

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Board of Education Administrative Offices
382 Long Hill Avenue
Board Room, 2nd Floor
November 15, 2017**

Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:06 p.m.

Roll Call:

Mark Holden, Chairman	Amanda Kilmartin (via Skype)
Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman	Win Oppel (via Skype)
Kate Kutash, Secretary	Darlisa Ritter
David Gioiello	Kathleen Yolish
Faith Hack	

Full Quorum

Board of Education Administration present: Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Christopher Clouet; Finance Director, Edward Drapp

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

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

Presentations/Recognitions

There were none.

Public Hearing

Barbara Jelacic, 216 Nichols Ave, Shelton, cafeteria worker at Long Hill School, expressed concerns about potential loss of insurance and benefits with Whitsons and implored the Board to use its power to demand protection of Shelton families. A petition with 500 signatures was submitted to the Board Chair. The group departed in song.

Approval of Minutes

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting and Regular Meeting of October 25, 2017; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Communications to the Board

Chairman Holden stated a thank you note was received from Elizabeth Shelton School PTO for the playground mulch funding.

Superintendent's Commentary/Instructional Update

Superintendent Clouet stated a very positive meeting of Shelton Empowers (anti-drug coalition) was held this week with fifteen people in (students, teachers, administrators, community members). The group is getting ready to plan for some events in January, which will highlight the committee's work and its desire to keep opioids out of our community and away from our children.

Dr. Clouet gave a brief update of the Strategic Plan and showed a draft of a brochure prepared by the committee, and spearheaded by Anne Gaydos, explaining the strategic planning milestones along the pathway our students take to become educated. He said next month the board will receive a more in-depth description of the graphic depiction as well as its connection to the many standards and domains of what it is that we teach in the district. Tina Henckel explained some of the work done over the summer in conjunction with the milestones of each committee, which included the creation of individual brochures that provided more detail around some of the experiences students will engage in that highlight within the curriculum relative to ELA and Math/Science. She said work continues to add more detail to provide actual samples of the parent brochures.

SBAC AND DIP – Tina Henckel and Victoria White elaborated on some of the information presented at the Board Retreat regarding Smarter Balanced Assessments and District Improvement Plan and the goals developed based on the data. Numerous questions were addressed, and there was ongoing discussion of related topics throughout the presentation, including the best way to utilize Math Specialists.

Approved Field Trip

The Board was apprised of an approved field trip for SIS grade 7 Social Studies/Science trip to Amish Country, PA, April 28-29, 2018.

Items Voted on

Kate Kutash moved to approve the request of the Cheer Athletic Club to conduct fundraising activities during the 2017-18 school year to benefit the SHS Varsity Cheer Team; motion seconded by Darlisa Ritter and passed unanimously.

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

Comments by the Board Chair

Chairman Holden stated he is asking Superintendent Clouet to start looking into redistricting, as it has become painfully obvious that while some schools have a little bit of room, others have small, crowded classrooms. He said redistricting is never popular, but we must address it. (Chris comment about bringing it back as part of the initial round of budget discussions, to do it correctly.) Mr. Holden said this is the last meeting of the Board of Education as it is currently configured and reflected on the accomplishments over the past two years. He thanked members for their service.

Reports of Standing Committees

Teaching & Learning – Thomas Minotti said the committee did not meet due to lack of agenda items. The committee will meet tentatively on December 12.

Finance Committee – Win Oppel said the committee met earlier tonight and looked at the current budget and the impact of the State budget. The committee discussed the school bus transportation bids and heard some good things about facilities. No actions were taken.

Policy Committee – Kate Kutash said there was no meeting due to lack of agenda items. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 12.

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Thomas Minotti stated CES met on November 2 and reviewed the audit report, which indicated everything is in order with a very strong financial reserve that increased 5.46%. The nominating committee will present a slate of officers on January 11. Mr. Minotti said Shipman & Goodwin held an education legislation update in which alternative education for expelled students was a topic of interest. Public Act 17-220 increases the requirements of school districts to offer expelled students between the ages of 16-18 an alternate education program that is comparable to what a student in a regular classroom setting receives. The belief is that homebound tutoring will no longer be enough. This is another unfunded state mandate. The Director of Professional Services reported that PD funding has been eliminated, and she and her staff are working with districts to assess needs. She also indicated that fees will be charged for some services that in the past were free. CES Legislative Breakfast will be held on 12/8. CES Executive Director Dr. Evan Pitkoff will retire 6/30/18. The search for a new director is in progress.

CABE – Faith Hack referred to the newsletter in the packet.

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

Board Members expressed appreciation to departing members Win Oppel and Faith Hack, who then offered their personal comments and received applause.

Kathy Yolish acknowledged Anne Gaydos, who will be joining the board next meeting. Mrs. Yolish thanked Mrs. Santilli for sharing Long Hill School's Veterans Day heartwarming video. She commented that Dr. Ritter and she met with Dr. Smith today to plan the article submission to *Shelton Life*, which will feature Shelton High School.

Darlisa Ritter thanked Brenda Hansen for keeping the board apprised of Shelton High School's athletic activities with the weekly sports schedule.

Superintendent Clouet thanked Win Oppel, Faith Hack and Arlene Liscinsky for helping to bring him into the district and wished them well. He welcomed incoming board members Amanda Kilmartin, Anne Gaydos and Jose Goncalves. He congratulated re-elected board members.

Mark Holden expressed his sorrow to see some friends leave the board and is looking forward to working with new members. He stated that some SIS students put together an impressive short video addressing the drug problem and showed it during the Shelton Empowers meeting.

Adjournment

Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Diane Luther

Secretary to Board of Education

November 21, 2017