

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
382 LONG HILL AVENUE
AUGUST 25, 2010**

The Board of Education met at 6:45 p.m. in Conference Room A to discuss personnel matters – wage and benefits proposal for individual non-union employees. Thomas Minotti moved to **go into Executive Session at 6:45 p.m.**; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 7-0. Members present were Thomas Minotti, Win Oppel, Arlene Liscinsky, Kate Kutash, Kathy Yolish, Paula Ellis and Jay Francino-Quinn. Invited to stay were Freeman Burr, Allan Cameron and Rita McDougald-Campbell. Thomas Minotti moved to **leave Executive Session at 7:10 p.m.**; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 7-0.

Vice Chairman Arlene Liscinsky called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:23 p.m.

Roll Call: (alpha order)

Paula Ellis

John Francino-Quinn

Kate Kutash

Arlene Liscinsky, Vice Chairman

Thomas Minotti, Secretary

Win Oppel

Mike Pacowta (excused)

Timothy Walsh, Chairman (excused)

Kathleen Yolish

Quorum of 7 present; 2 absent

Board of Education Administration present:

Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr

Assistant Superintendent, Lorraine Rossner

Director of Finance, Allan Cameron

Director of Human Resources, Rita McDougald-Campbell

Operations Manager, William Banfe

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

The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent Freeman Burr addressed the magnet school transportation issue and stated the Board of Education administratively will be continuing transportation to both RCA and ECA until September 30; this will not be round trip. The final decision on the status of transportation will be made at the Cafeteria/Transportation Committee meeting on September 15. In the interim, a meeting will be scheduled after Labor Day with Mrs. Gasiorowski and any other representative parents from ECA and RCA to talk about possible alternatives.

Public Hearing

Jennifer Mengold, 23 Carriage Drive, Vice President of Shelton Council, announced plans for Bus Safety Day to be held on Friday, August 27 at each elementary school and thanked those involved in helping to make this program successful.

Eugene Kierce, 120 Thoreau Drive, commented on Pay to Participate and recommended closing Central Office.

Sandra Gasiorowski, 48 Kings Highway, thanked the Board and Superintendent for making the concession to transport students to RCA and ECA for the next thirty days and expressed a desire on the part of the parents to work with the Board toward a resolution.

The following Shelton High School students attending the RCA program spoke about the magnet school transportation issue and the importance of the RCA program in college admissions:

Avery Kaklamanos, 101 Independence Drive
Tory Anastasia, 13 Huntington Avenue
Caitlin Sanford, 32 Lynne Terrace

No one else wished to speak and the public portion was closed at 7:37 p.m.

Mr. Burr thanked everyone for attending, acknowledged those who may have felt the disruption, expressed apology for not being more proactive with communication, and said he looks forward to meeting with representative parents next week to continue discussion and come to a satisfactory resolution. Superintendent Burr referred to the June 3, 2010 Board of Education meeting discussions concerning funding magnet school tuition and transportation. He noted next year's budget will be challenging and encouraged parents to continue their commitment by voicing their opinions and concerns at future Board of Aldermen budget meetings.

Arlene Liscinsky talked about the importance of expressing concerns to representatives at the State level, especially with upcoming election, noting that most of the education costs are dictated by the State.

Approval of Agenda and Addendum

Win Oppel moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Win Oppel moved to approve the revised addendum; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 21, 2010; seconded by Win Oppel; vote 6-0 (abstention Paula Ellis); motion passed.

Kate Kutash moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 27, 2010; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 5-0 (abstention Paula Ellis, Thomas Minotti); motion passed.

Presentation

Superintendent Burr announced the list of teachers achieving tenure this year and those in attendance were acknowledged.

Lauren Demko	Jennifer Pelaccia	Joyce Ann Piepenbring
Kathryn Spodick	James Allan	Joann Allen
Colleen Baldino	Christina Bouteiller	Tammy Browne
Thomas Budris	Amy Conklin	Andrea D'Aiuto
Catherine Deitelbaum	Charles Fowler	Dawn Fitzpatrick-Hanna
Tina Henckel	Noelle Khan	Erik Martire
Shane Morse	Denise Norse	Julie Papaliberios
Kerry Pawlyk	Beth Smith	Lorena Snell
Stephanie Werdmann		

Appointments

Win Oppel moved to approve the following appointments; seconded by Paula Ellis; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Jeff Napoli, PE/Health teacher at Shelton Intermediate
 Margaret Szadeczky, Family Consumer Science teacher at Shelton High
 Danielle Moreau, Math teacher at Shelton High
 Kim Pittman, English teacher at Shelton High
 Gayle Tracey, Science/Physics teacher at Shelton High
 Jeanneth Wagner, World Language – Spanish teacher at Shelton High
 Dimitri Papadimitriou, Math teacher at Shelton High
 Michael Grappone, Math teacher at Shelton High
 Theresa Manus, Art teacher at Long Hill
 Joyce Kopac, school nurse at Mohegan
 Niamh Dougall, school nurse at Shelton High
 Laurie Zraggen, .5 school nurse at Shelton Intermediate
 Alicia Perry-Rosa, Math teacher at Shelton Intermediate

Retirement

The Board was notified of the retirement of Paul Reilly, maintenance trade worker at Shelton High School, effective August 12, 2010, after more than 30 years

Resignations

The Board was notified of the resignations of the following:

Karl Anderson, network technician, effective August 5, 2010, after 10 years
Cheryl Mammen, inclusion facilitator, effective July 28, 2010 after 15 years
Emily Tremaine, school psychologist, effective August 1, 2010 after 2 years
Mildred Perez, school/office secretary II, effective September 30, 2010 after 3 years
Mark Necio, DECA advisor, SHS, effective immediately

Instructional Update

Freeman Burr gave a staffing summary and reported there were 24 teacher retirements; 6 resignations; 37 teacher reductions (21 elementary, 4 guidance, 6 special education, music, tech ed, physics, general science, school psychologist, social worker). At this point, a total of 15 staff positions were recalled – 10 elementary, 4 special education, 1 school psychologist; 2 of these positions are pending. To fill positions primarily at the high school and intermediate school caused by retirements and vacancies (and in a couple cases newly created positions due to creative cuts and adds by SIS and SHS headmasters), we have added 10 new hires: 1 art, 1 English, 1 family consumer science, 4 math, 1 PE/health position, 1 physics, 1 world language. In all, we are reduced by 42 certified and about 60 non-certified positions at this time. It appears that 2 additional special education teachers will be required to cover IEP needs. Work continues with schools to clean up IEPs. There will be a huge emphasis this year on IEPs and the Board will be receiving a document that was part of administrative training.

It was confirmed that the Math Chair position at SHS is being filled by Patricia Block. Mr. Burr continued that in addition to the 10 positions the Board restored in the June budget meetings, subsequently we have had to add 5 elementary teaching positions. At this time, that money will be taken from Title I, and Al Cameron will continue to look for cost savings to return the money to the schools. Title I budget allows use of Title I funds to offset class size; higher numbers are due to enrollment increases over the summer. ARRA money is being looked at for the special education positions. Freeman Burr clarified that this is not new money; it is money within the budget.

In response to a question from Kathy Yolish, Mr. Burr confirmed that a principal could opt to bring back a reading tutor with Title I money. He said the Board would be notified of any adjustments to class size. There was further discussion about class size, and Arlene Liscinsky stated it must be understood there are more than 100 fewer people this year versus last year. Freeman Burr emphasized the focus is on instruction, teaching and learning.

Mr. Burr noted the administrative sessions held last week. The Board will receive the legal presentation by Attorneys Chinni and Meuser related to special education law and the Futures report. A focus group of administrators will convene to review the report and define next steps. Also mentioned was professional development held today and comments were made about the various sessions.

Freeman Burr discussed the challenges with transportation this year, partly because of the lateness of redistricting approval and partly because we are in new territory with a new model. There are some upcoming challenges for SIS and Perry Hill due to the number of students, routes, amount of time, and dismissal concerns. Originally, we expected only 6 buses for combined SIS/PH students, but we are significantly over that. Transportation will be reviewed over the next few weeks to find a systematic way to improve things. Mr. Burr stated that part of the budget was to reduce two buses. We currently have 54, and 4 of those are spares. The cost of a bus is \$50,000 including fuel.

School Facilities Report

A written report was provided with agenda. Bill Banfe discussed the summer move initiative. In addition to the normal group of college students, 6 additional students were hired to facilitate the move, making a total of 14. About 60% of the staff (PreK to gr. 6) was moved in less than six weeks. About 4,000 cartons; 845 desks and chairs and 1,020 miscellaneous pieces of furniture were moved. At Perry Hill, about 1/3 of the equipment and boxes went to the third floor with no elevator. Mr. Banfe commended Ken LaCroix, Paul Descoteaux and Jim O'Donnell (truck driver and foreman of moving crew) for organizing the move so well. Nothing was misplaced or lost. The 14 students worked extremely hard to complete this monumental task.

Mr. Banfe announced the receipt of a temporary certificate of occupancy yesterday. There is much remaining to be accomplished and work continues at a feverish pace. He discussed a moisture problem with the floor in the main foyer, new gallery and entryway that may take some time to rectify. Lorraine Williams and Karen Crosby have worked out an alternate passage system throughout the building.

Board Members will be notified of date and time for a tour of Perry Hill sometime next week. An open house will be held on August 27 from 1-4 p.m.

(*Tape 1; Side B – 8:20 p.m.)

In response to a question about the status of the SHS chiller, Mr. Banfe said the committee has not met in three months. Components of the larger chiller were replaced as well as pumps, which will take us through the fall. This needs to be addressed. Superintendent was directed to send a letter to the chairman of the building committee asking for the status.

Bill Banfe said the high school is undergoing interior corridor and stairwell door replacement and boiler room upgrade has begun.

Freeman Burr stated that Bill Banfe intends to retire with the conclusion of the Perry Hill project at the end of October and said he appreciates the loss we will feel. He said Bill is a class act, a professional and a gentleman who relates to everyone. He said Bill will

be irreplaceable with his insight and unique skill set, having been a teacher, an administrator, as well as a project manager. Mr. Banfe was recognized with a standing ovation.

Items Voted On

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the fundraising requests of the following for the 2010-2011 school year; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 7-0; motion passed.

**Mohegan School PTO
Booth Hill School
Elizabeth Shelton School PTO
Shelton High School PTSO
Shelton Intermediate School PTO
Shelton PTA Council
Booth Hill School PTO**

Win Oppel said the next motion is a recommendation from the Building and Grounds Committee. He explained there is a relamping project at the schools. The out-of-pocket cost for the district is \$24,000, but there is a \$42,000 savings in each of the projects in the first year. If the project is started by January 1, we should be at a no-cost basis for this year.

Thomas Minotti moved to approve two energy conservation projects, one at Shelton High School and one at Shelton Intermediate School, as proposed by PPE and United Illuminating; seconded by Win Oppel; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Paula Ellis moved to approve the wage and benefits proposal for the individual non-union employees for 2010-2011 retroactive to the start of the school year on July 1, 2010; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 6-1 (nay – Jay Francino-Quinn); motion passed.

Comments by the Board Chair

Arlene Liscinsky explained, for those who were not aware, that Timothy Walsh has been recovering from an illness but sends his wishes to everyone for great success this school year. While acknowledging that this has been a very difficult year for everyone, Mr. Walsh has full confidence that everyone will work their hardest to raise the level of student achievement in the district and continue to make it the great system it has always been.

Reports by Standing Committees

Athletics – John Niski reported on the status of collections from Pay to Participate and commended the great work of Cathy Araujo, Kathy Hudak and Pattie Quirk in facilitating the process. He reported the initial participation figures are down, as anticipated. Football is down 10% from previous years. While swimming, soccer and volleyball are low, boys and girls cross country registration is very low at this time. Mr. Niski stated parents' concerns are being heard. There have been several requests for consideration and we have been able to work with them. There have been concerns about form of payment and the actual process; however, once the online payment option becomes available, many of those concerns will be resolved. Paula Ellis said she will be giving periodic reports to the Board.

Building and Grounds – Win Oppel stated the amount of work the district staff has been able to accomplish this year is amazing. In addition to the move, he noted the oil tank removal from Elizabeth Shelton with no environmental issues; Mohegan's floor repair; and the removal of the playscape from Central Office, which Jay Francino-Quinn will address. Members have been invited by Kathy Sheehy to see Booth Hill's new 6' high climbing wall that is being installed. Mr. Oppel said the Committee will have further discussion about whether to fill the retirement position with an HVAC technician. Jay Francino-Quinn discussed the move of the playscape from Central Office to Long Hill and said it is about 90-95% complete at Long Hill. Mulch needs to be spread and there are some ancillary items that can be installed by non-certified people. Completion should be within a couple weeks. He said the handicap designed swings were declined by Long Hill but will be offered to Sunnyside School first and then to other schools. Discussion will take place as to disposition of 300 sq. ft. of fencing materials as well as filling in the space left at Central Office. Long Hill's fill is not clean and could not be used. He said the next project will be moving Lafayette's playscape to Sunnyside. Disposition of Lafayette's current playscape has to be determined.

Cafeteria/Transportation – Kate Kutash said the committee did not meet in August and will meet on Wednesday, September 15, at 6 p.m.

Policy/Curriculum/Technology – Thomas Minotti said there was no meeting this month due to the number of activities. Members will be advised once the next meeting date is set. Meetings will be held at 4 p.m.

Personnel - A grievance hearing will be held on 9/1 at 5:50 p.m.

Finance – Arlene Liscinsky said the committee met last week and the minutes will be on the website.

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Arlene Liscinsky stated a meeting will be held next Thursday. She reported on her attendance today at the opening for CES at RCA.

CABE – Kathy Yolish reminded everyone of the CABE Convention in November. Anyone wishing to attend should notify Diane Luther.

Unfinished Business

Freeman Burr said we will try to have two Lighthouse sessions of two and a quarter hours each to make up for missed meetings. Meetings will resume October 1.

Diane Luther was asked to send out the list of school assignments to Board Members in anticipation of back to school nights.

Adjournment

Paula Ellis moved to adjourn at 8:47 p.m.; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Diane Luther

Diane Luther

Recording Secretary – Board of Education

September 1, 2010