

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Board of Education Administrative Offices
382 Long Hill Avenue
Board Room, 2nd Floor
June 27, 2018**

Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:05 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

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 amend the agenda with addendum including Board Action Items VIII. A. 9, 10, 11; motion seconded by Kate Kutash. Kate Kutash moved to add an Executive Session to discuss a legal matter following Item XV. Highlights; motion seconded by Amanda Kilmartin. All were in favor of motion to amend agenda. Motion to approve agenda as amended was passed unanimously.

Presentations/Recognitions

Innovative Educator Award – Superintendent Clouet announced SIS Teacher Robert Swercewski as recipient of this month's Innovative Educator Award. Mr. Swercewski was unable to attend, and his presentation depicting some of the creative work done by his students was given by Headmaster Kenneth Saranich. He said the science elective course working in the STEM field is all about inventing with design thinking as a major aspect of the course. Mr. Saranich stated the designation of Innovative Educator truly defines Mr. Swercewski for what he has brought to our students, the creativity, and what's going to blossom out of the program.

Invention Convention Winners, Gr. 4 and National Winners – Tina Henckel said Invention Convention is an internationally recognized competition. Students are immersed in the engineering design process and think creatively to develop a new invention or improve upon a current product. This year, our district had 373 grade 4 students and 80 grade 5-8 students participate in Invention Convention, of which there were 14 regional qualifiers, 11 state qualifiers and 4 national level winners. The following students were recognized and those in attendance presented their inventions:

Quinn Wherley	LHS - 4	The Coat Keeper (1 st Place)
Reese Vartelas	BHS - 4	Zippy Sox (Top Inventor)
Colin Gzysms	MS - 4	Mallow Spinner 9000 (1 st Place)
Ryan Decatur	SS - 4	Retractable Rake (1 st Place)
AJ Palmieri	ESS - 4	Water Muffs (Top Inventor)
Laura Uhrynowski	PHS - 6	Magic Mark (Recognized Inventor at State)
Luke Sanborn	PHS - 6	Basex (National) and Patentability Award from MP&H Law Firm
Kaitlyn Bergers	SIS - 7	Zip Fix (Recognized Inventor at State)
Tyler Lupkas	SIS - 8	Charge Like the Wind (Recognized Inventor at State)
Kyle Young	SHS - 10	Fire Hydrant Alert System Accorda Scientific Excellence Award; \$1,000 Award at National Invention Convention and Entrepreneurship Expo

Teacher of the Year – Penny Zhitomi – Dr. Clouet announced SIS teacher Penny Zhitomi is this year's Teacher of the Year. He said he had the joy of making the surprise announcement in her classroom, resulting in a raucous round of applause from her students.

Public Hearing

(Note - Several cafeteria workers spoke regarding the status of negotiations with Whitsons. Due to crowded conditions in the room, the plug became disconnected during some of their discussion.)

Barbara Jalosic, 216 Nichols Avenue, discussed personal loss of income as a result of contract with Whitsons.

Jeannette Schiffer, Molnar Drive, discussed status of negotiations.

Ann Kosiorowski, 36 Ann Street, discussed status of negotiations.

Karen Moriarty, SHS cafeteria worker, suggested the Board table the vote on extending contract with Whitsons until their negotiations are completed with cafeteria workers.

Nora Lewis, 299 Old Bridgeport Ave, parent of SHS student who will attend ECA for third year, discussed lack of transportation for students who attend the ECA programs. She read a letter from her daughter about her ECA experience.

Missy Mosher, 41 Brook Pine Drive, thanked the Board for choosing her daughter's teacher, Mrs. Zhitomi, as Teacher of the Year. She commended the Board for continuing commitment to the School of Innovation. She discussed the importance of the arts in students' education, specifically for her daughter who attends ECA, and asked the Board to partner with magnet school parents to find an alternative way to transport students.

Ken Hajducky, 24 Golden Hill Lane, parent of student attending ECA, discussed the importance of the program in her education and future. He asked the Board to look at creative options for providing transportation.

(Note: A brief recess was taken from 8:00-8:09 p.m. to allow attendees to exit.)

Approval of Minutes

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 23, 2018; Special Meeting of June 6, 2018; and Special Meeting of June 12, 2018; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Communications to the Board

Board Members received notes of appreciation from Jennifer Keene, last month's Innovative Educator, and parents of Laura Uhrnowski, National Invention Convention attendee.

Superintendent's Commentary/Instructional Update

United Way Certificates – Dr. Clouet stated the Shelton Public Schools received Valley United Way awards for Top Dollars Raised and Employee Giving, which says much about the spirit of generosity of our teachers, administrators and staff.

Transportation Update – Dr. Clouet stated he was in court today regarding the City of Shelton's lawsuit against the Board of Education regarding transportation.

SEEF Mini Grant Awards – Superintendent Clouet announced the following applicants received Shelton Endowment Fund mini-grants for the next academic year:

- **Geeking Out in History** – Tina Taylor, Marlo Verrastro-Ruggiero/Val Stanske (Mohegan)
- **PHS Grade 5/SPED Collaboration** – Melissa Fenstermaker, Courtney Dishian, Jamie Drezek, Bryan Sharkey, Katie Coe, Debra Tucker (Perry Hill)
- **Art/STEM** – Theresa Manus (Long Hill)
- **KEVA Plank - Maker Space** – Joan Tichy (Mohegan)
- **Little Free Library** – Amy Corris, Ron Gydus (Shelton Intermediate)
- **Personal Narratives - ELA & SS** – Kelly Guerra, Katelyn Botsford-Tucker (Shelton Intermediate)

Dr. Clouet said the district is interested in expanding the Shelton Education Endowment Fund for mini grants. Kathy Yolish discussed raffles plans for next year.

International Students from China Update – Superintendent said this is a program we would like to start on a small scale to include 4 or 5 students and would rely on host families. International students would pay tuition. David Gioiello had concerns about liability. Dr. Clouet stated he has had conversations with one or two attorneys about this, and any contract we might enter into with Mr. Jiang as facilitator would be vetted by our attorney before it comes before the board for consideration. Mr. Jiang provided a handout and spoke briefly about the program.

David Gioiello asked for an update on a request made of the Superintendent to provide a fault analysis of an SHS weapon incident. Dr. Clouet said his understanding was an agreement to provide information in August. He said it is being worked on with input from the high school with their security staff and from the Police Department, and a comprehensive report will be made available at the first August meeting of the Board.

Approved Field Trips

Board Members were apprised of approved field trip for SHS Spanish students to travel to Peru, April 11-20, 2019 and SIS Gr. 8 trip to Washington, DC, April 24-27, 2019.

Items Voted on

Kate Kutash moved to approve Bylaw #9327.1 BOE Social Media Policy and Appendix; motion seconded by Thomas Minotti and passed unanimously.

Thomas Minotti moved to approve a grant proposal for Valley Regional Adult Education – Workforce Readiness Project – ESL; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to accept on behalf of Mohegan School a donation of \$6,389.44 from Stop and Shop Rewards Program to be used in direct service to Mohegan’s students; motion seconded by Amanda Kilmartin and passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to accept on behalf of Mohegan School a donation of \$1,407 from Robert Taylor Photography to be used in direct service to Mohegan’s students; motion seconded by Kathy Yolish. Discussion – David Gioiello questioned the term “commission” on the check. Motion passed with vote of 7-1-1 (Nay – David Gioiello; Abstention – Darlisa Ritter).

Anne Gaydos moved to accept on behalf of Sunnyside School a check for \$4,230 from CAS Foundation, Inc.; motion seconded by Amanda Kilmartin and passed unanimously.

Thomas Minotti moved to approve on behalf of Shelton High School a \$1,500 CAS Flanagan grant to start an ambassador program at SHS in conjunction with the SHS PTSO; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the request of Long Hill School PTO to conduct fundraising activities in the 2018-2019 school year; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously

Kate Kutash moved to accept on behalf of BHS a donation of \$8,988 from Booth Hill School PTO to replace 30 Chromebooks and 2 iPads; motion seconded by Kathy Yolish and passed unanimously.

Thomas Minotti moved to approve continuing participation in Connecticut’s Healthy Food Certification for the school year 2018-2019:

Healthy Food Certification: Pursuant to Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Shelton Board of Education will continue participation in the Healthy Food Certification program and certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under our jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS) published by the Connecticut Department of Education, will comply with the CNS during the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. Such certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at

Food Exemptions: The board of education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. The “school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held, and must be the same place as the food sales. The Shelton Board of

Education will exclude from certification food items that do not meet the CNS, provided that such food is sold in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend, that such sale is at the location of the event, and such food is not sold from a vending machine or school store.

Beverage Exemptions: The board of education will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. The “school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held, and must be the same place as the food sales.

Motion to approve seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously. Ed Drapp requested that the minutes reflect the entire wording, as required by the State.

Kate Kutash moved to accept on behalf of Booth Hill School a donation of \$607.76 from Stop and Shop Rewards Program and \$895 from Robert Taylor Photography to be used in direct service to BHS students; motion seconded by Thomas Minotti and passed unanimously.

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the request of the Shelton High School Goal Club to conduct fundraising activities for the 2018-2019 school year to benefit the SHS Boys Soccer Program; motion seconded by Amanda Kilmartin and passed unanimously.

Comments by the Board Chair

Chairman Holden discussed last week’s graduation ceremony at which the Fire Department, Police Department, EMTs, Parks & Recreation, our Security Guards, our Facilities Manager, and a host of people worked together for the benefit of the students so that our recognition of their years at Shelton High School could be handled appropriately, in spite of the fact that it was held on a construction site. And, the result was beautiful. He stated in contrast, today we had people not working together; we had the City deciding to file suit against the Board of Education over the transportation contract. Chairman Holden discussed plans for a Mars observation night at SIS, weather depending, on August 2, with high-quality telescopes provided by the Boothe Memorial Astronomical Society.

Reports of Standing Committees

Teaching & Learning – Anne Gaydos stated the committee met on June 12. Tina Henckel presented information on the Curriculum Status Report Summer Professional Learning Revision Schedule. There will be no set curriculum revision during summer 2018 due to budgetary constraints. One full day of Professional Learning in August will be dedicated to grade level and department curriculum discussion. Tina discussed soliciting the use of an instructional platform called *Defined STEM*, which focuses on performance-based tasks as well as career-focused objectives within the structure of online offerings. Ken Saranich gave a School of Innovation update outlining the mission and objectives. He also shared testimonials from parents. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 16, at 4:00 p.m.

Finance Committee – Thomas Minotti stated the committee met on June 20. Ed Drapp gave a comprehensive financial report and stated finances are in good shape and accounts will be closed out with no problem. John Calhoun gave a comprehensive facilities report and update on all facilities projects, including his continued goals and objectives. At the recommendation of the Finance Committee the following motion was presented:

Thomas Minotti moved to renew the Food Service Management Contract for the 2018-2019 school year; motion seconded by Kate Kutash. Discussion of consequences of delaying vote to renew. (NOTE: Tape 1; Side B at 8:44 p.m.) Jose Goncalves moved to table the motion; seconded by Darlisa Ritter. Motion to table failed with roll call vote of 4-5 (Yea – Yolish, Ritter, Goncalves, Gioiello; Nay – Minotti, Kutash, Kilmartin, Holden, Gaydos). Original motion to renew contract passed with a roll call vote of 5-4 (Yea – Minotti, Kutash, Kilmartin, Holden, Gaydos; Nay – Yolish, Ritter, Goncalves, Gioiello).

Policy Committee – Kate Kutash stated Policy met on June 12 to review multiple documents with regard to Attendance, including current Attendance Policy, a Draft Attendance Policy for Review, and State Statute definitions pertaining to policy. Due to the volume of information, discussion will continue in July. The committee received a Wellness Policy Draft to review. The next meeting is July 16 to address the Administrative Regulations for Attendance Policy, New Board Member Orientation information and possible discussion of Wellness Policy Draft.

Public Relations & Outreach Committee – No meeting was held.

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Thomas Minotti reported the CES Rep Council met on June 7 and received a legislative update, which will be shared with the Board when written copy is available. Meeting dates for 2019 were set. The next Rep Council meeting will be September 6.

Unfinished Business

Darlisa Ritter asked about the bus opt out parent survey. Superintendent stated that is a summer project.

New Business

David Gioiello asked about status of response to State regarding Racial Imbalance. Superintendent Clouet said it will part of our work with redistricting, which will be shared with the Board as part of the process, and a response will be made to the State to show how we are complying with the regulation. Dr. Clouet will check with the State to determine how they define races. He believes they rely on the Federal Census set of standards.

For Your Information

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

Highlights

Board members commented on PHS and SHS Concerts; Senior Awards Night; Sunnyside and Long Hill Kindergarten Step-Up Days; ESS gr. 3 Living Museum; World Language Honor Society Program; PHS artwork; SHS Graduation and recognition of tremendous effort to prepare the field; parent involvement in end-of-year activities; teacher/student recognitions at Board meetings; appreciation of advocacy of parents and workers attending our meetings to voice their opinions and being part of what it takes to run a school district; 20th Anniversary Party for Gaelhawks Robotics Team with team members and mentors from the past.

Executive Session

Kate Kutash moved to enter Executive Session to discuss a legal matter at 9:00 p.m. Motion seconded by Darlisa Ritter and passed unanimously. Invited to stay were Chris Clouet, Ed Drapp, Lorraine Rossner, and Carole Pannozzo.

Kathy Yolish moved to leave Executive Session at 9:40 p.m.; motion seconded by Anne Gaydos and passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Diane Luther

Secretary to Board of Education

July 6, 2018