

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Board of Education Administrative Offices
382 Long Hill Avenue
Board Room, 2nd Floor
March 22, 2017**

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

Roll Call:

Mark Holden, Chairman	Kate Kutash
Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman	Win Oppel (via Skype)
Arlene Liscinsky, Secretary	Darlisa Ritter
David Gioiello	Kathleen Yolish
Faith Hack	

Full Quorum

Board of Education Administration present: Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Christopher Clouet; Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Lorraine Rossner; Finance Director, Dominic Barone; Human Resources Director, Carole Pannozzo

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the agenda; motion seconded by Faith Hack. Thomas Minotti moved to amend the agenda by adding two motions under new business to accept a check from the Herbert Clark Fund and approve funding support for Robotics trip to St. Louis; motion to amend seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously. Motion to approve amended agenda passed unanimously.

Presentations/Recognitions

Dr. Clouet passed around to members a kit from Immigration Services relative to the upcoming Naturalization Ceremony.

Athletic Director John Niski was congratulated for being selected to receive the Robert Duncanson Meritorious Service Award from Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors, which recognizes athletic administrators for exemplary service to high school athletics in Connecticut and pays tribute to those who have administered their programs with integrity, dignity and honor. John will be honored at CAAD's Awards banquet on March 23.

Superintendent Clouet announced CABA's Board Member Appreciation Month and expressed appreciation of our board for their volunteer service.

Public Hearing

No one from the public spoke.

Approval of Minutes

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting and Regular Meeting of February 22, 2017; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Communications to the Board

There were none.

Superintendent's Instructional Update

Superintendent Clouet noted that the Drug Free Community Grant has been submitted. He stated we are in compliance with a prerequisite to submittal of six months of meetings with all required documentation of agenda/minutes, and adherence to committee member qualifications. Lorraine Rossner was thanked for her role in preparing the grant.

Strategic Plan Update – Dr. Clouet stated a fruitful, positive meeting of the focus group chairs was held today to discuss some of the things we'd like to put in place for next year. Work is ongoing, and a full report will be made to the board at the end of the year.

Superintendent Clouet said recently the State of Connecticut announced Schools of Distinction across the state, and he congratulated Booth Hill, Elizabeth Shelton, Long Hill and Sunnyside. He discussed the criteria for selection (highest performing and/or highest growth). He noted that Mohegan is one of the highest performing schools in the district and state and, in his view, should have been on the list. However, because of the way the state designs the qualifications, points can be reduced related to non-academic achievement, which will be a focus next year. He said all of our teachers and leadership are working very hard and producing excellent results.

Literacy Supervisor Victoria White, along with team members Maria Zampano, Kristen Festa and Deanna Toohey, provided the board with an overview of literacy instruction in the district, focusing on new standards and strategies for EL students. There were questions from board members and discussion. It was announced that a fourth grade team representing Sunnyside School achieved Highest Honors in the recent **WordMasters Challenge**, a national vocabulary competition.

Dr. Clouet discussed the upcoming Shelton Public Schools Open House on April 6, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Perry Hill Schools for all parents of children enrolling in grades K-8. There was brief discussion of the Project ExcEL grant.

Approved Field Trips

There were none.

Items Voted on

Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee to join with the Town of Stratford in their lawsuit regarding the tuition payment for the Bridgeport Magnet School and that we agree to pay \$2,500 per year over the next two years. Motion seconded by Thomas Minotti and discussion followed. Motion passed with vote of 8-0-1 (abstention by David Gioiello).

(Note: Tape 1, Side B at 7:50 p.m.)

Comments by the Board Chair

Chairman Holden commented on the SHS Science Fair winners advancing to the state level with 6 of the 8 students receiving awards; Winter Percussion Band qualified for New England Regionals; Robotics competition in MA; Future Chef Competition; PHS Invention Convention; A Day on the Hill. Mr. Holden discussed the Mayor's recommended budget as well as potential consequences of inadequate state funding.

Reports of Standing Committees

Teaching & Learning – Thomas Minotti stated the committee did not meet in March due to weather. Committee is scheduled to meet next on April 4 at 4 p.m.

Finance Committee – Arlene Liscinsky stated the committee met on March 21. Topics covered were Special Ed overruns and some other small concerns; cafeteria amendment to be signed; Fairchild Wheeler Magnet School update and lawsuit.

Policy Committee – Kate Kutash said the committee did not meet in March due to weather and is scheduled to meet on April 4 at 5 p.m.

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Arlene Liscinsky reviewed topics of last meeting. The next meeting will be held April 6.

CABE – Faith Hack referred to the newsletter included in packet.

Unfinished Business

There was nothing to discuss.

New Business

Thomas Minotti moved to accept on behalf of Shelton High School a \$5,687 check from the Valley Community Foundation/Herbert Clark Fund to be used for the enhancement of teaching science solely through purchase of science equipment and technology; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Thomas Minotti moved to allocate \$2,500 to be split between the SIStematics and Gaelhawks Robotics teams for expenses related to trip to St. Louis Championship event; motion seconded by Faith Hack and approved unanimously.

For Your Information

Chairman Holden noted the attachments in the packet including Vacancy Report, Staff and Stipend Actions, Enrollment Report.

Highlights

Kathy Yolish discussed board member participation in Read Across America events throughout the district. She suggested invitations to events should be emailed to board members rather than left in mailboxes. Kate Kutash stated the Perry Hill School Spelling Bee will be held on March 30 at 6:00 p.m. David Gioiello thanked Superintendent Clouet for participating and representing the district well in a forum on bullying this past Monday, which was well attended by members of the community. Mark Holden referenced the press release about Sunnyside School's fourth grade team achieving Highest Honors in the **WordMasters Challenge**. Mr. Holden stated the four elementary schools being named Schools of Distinction is astounding; and, while being frugal, there are great things happening on a daily basis in our schools.

Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Diane Luther

**Secretary to Board of Education
March 29, 2017**