened, we would be discussing not having to initiate Pay to Participate.

Amanda Kilmartin asked about previously suggested opt-out for bus transportation as a possible savings. Superintendent Clouet said we are moving toward a survey of parents to determine interest. There was discussion of obligation to provide a seat for each child with explanation that seats must be available for exceptions.

Kathy Yolish shared tuition information for Pre-K programs at Holy Trinity and Susanna Wesley.

**Adjournment**

**Thomas Minotti** moved to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

*Diane Luther*

***Diane Luther***  
***Secretary to Board of Education***  
***June 19, 2018***