

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
382 LONG HILL AVENUE
MAY 25, 2011**

The Board of Education met at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room C for an update on contract negotiations. Win Oppel **moved to go into Executive Session** at 7:00 p.m.; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 6-0; motion passed. Members present were Arlene Liscinsky, Win Oppel, Mike Pacowta, Kate Kutash, Kathy Yolish and Paula Ellis. Invited to stay were Freeman Burr and James Brant. Kate Kutash **moved to leave Executive Session** at 7:20 p.m.; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 6-0; motion passed.

Acting Chair Arlene Liscinsky called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:29 p.m.

Roll Call: (alpha order)

Paula Ellis

John Francino-Quinn (excused)

Kate Kutash

Arlene Liscinsky, Vice Chair

Thomas Minotti, Secretary (excused)

Win Oppel

Mike Pacowta

Timothy Walsh, Chair (excused)

Kathleen Yolish

Quorum of 6 present; 3 absent

Board of Education Administration present:

Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr

Director of Finance, Allan Cameron

Interim Director of Human Resources, James Brant

Acting Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Support Services, Kathy Bender

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

The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing

Students representing the Student Spaceflight Experiment team, accompanied by teacher Mary Clark, expressed gratitude to the Board for the opportunity to travel to Florida to witness the launch of Endeavour, which is scheduled to return on June 1. The team was recently invited to share their project with the Fairfield University community. The students presented memorabilia to Board Members.

No one else addressed the Board, and the public portion was closed.

Approval of Agenda and Addendum

Paula Ellis moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 6-0; motion passed. Win Oppel moved to approve the addendum; seconded by Paula Ellis; vote 6-0; motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Paula Ellis moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 27, 2011; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 4-2-0 (abstentions by Win Oppel and Mike Pacowta); motion passed.

Presentations

Student Recognition – Kelli Freer was commended for her achievement as National Merit Scholarship Finalist. Shelton High School Swim team members Nicole DeMarco, Kelli Freer, David Stein and James Szabo were applauded for being named Swimming Academic All Americans for earning a varsity letter and maintaining a 3.75 GPA throughout all four years in high school. Both the SHS Girls' Swim team and Boys' Swim team received Scholar Team Awards, of which there are only 195 teams nationwide that are recipients of this prestigious honor. The captains, coaches and parents were acknowledged.

Valley United Way Award - Shelton received the award for Outstanding Community Support for Top Dollars Raised Campaign 2010-2011 for the second year in a row. Mr. Burr recognized Sandy Zuraw and Kathy Riddle for their efforts.

Shelton Public Schools 2014 Draft Strategic Plan – Freeman Burr will email copies to all Board Members for review and feedback. Mr. Burr will send out possible dates for scheduling a workshop for the Board and committee chairs for the purpose of making revisions to the draft.

Communications to the Board

Mr. Burr discussed a letter received from Leslie Miklus, a grandparent who accompanied the Shelton High School French Club to France. She commended Lynn Dixon, Wendy Stowe, and Joan and Michael Tichy for their part in arranging such an outstanding trip.

Appointments

Paula Ellis moved to approve the appointment of Lisa Huber to the position of Career and Technology Education Teacher at Shelton High School; seconded by Win Oppel; vote 6-0; motion passed:

Retirements

The Board was advised of the following retirements:

- Dianne Hanson Sandberg, school counselor at Long Hill School and Elizabeth Shelton School, effective June 30, 2011, after 17 years of service.
- Richard Wilson, social studies teacher at Shelton High School, effective June 30, 2011, after 35 years of service
- Lynda Coyle, elementary teacher at Mohegan School, effective June 30, 2011, after 25 years of service

Resignations

The Board was advised of the resignation of Vincent Wynne, Junior Class Tri-Advisor at Shelton High School.

Leaves of Absence

The Board was advised of the following leaves of absence for the 2011-2012 school year:

- Jaclyn DeLoma, gr. 5 teacher at Perry Hill School, one year general leave of absence
- Amy Conklin, Spanish teacher at Shelton High School, one year general leave of absence

Instructional Update

Freeman Burr recognized Faylynn Haight for submitting a request and receiving a mini-grant for Geometry All Around Us, a research-based program for gr. 5&6 that focuses on our STEM initiative.

Mr. Burr discussed the formation of a focus group to work on the instructional program for kindergarten. He gave an update on the district-wide language arts curriculum units and indicated the first two units K-6 for next year will be in district forms within a week or two. The plan is to have all units completed and in district forms by the completion of this school year. The second phase will be to post them on the web site for parents to view by June 30.

Items Voted On

Paula Ellis moved to grant permission to the Superintendent in consultation with the Board Chairman to fill instructional vacancies in June, July and August 2011; seconded by Win Oppel; vote 6-0; motion passed.

Paula Ellis moved to approve 3 grant proposals for Valley Regional Adult Education: Preparing the 21st Century Workforce; Family Literacy Services; English Literacy and Civics; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 6-0; motion passed.

Win Oppel moved to approve the reappointment of the stipend positions listed on the attached; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 6-0; motion passed.

Comments by the Board Chair

Arlene Liscinsky gave an update on Tim Walsh.

Reports by Standing Committees

Athletics – John Niski said he forwarded to the Superintendent and Corporation Counsel regulations and guidelines for booster clubs. This topic will be addressed at the Athletics Committee meeting on June 6, at 9 a.m. John Niski discussed renovation of the high school baseball field and girls soccer field. He reported on spring sports teams. Mr. Niski confirmed the repair portion of the track was about \$28,000.

Building and Grounds – Win Oppel said the committee will meet sometime before the next Board meeting.

Cafeteria/Transportation – Kate Kutash stated the committee met on May 3. She said Booth Hill and Mohegan began serving breakfast on May 2 and that most of the elementary schools are on a grab-and-go basis. Elizabeth Shelton is the only school not started yet and will begin in the new school year. Kate Kutash said the process of applying for free and reduced lunch all out of Central Office is working extremely well. Point of sale system went online April 27. Mrs. Kutash said the grease traps for the schools that are not on septic have not been installed yet, but that process is ongoing. As far as financial results, so far there is a deficit situation; May and June sales are usually better. As far as Transportation, the routing for tiers 1, 2 and 3 are finished. completed. There will be fewer combined buses at SIS and Perry Hill. The part-time vacant position in Transportation has been filled.

Policy/Curriculum/Technology –

Kate Kutash moved to approve Policy #6146.2, Promotion/Acceleration/Retention, which has been reviewed; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 6-0; motion passed.

Kate Kutash moved to approve Policy Revision Proposal #5134, Student Transportation, which has been reviewed; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 6-0; motion passed.

Personnel –

Win Oppel moved to approve the position of Virtual High School Site Coordinator as recommended by the Policy, Finance and Personnel Committees; seconded by Mike Pacowta. Discussion – It was confirmed that the stipend amount for the position is \$3,901. Arlene Liscinsky noted that the money has been reallocated from other stipend positions that are no longer “valid.” Vote 6-0; motion passed.

Mike Pacowta moved to table approval of a vetting process that would include input from the SEA, SAC, Board Members and Central Office Staff when filling the Director of Human Resources position and Executive Director of Curriculum Development and Support Services position; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 6-0; motion passed.

Finance – Arlene Liscinsky stated the committee met earlier tonight. She reviewed the appropriation given to us by the Board of Aldermen was exactly what the Mayor recommended. That amount is \$63,700,000, with \$250,000 additional included in the City budget for the unemployment costs associated with last year.

Win Oppel moved to approve the proposed preliminary allocation of the 2011-2012 budget of \$63,700,000; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 6-0; motion passed.

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Arlene Liscinsky referred to her report, which was included in the packet. Upcoming meetings will be in June and September.

CABE – Kathy Yolish distributed a report on her attendance at the NSBA Conference and spoke briefly on her experience. Next year's conference will be in Boston.

Superintendent Burr recognized Peggy Camp as an inspiration and encouraged all to support her efforts for Relay for Life.

Kathy Yolish commended Dr. Beth Smith for an excellent Book & Achievement Awards Ceremony and also those involved with the production of Bye Bye Birdie.

Adjournment

Paula Ellis moved to adjourn at 8:21 p.m.; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 6-0; motion passed.

Diane Luther

Diane Luther

Recording Secretary – Board of Education

June 1, 2011