

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
382 LONG HILL AVENUE
SHELTON, CONNECTICUT
JULY 22, 2009**

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

Roll Call: (alpha order)
Paula Ellis (arrived 8:00)
Eugene Kierce
Arlene Liscinsky
Francis MacIlvain
Thomas Minotti (arrived 7:20)
Win Oppel, Chairman
James Oraziatti
Bernard Simons
Timothy Walsh

A quorum of 7 present and 2 absent; changed to 8-1 at 7:20, and 9-0 at 8:00

Board of Education Administration present:
Interim Superintendent of Schools, Robin Willink
Incoming Superintendent, Freeman Burr
Assistant Superintendent, Lorraine Rossner
Director of Finance, Allan Cameron
Operations Manager, William Banfe

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

The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing

Tammy Crews, 315 Meadowridge Road, expressed concerns about the roof at Elizabeth Shelton School. She thanked the Superintendent and the Board for their action on the delivery of mulch for the playground.

Deborah Keller, 311 Pheasant Glen Road, and President of the SEA, thanked Robin Willink for all she has done for the teachers, students and community commenting on her openness, willingness to communicate, and for going above and beyond to attend the various school events.

No one else wished to speak and the Public session was closed.

(Note: Thomas Minotti arrived at 7:20 p.m.)

Bernard Simons made a motion to recess briefly at 7:20 p.m.; seconded by James Oraziatti; vote 8-0; motion carried. The public was invited to have cake in honor of Superintendent Willink's retirement and last official Board Meeting.

The meeting resumed at 7:26 pm.

Chairman Oppel introduced Freeman Burr as Incoming Superintendent.

Approval of Agenda and Addendum

Francis MacIlvain made a motion to approve the agenda; seconded by Bernard Simons; vote 8-0; motion carried. Eugene Kierce made a motion to approve the addendum; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Timothy Walsh made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meetings held on June 16 and 17, 2009; seconded by Eugene Kierce; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Presentations:

Melissa Simons, Shelton Intermediate School student, was recognized for her award-winning essay in the WICC 600 AM Animal ER Essay Contest that resulted in the award of a new computer for the school.

Communications to the Board:

The Board was informed of a letter of appreciation sent to Michael Schirizzo for his donation of weightlifting and exercise equipment to Shelton High School, as well as a thank you letter from SHS PTSO for the Board's donation to the post prom event.

Appointments:

Timothy Walsh made a motion to approve the appointment of Paulette Campbell to the position of Grade 2 classroom teacher at Long Hill School, due to a resignation; seconded by Eugene Kierce; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Timothy Walsh made a motion to approve the appointment of Donna Cummings to the position of Grade 6 classroom teacher at Sunnyside School, due to a retirement and grade level move; seconded by Eugene Kierce; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Timothy Walsh made a motion to approve the appointment of Brandy Heflin to the position of Physics teacher at Shelton High School, due to a retirement; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Timothy Walsh made a motion to approve the appointment of Samuel LaPaglia to the position of Grade 2 classroom teacher at Elizabeth Shelton School, due to a retirement and grade change; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Timothy Walsh made a motion to approve the appointment of Leane Loffredo to the position of Grade 6 classroom teacher at Elizabeth Shelton School, due to an opening and grade level move; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Thomas Minotti made a motion to approve the appointment of Nicholas Messina to the position of Grade 6 classroom teacher at Long Hill School, due to an opening; seconded by Timothy Walsh; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Thomas Minotti made a motion to approve the appointment of Daniel Nazzaro to the position of Physics teacher at Shelton High School, due to a resignation; seconded by Francis MacIlvain; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Timothy Walsh made a motion to approve the appointment of Eileen Zavoluk to the position of Math teacher at Shelton Intermediate School, due to a retirement; seconded by Bernard Simons; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Timothy Walsh made a motion to approve the appointment of Gavriela Ziu-Pires to the position of Grade 6 classroom teacher at Elizabeth Shelton School; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 8-0; motion carried.

James Orazietti made a motion to approve the appointment of Erica McNeil to the position of Science teacher at Shelton Intermediate School, due to an internal transfer; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 8-0; motion carried.

James Orazietti made a motion to approve the appointment of Katherine Devonchuk to the position of Language Arts teacher at Shelton Intermediate School, due to a retirement; seconded by Bernard Simons; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Timothy Walsh made a motion to approve the appointment of Patricia Grace-Farfaglia to the position of Family and Consumer Science teacher at Shelton High School, due to a retirement; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Arlene Liscinsky made a motion to approve the appointment of Edward Tomasko to the position of custodian at Shelton High School, due to a transfer; seconded by Eugene Kierce; vote 8-0; motion carried.

James Orazietti made a motion to approve the appointment of Bernadette Greco to the position of special education teacher at Booth Hill School, due to a transfer; seconded by Eugene Kierce; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Thomas Minotti made a motion to approve the appointment of Robin Luther to the position of special education teacher at Booth Hill School, due to a transfer; seconded by Bernard Simons; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Timothy Walsh made a motion to approve the appointment of Melissa Bizzotto to the position of part-time Kindergarten teacher at Booth Hill School, due to an opening; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 8-0; motion carried.

James Orazietti made a motion to approve the appointment of Wendy Cushing to the position of Grade 1 classroom teacher at Mohegan School, due to a retirement; seconded by Eugene Kierce; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Robin Willink extended appreciation to Lorraine Rossner, Rita McDougald-Campbell, Pattie Curran, Tina Parchin and staff for their efforts in finding the best and brightest from the tremendous number of applications submitted.

Retirements:

Robin Willink advised the Board of the following retirements:

Susan Finn, Grade 1 teacher at Mohegan School, effective June 30, 2009, after 41 years of service

Elizabeth Jordan, school nurse at St. Lawrence School, effective July 15, 2009, after more than 23 years of service

Superintendent's Reports & Action Items:

Instructional Update – Lorraine Rossner and Carolyn Ivanoff discussed the Teaching American History Grant awarded to the Shelton Public Schools in the amount of \$988,499 for the first three years of the grant with a possible two-year extension for an additional \$600,000. Shelton has been nominated to be the fiduciary of the grant program and will be the providers of professional development for other towns and teachers to increase the quality and dedication to the teaching of history. Over the course of the three-year grant, 320 grades 5-12 teachers from Shelton, Trumbull and three New Haven magnet schools will be eligible to participate.

Robin Willink distributed photos of a landscaping project designed and completed by Mary Ann Tyma's students at the main entrance to Shelton High School. The project, which included a rock waterfall, was funded by an I.D.E.A. grant.

Mrs. Willink discussed the School Nurse Report from Debi Petrushonis, which outlined the year's activities and detailed the services provided to our students by the school nurses.

Superintendent Willink distributed information and briefly reviewed the activities and accomplishments of each department for the past year.

Approved Field Trip – Superintendent Willink approved a trip to Italy on April 8-15, 2010 for Shelton High School Italian students.

School Facilities Report – Bill Banfe reported on the activities of Perry Hill stating the underground detention system is 65-70% installed; roof is 65% complete; site work HVAC, plumbing and masonry are all ongoing. Board Members were asked to contact him if they wish to take a walk on the site. The SHS Fire Rehabilitation Building Committee will be presented with the bid review from Fletcher-Thompson for the corridor and interior stairwell doors. Installation of roof drains has begun at Elizabeth Shelton. Long Hill's roof is about 40-50% complete with completion expected in two weeks. Work will then proceed at Elizabeth Shelton.

(Note: Paula Ellis arrived at 8:00 p.m.)

James Oraziotti stated that the plumbers are in the process of installing drains at Elizabeth Shelton, which explains the recent leaks occurring at Elizabeth Shelton.

Arlene Liscinsky expressed concern about the delay in the Long Hill fields improvement project and the impact it may have when school is in session.

Bill Banfe stated the punch list items have been addressed for the elementary boilers. Schoolwide, all schools will be using green materials as of September, with the exception of the high school which will happen shortly. Mr. Banfe reviewed the summer projects taking place at each of the schools. In response to a question from Timothy Walsh, Bill Banfe said the SHS Renovation Building Committee is working on a plan to address the issues experienced with the high school boilers for the past year and a half. Information will be reported as it occurs.

Arlene Liscinsky reported that the Board of Education Technology Building Committee spent everything except \$8,000 of the \$2.5 million. The committee met last week and approved the purchase of 1,100 additional computers. The committee's goals have been met.

Items Voted On:

Paula Ellis made a motion to approve Policy #5134, Student Transportation, that has been sitting for review; seconded by Francis MacIlvain; vote 9-0; motion carried.

Bernard Simons made a motion to approve the request of the Shelton High School Band Parents Association to conduct fundraisers during the 2009-2010 school year; seconded by Francis MacIlvain; vote 8-0-1 (Timothy Walsh abstained); motion carried.

Paula Ellis made a motion to approve the request of Elizabeth Shelton School PTO to conduct fundraisers during the 2009-2010 school year; seconded by Bernard Simons. Discussion: Arlene Liscinsky said it is important that any parent group wishing to raise funds must submit completed documentation for 501(c)(3) to the Superintendent's office. Consensus was to approve the request on the condition that the PTO submits proper documentation regarding non-profit status if needed. **Vote 8-0-1 (Timothy Walsh abstained); motion carried.**

Paula Ellis made a motion to reappoint the stipend position holders on the attached list; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky. Discussion: James Orazietti said it is Athletic Committee policy for the Head Coach to recommend appointment of the Assistant Coach. Since the Head Hockey Coach position has not been filled, he suggested amending the list by removing the Assistant Hockey Coach. **The Chair will table the Assistant Hockey Coach until the next meeting. Vote on the amended list 9-0; motion carried.**

Paula Ellis made a motion to approve the request of Shelton High School Girls Cross Country Parents Club to conduct fundraisers during the 2009-2010 school year; seconded by Bernard Simons. Discussion: James Orazietti commented that proper documentation for non-profit status is not included and that this might be the time to organize some of the clubs under one umbrella. Arlene Liscinsky emphasized the IRS regulations regarding fundraising. Cheryl O'Brien from the Parents Club said they might not be that lucrative to be able to afford 501(c)(3) status and their request to operate in conjunction with Boys Cross Country was refused. She said their season is brief and they would like to begin fundraising quickly. Chairman Oppel suggested outside legal counsel be sought and that action should be taken now on this request. **The Chair stated that approval will be given to begin fundraising with the clear understanding that this is a fluid situation; vote 9-0; motion carried.**

(Note: Tape 1, Side B – 8:22 p.m.)

Comments by the Board Chair:

Win Oppel commented that this is Robin Willink's final meeting as Superintendent. He commended her evenhandedness, patience, firm grasp of often complex and competing issues and noted her tenure will continue to have long-lasting effects. Timothy Walsh added that Robin contributed much toward moving the district from "good to great." Mrs. Willink received a standing ovation.

Reports By Standing Committees:

Athletics – No report was given.

Building & Grounds – Eugene Kierce said there was no quorum and the committee did not meet.

Cafeteria/Transportation – Francis MacIvain reported the committee went out to bid and selected Sodexo for another five-year contract. An energy conservation grant was secured from UI to update two walk-in freezers and a walk-in cooler at the high school. With the help of the City Highway and Bridges Department and Shelton Public Schools staff, a new bus lot was created, saving taxpayers \$100,000 per year. A \$63,000 grant was secured from DEP to retrofit 38 of our buses with catalytic converters to reduce diesel emissions. The next meeting is August 4.

Policy/Curriculum/Technology – Thomas Minotti summarized the activities indicating there was discussion about having a student performance special workshop focusing on instruction, achievement, drop-out rate, special education, etc. He said there was discussion regarding corporate sponsors for sports fields or other activities. The committee has decided to create a Recognition Policy, which addresses naming of school facilities. A draft was emailed to Board Members to provide input for the committee's August 6 meeting. Mr. Minotti commented that the Teaching American History grant will enhance our Social Studies curriculum. Mr. Oraziotti requested that an email reminder be sent to Board Members regarding their responses on the Recognition Policy.

Personnel – Timothy Walsh said the committee will meet on August 13.

Finance – Bernard Simons commented that there was a savings of 17% fewer gallons of fuel burned last year, despite more heating days. This \$50,000 savings was a result of the plan by the Board to close the buildings earlier and sharply reduce building usage on weekends. There was a reduction of 4% kilowatt hours of electricity, resulting in an additional \$50,000 savings. Allan Cameron was commended for his diligence in securing the projects and seeing them through. Eugene Kierce asked to include the savings calculation as part of the Finance Committee report on a regular basis.

Reports of Special Committees:

C.E.S. – No report was given.

CABE – No report was given. Board Members were advised to look for notification concerning registration for CABE/CAPSS Convention.

Old Business:

James Oraziotti said he is receiving parent recommendations about the start of the school year and he suggested the Board have discussion other than during budget season. Chairman Oppel will put this on a future agenda. Mr. Oraziotti suggested forming an ad hoc committee to outline the district student policy with regard to out-of-district students attending Shelton Public Schools and should include a detection system and penalty policy to be implemented. Chairman Oppel said a small group will meet with Lorraine Rossner and Freeman Burr to discuss.

Timothy Walsh commented on the sign posted by the Gridiron Club on the Green in Huntington Center and the reference to stopping pay for play. Discussion ensued and Chairman Oppel agreed to contact the Gridiron Club.

Adjournment:

Paula Ellis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.; seconded by Bernard Simons; vote 9-0; motion carried.

Diane Luther

Diane Luther
Recording Secretary – Board of Education
July 29, 2009