

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

The Board of Education met at 6:45 p.m. in Conference Room C to discuss attendance. Thomas Minotti **moved to go into Executive Session** at 6:50 p.m.; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 5-0; motion passed. Members present were Arlene Liscinsky, Thomas Minotti, Kate Kutash, Kathy Yolish and Paula Ellis. Invited to stay were Freeman Burr, Allan Cameron and James Brant. Thomas Minotti **moved to leave Executive Session** at 7:21 p.m.; seconded by Paula Ellis; vote 5-0; motion passed.

Acting Chair Arlene Liscinsky called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:29 p.m.

Roll Call: (alpha order)

Paula Ellis

John Francino-Quinn (excused)

Kate Kutash

Arlene Liscinsky, Vice Chair

Thomas Minotti, Secretary

Win Oppel (excused)

Mike Pacowta (excused)

Timothy Walsh, Chair (excused)

Kathleen Yolish

Quorum of 5 present; 4 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 Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing

Mary Keary, 11 Fairlane Drive, asked several questions about Pay to Participate. She was referred to Allan Cameron and John Niski for further information.

No one else addressed the Board, and the public portion was closed.

Approval of Agenda

Paula Ellis made a motion to adjust the agenda by moving Item VII, Superintendent's Reports and Action Items, to follow Item III, Approval of Agenda; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 5-0; motion passed.

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the agenda and addendum; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 5-0; motion passed.

Appointments

Paula Ellis moved to approve the following appointments; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 5-0; motion passed:

- Scott Snell, to the stipend position of assistant girls' track coach at Shelton High School
- Mary Barry, to the position of Finance/Payroll Secretary II, as a replacement

Kate Kutash moved to appoint Darla Lussier and Kevin Chavez to the positions of Summer School Co-Director; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 4-1-0 (abstention by Paula Ellis); motion passed.

There was brief discussion of possible location for summer school program.

Retirements

The Board was advised of the retirement of Linda Coyle, gr. 2 teacher at Mohegan School, effective June 30, 2011, after 25 years of service.

Resignations

The Board was advised of the resignation of Vincent Wynne, assistant girls' track coach at Shelton High School.

Approval of Minutes

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 23, 2011, Special Meeting of March 31, 2011, and Special Meeting of April 19, 2011; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 4-1-0 (abstention by Paula Ellis); motion passed.

Presentations

Freeman Burr read a proclamation from Governor Malloy in recognition of School Nurse Day, May 11, 2011. Head Nurse Deborah Petrushonis received congratulations on behalf of all school nurses.

Kathy Bender, Tina Henckel and Kristen DiPalma gave an in-depth presentation on curriculum throughout the system. Board members asked numerous questions and lengthy discussion ensued throughout the PowerPoint presentation. Kathy Yolish was asked to email her questions to Freeman Burr to be presented to the Curriculum leaders.

(Note: Tape 1, Side B - 8:31 p.m.)

During discussion of a Virtual High School course offering for next year, Paula Ellis questioned the process of posting a stipend position for VHS site coordinator. It was agreed to pull the posting until the procedure is evaluated.

Instructional Update

The Board was informed of an approved field trip for the Robotics Team to attend a national competition in St. Louis on April 27-30, 2011.

Mr. Burr discussed a recent article on Shelton's Advanced Placement program.

Freeman Burr distributed a summary overview of the Strategic Planning Committee's update. A full rough draft is expected to be presented to the Board for review in May, which may be done in a workshop session.

Items Voted On

Thomas Minotti moved to approve a fundraiser for Shelton High School, "Dining for Dollars" at Bertucci's on May 10, 2011; seconded by Kathy Yolish. Discussion – It was confirmed that this is a school fundraiser. Vote 5-0; motion passed.

Kate Kutash moved to approve the Shelton High School Graduation date of Monday, June 20, and rain or shine date of Tuesday, June 21; the last day of school to be Tuesday, June 21; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 5-0; motion passed.

Kate Kutash moved to approve the decision not to certify compliance with the State's Healthy Foods Guidelines during the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012; seconded by Thomas Minotti. Discussion – Paula Ellis mentioned that some towns are in compliance and questioned how doing so would affect fundraising. It was agreed to consider compliance next year. Vote 5-0; motion passed.

Comments by the Board Chair

Arlene Liscinsky updated the Board on Chairman Walsh's condition and conveyed his appreciation for the many accomplishments achieved this year. Mrs. Liscinsky expressed thanks to those in attendance and others who spoke at the Board of Aldermen budget hearing. She stated there will be a public session at the Board of Aldermen meeting on May 12 and encouraged continued communication with the aldermen.

Reports by Standing Committees

Athletics – Paula Ellis said Attorney Craig Meuser spoke with the committee about the various booster groups in the school system and a potential issue with Title IX relative to fundraising. The Athletics Committee will develop a new policy regarding booster clubs.

Building and Grounds – Kate Kutash said the committee is investigating information on grease traps at the sinks (\$22,000) and disposal of the grease, which may incur additional costs. Freeman Burr said there is a bid for the netting at the high school baseball field; the City is taking on renovation of the field and our obligation would be about \$18,000. There was discussion about patching and resurfacing of the track (about \$9,000) and relamping lights at the field. Committee is checking to see if Little League would be interested in using the old lights.

Cafeteria/Transportation – Kate Kutash stated the committee will meet next on May 3 at 6:00 p.m.

Policy/Curriculum/Technology – Thomas Minotti reported on the April 12 committee meeting and distributed two proposals to sit for review until approval at the next regular meeting of the Board of Education:

- Policy Proposal #6146.2, Promotion/Acceleration/Retention
- Policy Revision Proposal #5123, Student Transportation

There was discussion about transition days among schools. The committee will meet next on May 12 at 4:00 p.m.

Personnel – James Brant indicated a meeting will be scheduled.

Finance – Arlene Liscinsky said the committee met earlier tonight with nothing to report.

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Arlene Liscinsky stated there will be a meeting next week. She discussed the leadership forum on special education held earlier tonight and said it was a good exchange of information.

CABE – Kathy Yolish commented briefly on her attendance at the NSBA Conference and will give a full report next meeting. She mentioned an upcoming meeting on Collective Bargaining Law and the Future of Teacher Evaluation and Compensation on May 19 from 1:30-4:30 p.m., and Mr. Burr encouraged a team to attend, including James Brant, Allan Cameron and any available members of the Board.

Adjournment

Paula Ellis moved to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 5-0; motion passed.

Diane Luther

Diane Luther
Recording Secretary – Board of Education
May 3, 2011