

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES  
382 LONG HILL AVENUE  
FEBRUARY 22, 2012**

Acting Chairperson Arlene Liscinsky called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:11 p.m.

Roll Call: (alpha order)  
John Francino-Quinn (excused)  
Mark Holden  
Arlene Liscinsky, Secretary  
Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman (excused)  
Win Oppel (excused)  
James Orazietti  
Mike Pacowta  
Timothy Walsh  
Kathleen Yolish

Quorum of 6 present; 3 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

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Mark Holden motioned to move forward item V. Student Recognition; seconded by James Orazietti; vote 6-0; motion passed.**

**Student Recognition**

Two Shelton High School students were congratulated for receiving The New England Scholastic Press Association Award for articles featured in the Gael Winds. Matthew Hellauer, News Editor, wrote "iReflect on Steve Jobs: 1955-2011," and Kristina Meyers, Editor-in-Chief, authored "Servicemen Come Home for the Holidays." Gael Winds Advisor Carolyn Finley was recognized for her leadership with the award-winning newspaper. There was discussion about expanding distribution of the Gael Winds in the community, and Dr. Smith confirmed that marketing is being explored.

Recognition was given to students who achieved the top 8 Best Overall projects in the SHS Science Fair. The following projects will advance to the Connecticut State Science Fair at Quinnipiac University in March.

- 8<sup>th</sup> Overall: Junior Class, #312 - Fire Retardant Paint  
Rachel Cataudella, Myles Hoponick, Alessandra Boisvert
- 7<sup>th</sup> Overall: Senior Class, #418 - What is the Fastest Way to Solve a Sudoku Puzzle?  
Michael Dellolio, Ryan Zuklie, Alex Wlcek
- 6<sup>th</sup> Overall: Sophomore Class, #219 - Return of the Germ  
Thomas Ball
- 5<sup>th</sup> Overall: Senior Class, #404 - Bass Attack  
Gary Thompson Jr., Ryan Daiss
- 4<sup>th</sup> Overall: Freshman Class, #159 - How Radiation of Cell Phones Affects Cells  
Caroline Steadham, Johnna Bakalar, Sydney Carter
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Overall: Junior Class, #327 – Effects of Humidity on Music  
Lauren Montagna, Alyssa Johnson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Overall: Senior Class, #405 – The Application of LT and 5-HTP in Serotonin Synthesis  
Anna Maria Marini
- 1<sup>st</sup> Overall: Sophomore Class, #233 – Revolutionary Cancer Treatment: A Simulation of Nanocarriers Using Swarm Intelligence for Targeted Cancer Cells  
Rigel Mahmood

### **Public Hearing**

Deborah Keller, 311 Pheasant Glen, spoke on behalf of teachers, particularly kindergarten teachers, regarding the elimination of four school days for the half-day kindergarten program, as shown on the proposed 2012-2013 District Calendar, and asked the Board to find a way to allow students to attend school on those four days.

Judson Crawford, 8 Jordan Avenue, referenced a recent Shelton Patch online article and urged the Board to make contact to correct the missing names of Board members. Arlene Liscinsky noted that a photo of the current Board will be scheduled.

### **Approval of Agenda**

**Mark Holden moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Timothy Walsh; vote 6-0; motion passed.**

**Approval of Minutes**

**Timothy Walsh moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 25, 2012; seconded by Mike Pacowta; vote 6-0; motion passed.**

**Curriculum and Instruction Presentations**

**Virtual High School** – Joan Tichy, Virtual High School Site Coordinator, gave an informative presentation on the program started at Shelton High School this past fall. Ms. Tichy noted there are currently 24 Shelton High School students taking a wide range of courses; two of those students are taking their second or third classes online. The program currently allows a maximum of 25 students per semester. A handout with program information and course offerings was provided. Rosemary Pagliaro, SHS Virtual High School teacher of Poetry and Writing, read comments about the program from students. Students Anna Maria Marini and Meghan Marini talked about their experiences with Virtual High School and answered numerous questions from Board members. Dr. Smith said a marketing campaign is being developed with expectations for the program to grow exponentially. The Board expressed interest in being updated on the progress of the program.

**District Math Targets Assessments** – Freeman Burr explained the focus has been on targets based on last year's CMT results. He presented progress/comparison data for students in grades 3 through 6. In May, information will be shared on the growth between DRA pre and post assessments. Mr. Burr responded to questions from Board members.

**Instructional Update**

Freeman Burr waived his commentary, as he recently sent a Board Brief to the Board members.

**Approved Field Trips**

The Board was advised of approved trips to Massachusetts and Missouri in March and April for the Robotics Team.

**Items Voted On**

**James Oraziotti moved to approve the 2012-2013 Shelton Public Schools Calendar for discussion; seconded by Timothy Walsh. Discussion held.** Mr. Oraziotti felt there is need for further consideration of the proposed calendar, based on concerns expressed to him by parents, as well as comments by Deb Keller. Arlene Liscinsky commented that some parents prefer to have February recess on Monday and Tuesday instead of Friday and Monday. James Oraziotti noted the April recess begins a week following the end of marking period and suggested moving it closer for continuity of instruction. **James Oraziotti moved to table the motion until the next regular meeting of the Board of Education; seconded by Mark Holden; vote 6-0; motion passed.**

It was suggested to schedule a Special Meeting solely for calendar discussion.

**Timothy Walsh moved to approve the request of the Shelton High School Lacrosse Parents Club to conduct fundraising activities for the 2011-2012 school year; seconded by Mark Holden; vote 6-0; motion passed.**

#### **Comments by the Board Chair**

Arlene Liscinsky said the Mayor gave his budget presentation today to A&T and the Board of Aldermen. She said our budget appropriation for this year is \$63,700,000; the Mayor has appropriated in his budget \$63,200,000 for the coming year, and the mill rate will be going from 18.57 to 21.85 due to reevaluation. Mrs. Liscinsky discussed the timeline for the budget process. Superintendent Burr was asked to inform Board members whenever he is invited by groups to do budget presentations so they can attend.

#### **Reports by Standing Committees**

**Athletics** – Timothy Walsh said the committee had been discussing standards for selection of captains based on academics and behavior. The next meeting will be held on February 28 at 4 p.m.

**Building and Grounds** – The committee met earlier tonight.

**Cafeteria/Transportation** – Mark Holden said there was a presentation at the last committee meeting that outlined steps being taken to encourage students to eat healthy foods. The bus contract is out for bid. The next meeting date of March 6 will be confirmed pending the date of the BOE budget meeting with A&T and Board of Aldermen.

**Policy/Curriculum/Technology** – Minutes of the 2/6 meeting are posted and in packet. The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 13, at 4 p.m. Future agenda items are listed in the minutes.

**Personnel** – Mike Pacowta said the committee did not meet.

**Finance** – Arlene Liscinsky said the committee met last week, and minutes of the 1/18 meeting are posted and in the packet. She confirmed that based on a recommendation by the committee, a letter was sent to Mrs. Scanlon on Workers Compensation.

#### **Reports of Special Committees**

**CES** – Arlene Liscinsky said the Finance Committee will meet tomorrow; CES will not meet in February.

**CABE** – Mark Holden reported on a meeting he attended in Westport with legislators. CABE's Day on the Hill is scheduled for March 14; Governor Malloy will be there. Freeman Burr said he will notify Board members when a date is chosen for the Education Forum with Senator Kelly, Rep. Perillo and Rep. Miller.

**Unfinished Business**

There was no discussion, as nothing had been tabled from previous meeting.

**New Business**

James Oraziotti questioned the status of topics he brought forth at the last Policy, Curriculum, Technology Committee meeting. Discussion included:

- Need for a new BOE member orientation
- Create a budget-making calendar every two years when going into a new Board election. This will be brought up at next Finance Committee meeting.
- Alert all Board members of administrative interview proceedings for possible attendance. This will be included in next agenda for Personnel Committee.
- Information in Policy Book outlining how an action becomes a policy. This is being researched; bylaws need to be expanded.

**For Your Information**

Reports on current vacancies and enrollment were included in packet.

**Appointments:**

- Michele Salado, Guidance Counselor at Long Hill and Elizabeth Shelton
- William Maloney, stipend position of SIS Baseball Coach

**Retirements:**

None

**Resignations:**

- Anthony Branca, Freshman Boys' Lacrosse Coach, SHS
- Lawrence Vieira, Ice Hockey Coach, SHS

**Leaves of Absence:**

None

**Adjournment**

Timothy Walsh moved to adjourn at 8:51 p.m.; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 6-0; motion passed.

*Diane Luther*

***Diane Luther***

***Recording Secretary – Board of Education***

***February 28, 2012***