

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Board of Education Administrative Offices
382 Long Hill Avenue
Board Room, 2nd Floor
January 24, 2018**

Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:02 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

Quorum – 8 present; 2 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

Thomas Minotti moved to add an addendum with two Board Action Items to the agenda; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the agenda as amended; seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Presentations/Recognitions

SIS Robotics – Advisor Michele Piccolo thanked the mentors and parents for their help, especially Jim and Dana Daxner, who coached the SIStematic team to their second straight State Championship title. Recognition was given to SHS students Jacob Zamani and Siddharth Jain, who had received the John A. Baffa Outstanding Mentor Award and Outstanding Youth Mentor Award, respectively. The numerous accomplishments and awards the FLL teams received were mentioned, and SIStematic team members explained a project they did with Jones Family Farm to resolve an issue with their micro-irrigation system. The Irrigation Improver 3530 is an easy-to-use, low-cost solution that can help farmers reduce the need to filter pond water when using micro-irrigation. It was explained that the more we can help farmers increase their use of micro-irrigation, the more water we can conserve during the growing season.

Innovative Educator – Superintendent Clouet discussed the new tradition of the Innovative Educator Award to recognize many extremely talented and creative educators in the district. He introduced Perry Hill teacher Courtney Dishian as the first recipient. Ms. Dishian gave an exciting presentation of various innovative projects and activities conducted in her classroom and received congratulations.

Public Hearing

Mike D'Amico, 11 Bristol Drive, I.B.E.W., formerly ran the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers apprenticeship program, and suggested the next time there is a large project, to look into a Project Labor Agreement, which allows local residents to work on the project first. Mr. D'Amico also spoke in support of the Cafeteria Workers.

Judson Crawford, 8 Jordan Ave, questioned why the Board returned money to the city in 2016 and 2017 instead of using that money for supplies for teachers. He commented on the new Math being implemented in the district. Mr. Crawford commented that front of Sunnyside School is now well lit and money was well expended.

Approval of Minutes

Kate Kutash moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 6, 2017; Special Meeting of December 13, 2017; Regular Meeting of December 13, 2017, and Special Meeting, Budget Workshop #1, of January 16, 2018; motion seconded by Anne Gaydos and passed unanimously.

Communications to the Board

There were none.

Superintendent's Commentary/Instructional Update

Superintendent Clouet commented on the importance of mentoring and stated our district is fortunate to have a robust mentoring program where adult mentors come into our schools during the day to work with individual students for an hour each week. Valerie Knight-DiGangi, Coordinator for the Mentoring Program, discussed the 22 year-old program, which is the only school-based, district-wide program in the Valley. She discussed changes in the program, including an ongoing review of our policies and procedures, as well as fingerprinting and background checks, which have been done for all our mentors and funded by a grant from Pitney Bowes. Board members were invited to attend a National Mentoring Celebration at Perry Hill School, January 31, at 5 p.m. A mentoring brochure developed in coordination with Anne Gaydos was shown. Valerie thanked the Board for its continuing support of the Mentoring Program.

Superintendent Clouet referenced an in-depth Connecticut Post article by Linda Lambeck about Library Learning Commons and said much of it overlapped with the work being done with our strategic planning including coding. He discussed the committee's work to establish a Shelton vision of graduate and plans for a public event regarding the work of Strategic Planning for late spring to display the arts, technology, and creativity of our students.

Facilities Supervisor John Calhoun gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation including pictures and commentary of District-Wide Forecasted Facilities Maintenance Needs for 2018-2019, which was followed by discussion topics of priorities, funding and the value of preventative maintenance.

Approved Field Trips

There were none.

Items Voted on

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the request of Shelton Intermediate School of Innovation to conduct fundraising activities as described during the 2017-18 school year; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to approve the request of SHS Boys' Baseball Team to conduct fundraising activities, including use of GoFundMe, during the 2018 school baseball season; motion seconded by Amanda Kilmartin and passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to accept on behalf of the SHS Robotics Team, a donation of \$ 2,500 worth of lumber from James Blakeman for use in building a practice field; motion seconded by Thomas Minotti and passed unanimously.

Mark Holden reflected on last year's budget and stated the proposed budget to be voted on, while not perfect, will allow us to get class sizes back to an acceptable level and ensure adequate staffing. He stated it addresses the goal of many Board Members to restore the music program to a previous level; restores much needed classroom supplies; includes a gradual start to 1:1 computers, a concept that 40% of districts nationwide have already accomplished. He encouraged support and a spirit of cooperation while helping the Mayor, Board of Apportionment and Taxation, and Board of Aldermen understand that this budget is a good investment in Shelton's future.

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the Superintendent's recommended 2018-2019 Budget Request of \$74,318,407, as presented; motion seconded by Kate Kutash. Discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Comments by the Board Chair

Chairman Holden commented on the district events of the past week including the Grade 8 Open House at SHS; visit to School of Innovation; and public forum on the budget. He discussed the space in the old gym at Central Office to be used as a practice field for Robotics, which will give them the advantage of practicing on a field prior to going to competitions.

Reports of Standing Committees

Teaching & Learning – Anne Gaydos reviewed the topics of the January 12 meeting including the Teaching & Learning presentation calendar for February-June 2018; draft academic school calendar for 2018-19; New Course Proposal Protocol for February presentations. Agenda items were reviewed for the next meeting to be held on Monday, February 12, at 4:00 p.m., in Room 317B at Shelton High School. The draft Shelton Public Schools Calendar for 2018-19 was included in packet and briefly discussed. Lorraine Rossner noted the calendar is aligned to the school districts in which we share students in day school (Bridgeport Aquaculture, RCA, CES and ECA). She noted a change in parent/teacher conferences in March to a more consistent pattern and general discussion followed.

Finance Committee – Thomas Minotti discussed the last meeting of January 22 including verification of check register by reviewing purchase orders; suggestion by Tina Henckel of a debit or gift credit card for purchasing supplies that do not accept purchase orders; review of transportation bids.

Policy Committee – Kate Kutash stated the committee met on January 10 for an initial discussion of board member use of social media and development of a bylaw for Shelton. CABE's Social Media draft was divided into work assignments for members to read, report and make recommendations to be presented over the next two Policy meetings. There was also discussion of Discipline Policy, state and local protocols for expulsion, which will be covered in more detail at a retreat. Next meeting will be February 12, at 5:00 p.m., following Teaching & Learning.

(Note: Tape 1; Side B – 8:30 p.m.)

New Committee – Chairman Holden had stated in previous meeting there would be an additional committee and stated the **Public Relations and Outreach Committee** will consist of Amanda Kilmartin as Chair and Anne Gaydos as Vice-Chair. He stated they had worked on the flyers to promote the community forum on the budget.

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Thomas Minotti reported the topics of the CES Council meeting of January 11, including introduction of new board members; a report of the State Board of Education budget and the impact on member districts from Patrice McCarthy; handouts and updates for the Executive Director research. Tom stated the State BOE cut in funding for CES for magnet schools, which will result in a tuition increase for member districts.

Unfinished Business

There was nothing discussed.

New Business

There was nothing discussed.

For Your Information

Chairman Holden noted the attachments in the packet including Vacancy Report, Staff and Stipend Actions, and Enrollment Report.

Highlights

Kate Kutash commented about the SIS Concert and SHS sophomore Karina Friend, who made Western Regional Concert Band, First Chair Flute, and was a featured soloist. Thomas Minotti had attended the School of Innovation and hopes it can be expanded to grade 8 and beyond. He also commented about the CT Post front page article about our libraries and the open house at SHS. David Gioiello discussed the School of Innovation and was impressed with discussion of students building a Farmbot, using hand tools for the first time. He was pleased to hear we are expanding our college course curriculum at SHS. José Goncalves was impressed with the Adaptations performance. Mark Holden commended Deb Keller for her energetic and enthusiastic speech at last week's event.

Adjournment

Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Diane Luther

Secretary to Board of Education

January 31, 2018