

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Board of Education Administrative Offices
382 Long Hill Avenue
Board Room, 2nd Floor
February 28, 2018**

Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

Quorum – 6 present; 3 absent

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 to add Mohegan School's request to fundraise under Board Action Items #A.4. Motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously. Thomas Minotti moved to approve the agenda as amended; motion seconded by Anne Gaydos and passed unanimously.

Presentations/Recognitions

Innovative Educator – Superintendent Clouet introduced SIS science teacher Eric Wolfe as recipient of this month's Innovative Educator Award, describing him as someone who demonstrates a freshness and vitality to his work and truly ignites kids and keeps them engaged and impassioned about learning. Mr. Wolf expressed appreciation to the Board for the award and to Headmaster Ken Saranich for his overwhelming support and encouragement. His PowerPoint presentation and commentary covered the SIS community garden, now in its fourth year; curriculum highlights; various student projects; and the recent addition of aquaponics and Farmbot.

Public Hearing

Charlotte Zilinek, SIS student, discussed the dress code relative to sunglasses, tinted lenses and non-prescription glasses. She presented a petition with 101 names of students who support that wearing non-prescription glasses does not negatively affect the learning process and/or experience of others in the same environment.

Approval of Minutes

Kate Kutash moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 23, 2018 and Regular Meeting of January 24, 2018; motion seconded by Anne Gaydos. Discussion. Kate Kutash made a correction to January 24 minutes to reflect quorum of 7-2. Darlisa Ritter questioned the use of the word “unanimously” in the vote to approve the Superintendent’s recommended 2018-2019 Budget Request, stating it was inaccurate because two members were absent. Chairman explained it was reflective of the members present at the meeting and was unanimous. The motion to approve with amended minutes passed with a vote of 5-0-1 (abstention Darlisa Ritter).

Communications to the Board

There were none.

Superintendent’s Commentary/Instructional Update

Superintendent Clouet mentioned the beautiful model of a school building on display in the front of the Administrative Office building. Although employee Tony Branca was not present, Dr. Clouet publicly thanked him for creating the display and overseeing the installation and said it is a symbol of the kind of artistry and commitment we have in the district. Suggestion was made to add a small plaque to the display for Mr. Branca’s recognition.

Strategic Plan Update – Dr. Clouet stated plans are underway for a well-publicized community event to be held on a Saturday afternoon this spring at SIS to include technology, the arts, and the vibrancy of our school district in the context of our strategic planning work. He said work continues on the Shelton Vision of a Graduate; various groups are proposing ideas to define what our vision of a graduate would be, and that will be brought to the Board for consideration.

Teacher Absence Analysis – Superintendent Clouet clarified that the analysis is not of individuals but looks at school patterns. Carole Pannozzo discussed the report in the agenda packet, which includes data from 8/29/17 through 1/24/18, noting a very healthy and good teacher attendance for all of our schools and commending teachers and administrators. Mrs. Pannozzo addressed questions from members concerning field trips and FMLA.

CTSDE Index Rankings – Superintendent Clouet explained the evolution of the Next Generation of Accountability. He stated Connecticut’s approved plan is a good plan but is a work in progress, noting we have met recently with the Chief from the State Department of Education to help them change the accountability system. He said the Connecticut accountability system was recently reported on in the newspaper and has been a topic at the Board level with continued discussion planned.

Tina Henckel reviewed the 12 Indicators, which provide a broad set of variables relative to a student’s success story from grades 3 through preparation for college, career and life, going beyond test scores and focusing more on growth. It looks at the indicators relative to a student’s full story within their school environment. Vicky White explained the new accountability system has a definition for groups that may be “High Needs” (students from low-income families, English learners, or students with disabilities). Vicky stated we have had a growth in our EL population, approaching 400 students, of which 240 are currently identified as representing approximately 37 languages. Dan DiVito gave a brief overview of the district scores for each indicator. Questions and comments from board members were addressed throughout the presentation.

Dr. Clouet stated individual school-based meetings have been scheduled where he will be joined by Lorraine Rossner, Tina Henckel and Vicky White to meet with principals and their leadership teams to review their ESSA data. He said our academic performance went up slightly, but our overall score went down very slightly (essentially flat), which is largely related to the targets. He said a future discussion about the issue of targets will take place in Teaching and Learning.

Next Generation Science Standards – Tina Henckel, SIS Science Curriculum Leader Tina Genova, and PHS Math/Science Teacher and Science Curriculum Writer Jamie Drezek presented information on newly adopted NGSS and provided a handout. Three-dimensional learning is the focus and mantra that shifted science standards. Tina Genova discussed the three areas looked at when writing curriculum relative to science standards - core ideas, practices and crosscutting concepts. Tina Henckel said the State provided a five-year timeline relative to the shift in science standards, and we are a year ahead of what we expected. Our students will be taking the Next Generation Science Assessment this fall in lieu of the CMT and/or CAPT. Tina Henckel stated with the shift to NGSS, we are now completely aligned with the same grade level assessments that we are implementing across ELA, Math and Math/Science. Tina Henckel and Tina Genova discussed the NGSS field tests coming this spring and noted there are practice tests online at cportal.gov.

Approved Field Trips

Board Members were apprised of approved field trips for Robotics Championship competitions in Boston and Detroit.

Items Voted on

Kate Kutash moved to approve the 2018-2019 district academic calendar; motion seconded by Thomas Minotti and passed unanimously.

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the request of the Intermediate School of Innovation to create a GoFundMe page to raise money to fund a water well in South Sudan; motion seconded by Darlisa Ritter and passed unanimously.

Thomas Minotti moved to accept on behalf of Shelton High School a donation of \$523.20 from Winpro to purchase library books; motion seconded by Kate Kutash. Discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to approve the request of Mohegan School to conduct a fundraiser as described in their letter; motion seconded by Anne Gaydos and passed unanimously.

Comments by the Board Chair

Chairman Holden commented on last night's successful School Security program; SHS Science Fair; SHS Unified Sports Basketball games; Gael Goods Store grand opening.

Reports of Standing Committees

Teaching & Learning – Anne Gaydos reviewed the topics of the February 12 committee meeting including Dr. Smith's presentation of Class of 2022 Graduation Requirements; tour of Gael Goods School Store, STEM Lab, Health Studies Room, Journalism Lab, Yearbook Lab, and TV Studio; presentation of University of Bridgeport dual course enrollment; additional Housatonic Community College CCP dual course enrollment courses; College Board CLEP; CT Seal of Bi-literacy; SHS Diploma of Distinction Requirements; Emergency Preparedness STEP Program presentation to all grade 5 and 6 students; Accountability Index discussion. Next meeting date is March 13 at 4 p.m. with tentative agenda items of Project ExcEL and Job Sharing at PHS.

Finance Committee – Thomas Minotti stated the committee met on February 21 and an Executive Session was called to discuss Transportation bids and a document protected by attorney/client privilege. Mr. Minotti stated beginning with the March Finance Committee meeting, all supporting documents for the check register will be available for Board members to review between 1:00 and 3:45 p.m. prior to the meeting.

Thomas Minotti moved to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee to establish the Open Loop Gift Card Program; motion seconded by Darlisa Ritter and passed unanimously. Chairman Holden explained this is a program to allow teachers to have access to online purchases where purchase orders are not accepted and also can be used at places like The Dollar Store so the district can save money on supplies.

Thomas Minotti moved to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee to consider a donation to the Shelton High School Hall of Fame; motion seconded by Darlisa Ritter. Discussion. Tom Minotti said the district will purchase the inside cover of the program book. Motion passed unanimously.

Policy Committee – Kate Kutash stated the committee met on February 12 and began work on a Social Media by-law, which is ongoing.

Kate Kutash moved to approve the Graduation Requirements for the Classes of 2022 (incoming freshmen this fall); motion seconded by Darlisa Ritter and passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to approve the Connecticut Seal of Bi-literacy Proposal to sit for review until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education; motion seconded by Thomas Minotti and passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to approve the SHS Diploma of Distinction Proposal to sit for review until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education; motion seconded by Thomas Minotti and passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be held March 13 at 5:00 p.m. to continue work on the Social Media by-law.

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Thomas Minotti reported no regular meeting was held in February. A special meeting was held to introduce the RESC council members to the CES campus. The next regular meeting will be March 1.

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

Kathy Yolish commented on the visit to SHS by Chinese students and said it was a wonderful day for all the students involved. She commended Dr. Smith, the staff and students for the orderly fire drill.

Kate Kutash attended the SHS Concert Band and Concert Choir performance and each performed well.

Mark Holden stated April 4 is the budget interview with the Board of Apportionment and Taxation and Board of Aldermen. Time will be announced. He encouraged attendance and support. Mr. Holden said there will be a demonstration by the Gaelhawks Robotics team downstairs in the Robotics Center at the conclusion of this meeting. He mentioned upcoming competitions and said the fact that they have a practice field this year should be a tremendous advantage for them in the competitions.

Adjournment

Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Diane Luther

Secretary to Board of Education

March 7, 2018