

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
SHELTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
DECEMBER 21, 2009**

The Board met at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. **Motion was made by Win Oppel to enter into Executive Session at 6:35 p.m.; seconded by Kathy Yolish; motion passed.** All Board Members were in attendance with the exception of Paula Ellis (Mike Pacowta arrived at 6:45 and Thomas Minotti arrived at 6:50). Freeman Burr, Allan Cameron and Rita McDougald-Campbell were invited to stay. Win Oppel **made a motion to leave Executive Session at 7:22 p.m.; seconded by Mike Pacowta; motion passed.**

Chairman Timothy Walsh called the Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:29 p.m.

Roll Call: (alpha order)
Paula Ellis (arrived 8:36 p.m.)
John Francino-Quinn
Kate Kutash
Arlene Liscinsky
Thomas Minotti
Win Oppel
Mike Pacowta
Timothy Walsh
Kathleen Yolish

Initial quorum of 8 present and 1 absent until the arrival of Paula Ellis, changing it to full quorum of 9 present.

Board of Education Administration present:
Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr
Director of Finance, Allan Cameron
Director of Human Resources, Rita McDougald-Campbell
Director of Instruction, Patricia Curran
Director of Special Education, Valentina Parchin
Operations Manager, William Banfe

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

The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Walsh addressed his comments made at the previous Board Meeting. Mr. Walsh thanked administrators, teachers, secretaries, nurses, paraprofessionals, custodial and maintenance personnel, and reading assistants for working together with the administration to resolve the problem of layoffs. Special gratitude was extended to Deb Keller and her leadership committee for their magnificent idea that both the Superintendent and Board felt would work. Mr. Walsh announced that at this time there will be no layoffs on January 15.

Superintendent Burr noted the combined effort of the bargaining unit leadership members who met with the sole purpose of ensuring there would be no layoffs for the remainder of this school year. He expressed appreciation for the creative thinking of the SEA members on how to address the deficit. The result will be no closing of school for any days while being able to generate cost savings to help mitigate this year's budget. Mr. Burr noted that while this year's budget will be mitigated, it does not at all address what we have ahead in terms of the challenges with next year's budget. He encouraged community support when the Board works with Apportionment & Taxation and the aldermen next year.

Chairman Walsh stated the mayor indicated to the Superintendent that the City will do its part and that support is anticipated.

Public Hearing

The following people addressed the Board regarding budget concerns, teacher layoffs, and possible cuts to music and athletic programs:

Joseph Linebarger, 10 George Street
Dan Guerrera, 19 Chamberlain Drive
Joshua and Jules Cayer, 23 Cayer Circle
Rebecca Zaleski, 8 Shinacock Trail
Al Minopoli, 65 Treeland Road
Colleen Batterson, 108 Okenuck Way
Danielle Victoria, 320 Beardsley Road

Carley Mackie, 1001 Bridgeport Avenue
Danielle Victoria, 320 Beardsley Road
Chris Rivera, 60 Grove Street
Carole Sylvester, 41 Greystone
Sarah Kutash, 275 Beardsley Road
Dr. Lori Monaco, 96 Longmeadow Road*
Joanna Ciambriello, 27 Daybreak Lane

(Note: Tape 1, side B – 8:15 p.m.)*

There being no one else who wished to address the Board, Chairman Walsh closed the public session.

Approval of Agenda

Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Leave of Absence

Win Oppel moved to approve the unpaid leave of absence for the remainder of the school year for Lisa Putnam, teacher at Booth Hill School; seconded by John Francino-Quinn; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Consideration of Superintendent's Recommended 2010-2011 Budget

Arlene Liscinsky thanked the bargaining units and expressed appreciation to those parents who made recommendations for cost savings, noting that most of the items submitted are already being addressed and others will be investigated. Mrs. Liscinsky reviewed a list of accomplished savings initiatives that was presented to the Board of Aldermen and A&T at last year's budget session. Included were areas of transportation, administration, health insurance, electricity, non-resident student hot line, staff reductions, programs, negotiations and operations.

(Note: Paula Ellis arrived – 8:36 p.m.)

Arlene Liscinsky moved to adopt the Superintendent's recommended 2010-2011 budget presentation in the amount of \$66,549,888; seconded by Win Oppel. Discussion – Win Oppel stated the Board is accepting a framework and the internal components of the Superintendent's recommendation can be adjusted in a number of different ways. Timothy Walsh noted the recommendation represents a 5.6% increase; and due to the fact that we received a 0% increase last year, that represents 2.8% over two years. **Vote 8-1 (Nay – Paula Ellis); motion passed.**

Adjournment

Paula Ellis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m., seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 9-0; motion carried.

Diane Luther

***Diane Luther
Recording Secretary – Board of Education
December 29, 2009***