

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES  
382 LONG HILL AVENUE  
SHELTON, CONNECTICUT  
FEBRUARY 25, 2009**

Chairman Win Oppel called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. In attendance were Eugene Kierce, Arlene Liscinsky, Francis MacIlvain, and Timothy Walsh. Bernard Simons arrived at 5:38 p.m. and Thomas Minotti arrived at 5:40 p.m. Arlene Liscinsky made a motion to go into Executive Session at 5:36 p.m.; seconded by Francis MacIlvain; vote 5-0; motion carried. Invited into the session were Robin Willink, Lorraine Rossner, Allan Cameron and Rita McDougald-Campbell. Eugene Kierce made a motion to leave Executive Session at 5:52 p.m.; seconded by Bernard Simons; vote 7-0; motion carried.

Chairman Win Oppel called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:08 p.m.

Roll Call: (alpha order)

Paula Ellis (excused)

Eugene Kierce

Arlene Liscinsky

Francis MacIlvain

Thomas Minotti

Win Oppel, Chairman

James Orazietti (arrived at 6:38 p.m.)

Bernard Simons

Timothy Walsh

A quorum of 7 present and 2 absent until arrival of James Orazietti, changing quorum to 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

Operations Manager, William Banfe

(2 tapes on file in City/Town Clerk's Office. Recording Machine malfunctioned at approximately 6:42 p.m. - Tape 1, side B is distorted.)

The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Building Committee Reports:**

**Perry Hill School Building Committee** – Chairman Sean Sullivan reported on the status of the Perry Hill School project and answered questions from Board Members. A handout was provided.

*(Notes: James Oraziatti arrived at 6:38 p.m.*

*Tape 1, Side B – 6:42 p.m. – Machine malfunctioned – distortion)*

**Public Improvement Building Committee** – Chairman James Oraziatti updated the Board on the SHS chiller motor repair and elementary boiler and roof projects.

*(Note: Tape 2, Side A – 6:49 p.m.)*

**Public Hearing:**

Susan Lipscomb, 34 Basking Ridge Road, Shelton, addressed the Board regarding Long Hill's boiler situation and lack of heat in the Media Center and other areas of the building.

As no one else wished to speak, the public session was closed.

**Approval of Agenda and Addendum:**

Thomas Minotti made a motion to approve the agenda; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 8-0; motion carried. Timothy Walsh made a motion to approve the addendum; seconded by Eugene Kierce; vote 8-0; motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Arlene Liscinsky made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 4, 2009; seconded by Francis Macllvain; vote 6-0-2 (abstentions by Win Oppel and Eugene Kierce); motion carried.**

**Presentations:**

Superintendent Willink discussed and distributed information from the AASA Conference regarding the way children learn as a result of exposure to digital media.

Tina Henckel, Supervisor of Math and Technology, outlined the district's technology accomplishments and presented the 2009-2012 Strategic Educational Technology Plan. Arlene Liscinsky suggested that the presentation should be given to the Board of Education Technology Building Committee as well.

**Presentations: (Continued)**

Carolyn Ivanoff spoke in general about grant opportunities for education and specifically about a community and grant funded history project that she had produced on the life of local hero Ebenezer Bassett. The project provides a non-fiction reading opportunity with accompanying literacy and technology instructional strategies that will be distributed to classrooms in Shelton, Derby, Ansonia and Seymour.

*(Note: Tape 2, Side B – 7:40 p.m.)*

**Communications to the Board:**

Chairman Oppel read a letter from Robin Willink resigning from her position as Superintendent of Schools effective July 1, 2009.

**Leave of Absence:**

**Thomas Minotti made a motion to approve the one-year unpaid leave of absence during the 2009-2010 school year for Nisha Pickett; seconded by Timothy Walsh; vote 8-0; motion carried.**

**Appointments:**

**Timothy Walsh made a motion to appoint Mildred Perez to the position of School/Office Secretary II in the Office of Instruction; seconded by Eugene Kierce; vote 8-0; motion carried.**

**Thomas Minotti made a motion to appoint Christine Ferrante to the position of special education paraprofessional at Mohegan School; seconded by Eugene Kierce; vote 8-0; motion carried.**

**Timothy Walsh made a motion to appoint Stephen Malafronte to the position of co-freshman baseball coach at Shelton High School; seconded by Eugene Kierce; vote 8-0; motion carried.**

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

**Instructional Update** - Superintendent Willink reported that the Technology Department moved to Central Office over the school recess. Two companies submitted proposals for redistricting and will be invited to make their presentations to the Board in a Special Meeting in March.

**Field Trips** – The Board was advised of an approved field trip for the high school Journalism classes to travel to Washington, DC in March.

**School Facilities Report** – Bill Banfe reported that the school bus lot is substantially completed. Mr. Banfe outlined work performed by the maintenance staff at SHS during the February recess, as well as continued effort to complete work orders throughout the system.

**SHS Renovation Building Committee** – The committee has been working cooperatively with the SHS Fire Rehabilitation Committee to investigate the replacement of the interior corridor and stairwell doors. Fletcher-Thompson has been commissioned to do design work and start the process. Replacement of additional doors in the school will be considered.

**Items Voted On:**

**Arlene Liscinsky made a motion to accept the Shelton Public Schools Strategic Educational Technology Plan; seconded by Eugene Kierce; vote 8-0; motion carried.**

**Francis MacIlvain made a motion to update the authorized signers of the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs as specified; seconded by Eugene Kierce; vote 8-0; motion carried.**

**Francis MacIlvain made a motion to approve a survey to be taken by students regarding food service; seconded by Bernard Simons; vote 8-0; motion carried.**

**Comments by the Board Chair:**

Chairman Oppel read the following:

*I had a different series of comments to make tonight; but given the decision by Robin to declare her intention to retire, I thought it best that we take a moment to reflect on what she has brought to our district.*

*One could say that the Perry Hill School will stand as testimony to her service here, or the technology expansion that has touched each school and student would reflect positively on her tenure, or even the move to this building, which provides a long-term permanent facility from which the central office staff and technology center can operate would be a reminder of her as leader of our district.*

*But that is not Robin. What her legacy here will be is the dedication of a public servant who became part of our fabric, the drive to instill and encourage educational excellence at all levels, the determination to move the district forward within the constraints and confines of budgets and time frames, and the demonstrated effort to raise the bar throughout the educational spectrum. These traits and lessons will be the legacy of her superintendency...and for that each of us and all of the children of this district are better off.*

**Comments by the Board Chair: (Continued)**

*I thank her for her service, know that she will push right up until her last day on the job, and wish her and John well.*

*I will be assembling a community-based group to advise this Board on the selection of a new superintendent. We will also be creating several smaller groups – parents, students, staff, and administrators to aid in the process. I have asked that each Board member send to Mr. Walsh, as Chairman of the Personnel Committee, three attributes that they would like to see in our next superintendent.*

*Robin is leaving having prepared a firm foundation on which to build the next level of achievement for the Shelton Public School System We owe her our thanks and appreciation.*

**Reports By Standing Committees:**

**Athletics** – No report was given.

**Building & Grounds** – Allan Cameron reported on a walk-thru conducted at the high school with John Carbone of PPE upon their completion of the relighting and energy conservation project. In the gym area, electricity usage dropped 39%. Classroom savings were about 35%.

**Cafeteria/Transportation** – Francis MacIvain said the bus lot trailer now has electricity.

**Policy/Curriculum/Technology** – Thomas Minotti said the committee met and had a presentation of the draft Strategic Education Technology Plan by Tina Henckel and Dana Urban. Lorraine Rossner presented to the committee the CPR Anytime proposal, which will be for grade 7 students. More information will be forthcoming via the principals.

**Personnel** – Timothy Walsh said the committee will meet Tuesday, March 3 at 7 p.m. He reminded Board members to submit the expectations of the next superintendent, as previously mentioned by Chairman Opel. Mr. Walsh commented that it will be busy spring finding replacements for administrative retirements.

**Finance** – Bernard Simons said the committee met and reviewed the budget. The presentation of the budget to the Board of Aldermen and Apportionment and Taxation will be held on March 5 at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

**Reports of Special Committees:**

**C.E.S.** – Arlene Liscinsky said the next meeting will be in March.

**CABE** – Timothy Walsh reported that CABE has frozen their membership dues for the upcoming year.

**Old Business:**

James Oraziotti clarified a statement made during his report on the Public Improvement Building Committee. The committee has selected an architect, not hired.

Allan Cameron commended Carolyn Ivanoff for being one of the original writers of the technology plan in 1996.

Timothy Walsh expressed concern about the noise level that will result from construction of the Little League field at Long Hill School while the students are still in session. This will be addressed by the appropriate committee.

**Adjournment:**

**Eugene Kierce** made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.; seconded by **Francis MacIvain**; vote 8-0; motion carried.

*Diane Luther*

***Diane Luther***

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

***March 4, 2009***