Chairman Kathy Yolish called the Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:09 p.m.

Roll Call:
John Fitzgerald  
Amanda Kilmartin  
Kate Kutash  
Diana Meyer  
Patti Moonan  

James Orazietti, Vice Chair  
Carl Rizzo  
Amy Romano, Secretary  
Kathleen Yolish, Chair  

Full Quorum

Also in Attendance: Dr. Beth Smith, Interim Superintendent; Kenneth Saranich, Assistant Superintendent; Carole Pannozzo, Human Resources Director; Rick Belden, Finance Director; Attorney Frederick Stanek, Board Counsel; Candidate Glenn Newman

(There is no audio tape recording of this meeting. It was live streamed on the Shelton Public Schools YouTube channel and is available on the City of Shelton and Shelton Public Schools websites.)

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda and Addendum
Kate Kutash moved to amend Addendum Item VII.E. to read as follows: Discussion and possible action regarding the pending action entitled Stratford Board of Education, et al v. Bridgeport Board of Education, et al, and the motion that the Board of Education enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy and negotiations with respect to the pending action entitled Stratford Board of Education, et al v. Bridgeport Board of Education, et al in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Sections 1-225(f), 1-231 and 1-200(6) (B) and invite Dr. Smith, Kenneth Saranich, Carole Pannozzo, Rick Belden and Attorney Fred Stanek to attend the Executive Session. Motion seconded by Amy Romano and passed unanimously.

Patricia Moonan moved to approve the Agenda and Amended Addendum; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.
Approval of Minutes
James Orazietti moved to approve the following minutes; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.
- Special Virtual Workshop May 21, 2020
- Special Virtual Meeting May 21, 2020 @ 6PM
- Regular Virtual Meeting May 27, 2020
- Special Virtual Meeting June 3, 2020
- Special Virtual Meeting June 10, 2020
- Special Virtual Meeting June 18, 2020

Communications to the Board
Mrs. Yolish stated board members received many communications. She read a letter from SEA President Deborah Keller requesting stipend payments be made to Spring coaching staff.

Superintendent’s Reports and Action Items
Dr. Beth Smith thanked staff, students and parents for their perseverance since March with distance learning during the unprecedented pandemic and for completing the year. She discussed the receipt of a $10,000 Lockheed Martin grant, which will be applied toward purchasing additional Chromebooks for the district. Dr. Smith acknowledged the following staff members that retired this year and thanked them for their years of service to the district and our students:
- Beverley Belden
- David Blackmore
- William Federowitz
- Carolyn Finley
- Martha Gaynor
- Lynn Ibsen
- Elizabeth Kingersky
- Theresa Moore
- Caroline Pleckaitis
- Calvin Shaw
- Carole Sylvester

Board Action Items
Summer Lunch Program – Rick Belden provided information and a lengthy discussion followed. A motion to approve participation in the Summer Lunch Program failed.

Spring Sports Coach Stipends – Carole Pannozzo discussed virtual coaching and stated if the board agrees to pay stipends, she recommended the Athletic Director provide details of guidelines and hours worked, and salary stipend agreements would be unnecessary.

As advised by Attorney Stanek, Kate Kutash moved to amend Item VII. B. to read Discussion and possible action on spring sports coach stipends; motion seconded by James Orazietti and passed unanimously.

James Orazietti moved to pay all spring coaching staff 50% of their stipends; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

2020-21 Amendment to Whitsons contract for the provision of school lunch services – Rick Belden discussed the need for the amendment, possible options, and his recommendation.

James Orazietti moved to approve the 2020-2021 SFA-FSMC contract renewal agreement amendment with Whitsons School Nutrition Corporation subject to approval by the State Department of Education Bureau of Nutrition Services. Motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.
Discussion and possible action on the Interim Superintendent’s recommendation for the Director of Technology – Dr. Smith introduced candidate Glenn Newman and described his qualifications and background.

Kate Kutash moved to approve the Interim Superintendent’s recommended candidate Glenn Newman as Director of Technology; motion seconded by James Orazietti and passed unanimously.

Mr. Newman was congratulated and expressed his appreciation and enthusiasm.

Executive Session
Kate Kutash motioned to move Item VII. E. Executive Session to the end of the agenda; motion seconded by Amanda Kilmartin and passed unanimously.

Comments by the Board Chair
Kathy Yolish’s comments are attached to these minutes.

Reports of Standing Committees
Teaching & Learning Committee – Amy Romano stated no meeting was held last month, and July’s meeting date will be announced.

Finance Committee – John Fitzgerald reviewed the topics of tonight’s 6 PM meeting including a conservative estimate of $142,000 surplus and receipt of $10,000 grant to purchase Chromebooks. Minutes will be posted online.

Policy Committee – James Orazietti stated no meeting was held, and the next meeting will be announced.

Reports of Liaisons
C.E.S. – Kate Kutash reviewed the topics discussed at the June 4 meeting including report on statewide minority recruitment fair; discussion by C.E.S. Regional Back School Alliance of possible PPE purchase by the State for distribution to districts by RESCs.

CABE – Diana Meyer said there have been frequent communications moving from distance learning to opening schools as well as graduation information.

New Business
Kate Kutash brought up a previously mentioned suggestion to have student representation on the Board of Education. She discussed information she obtained from a survey through C.E.S. Board of Representatives, which will be sent to all board members. Kathy Yolish read Seymour’s policy pertaining to student representation on the Board of Education and will send copies to board members. James Orazietti noted the matter has been sitting in Policy and will be addressed at the committee’s next meeting.

For Your Information
Kathy Yolish noted the attached reports on Vacancies, Staff and Stipend Actions and Enrollment.

Celebrations
Board members discussed the graduation signs for seniors project and commended Kathy Yolish for suggesting the idea and seeing it through successfully. Acknowledgement was given to the
Ad Hoc Graduation Committee for their work. Dr. Smith, cabinet members, principals and staff were recognized for coordinating and organizing the parades and security.

**Executive Session**
Kate Kutash moved to enter Executive Session at 8:46 PM for the purpose of discussing strategy and negotiations with respect to the pending action entitled Stratford Board of Education, et al v. Bridgeport Board of Education, et al in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Sections 1-225(f), 1-231 and 1-200(6) (B) and invite Dr. Smith, Kenneth Saranich, Carole Pannozzo, Rick Belden and Attorney Fred Stanek to attend the Executive Session. Motion seconded by James Orazietti and passed unanimously. Diane Luther left the meeting.

The board came out of Executive Session at 9:24 PM. Mrs. Yolish stated no votes were taken.

**Adjournment**
Mrs. Yolish adjourned the meeting at 9:25 PM.

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*Diane Luther*
Secretary to Board of Education
June 30, 2020
It has come to my attention that an email has been circulating among the Shelton Education Association members from the associations’ union representatives. This email states that at the conclusion of last week’s BOE meeting a message was sent to Central Office (no specific person or office named). Allegedly the message stated they (the union) would be interested in negotiating an agreement (in writing) to help with the budget mitigation. Also stated was that the response was that the Board was “not interested at this time”. Additionally, a statement followed that “perhaps they expect to get more funding from the City, State, or Federal government”.

After receiving a copy, of this email I immediately contacted Central Office HR and Interim Superintendent and neither confirmed receipt of any such request. And as far as I know. neither myself nor did any other board member receive a request.

I want this information to be known by the entire staff and community because if such a message was received, the Board would have definitely acted upon it and perhaps that $195,000 savings of a one-day furlough would have saved 3 teacher positions.

In another note, I want to take this opportunity to thank the ad hoc committee for their work on SHS 2020 graduation- and also to the Board for agreeing to celebrate our grads with signs to honor them. Additionally, I extend my gratitude to all of the Board members, their spouses and children, Interim Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and his son and daughter, as well as SHS interim principal and her staff of helpers who assisted in placing the 356 signs along the parade route for the seniors last Wednesday. It was a task that we were so honored to do and I hope one will be remembered by our grads.

The Board will be very busy for the remainder of the summer months with conducting interviews for Director of Curriculum, Elementary Principal positions, our Superintendent Search, our Interim Superintendent’s evaluation and many meetings for readying our schools to resume in September. Our Board of Education members are dedicated and supportive and take their responsibilities very seriously. It hasn’t been an easy job this year, but we are working hard to join forces and do what we feel is in the best interests of our students, staff and community.