

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES  
382 LONG HILL AVENUE  
AUGUST 24, 2011**

The Board of Education met at 6:43 p.m. in Conference Room C for updates of SAC contract negotiations and secretarial union impact bargaining. Paula Ellis **moved to go into Executive Session** at 6:44 p.m.; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 7-0; motion passed. Present were Arlene Liscinsky, Win Oppel, Thomas Minotti, Paula Ellis, Kathy Yolish, Mike Pacowta, Kate Kutash, and Freeman Burr. Thomas Minotti **moved to leave Executive Session** at 7:13 p.m.; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Acting Chair Arlene Liscinsky called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:24 p.m.

Roll Call: (alpha order)

Paula Ellis

John Francino-Quinn (excused)

Kate Kutash

Arlene Liscinsky, Acting Chair

Thomas Minotti, Secretary

Win Oppel

Mike Pacowta

Timothy Walsh (excused)

Kathleen Yolish

Quorum of 7 present; 2 absent. Quorum changed to 6-3 with departure of Paula Ellis at 7:45. Quorum changed to 5-4 with departure of Win Oppel at 8:40.

Board of Education Administration present:

Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr

Assistant Superintendent, Lorraine Rossner

Director of Finance, Allan Cameron

Executive Director of Curriculum & Support Services, Kathy Bender

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Public Hearing**

Sean Gracie, 249 Deer Run, announced he was present to gather information for his Communications Merit Badge toward attaining his Eagle Scout designation.

**Approval of Agenda and Addendum**

Mike Pacowta moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Win Oppel; vote 7-0; motion passed. Win Oppel moved to approve the addendum; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 7-0; motion passed. Win Oppel moved to add item VIII.B.10, action regarding an amendment to contract with Local 1303; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 7-0; motion passed.

**Approval of Minutes**

Paula Ellis moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 27, 2011; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Win Oppel motioned to move item VII. – Superintendent’s Reports & Board Action Items forward on the agenda; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 7-0; motion passed.

**Appointments**

Paula Ellis moved to appoint Jennifer Drew to the position of reading consultant at Shelton High School; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Kathy Yolish moved to appoint Deanna Toohey to the position of reading consultant at Sunnyside School; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Win Oppel moved to appoint Nick Messina to the position of grade 4 teacher at Booth Hill School, as a recall from “reduction in force” list; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Paula Ellis moved to appoint Judy Lambert to the position of school nurse at Long Hill School; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Paula Ellis moved to appoint Dina Marks to the position of Housemaster at Shelton Intermediate School; seconded by Win Oppel; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Thomas Minotti moved to appoint Katelyn Botsford to the stipend position of cross country head girls’ coach at Shelton High School; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Thomas Minotti moved to appoint Robert Ayer to the stipend position of Social Studies Department Chair at Shelton Intermediate School; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Kate Kutash moved to appoint Mark Bilotta to the stipend position of jazz band advisor at Shelton Intermediate School; seconded by Win Oppel; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Paula Ellis moved to appoint Susan Lindsey to the position of language arts teacher at Shelton Intermediate School; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Win Oppel moved to appoint Sean O'Rourke to the position of social studies teacher at Shelton Intermediate School; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 7-0; motion passed.

### Retirements

The Board was advised of two retirements:

- Ellen Turro, elementary teacher at Long Hill School, after 34 years of service
- Dot Dziamba, music teacher at Elizabeth Shelton School, after 27 years of service

### Resignations

The Board was advised of six resignations:

- Danielle Moreau, math teacher at Shelton High School
- Douglas Packard, reading specialist at Shelton High School
- Lisa Putnam, elementary teacher at Mohegan School
- Vera Gaetano, family and consumer science teacher at Shelton High School
- Bartholomew Wasiolek, cross country head girls' coach at Shelton High School
- Katelyn Botsford, cross country girls' coach at Shelton Intermediate School

### Non-Renewals

The Board was advised of one non-renewal:

- Kelly Swanson, cheerleading coordinator at Shelton Intermediate School

### Presentations

Superintendent Burr recognized teachers who attained tenure as of July 1, 2011, followed by a brief reception for those in attendance:

Sue Albright	Shellie Lee
Michelle Bartlett	Jenna Nuzzo
Tina Basimakopoulous	Maria Olmos
Jackie Bires	Nicole Otterspoor
Katelyn Botsford	Leah Peregolise
Christine Butler	Brad Piccirillo
Patrick Cahill	Kenneth Saranich
Desiree Conway	Valerie Stanske
Elena Curran	Michael Staples
Melissa DeMarco	Kristen Supan
Mary Kate Dyke	Steven Swensen
Ashley Farrow	Jessica Swiatek
Laureen Goncalo	Hugh Tucker

***(Note: Paula Ellis departed at 7:45 p.m.)***

Freeman Burr gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation of Shelton's 2011 CMT results. The following topics were covered:

- 6 year Trend Data of CMT in grades 3-8
- 2011 Data of CMT in comparison to the State
- Content Focus areas in Math, Reading, Writing and Science
- Cohort comparisons
- Subgroup comparisons
- Program Support to Schools

A handout was provided, and questions were answered throughout the presentation.

***(Note: Win Oppel departed at 8:40 p.m.)***

### **Items Voted On**

**Kate Kutash moved to approve the following requests to conduct fundraising activities during the 2011-2012 school year; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 5-0; motion passed.**

**Mohegan School PTO**

**Booth Hill School**

**Shelton High School Marching Gaels Parents Association**

**Shelton High School PTSO**

**Shelton Intermediate School**

**Shelton Intermediate School PTO**

**Sunnyside School PTO**

**Perry Hill School PTO**

**Elizabeth Shelton School PTO**

**Thomas Minotti moved to amend the current Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Board of Education and Local 1303 as detailed in Executive Session held prior to this meeting; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 5-0; motion passed.**

### **Communications to the Board**

Acting Chair Arlene Liscinsky wished everyone a great beginning to the new school year. The schedule of back to school nights was a handout. She reminded members of the Superintendent's Back to School Meeting on August 30.

### **Reports by Standing Committees**

**Athletics** – No report was given.

**Building and Grounds** – Thomas Minotti reported the committee met with the Fire Marshal regarding the annual safety inspections of our buildings. Fire Marshal Tortora is working with Ken LaCroix to review any concerns in the schools. Mr. Tortora

anticipates the State report will be received sometime in October. The committee discussed an energy savings project. In addition, a proposal to install solar panels on the roof at Elizabeth Shelton School has been forwarded to corporation counsel for review.

**Cafeteria/Transportation** – Allan Cameron reported the grease traps will be in before school starts. Breakfast and lunch will be served at all schools except Elizabeth Shelton, which will have a breakfast program later on in the year. Today was back to school day for 70 bus drivers and aides who attended a meeting this morning. Dress rehearsal will be tomorrow with drivers simulating their assigned runs, in an effort to anticipate and reduce the first day problems. Mr. Cameron said First Student has hired more local drivers and aides who are familiar with Shelton's roads. He said there are 56 buses making 336 runs over 200 road miles; at least three people have reviewed each run. The number of combined buses for Perry Hill and Shelton Intermediate has been reduced. Parents received an AlertNow message to view the schedule of bus runs on our website. Shute assignments will be posted on the website also. Dana Urban will upload information from Versatrans to Infinite Campus no later than Monday.

**Policy/Curriculum/Technology** – Thomas Minotti gave a summary of yesterday's committee meeting. John Niski presented to the committee a proposed Booster Club policy for review and discussion, which has been sent to our attorneys. The committee is reviewing a draft bullying policy from CAFE for possible presentation to the Board in September. The draft policy includes new State mandates which are unfunded. The Safe Schools Climate Plan as well as the District Safe Schools Coordinator and the individual School Climate Specialists must be in place by January 1, 2012. Some information regarding Title IX was presented to the committee by Cheryl O'Brien. The committee's next meeting will be on September 22 at 4:00 p.m. in Conference Room A.

**Personnel** – Mike Pacowta stated the committee will meet on August 31 at 5:00 p.m.

**Finance** – Arlene Liscinsky stated the committee met last week with business as usual.

**Thomas Minotti moved that the Superintendent acknowledge receipt of the bequest from the Estate of Herbert M. Clark and that the funds be deposited into the Shelton Education Fund at the Valley Community Foundation; seconded by Kate Kutash. Discussion – Mrs. Yolish requested the Superintendent to obtain information from the Valley Community Foundation regarding the safety of the money (how much they are legally responsible to cover). Arlene Liscinsky suggested preparing a press release on the contribution. Mrs. Yolish suggested an article be written for the next *Shelton Life* newsletter. Vote 5-0; motion passed.**

#### **Reports of Special Committees**

**CES** – Arlene Liscinsky reported on the opening session she attended at RCA. The next meeting will be held September 8. CES will be hosting "So You Want to be a School Board Member" on September 12.

**CABE** – Kathy Yolish reminded members of the CABE Convention on November 18-19 at the Mystic Marriott. Pre-registration prior to September 1\* is recommended. Anyone interested in attending should contact Diane Luther. Arlene Liscinsky discussed having Nick Caruso conduct a workshop for the Board after the election to explain roles and responsibilities of Board members, as well as requirements by state statute.

*(\* CABE has since extended pre-registration date to September 6 due to weather.)*

In response to questions from Kathy Yolish, there was brief discussion of school enrollments and possible areas of concern.

**Adjournment**

**Kate Kutash moved to adjourn at 9:02 p.m.; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 5-0; motion passed.**

Diane Luther

***Diane Luther  
Recording Secretary – Board of Education  
August 31, 2011***