

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Board of Education Administrative Offices  
382 Long Hill Avenue  
Board Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**August 29, 2018**

Chairman Mark Holden called the Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:40 p.m.

Roll Call:

Mark Holden, Chairman  
Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman  
Kate Kutash, Secretary  
Anne Gaydos  
David Gioiello

José Goncalves  
Amanda Kilmartin  
Darlisa Ritter  
Kathleen Yolish

Full Quorum

Board of Education Administration present: Christopher Clouet, Superintendent of Schools

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Agenda**

**Thomas Minotti moved to approve the agenda; motion seconded by Anne Gaydos and passed unanimously.**

**Transportation Discussion**

Chairman Holden announced there is at this point an agreement between the City and Durham, as well as a contract between the Board of Education and Durham for transportation. He said there are some issues that still need to be resolved before transportation can commence. As of this afternoon, our information was that only three buses had been registered. As buses are registered, Durham will begin to letter the buses as required by regulations; they will then do inspections, and drivers will conduct dry runs to ensure there are not any problems with routes. Mr. Holden stated the hope is that students attending CES will have transportation on Friday, as that is our first priority. It is hoped that on Friday transportation will be available for students attending technical schools and Trumbull Agriscience. Also, it is hoped that Bus Safety Day will take place on Friday. While uncertain, the expectation is that regular school in Shelton will probably open on Wednesday, subject to change if all of the buses are registered early enough. Durham has been very cooperative and wants to get things operating as soon as they can. Superintendent Clouet said the intention is by noon tomorrow to finalize the decision to open schools and communicate to parents, staff and wider community by early afternoon. If there is a big change in the number of registrations, that would impact our decision. Chairman Holden mentioned Durham informed us shortly after 3:00 PM today that they could agree with the latest changes proposed by the mayor.

**Budget Discussion**

Chairman Holden said when the board last met for budget discussion, expected savings were projected to be \$450,713. Since that time, the cost to lease buses for summer school was \$35,865 and anticipated cost for propane has increased by \$184,380. The mayor has declined to contribute \$120,000 for propane that he has provided in recent years, and the cost of propane has also increased. The projected savings is now \$230,468. Mr. Holden said it is not uncommon at the start of the school year to incur additional costs from students moving into the district with special needs, which could impact our budget bottom line as well.

Lorraine Rossner discussed class size and stated there are issues at Elizabeth Shelton and Sunnyside. She said there is space within each school for an additional classroom, at a total cost for both of approximately \$180,000 (salary/benefits for two teachers and instructional materials). Ms. Rossner said enrollment will be monitored for the first two weeks and definitely for the first four days of school. She stated in the past we have opened a new classroom, probably two weeks into the school year; it is not optimum because classes have already started, but it is a good option.

There was discussion of need to rescind a budget motion passed at August 8 Special Meeting of the Board. Chairman Holden stated it would not be necessary because the motion stated it was contingent upon budget savings of \$450,713. Since that has not been met, Pay to Participate is back in, as well as additional fees charged to parents.

The board questioned how parents would be informed about Pay to Participate. Lorraine Rossner said Infinite Campus Messenger could be used. Superintendent Clouet said he will be working closely with all of the principals and John Niski about details and getting that information out to the coaches, band directors, etc. It was suggested to do a press release and to post information on the Website. There was discussion of available payment options, noting that full payment upfront is not necessary and online credit card payments will be accepted.

**Adjournment**

Chairman Mark Holden adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

*Diane Luther*

***Diane Luther***

***Secretary to Board of Education***

***September 5, 2018***