

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
382 LONG HILL AVENUE
BOARD ROOM, 2ND FLOOR
NOVEMBER 28, 2012**

Chairman Win Oppel called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:12 p.m.

Roll Call:

John Francino-Quinn (arrived 7:36 p.m.)	James Oraziatti
Mark Holden	Mike Pacowta
Arlene Liscinsky, Secretary	Timothy Walsh
Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman	Kathleen Yolish
Win Oppel, Chairman	

Initial Quorum – 8 present; 1 absent; Full Quorum at 7:36 p.m.

Board of Education Administration present:

Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr

Finance Director, Allan Cameron

Executive Director of Curriculum & Support Services, Kathleen Bender

Human Resources Director, Carole Pannozzo

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Hearing

Lisbeth Condo, 106 Chamberlain Drive, addressed the board concerning a change this year to Mohegan School's recess policy. Mrs. Condo noted that only Mohegan has eliminated recess two days per week and reduced recess to 15 minutes for the remaining days. She provided copies of research and requested the board to reinstate daily 20 minute recess.

Aimee Cayer, 23 Cayer Circle, spoke about Mohegan's recess policy and presented a petition to reinstate recess; additional signatures will be submitted. Mrs. Cayer discussed the current use of controlled physical activity called energy bursts and pointed out the positive aspects of unstructured recess. She asked the board to intervene and reinstate daily 20 minute recess.

Faith Gydus, 536 Walnut Tree Hill Road, spoke in favor of Mohegan's recess policy and discussed positive changes at Mohegan relative to improvements in cafeteria lines, staggered recess, and recess monitoring by classroom teacher.

There being no further requests to speak, the Public Session was closed.

Chairman Oppel expressed appreciation to the board members, Superintendent Burr and his staff for their efforts during the past year. Mr. Oppel explained his reasons for not seeking re-election as Chairman and said it has been both an honor and privilege to serve.

Yearly Re-Organization of the Board - Election of Officers

Mark Holden moved to select Win Oppel as moderator for the purpose of the election of officers; seconded by Timothy Walsh; vote 8-0; motion passed.

James Orazietti moved to conduct the election by voice vote; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 8-0; motion passed.

(Note: Jay Francino-Quinn arrived at 7:36 p.m.)

Thomas Minotti moved to nominate Mark Holden as Chairman; seconded by Timothy Walsh. Moderator asked for further nominations. Being none, Kathy Yolish moved to close nominations; seconded by Thomas Minotti. Timothy Walsh moved that the Secretary cast one ballot for Mark Holden to be Chairman; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; motion passed.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to nominate Thomas Minotti as Vice Chairman; seconded by Mark Holden. Moderator asked for further nominations. Jay Francino-Quinn nominated James Orazietti; seconded by Kathy Yolish. James Orazietti declined the nomination. As there were no further nominations, Timothy Walsh moved to close nominations; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky. Timothy Walsh moved that the Secretary cast one ballot for Thomas Minotti to be Vice Chairman; seconded by Mark Holden; motion passed.

Timothy Walsh moved to nominate Arlene Liscinsky as Secretary; seconded by Thomas Minotti. As there were no further nominations, Timothy Walsh moved to close nominations; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn. Jay Francino-Quinn moved that the Secretary cast one ballot for Arlene Liscinsky to be Secretary; seconded by Mark Holden; motion passed.

Mark Holden assumed position of Chairman of the Board and expressed his appreciation. He said new committee assignments will be addressed soon.

Approval of Agenda

Timothy Walsh moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; motion unanimous.

Approval of Minutes

Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of October 24, 2012 and Regular Meeting of October 24, 2012; seconded by Win Oppel; vote 8-0-1 (abstention by Mike Pacowta); motion passed.

Presentations

Superintendent Burr acknowledged two Shelton High School student-athletes who were awarded the Fall SCC Scholar Athletes of the Month for October. Joseph Stein was recognized for Soccer, Swimming & Diving, Outdoor Track & Field; class rank #2/386; and gpa 99.49. Alexa Merriam was recognized for Girls' Cross Country, SHS After Hours Chorus, Girls' Outdoor Track & Field; class rank #3/386; and gpa 98.88. Mr. Burr reviewed each student's accomplishments, and the students were recognized and honored in absentia.

Communications to the Board

Freeman Burr stated on November 16, at the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education convention, Arlene Liscinsky and he accepted a CAFE Board Leadership Award on behalf of the Shelton Board of Education. Arlene Liscinsky noted it was the third consecutive year this board received the award.

Mr. Burr read a letter to the board from Shelton Economic Development Commission's Chairman Fred Ruggio recognizing Kathy Yolish for her contributions to *Shelton Life Community and Business News*. The commendation referenced Kathy's volunteer work in providing numerous articles on education in Shelton Public Schools. Superintendent Burr acknowledged three such articles in the October issue of *Shelton Life* and recognized school nurse Adrienne Ziemkiewicz for her sponsorship of a student exchange student from Turkey, as well as SIS Housemaster Carolyn Ivanoff for her part in continuing the Teaching American History Grant as a professional development opportunity for our teachers. Superintendent Burr congratulated Mrs. Yolish on a job well done. Kathy Yolish invited administrators to submit any ideas for the newsletter.

Instructional Update

Superintendent's Commentary – Freeman Burr discussed the Rigorous Curriculum Design training held this week for staff. He stated the trainer from the Leadership and Learning Center expressed high praise and accolades for the accomplishments of many of our staff members. Mr. Burr noted parent conferences were held, and for the first time, teachers conveyed information in the new standards-based report cards; feedback will be coming in from schools on some of the areas to be focused on. Superintendent Burr said at our upcoming curriculum meeting, an overview presentation and Q&A on our standards-based report card will be given. In the near future there will also be an overview presentation on the progress of our curriculum work as we transition to the Common Core State Standards in preparation for the pilot test in 2014 and then the national assessment that will be implemented in 2015 when the state assessments, CMT and CAPT assessments go away.

Board members were advised of approved field trip for Shelton Intermediate School's science trip to Costa Rica, April 15-21, 2013.

Items Voted On

Timothy Walsh moved to approve the request of Shelton High School Girls Basketball Team to conduct fundraising activities during the 2012-2013 school year; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; motion unanimous.

Thomas Minotti moved to approve revised Bylaw #9132(a), Standing Committees; seconded by **Win Oppel**. **Discussion.** James Orazietti asked for clarification of terminology in the bylaw. Win Oppel noted there is a math problem in that there are 5 members and 2 members on each committee not counting the Chairman, which is 16 people to fill 15 slots. He suggested either to drop the requirement that everybody serves on 2 or increase the participation on the committee up to 6. He continued that a quorum of 4 would be required for each committee and that it may be easier to drop the 2 and have someone serve on just 1 committee. He volunteered to be the board member on a single committee. **Win Oppel** moved to not alter the policy regarding the minimum number of requirements that the members serve. There was no second to Mr. Oppel's motion. Mr. Oppel was asked if he wanted to withdraw his motion and replied that he did not. **Discussion continued.** There were various suggestions for wording, including possibly mandating 6 for the Finance committee.

Chairman Holden stated there is a motion on the table to amend the original motion so that it will read "each board member will be appointed to 2 committees." No further discussion. Vote 8-1 (Win Oppel opposed). Motion passed.

(Note: Tape 1; Side B – 8:13 p.m.)

Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the amended motion (restated by Tom Minotti) – The policy states that the Chairman can appoint up to 6 members excluding the chair to a standing committee, which will include Finance, Policy, and Teaching and Learning; and each member will be appointed to 2 committees. Seconded by James Orazietti; motion unanimous.

Comments by the Board Chair

Chairman Holden thanked Win Oppel for his efforts in the past year serving as Chairman of the Board of Education and said he felt Mr. Oppel made significant efforts to involve everyone on the board. Mark Holden expressed appreciation for the confidence expressed in his ability to lead the BOE. He stated his philosophy, expressed desire for all members to work together, and asked members to attend at least two Lighthouse meetings to learn more about them before deciding not to become involved. He said he will try to accommodate preferences for committee assignments. In anticipation of the possible need for ad hoc committees, Mr. Holden said he will email members a questionnaire to identify personal skills and interests.

Reports of Standing Committees

Athletics – Timothy Walsh stated there was no meeting held this month due to weather.

Buildings & Grounds – Jay Francino-Quinn said the committee has been unable to meet. He reviewed some outstanding issues regarding take-home vehicles and the video production lab at the high school.

Cafeteria/Transportation – Mark Holden said the committee has not met in the past month.

Human Resources – Mike Pacowta reported the committee met on November 14 and had discussed the Math Specialist positions for Perry Hill School and Shelton Intermediate School and recommends filling the positions.

Mike Pacowta moved to approve the proposed math specialist job descriptions and subsequent filling of the positions for Perry Hill and Shelton Intermediate Schools in accordance with Shelton Public Schools' hiring policies and procedures; seconded by Win Oppel; motion unanimous.

Policy/Curriculum/Technology – Thomas Minotti said the committee met in November, and topics included the bylaw regarding standing committees and a proposed policy that board members be notified immediately when a matter is referred to legal services, which was discussed and resolved. The next meeting will be December 11 at 3:00 p.m.

Finance – Arlene Liscinsky said the committee met earlier tonight for a budget meeting with the Superintendent. She said the 2012-2013 current budget is \$63,736,627; the rollover to maintain exactly what we are doing and take into consideration contractual obligations and heating increases, etc. would come to a little over \$4,000,000 or 6.39%. She stated the Superintendent's presentation totaled just under \$5,000,000 or 7.8%, so there is a lot of work ahead before presenting budget to City Hall. The next meeting on December 5 at 7:00 p.m. will include the Superintendent's formal presentation to the board.

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Arlene Liscinsky said Commissioner Pryor will attend the rescheduled meeting in January at the Six to Six Magnet School. Any questions or thoughts for the Commissioner should be forwarded to her.

CABE – Kathy Yolish said the 9th Annual Leadership Institute will be offered for several sessions beginning January 24 and is designed to provide school board members with the skills and knowledge they need to be effective advocates and leaders for equity and excellence at the local and state levels. If interested, board members should contact Kathy Yolish. Arlene Liscinsky added that there will be a legislative meeting for superintendents and board chairs on 12/7 at 8:00 a.m. at CES, 25 Oakview; board members can attend.

New Business

James Oraziatti said he had spoken to the Charter Revision Committee about BOE members being able to serve on city appointed building committees, and the Charter has been changed to allow board members to serve on education-related temporary committees. Timothy Walsh commended Mr. Oraziatti for initiating this change.

Kathy Yolish commented on her attendance at professional development activities at Long Hill School on Election Day and commended Central Office and school personnel for outstanding programs.

For Your Information

Chairman Mark Holden referenced the attachments in packet including a Vacancy Report. The following items were noted:

Certified Staff Appointment:

Katherine Geraci, appointed to position of special education teacher at Sunnyside School, effective November 12, 2012; Step 1, Level 3

Stipend Appointments, Reappointments:

George Perduta, Assistant Coach Boys' Swim Team at SHS
Brad Piccirillo, 2012-2013 Intramural Fitness Advisor at SHS

Stipend Resignation:

Michael Nolan, Intramural Fitness Advisor at SHS

Adjournment

Kathy Yolish moved to adjourn at 8:31 p.m.; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 9-0; motion passed.

Diane Luther

Diane Luther

Recording Secretary – Board of Education

December 5, 2012