

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Board of Education Administrative Offices
382 Long Hill Avenue
Board Room, 2nd Floor
January 23, 2019**

Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call:

Mark Holden, Chairman	Jose Goncalves
Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman	Amanda Kilmartin
Kate Kutash, Secretary	Darlisa Ritter
Anne Gaydos	Kathleen Yolish
David Gioiello (excused)	

Quorum: 8 present; 1 absent

Board of Education Administration present: Dr. Christopher Clouet, Superintendent of Schools; Lorraine Rossner, Assistant Superintendent; Carole Pannozzo, Human Resources Director

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

Kate Kutash moved to approve the agenda; motion seconded by Amanda Kilmartin and approved unanimously.

Presentations/Recognitions

SIS Student Environmental Presentations – SIS Teachers Rob Swercewski and Eric Wolf collaborated and combined their two classes to come up with a problem and find solutions to environmental issues. Three groups of students presented their creative projects: StyroGenie (Jack Kieley, Sean Roden, Dylan Bauer). ProtoCycler (Ava Kavasansky, Aiden Welch, Paul Zint). Lunch Ordering Program (Jason Hutchinson, Noah Jackson, Nicholas Gergely, Patrick Carroll). Superintendent Clouet presented Certificates of Excellence to each student. Headmaster Ken Saranich commented that both Mr. Swercewski and Mr. Wolf were recognized as Innovative Educators, and this has been a small snippet of work they are doing with our students. To see this work in action, to actually make a practical experience that is meaningful to our students to engage in learning, is exactly what innovative education is all about.

FLL Robotics Teams – Coach Michele Piccolo introduced two teams that will be advancing to the World Championship in Detroit.

PerSIStence: Grade 7 and 8 students Benjamin DeMartino, Gabriel Zamani, Mary Pavliouk, Sanjana Jain, Luke Sanborn, Kate McPadden, Amanda Billingslea, and coaches (not present) Peyman Zamani and Kamal Jain. This team won the Champion's award at the Wolcott regional competition and placed second overall at the state tournament. This year's theme was NASA, and the team's topic was Space. Their project featured the use of a new form of metal that would protect astronauts from radiation while in space.

Predators: Grade 5 and 6 students Shreya Yadav, Krishiv Patel, Aarav Makadia, Danny Hilser, Matthew Quevedo, Jackson Guerra, Finn Riddle and coaches Svapan Makadia and Vijay Vir. The team won the Champion's award at the New Haven regional competition and placed first at the state

level. The team's project was a solution to the dizzy sensation experienced by astronauts while in space. Superintendent Clouet presented all students with Certificates of Excellence and the students and coaches were applauded. Michele Piccolo clarified that in addition to the projects presented tonight, each team built a robot that can successfully perform a mission. Perry Hill principal Lorraine Williams commended the members of both teams, noted they are all hard-working students and wished them well.

Innovative Educator – Superintendent Clouet introduced Booth Hill School kindergarten teacher Kimberly Atkinson as January's Innovative Educator. He said she has a different perspective on what it means to be innovative. Kim gave a presentation showing how she uses social emotional learning techniques to connect students' minds and bodies in learning readiness. She believes in addressing society's mental health and starting as early as possible for lifelong coping skills. She sees in kindergarten an increased number of students with emotional disorders such as ADHD, anger management and anxiety, while lacking the creativity, teamwork problem solving, coping and social emotional skills to learn and grow. The use of social emotional learning techniques such as yoga, mindfulness and breathing help to reset their minds so they are calm, refocused and ready to learn. Booth Hill principal Dr. James Zavodjancik said this is a great honor for Kim, and he and his staff are proud of all the work she has done for Booth Hill and the district.

(Note: Tape 1; Side B @ 8:07)

Public Hearing

Deb Keller, 31 Pheasant Glen, updated the board on recent school events and reminded them the SIS Concert at 7 p.m. as well as Perry Hill music program at 8:45 a.m. will take place on January 24. She said 40% of students at Perry Hill are involved with the music program.

Approval of Minutes

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting December 19, 2018; Special Meeting January 9, 2019; Special Meeting/FOI Workshop on January 16, 2019; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Communications to the Board

There were no communications.

Superintendent's Reports & Action Items

Superintendent Clouet reflected on the school events mentioned by Deb Keller and what has been presented tonight and said there is a lot going on in our schools. He said if we all think back to our kindergarten experiences, things have changed quite a bit, and that is true of all the grades. He said there is still a lot of uncertainty about what the budget might look like. The board will meet again next Wednesday to put together a final budget recommendation, but it is still unknown what will happen at the state and city levels and how that will impact students.

Approved Field Trips

Board members were apprised of field trips for FLL Robotics trip to World Championship in Detroit in April and JSA trip to VA/DC for Winter Congress 2019 in February.

Donor Projects

A listing of current donor projects by school was included in packet for information.

Items Presented for Vote

Kate Kutash moved to approve Promotion/Acceleration/Retention Policy #6146.2; motion seconded by Thomas Minotti and passed unanimously.

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the 2019-2020 District Calendar; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to accept on behalf of Elizabeth Shelton School a donation of \$4,185 from Elizabeth Shelton School PTO to purchase three Coolers with Bottle Filling Stations; motion seconded by Thomas Minotti and passed unanimously.

Comments by the Board Chair

Chairman Holden said in response to our request to the mayor for information to ensure the City will be ready to take over transportation at the end of this school year, we received a letter this week from the mayor indicating he is aware of all the requirements and will make sure they are fulfilled. Mr. Holden commented that the students involved with robotics are amazingly smart kids with depth of knowledge and critical thinking skills.

Reports of Standing Committees

Teaching & Learning – Anne Gaydos discussed the topics of the meeting on January 15 at SIS, including a modern instructional spaces presentation by Vicky White and Ken Saranich, followed by a guided tour to view some of the instructional learning spaces and fixtures. Dr. Beth Smith gave the committee a presentation on new courses, course changes and new programs for SHS 2019-20. The next meeting will be held at Sunnyside School on February 12 at 4:00 p.m. for presentations by Kari Yacawych and Amy Yost on Keyboarding at Sunnyside and Fake News and Media Accuracy by Joan Tichy.

Finance Committee –Thomas Minotti said the committee met on January 16 and received a full report on revenue and expenditures from Ed Drapp. Areas of concern are long-term substitutes, Special Education Tuition for Private Schools/Outplacements and Special Education Transportation for out of district. The committee discussed potential for retirement incentive and received a maintenance project report from John Calhoun. Complete minutes are posted.

Policy Committee – Kate Kutash said the committee met January 15 at SIS and brings forward the following motions for approval:

Darlisa Ritter moved to approve Advertising and Promotion Policy 1325 Revision to sit for review until the next Board of Education Regular Meeting; motion seconded by Kathy Yolish and passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to approve Graduation Requirements as presented; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to approve Physical Restraint and Seclusion Policy 5144.1(a) Revision; seconded by Darlisa Ritter and passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to approve Exclusion Policy 5144.2; seconded by Darlisa Ritter and passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash said other than ongoing work on the new board member handbook, a meeting is pending on January 12 if there is more to add to the agenda.

Public Relations & Outreach Committee – Mandy Kilmartin said a meeting was held at 6 p.m. this evening and the committee discussed community engagement in advance of the budget. Also discussed was potentially forming a community vision council reaching out to different segments of the community (business, parent groups, etc.) to discuss school, community and education related issues. There was an update on Student Partnership Council. Next meeting will be February 27 at 6:00 p.m.

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Thomas Minotti said the first portion of the meeting on January 10 was a presentation and approval of the list of officers and committee assignments for the Finance Committee and Building Committee. The second portion was a regular monthly meeting with introduction of new board members. CAFE Deputy Director and General Counsel Patrice McCarthy spoke about the current legislations and the different task forces. Legislators will be in force from January 10 to June 5. It was stated that all of us should contact our legislators to let them know our concerns about education. It was also stated that CAFE is not in favor of recreational marijuana. Next meeting will be March 7.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

For Your Information

Chairman Holden noted the attachments in the packet including Vacancy Report, Staff and Stipend Actions, Enrollment Report, and a schedule of Invention Conventions at schools.

Highlights

Kathy Yolish mentioned Mohegan School is in the running to be considered one of the most innovative schools, and voting is open until January 25. Lorraine Rossner will send information about the link. Jose Goncalves attended swim meets and basketball games. Mandy Kilmartin attended the grade 8 open house at the high school and was impressed as a parent to see all the offerings. Darlisa Ritter enjoyed the F.O.I. Workshop and suggested continued discussion of recommendations at a Policy meeting. Chairman Holden commented on the SIS student presentations earlier and welcomed Rick Belden, who officially starts on January 28. Dr. Clouet said Griffin Hospital held a fundraising event for their robotic surgeon last week and were very impressed with members of the SHS Robotics team who attended the event. He said it was an amazing opportunity for our students. Dr. Clouet mentioned as part of the high school's ongoing international footprint, a group of students from China will be spending the day at SHS on January 29. He said perhaps in the future some of our students will be able to travel to Jian Ping High School in China.

Adjournment

Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Diane Luther

**Secretary to Board of Education
January 30, 2019**