

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES  
382 LONG HILL AVENUE  
SHELTON, CONNECTICUT  
JUNE 17, 2009**

The Board met in Executive Session at 6:00 p.m.

**Bernard Simons moved to go into Executive Session at 6:00 p.m.; seconded by Francis MacIlvain; vote 8-0; motion carried. In attendance were all Board Members with the exception of Paula Ellis. Invited to the session was Robin Willink.**

**Eugene Kierce moved to leave Executive Session at 6:45 p.m.; seconded by Bernard Simons; vote 8-0; motion carried.**

Chairman Win Oppel called the Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:15 p.m.

Roll Call: (alpha order)  
Paula Ellis (excused)  
Eugene Kierce  
Arlene Liscinsky  
Francis MacIlvain  
Thomas Minotti  
Win Oppel, Chairman  
James Orazietti  
Bernard Simons  
Timothy Walsh

A quorum of 8 present and 1 absent

Board of Education Administration present:  
Superintendent of Schools, Robin Willink  
Assistant Superintendent, Lorraine Rossner  
Director of Finance, Allan Cameron  
Director of Human Resources, Rita McDougald-Campbell  
Director of Instruction, Patricia Curran  
Operations Manager, William Banfe

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

The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was no one from the public who wished to speak.

**Approval of Agenda:**

James Oraziatti made a motion to approve the agenda; seconded by Bernard Simons; vote 8-0; motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Arlene Liscinsky made a motion to approve the minutes of the following meetings; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Special Meeting of May 20, 2009  
 Special Meeting of May 21, 2009  
 Workshop of May 27, 2009  
 Regular Meeting of May 27, 2009  
 Special Meeting of May 28, 2009  
 Special Meeting of June 11, 2009

**Presentations:**

President James Ryan of Shelton Economic Development Corporation and Vice Chairman Fred Ruggio of Shelton Economic Development Commission discussed the evolution of the Annual Shelton Life Art Contest for students of Shelton Public Schools, which began several years ago under the direction of Shelton Economic Development Commission and flourished when school administration agreed to run the contest. Mr. Ryan noted that the prize money (\$100 first place, \$50 second place and \$25 honorable mention) has been provided by the City of Shelton as part of the Commission's budget. The students were commended for their high quality work, which was on display.

Fred Ruggio, and Ellen Cox, Art Department Chair, assisted in presenting the prizes to the following students:

Grades 2-4:	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Ronnie Rich
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Angela Camara
	Honorable Mention	Alexa Dias
	Honorable Mention	Eric DiCarlo
	Honorable Mention	Carol Ann Lisa
Grades 5-6	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Joseph Choi
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Rainey Martovich
	Honorable Mention	Nazareth Felix
	Honorable Mention	Justin Lynch
	Honorable Mention	Jake Inzerra
Grades 7-8	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	David Kawrowski
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Becca Palko
	Honorable Mention	Sara MacNeill
	Honorable Mention	Megan Lelio
	Honorable Mention	Chris Choi

Grades 9-10	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Alicia Southiseng
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Olivia Marek
	Honorable Mention	Matthew Scinto
	Honorable Mention	Jordan Rivera
	Honorable Mention	Anthu Nguyen
Grades 11-12	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Jessica Smiley
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Julia Giaquinto
	Honorable Mention	Cheyenne Chen
	Honorable Mention	Melissa Cavallaro
	Honorable Mention	Carly Waldo

On behalf of the Corporation and Commission, Mr. Ryan congratulated Superintendent Willink on her upcoming retirement and thanked her for being such a wonderful convener of people, collaborator, leader and visionary for the community. He added that the Board of Education was well served by her service and she will be missed.

Robin Willink stated that Michelle Lasky, representing the Ripton School PTA, delivered plaques presented to numerous people and organizations for their huge commitment and effort in constructing the Ripton School playground. Mrs. Willink said it was a true community effort. The plaques will be displayed at the Administrative Offices.

Superintendent Willink spoke about Dr. Beth Smith, who was a tremendous example of leadership and dedication and someone who truly went above and beyond in her commitment to getting the high school opened in a timely manner after the fire at Shelton High School, reassuring families, students and staff, providing true leadership and courage in everything that she did. Chairman Oppel presented Dr. Smith with a gift from the Board of Education and thanked her for her countless hours and dedication.

#### **Communications to the Board:**

Robin Willink distributed a letter from the State approving the district's educational technology plan effective through June 30, 2012, stating the plan meets the standards and criteria outlined by the Schools and Libraries Division of the Universal Services program.

#### **Appointments:**

**Thomas Minotti made a motion to approve the appointment of Caroline Presti to the position of Math teacher at Shelton High School, due to a resignation; seconded by Bernard Simons; vote 8-0; motion carried.**

**Timothy Walsh made a motion to approve the appointment of Liz Blum to the position of Mathematics Department Chair at Shelton Intermediate School, due to a retirement; seconded by Eugene Kierce; vote 8-0; motion carried.**

**Arlene Liscinsky made a motion to approve the appointment of Dina Marks to the position of Language Arts Department Chair at Shelton Intermediate School, due to a retirement; seconded by Bernard Simons; vote 8-0; motion carried.**

**Arlene Liscinsky made a motion to approve the appointment of Kim Gugliotti to the stipend position of staff development coordinator, due to a resignation; seconded by Eugene Kierce; vote 8-0; motion carried.**

**Timothy Walsh made a motion to approve the appointment of Lynn Coffin to the stipend position of co-advisor of the National Honor Society at Shelton High School, due to a resignation; seconded by Bernard Simons; vote 8-0; motion carried.**

**Retirements:**

Robin Willink advised the Board of the following retirements:

Robert Costello, SIS gr. 8 special education teacher, after 33 years of service  
Jeanne White, Elizabeth Shelton School gr. 5 teacher, after 35 years of service  
Kathleen Kelley, Family & Consumer Science department chair and teacher,  
after 37 years of service

**Resignations:**

The Board was advised of the following resignations:

John Porto, Shelton/New Haven head hockey coach  
Patrick O'Donnell, head boys' swim coach  
Connie Cook, Long Hill School gr. 2 teacher, after 10 years of service

**Superintendent's Reports & Action Items:**

**Instructional Update** – Robin Willink announced that our district will receive a computer as a result of a winning essay in science by SIS student Melissa Simons, daughter of Board Member Bernard Simons. Melissa will be invited to the July meeting to share her essay.

Mrs. Willink said a committee interviewed three candidates for a before and after school program, and the Boys & Girls Club will provide a program at Elizabeth Shelton School. Jack Ribas is working with Bev Belden and Kathy Sheehy to define the program. In addition to having the most reasonable rate, Mr. Ribas had indicated they are able to run the program with as few as ten children. The program will be evaluated after one year.

**Approved Field Trip** – Superintendent Willink approved a trip to Ohio for May 13-16, 2010 for the high school band to perform at a music festival.

**School Facilities Report** – Bill Banfe reported a meeting was held with the contractors regarding the roofs for Long Hill and Elizabeth Shelton, which are scheduled for completion this summer. The boilers are almost done. Mr. Banfe said the interior door replacements will commence shortly after school is out, and bids will be opened June 25 for interior corridor and stairwell doors with work to be performed over the summer. A brief update was given on the Perry Hill School project.

**Items Voted On:**

**Thomas Minotti** made a motion to approve the Valley Regional Adult Education grant proposal, Valley Even Start, for 2009-2010; seconded by Francis MacIlvain; vote 8-0; motion carried.

**Eugene Kierce** made a motion to reappoint the stipend position holders as presented; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 8-0; motion carried.

**Thomas Minotti** made a motion to approve the request of Long Hill School to conduct fundraisers during the 2009-2010 school year; seconded by Bernard Simons; vote 8-0; motion carried.

**Eugene Kierce** made a motion to approve the request of Long Hill School PTA to conduct fundraisers during the 2009-2010 school year; seconded by Francis MacIlvain; vote 8-0; motion carried.

**Arlene Liscinsky** made a motion to authorize the Superintendent or her designee to extend the existing contract with ChimeNet, Inc. of Wallingford for Wide Area Network Services; seconded by Eugene Kierce; vote 8-0; motion carried.

**Timothy Walsh** made a motion to approve the submission of the 2009-2010 Consolidated Grant application for Title 1 Part A in the amount of \$246,267; seconded by Bernard Simons; vote 8-0; motion carried.

**Thomas Minotti** made a motion to appoint Robin G. Willink as interim superintendent, not to exceed 60 days; seconded by Bernard Simons; vote 8-0; motion carried.

**Bernard Simons** moved to adopt a resolution in connection with the continuation of individual health and insurance coverage for Paula Ellis and Bonnie Ferguson; seconded by Timothy Walsh; vote 8-0; motion carried.

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION****RESOLUTION REGARDING CONTINUATION OF HEALTH INSURANCE  
COVERAGE FOR PAULA ELLIS AND BONNIE FERGUSON**

WHEREAS, following the tragic deaths of Darryl Ellis and Edward Ferguson at Elizabeth Shelton School in 1988, the Board continued health and dental insurance coverage in effect for Paula Ellis, the surviving spouse of Darryl Ellis, and her eligible dependents, and for Bonnie Ferguson, the surviving spouse of Edward Ferguson, and her eligible dependents, under the provisions of the Connecticut Workers' Compensation Act; and

WHEREAS, in a 2008 case entitled *Vincent v. City of New Haven*, the Connecticut Supreme Court reversed the Connecticut Workers' Compensation Review Board and ruled that the Connecticut Workers' Compensation Act does not require employers to continue health insurance coverage for the surviving spouses of deceased employees; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the Connecticut Supreme Court's decision in *Vincent v. City of New Haven*, the Shelton Board of Education wishes to continue to provide Paula Ellis and Bonnie Ferguson with continued health and dental insurance coverage, in the form of retiree health insurance, until such time as Paula Ellis and Bonnie Ferguson become eligible for Medicare.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that effective upon adoption of this resolution by the Board, the Board will provide Paula Ellis and Bonnie Ferguson with retiree health insurance, in the form of individual coverage in the health and dental insurance plans applicable to custodians actively employed by the Board, as those plans may be amended from time to time, until such time as Paula Ellis and Bonnie Ferguson, respectively, become eligible for Medicare; and

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER that the Board will pay the full premium costs for such individual health and dental retiree health insurance coverage for Paula Ellis and Bonnie Ferguson until they become eligible for Medicare; and

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER that the Board will treat such individual health and dental retiree insurance coverage for Paula Ellis and Bonnie Ferguson as employer-provided coverage under an accident and health plan pursuant to Section 106 of the Internal Revenue Code, as such section may be amended from time to time.

Chairman Oppel discussed the search process for superintendent of schools and announced there was unanimous consensus by the Board to ask Freeman Burr to become Superintendent.

**Thomas Minotti moved in accordance with Section 10-157 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and subject to the finalization of contract terms by the Board Chair, that the Board appoint Freeman Burr as Superintendent of Schools, effective on or about August 1, 2009, and further that the Board Chair be authorized to enter into a contract of employment with Freeman Burr, on behalf of the Board; seconded by Timothy Walsh; unanimous vote cast by the Board; motion carried.**

Freeman Burr expressed his gratitude and committed as the next superintendent to build upon the successes of Superintendent Willink by continuing the spirit of cooperation and collaboration, continuing the fine and excellent work that has been done under her tenure, and ensuring a smooth transition of leadership in the Shelton Public Schools. He asked all to commit 100% to the highest quality of instruction for the education of our students.

**Comments by the Board Chair:**

Chairman Oppel thanked all who participated in the process and especially the Board Members for their time and dedication. He added that although Paula Ellis could not be present, she was fully supportive of the decision to appoint Mr. Burr.

**Reports By Standing Committees:**

**Athletics** – James Oraziotti mentioned the Board will be attending the ceremony to retire Dan Orlovsky's jersey following the black and white game this evening at SHS. The next committee meeting will be held on June 23.

**Building & Grounds** – Eugene Kierce said the committee met yesterday and recommends the possibility of free-wiring Long Hill and Elizabeth Shelton for security while the panels are down. Chairman Oppel said if it is within the current allocation, it should be considered.

**Cafeteria/Transportation** – Francis MacIlvain said the committee did not meet this month.

**Policy/Curriculum/Technology** – Thomas Minotti said the committee will meet July 14 at 11:00 a.m.

**Personnel** – No report.

**Finance** – Bernard Simons said the committee met today. All budgets are running as expected.

**Reports of Special Committees:**

**C.E.S.** – Arlene Liscinsky included a report in each packet.

**CABE** – No report

**Adjournment:**

**Bernard Simons** made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.; seconded by **James Oraziatti**; vote 8-0; motion carried.

*Diane Luther*

***Diane Luther***

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

***June 23, 2009***