

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Board of Education Administrative Offices
382 Long Hill Avenue
Board Room, 2nd Floor
August 22, 2018**

Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:04 p.m.

Roll Call:

Mark Holden, Chairman

Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman

Kate Kutash, Secretary

Anne Gaydos

David Gioiello

Jose Goncalves

Amanda Kilmartin (via Skype)

Darlisa Ritter

Kathleen Yolish

Full Quorum

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

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

Thomas Minotti moved to add to agenda Board Action Items VIII. A. 10, 11, 12, 13 (fundraising requests); motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously. Thomas Minotti moved to approve agenda as amended; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Presentations/Recognitions

Superintendent Clouet introduced Giovanna Denitto as Substitute Special Education Administrator, and Debra Hansen, Director of Valley Regional Adult Education.

Public Hearing

Judson Crawford, 8 Jordan Avenue, asked for status of transportation relative to a signed contract and inspection of buses.

Renee Dagostine, parent of two students, expressed concern about having to pay to hold Brownie Troup meetings at Booth Hill School and asked the board to reconsider its policy.

Approval of Minutes

Kate Kutash moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 27, 2018 and Special Meeting of August 8, 2018; motion seconded by Thomas Minotti and passed with vote of 8-0-1 (abstention Darlisa Ritter who was absent on August 8).

Communications to the Board

Board Members received notes of appreciation from retirees.

Superintendent's Commentary/Instructional Update

Dr. Clouet addressed related topics of opening of school, transportation and budget updates. He stated in preparation for the opening of school the day after Labor Day, the custodial/maintenance staff are preparing the buildings; secretarial staff and administrators have been registering new students; a number of trainings have been taking place including PBIS; teachers are prepared and excited (and, hopefully, students as well).

He said we are expecting an easy opening that is impacted by the transportation update. We have had a highly unusual set of circumstances that have led us to this moment. We do not have a signed contract. Durham, rightly, is reluctant to sign until all of the buses have had their registrations renewed. Superintendent Clouet has been monitoring the bus yard on a regular basis. He stated the DOT Motor Vehicle Department brought extra staff, and all of the buses have been inspected. Many are not ready to have their registrations renewed due to needed repairs, most of which are very minor, so it seems possible that it can be accomplished. We are relying on a signed contract with Durham and the City for provision of student transportation services in order to achieve some of the savings we have discussed (rescind Pay to Participate; provide a cost reduction in transportation for ECA and RCA; grandfathering in for those who were in 3 year-old pre-k program last year and moving on to 4 year-old program and not charging them tuition). He said we are unable to do any of them without a signed bus contract. He said while he is hopeful it does take place, there are a number of things that could happen with mini-negotiations going on among the City, the company and attorneys.

Relative to the budget update, Superintendent Clouet stated approximately \$800,000 was cut from our budget at the last minute by this move of having to bring in buses and it has had a negative impact on certain aspects of our operations. Ed Drapp commented that there are so many unknowns at this point, including ultimately what the school district bus contract would be. He stated there is now thought of Durham's not accepting any responsibilities for the repairs that might be needed moving forward; henceforth, there might be a change in their proposal to the school board on the numbers we've been working on. Dr. Clouet emphasized that parents should know that no buses will be allowed to transport students unless they meet all safety requirements.

Questions from board members led to discussion concerning funding responsibility for the repairs; status of pay to participate; new desktops for teachers; previous contractor Landmark/bus driver responsibility for daily inspections and repairs; staffing at Central Office to handle transportation calls; rental rates for building usage; status of City participation in cost of propane.

Approved Field Trips

There were none.

Items Voted on

Kate Kutash moved to approve Sunnyside School's request to conduct fundraising activities during the 2018-19 school year; motion seconded by Anne Gaydos and passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to vote on the remaining requests to fundraise (2-13) as a group; motion seconded by Jose Goncalves and passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to approve the following fundraising requests for the 2018-19 school year:

Sunnyside School PTO	SHS Marching Gaels
Booth Hill School	SHS Girls' Soccer Booster Club
Perry Hill School	SHS Girls' Cross Country Parents' Club
SIS PTO	Shelton Intermediate School
SHS Cheer Athletic Club	SHS Girls' Volleyball
Mohegan School PTO	Elizabeth Shelton School

Motion seconded by Thomas Minotti and passed unanimously.

Comments by the Board Chair

Chairman Holden informed the board there will be two special meetings on August 29. The first will be for evaluation of Superintendent Clouet, and the second will be a status update on the transportation matter and consideration of any revisions to the budget, times of each to be determined. Mr. Holden confirmed SIS sports will be put back into the program next year, whether or not Pay to Participate is in place. He commented on the bus issue stating we are less than two weeks from start of school and still don't know where we stand in terms of transportation for our students on the first day of school. He said had we not had a disagreement with the City over the use of the City-owned buses, Durham would have had the buses inspected and registered. He is hopeful things will move in a positive direction. Mr. Holden commented on the upcoming Naturalization Ceremony and encouraged others to attend.

Reports of Standing Committees

Teaching & Learning – Anne Gaydos reported on the topics of the August 13 meeting including Digital Presence Mission Statement; Teaching & Learning Meeting Calendar; One-to-One Pilot for PHS and SIS. Meeting minutes are online. The next scheduled meeting is September 11 at 4:00 p.m.

Finance Committee – Thomas Minotti stated the committee met on August 15. A status report of ESS Window Project was given by Dean Petrucelli. Ed Drapp presented information on FY 17-18 close-out and addressed questions from committee members. Mr. Drapp stated at the meeting that an agreement had been reached between Whitsons and the cafeteria workers. A comprehensive report on Facilities projects was given by John Calhoun. Meeting minutes are posted. The next scheduled meeting is September 19.

Kate Kutash moved to approve the recommended schedule of salary increases for the non-bargaining unit employees and contractual salary increases for John Calhoun, Daniel DiVito, Ed Drapp and Carole Pannozzo; motion seconded by Anne Gaydos. Discussion of tabling. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Policy Committee – Kate Kutash stated Policy met on August 13 to review the Attendance Policy and Administrative Regulations, which is presented to the full board to sit for review until the next regularly scheduled BOE Meeting. The committee set their meeting calendar. Also discussed was New Board Member Orientation information. The next meeting will be September 11 at 5:00 p.m.

Public Relations & Outreach Committee – Mandy Kilmartin said the committee will meet early next week to begin addressing several issues.

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Thomas Minotti said CES did not meet over the summer and will hold its next meeting the first Thursday in September.

Unfinished Business

Superintendent said the bus opt out parent survey is posted and information is being gathered.

New Business

There was discussion of format for the evaluation of Superintendent. Chairman will email to board members. There was also mention of the CABA/CAPSS Convention and the agreement that fees will be paid by individual members wishing to attend.

For Your Information

Chairman Holden noted the attachments in the packet including Vacancy Report, Staff and Stipend Actions. The Back to School Nights are as follows:

BHS	9/24	PHS (5)	9/25
ESS	9/12	PHS (6)	9/26
LHS	9/13	SIS	9/27
MS	9/17	SHS	10/2
SS	9/20		

Highlights

Kathy Yolish commended John Calhoun and staff for doing a great job preparing the schools, which look immaculate. Dr. Clouet stated the work on the field at Finn Stadium has been hampered by the rain and will be completed mid-September, weather dependent. Mark Holden said it is terrific that computers are in and are being installed. He said his expectation of these computers that the Board of Aldermen were kind enough to buy for us outside of our budget will probably add about two weeks of productivity to the average classroom. Mr. Holden said he stops by the SHS field to check on progress and said the thick padding should make the field very safe. He reminded everyone of Convocation on August 28 at 8:30 a.m. Chairman Holden said Kathy Yolish arranged to get about 75 23" monitors donated by an area pharmaceutical company.

Adjournment

Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Diane Luther

Secretary to Board of Education

August 29, 2018