

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
382 LONG HILL AVENUE
JUNE 22, 2011**

The Board of Education met at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room C for an update on contract negotiations. Win Oppel **moved to go into Executive Session** at 7:00 p.m.; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 6-0; motion passed. Members present were Arlene Liscinsky, Win Oppel, Thomas Minotti, Kate Kutash, Kathy Yolish and Mike Pacowta. Invited to stay were Freeman Burr, James Brant (departed at 6:50 p.m.) and Catherine Thompson (departed at 6:45 p.m.). Win Oppel **moved to leave Executive Session** at 7:14 p.m.; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 6-0; motion passed.

Acting Chair Arlene Liscinsky called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:22 p.m.

Roll Call: (alpha order)
Paula Ellis (excused)
John Francino-Quinn (excused)
Kate Kutash
Arlene Liscinsky, Acting Chair
Thomas Minotti, Secretary
Win Oppel
Mike Pacowta
Timothy Walsh (excused)
Kathleen Yolish

Quorum of 6 present; 3 absent

Board of Education Administration present:
Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr
Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Lorraine Rossner
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)

Kathy Yolish led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Win Oppel moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 6-0; motion passed.

Win Oppel moved to approve the addendum; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 6-0; motion passed.

Win Oppel moved to alter the agenda for presentations; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 6-0; motion passed.

Presentations

CABE Student Leadership Awards – Freeman Burr recognized four students who were selected to receive the CABE Student Leadership Awards: Shelton High School students Tyler Gaetano and Nicole DeMarco; Shelton Intermediate School students Courtney Rodrigues and Michael Cowell. Each was presented with a congratulatory letter and award from CABE.

Annual Shelton Life Art Contest Winners - The fourth annual *Shelton Life Art Contest*, sponsored by Shelton Economic Development Commission and Shelton Economic Development Corporation, was conducted and thirty students were named winners. Commission Chairman Fred Ruggio, with assistance from Aleta Miner of the Corporation and Art Department Chair Ellen Cox, gave recognition and presented monetary awards to the following students:

Grades 2-4	1 st Place	Anthony Gonzales	Gr. 3 LH
	2 nd Place	Zoe Yoon	Gr. 2 LH
	3 rd Place	Trinity Crisanti	Gr. 2 ES
	Honorable Mention	Matthew Dilieto	Gr. 4 ES
	Honorable Mention	Matthew Balcerzak	Gr. 4 BH
Grades 5-6 (PH)	Honorable Mention	Zachary Prindle	Gr. 3 ES
	1 st Place	Zane Bendici	Gr. 6
	2 nd Place	Anna Tran	Gr. 6
	3 rd Place	Tre Genova	Gr. 6
	Honorable Mention	Victoria O'Malley	Gr. 6
Grades 7-8 (SIS)	Honorable Mention	Emely Ricci	Gr. 6
	Honorable Mention	Bridget Lockhart	Gr. 6
	1 st Place	Breann Turiano	Gr. 8
	2 nd Place	Amy Sheldon	Gr. 7
	3 rd Place	Corlina Kiernan	Gr. 8
Grades 9-10 (SHS)	Honorable Mention	Christopher Samedi	Gr. 8
	Honorable Mention	Alyssa Lam	Gr. 7
	Honorable Mention	Kaylee DeFelice	Gr. 8
	1 st Place	Elida Paiz	Gr. 9
	2 nd Place	Emily Gaetano	Gr. 10
Grades 9-10 (SHS)	3 rd Place	Alecia Urban	Gr. 10
	Honorable Mention	Alexandra Ferrarese	Gr. 10
	Honorable Mention	Opal Morris	Gr. 10
Grades 9-10 (SHS)	Honorable Mention	Monica Ciocca	Gr. 10

Grades 11-12 (SHS)	1 st Place	Katie White	Gr. 12
	2 nd Place	Jordan Rivera	Gr. 12
	3 rd Place	Alicia Southiseng	Gr. 11
	Honorable Mention	Kelsey Marschall	Gr. 11
	Honorable Mention	Tina Turechek	Gr. 11
	Honorable Mention	Alannah Feigenblat	Gr. 11

The winning projects are featured in the June issue of *Shelton Life*.

SSEP Presentation of Experiment Findings – Four students representing the Student Spaceflight Experiment team presented the findings of their experiment that flew on the space shuttle Endeavour. An informative presentation was given by Leanne Misencik, Omar Sobh, James Szabo and Jason Shnipes with additional commentary by Tina Henckel.

Public Hearing

No one spoke from the public.

Approval of Minutes

Win Oppel moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 25, 2011; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 6-0; motion passed.

Communications to the Board

Mr. Burr discussed a letter and award received from CollegeBoard naming the district as one of only 388 districts selected nationwide for the Advanced Placement Program's "AP Achievement District Honor Roll" for 2011. The letter stated, "Shelton Public Schools was selected because it has opened AP classroom doors to a significantly broader pool of students, while maintaining or improving the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher."

Appointments

Kate Kutash moved to appoint Alfredo Mazza to the position of Spanish World Language teacher at Shelton High School due to a resignation; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 6-0; motion passed.

Kate Kutash moved to appoint Christina Cavallaro to the position of Spanish World Language teacher for a one-year contract due to a leave of absence; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 6-0; motion passed.

Kate Kutash moved to appoint Laura Ferraro as a recall to the position of Elementary Guidance Counselor due to a retirement; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 6-0; motion passed.

Win Oppel moved to appoint Joan Tichy to the stipend position of Virtual High School Site Coordinator for the Virtual High School Program; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 6-0; motion passed.

Kate Kutash moved to appoint Michael O'Reilly to the position of Physics teacher at Shelton High School due to a resignation; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 6-0; motion passed.

Mike Pacowta moved to continue the appointment of James Brant, Acting Human Resources Consultant, through December 31, 2011; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 5-1 (Kathy Yolish voted nay); motion passed.

Thomas Minotti moved to appoint Scott Snell to the position of Social Studies teacher at Shelton High School due to a retirement; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 6-0; motion passed.

Kate Kutash moved to appoint Margery Kozdeba to the position of Biology teacher at Shelton High School due to a resignation; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 6-0; motion passed.

Kate Kutash moved to appoint Lynn Giordano to the stipend position of Junior Class Co-Advisor at Shelton High School; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 6-0; motion passed.

Retirements

The Board was advised of the following retirements:

- Diane Cannizzaro, grade 4 teacher at Elizabeth Shelton School, effective June 30, 2011, after 22 years of service
- Margo Zboray, School Psychologist at Shelton Intermediate School, effective June 30, 2011, after 35 years of service

Resignations

The Board was advised of four resignations:

- Kevin Chavez, Boys' Baseball Coach at Shelton Intermediate School, effective June 6, 2011
- Kerry Pawlyk, Co-Advisor Class of 2013 at Shelton High School, effective June 21, 2011
- Wayne Young as Boys' Tennis Coach at Shelton High School, effective June 20, 2011
- Vincent Convertito, English teacher at Shelton High School, effective June 30, 2011

Leaves of Absence

The Board was advised of a one-year general leave of absence for the 2011-2012 school year for Rebecca Nemetz, Special Education teacher at Perry Hill School.

Instructional Update

Freeman Burr and Arlene Liscinsky discussed the decision by the Shelton Council to dissolve and thanked those members in attendance for their contributions. Mr. Burr commented on the Shelton High School graduation ceremony and expressed appreciation to the editor of the Huntington Herald for excellent coverage. Superintendent Burr reviewed ongoing curriculum work and summer projects planned for Leadership Academy members. He noted positive feedback received from the members who participated in the recent shadowing internships

Mr. Burr informed the Board of an approved field trip for intermediate school students to visit Washington, D.C., April 21-24, 2012.

Freeman Burr recognized SIS students Jennifer Piciw and Patrick Ambrogio for being selected by Derby Lodge No. 571 as Student of the Year. A dinner will be held in July at the Derby Elks Lodge for all area students and families to celebrate their awards.

Items Voted On

Kate Kutash moved to ratify the proposed contract for the Paraprofessional Aides; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 6-0; motion passed.

Kate Kutash moved to approve the reappointment of the stipend position holders listed on the attached; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 6-0; motion passed.

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the fundraising requests of the Shelton High School Swim Team Parents Club and the Shelton High School Girls' Tennis team; seconded by Win Opiel. Discussion – John Niski was asked to oversee the coordination of event dates, since the fundraisers were similar. Vote 6-0; motion passed.

Comments by the Board Chair

Arlene Liscinsky asked Board Members to submit dates that are preferable or when they will not be available in an effort to schedule Dr. Smith's presentation to the Board on accreditation; Strategic Plan review; and Lighthouse Project Mrs. Liscinsky gave an update on Tim Walsh's condition. She commended Dr. Smith and staff for their contributions to graduation night. Thomas Minotti spoke about the SIS awards ceremony. Arlene Liscinsky and Kathy Yolish each commented on the Elizabeth Shelton School Arts and Music Festival.

Reports by Standing Committees

Athletics – John Niski stated the committee met to review the possible creation of a Booster Club policy and to discuss the Pay to Participate impact. He announced the SHS golf team won the SCC Championship and Pat Gillen was named by CIAC as Connecticut State Athlete of the Year for wrestling.

Building and Grounds – Win Oppel said the committee met and heard from Ken LaCroix about year-end maintenance expenditures for snow blowers, a tractor with snow blower at Perry Hill, and a floor cleaner machine. There are plans to build a split wall at Mohegan and to install white boards at Long Hill. Mr. Oppel said grease traps have been purchased and will be installed. He said repairs have been made to any damage to roofs at Long Hill and Elizabeth Shelton due to snow removal, and warranties have been restored; other roofs were repaired as well.

(NOTE: Tape 1; Side B – 8:25 p.m.)

Cafeteria/Transportation – Kate Kutash said the committee will meet on July 6 at 6:30 p.m. to make decisions about bus stops, and all are welcome to attend.

Policy/Curriculum/Technology – Lorraine Rossner reviewed the committee meeting of June 9, stating discussions were held and decisions were made on instructional hours for grades 1-6 and kindergarten; kindergarten orientation; parent portal information; curriculum revision plans; possible revision of Policy 5154.5 - Policy Regarding Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment; Title IX survey. As requested by Mrs. Ellis, the next agenda for this committee will include discussion of booster clubs regulations.

Personnel – Mike Pacowta stated the committee did not meet but will embark shortly on the yearly evaluation of the superintendent.

Finance – Arlene Liscinsky stated the committee met earlier tonight to discuss line item transfers.

Win Oppel moved to authorize the Superintendent of Schools or his designee to establish an internal services fund to fund future liabilities for self-insurance by any and all legal means, and to deposit remaining monies from the 2010-2011 school year budget in the amount of approximately \$212,000 in such account; seconded by Mike Pacowta. Discussion – Allan Cameron explained the rationale for this action and responded to questions. Vote 6-0; motion passed.

Mr. Cameron reviewed committee discussion regarding a fully-insured Workers Compensation package and said the committee reviewed the budget by line item, noting surpluses and shortfalls. He said all agendas and minutes are on both the City and Shelton Board of Education websites for all who are interested.

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Arlene Liscinsky referred to her report, which was included in the packet. The next meeting will be in September.

CABE – Kathy Yolish said there is a legislative session tomorrow and a Leadership Conference on July 27 at the Saybrook Point Inn & Spa. She noted that CABE and CAPSS are urging the U.S. Secretary of Education to provide relief from a heavy local load of regulatory requirements stemming from NCLB.

Adjournment

Kate Kutash moved to adjourn at 8:34 p.m.; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 6-0; motion passed.

Diane Luther

Diane Luther

Recording Secretary – Board of Education

June 27, 2011