

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
382 LONG HILL AVENUE
SHELTON, CONNECTICUT
AUGUST 26, 2009**

An Executive Session was held at 6:45 p.m. **Motion was made by Eugene Kierce to enter into Executive Session at 6:46 p.m.** All Board Members were in attendance with the exception of Bernard Simons. Invited to stay were Freeman Burr, Rita McDougald-Campbell and Allan Cameron. **Francis MacIlvain made a motion to leave Executive Session at 7:18 p.m.**

Chairman Win Oppel called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:27 p.m.

Roll Call: (alpha order)

Paula Ellis (departed at 8:48 p.m.)

Eugene Kierce

Arlene Liscinsky

Francis MacIlvain

Thomas Minotti

Win Oppel, Chairman

James Orazietti

Bernard Simons

Timothy Walsh

A quorum of 9-0

Board of Education Administration present:
Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr
Assistant Superintendent, Lorraine Rossner
Director of Finance, Allan Cameron
Director of Instruction, Patricia Curran
Director of Special Education/PPS, Valentina Parchin
Operations Manager, William Banfe

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

The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing

Cheryl O'Brien, 153 Village Drive, presented findings of her research on the issue of 501(c)(3) registration for organizations conducting fundraising activities. A handout was provided.

Public Hearing (continued)

Kate Kutash, 275 Beardsley Road, discussed the Fall Blast 2009, a program to be held on October 24, 2009, at Shelton High School, presented by the SHS Marching Gaels Band and Color Guard, the Marching Gaels Parents Association, in conjunction with the Musical Arts Conference. Board Members are invited to attend.

No one else wished to speak and the Public session was closed.

Approval of Agenda and Addendum

Paula Ellis made a motion to approve the agenda; seconded by Eugene Kierce; vote 9-0; motion carried. Eugene Kierce made a motion to approve the addendum; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 9-0; motion carried.

Arlene Liscinsky made a motion to add item VIII.B.11 to the agenda, Elizabeth Shelton School's request to conduct fundraising activities; seconded by Francis MacIlvain; vote 9-0; motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Thomas Minotti made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 22, 2009; seconded by Eugene Kierce; vote 9-0; motion carried.

Appointments

Paula Ellis made a motion to approve the appointment of Lori Lisi to the position of grade 6 teacher at Booth Hill School, due to an opening; seconded by Timothy Walsh; vote 9-0; motion carried.

Paula Ellis made a motion to approve the appointment of Deanna Toohey to the position of grade 2 teacher from a part-time kindergarten position at Booth Hill School, due to an opening; seconded by Timothy Walsh; vote 9-0; motion carried.

Arlene Liscinsky made a motion to approve the appointment of Lesa Visser to the position of full-time Special Education teacher at Shelton High School from part-time Special Education teacher at Booth Hill School, due to a transfer; seconded by Eugene Kierce; vote 9-0; motion carried.

Thomas Minotti made a motion to approve the appointment of George Perduta to the position of Mathematics teacher at Shelton High School, due to a leave; seconded by Bernard Simons; vote 9-0; motion carried.

James Oraziatti made a motion to approve the appointment of Eileen Jesson to the position of school nurse at St. Lawrence School, due to a resignation; seconded by Bernard Simons; vote 9-0; motion carried.

Appointments (continued)

Thomas Minotti made a motion to approve the appointment of Amy Corris to the position of Reading Specialist at Shelton Intermediate School, due to an opening; seconded by Francis MacIlvain; vote 9-0; motion carried.

Timothy Walsh made a motion to approve the appointment of Robert Nager to the grant-funded position of job coach at Shelton High School; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky. Discussion – James Orazietti stated that unless it is an emergency, he is opposed to hiring retired administrators for open positions, regardless of grant funding, and said there are many youngsters who would welcome the opportunity. Timothy Walsh disagreed stating it is important to take advantage of the skills and expertise of someone like Bob Nager. Tina Parchin answered specific questions and confirmed that it is not a new position. Freeman Burr noted the distinction of the State created shortage areas for administrators to come out of retirement to fill certain positions; this is a lower position than an administrative level. Chairman Opiel questioned the time requirement to fill the position and the next step, should this be defeated. Consensus was to hold a Special Meeting if needed. **A motion by Timothy Walsh to move the question failed. Further discussion. James Orazietti motioned to move the question; vote 9-0; motion carried. Timothy Walsh moved to vote on the original motion; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 3-5-1 (Nay – James Orazietti, Eugene Kierce, Francis MacIlvain, Bernard Simons, Win Opiel; Abstention – Paula Ellis); motion failed.**

Resignations

Freeman Burr advised the Board of the following resignations:

Lauren Pisano, speech-language pathologist at Long Hill School, effective July 27, 2009, after 2 years of service

Melissa Gernat, math teacher at Shelton High School, effective July 31, 2009, after 2 years of service

Leah Fischel, school psychologist at Sunnyside School and Shelton High School, effective August 1, 2009, after 2.5 years of service

Dyane Rizzo, advisor of the class of 2011 at Shelton High School, effective immediately, due to a reassignment to the intermediate school

Superintendent's Reports & Action Items

Instructional Update – Superintendent Burr updated the Board on the Central Office Data Team's review of CMT/CAPT data. He said areas of concern have been shared with principals and target areas have been identified with suggested target goals to help increase performance.

Mr. Burr reported on the legal workshop held last week for administrators that focused on special education updates; legal requirements regarding suspensions and expulsions; employee evaluations and a progressive discipline model for employees as needed. The administrative team also met and focused on district targets and plans for central office's supporting role to schools and dealt with questions regarding preparation for school opening. Freeman Burr discussed the various professional development workshops.

School Facilities Report – Bill Banfe reported that Perry Hill's underground detention system is complete. The roof, with the exception of the lower gym, will be watertight by the end of next week. Consecutive sunny days are needed to complete the lower gym, as the material is humidity/water sensitive. Delivery of air handling units and rooftop units is by end of next week. Boilers and associated hardware are onsite and are in the process of being installed. The switch gear for the electrical service is being installed with permanent power in the building early October. Window installation will begin as they arrive starting September 14. The foundation connecting the entryway for sections A&B will be completed by the end of next week. Site work and extensive HVAC, electrical and masonry work is continuing. In response to a question from Eugene Kierce, Bill Banfe confirmed that the contractor is responsible for the electricity and fuel costs from now until the completion of the project.

Mr. Banfe stated this is the third consecutive summer that major construction work has been performed at the high school. SHS will be ready to accept students on the first day of school. Paula Ellis commended the high school staff for going to the parents outside the building to address their needs. Bill Banfe commented that the exterior doors have been problematic; the manufacturer was behind schedule but is preparing the doors for installation by Friday. The interior stairwell and corridor doors are being reviewed by the SHS Fire Rehabilitation Committee, and the boilers are being addressed by the building committee. Bantam Construction completed work in student areas necessary for school opening.

Bill Banfe said Long Hill's roof is watertight and Elizabeth Shelton will be done by tomorrow. Delivery of materials is anticipated to complete the projects. The elementary boilers have been delivered and inspected with installation scheduled for the fall.

A list of district wide summer projects was distributed and discussed.

School Facilities Report (Continued) – James Oraziatti commented on the roof replacements and expressed gratitude to Bill Banfe, Ken LaCroix, Beverly Belden, Sue Arpin and the custodial staff for their hard work.

Mr. Oraziatti and Mr. Banfe declined comment on the mold and asbestos at Perry Hill School and suggested inviting the committee chairman to a meeting to review the project.

In response to a question from Timothy Walsh, Bill Banfe discussed the City ball fields project behind Long Hill School. He stated the bids received were high and the project had to be re-bid. Construction started this past Monday, and the same rules will apply that no construction will occur during the course of the school day.

(Note: Tape 1, Side B – 8:25 p.m.)

Items Voted On

Timothy Walsh made a motion to approve requests to conduct fundraising activities during the 2009-2010 school year for the following schools/organizations:

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

Motion seconded by Eugene Kierce; vote 9-0; motion carried.

Paula Ellis made a motion to approve the I.D.E.A. 611, 619, ARRA grant application for the 2009-2011 school years; seconded by Timothy Walsh; vote 9-0; motion carried.

Additional Comments by the Superintendent

Freeman Burr gave an update on the H1N1 virus, stating the district will follow the guidelines set forth by the CDC as well as the Naugatuck Valley Health Department. He stated the district will also utilize Tools for Schools, which is a guide for schools nationwide. He said every teaching station and Central Office will have hand-sanitizer pump bottles; each building will have a large liter container in a general location for use.

Additional Comments by the Superintendent (Continued)

Mr. Burr discussed green cleaning products used throughout the schools; sanitation wipes to be used for all keyboarding stations throughout the district; the availability of laminated age-appropriate color posters online through our print shop; and plans for Debi Petrushonis to update staff during Professional Development and make presentations to the lower grades. He said K-6 classrooms again will view an effective DVD, and Lorraine Rossner is working on an electronic packet of information to be sent to schools. The website will be updated with the latest information and links for parents. Non-alcohol based products are being investigated. James Oraziatti thanked Freeman Burr, Lorraine Rossner, Tina Parchin and the nurses for taking into consideration the health and security of our students.

Comments by the Board Chair

Chairman Oppel thanked Board Members for attending the Back to School/Teacher of the Year program. He expressed appreciation to Cheryl O'Brien for the research she did regarding tax-exempt organizations and 501(c)(3), information, which will be beneficial when forming future parent organizations. Freeman Burr commended Mrs. O'Brien for her comprehensive and outstanding presentation to the Athletic Committee.

Win Oppel reported on his findings on the Gridiron Club, which is set up as a hybrid student club overseen by Coach Roy that holds fundraising activities to offset expenses that students may have had to pay if the organization did not exist. Fred and Lisa Serra are dedicated to assisting the organization in its efforts to keep the participation cost low to our student athletes. Coach Roy and the Serras agreed that the term "pay for play" could have been misconstrued in the context that it appeared on the sign on the Green and that the fundraising was offsetting costs for voluntary summer conditioning activities that otherwise would have been borne by students and families. The implication was not that the district was considering a pay for play policy. With regard to wording in the solicitation letter, there was also agreement that the Board had not reduced athletic funding in any of the past several years. The Serras are to be congratulated on the success of the golf tournament and are encouraged to continue their support of our football program. Chairman Oppel concluded that Beth Smith, John Niski and Freeman Burr are reviewing the organizations that are associated with the high school, their fundraising activities, their relationship to the school and district, and their compliance with our Board policies. A report to the Board is expected sometime this fall.

Reports By Standing Committees

Athletics – James Oraziatti reported on the committee meeting of 8/24. It was noted that ticket sales were at an all-time record.

James Oraziatti made a motion to create an additional stipend position, Cross Country Coach at Shelton Intermediate School; seconded by Paula Ellis.

Discussion – It was confirmed that this is not new funding. **Vote 9-0; motion carried.**

Athletics (continued) - Board Members will be sent an electronic version of a proposed mission statement for the Athletic Department.

James Oraziatti made a motion for the Board of Education to turn over to the City the property behind Long Hill School that is being developed for ball fields, pending a formal request from the Board of Aldermen; seconded for discussion by Paula Ellis. Discussion - Paula Ellis reiterated that the request should be in writing. Timothy Walsh agreed that action should not be taken until a formal application from the Board of Aldermen is received. It was explained that the project is eligible for LoCIP funds only if the property is City owned. The consensus was to turn the property over, but delineation and formal request is needed. Bernard Simons indicated a formal request will be submitted prior to the next Special Meeting.

(Note: Paula Ellis departed at 8:48 prior to vote being taken.)

Bernard Simons moved to table this motion; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Building & Grounds – Eugene Kierce stated minutes were filed electronically.

Cafeteria/Transportation – Francis MacIlvain said the committee did not meet but is scheduled for September 8 at 6 p.m. The PTA sponsored Bus Safety Day is scheduled for 8/28; information is on website. It was recommended that available Board Members should attend their adopted schools that morning.

Policy/Curriculum/Technology – Thomas Minotti summarized the meeting of 8/6; minutes are posted. Revisions to Electronic Information Resources Policy #6141.321 and Recognition Policy #1170 will be reviewed and voted on at next Regular Board of Education meeting. Student Discipline Policy #5000 will require further work prior to presenting at the next Regular Board of Education meeting for review. A discussion was held at the committee meeting regarding a public complaint protocol. The next meeting will be held on 9/9 at 4:15 p.m. Arlene Liscinsky noted the BOE Technology Building Committee will meet this Friday and they are awaiting signed purchase orders from the Mayor.

Personnel – Timothy Walsh said the committee met on 9/13.

Timothy Walsh made a motion to approve the wage and benefits proposal for the individual non-union employees for 2009-2010 retroactive to the start of the school year on July 1, 2009; seconded by Francis MacIlvain; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Timothy Walsh discussed the recent decision of the Police Department to reassign the SROs at SIS and SHS. He noted the advantage of having a female officer to deal with certain issues and the familiarity and trust element for students to be able to approach the officers.

Personnel (continued) -

Timothy Walsh made a motion to direct the Chairman of the Board to draft a letter to the Chief of Police expressing concerns about the reassignment of School Resource Officers at Shelton Intermediate School and Shelton High School; seconded by Bernard Simons; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Finance – Bernard Simons said the committee met and everything is going as expected.

Reports of Special Committees

C.E.S. – No report was given.

CABE – No report was given. Board Members were advised to look for notification concerning registration for CABE/CAPSS Convention and to notify Diane Luther regarding attendance.

Chairman Oppel reminded members of Back to School Nights, as shown on agenda.

Adjournment

Bernard Simons made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m.; seconded by Eugene Kierce; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Diane Luther

***Diane Luther
Recording Secretary – Board of Education
September 2, 2009***