

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
382 LONG HILL AVENUE
BOARD ROOM, 2ND FLOOR
MARCH 27, 2013**

Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:04 p.m.

Roll Call:

John Francino-Quinn (excused)
Mark Holden, Chairman
Arlene Liscinsky, Secretary
Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman
Win Oppel

James Oraziotti (excused)
Mike Pacowta (excused)
Timothy Walsh
Kathleen Yolish

Quorum – 6 present; 3 absent

Board of Education Administration present:

Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr
Assistant Superintendent, Lorraine Rossner
Finance Director, Allan Cameron
Executive Director of Curriculum & Support Services, Kathleen Bender
Human Resources Director, Carole PannoZZo

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Hearing

There were no public comments.

Approval of Agenda

Timothy Walsh moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Win Oppel; vote 6-0; motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 23, 2013; Regular Meeting of January 23, 2013; Special Meeting of February 13, 2013; Special Meeting of March 20, 2013; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; (Win Oppel abstained from both meetings of January 23. Kathy Yolish abstained from meeting of February 13); motion passed.

Presentations

Shelton High School junior Lenni Paolini was recognized for being elected DECA President at the Connecticut State Level for the upcoming 2013-2014 academic year. Chairman Mark Holden announced that the board will help fund Lenni's upcoming DECA related travel per her request.

Finalists at the Connecticut State Science Fair were congratulated:

Rigel Mahmood, gr. 11, for her project "An Unsupervised Detection of Alzheimer's Disease from MRI Scans Using Diffeomorphism, Principal Component Analysis, and Artificial Neural Networks."

Joseph Niski, gr. 9 (on behalf of co-project members Casey Cisero and Ian Diaz) for "Blades of Fury – Wind Blade Efficiency and Effectiveness of Windmill Blade Designs."

Board members were recognized during Board Appreciation Month for their service and commitment of much time.

Instructional Update

Superintendent's Commentary – Freeman Burr announced the winner of The Weller Excellence in Teaching Award is Andrea D'Aiuto, who was also a recipient of a mini-grant last year. Principal Susan Arpin described Andrea as an exemplary teacher with outstanding technology skills, and spoke about her biography project, "A Day in the Life."

Superintendent Burr noted the revised 2012-2013 District Calendar reflects the loss of April recess and shows the last day of school is June 21 with graduation on June 20.

Freeman Burr reported on a State Department of Education teacher evaluation meeting he attended with Lorraine Rossner and Kathy Bender. Lorraine and Kathy had pooled together the work that the teacher and administrative committee had done in the summer, made revisions to our existing document, and presented the information to Sarah Barzee and Claudine Privet. Three minor suggestions were made; they felt the work that was done and what we have relative to the Marshall model is acceptable and could be used as a pilot. A meeting will be scheduled next week with SEA executive leadership to share the model and discuss concerns. Shelton has an extension until May 3 to submit their pilot model for the evaluation tool.

Mr. Burr said the Shelton Education Endowment Fund is once again funding mini-grants, and staff has received communication to submit innovative projects. There will be 8 awards of \$250 each to be presented at a SEEF spring event at Il Palio. The SEEF-sponsored Spelling Bee, which was committee member Sandy Mahony's idea, will be held at 7 p.m. on April 3 at Perry Hill. The goal is to have a district-wide event in the future.

Superintendent Burr said we are done with one assessment, but it is quite possible there will be a practice spring (late April or early May) assessment on the Common Core State Standards in reading and language arts. This assessment promises to deliver both district-wide and school-based results as baseline data to determine where we stand with the transition to Common Core, which will begin 2015. CAPT science will not go away in 2015, since there is no replacement for science yet.

Items Voted On

Win Oppel moved to approve the following fundraising requests for the 2013 season:

**SHS Boys Lacrosse Club
SHS Girls Lacrosse Parents' Club
SHS Diamond Club**

Motion was seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 6-0; motion passed.

Win Oppel moved to turn over the portable classrooms at Perry Hill School to the City of Shelton, in accordance with discussions between Superintendent Burr and Mayor Lauretti; seconded by Thomas Minotti. Discussion: Freeman Burr provided background information that led to decision. It was suggested that a letter to the Mayor should inform him of the board's action and state the importance of respect for daytime school activity with a shared driveway and expectation of no negative impact on operation of the school. Timothy Walsh questioned the parliamentary process relative to a vote by prior board. It was determined the vote in question did not include mention of the portables. Mr. Walsh also expressed concerns about the structure of the new standing committees as it relates to board members being informed and decision-making, and it was suggested that this topic could be discussed and evaluated at an upcoming Lighthouse meeting. Vote 5-1 (Nay – Timothy Walsh); motion passed.

Comments by the Board Chair

Chairman Holden stated the Board of Education's budget interview will be on April 9 at 6 p.m. in the Auditorium at City Hall. Mr. Holden discussed the BOE budget proposal and said the board tried to develop the most frugal approach while still maintaining standards and trying to achieve some improvements. He stated that while the Mayor's proposed budget is not everything we hoped for, there are indications they are willing to work with us.

Mark Holden discussed a request by some board members to video the board meetings and having them broadcast on the Public Access Channel. This may be brought up in the future as a board action item. Chairman Holden encouraged board members to make their opinions known to him so that options can be considered.

Reports of Standing Committees

Teaching and Learning – Thomas Minotti reviewed the meeting of March 12 and minutes have been posted. The next meeting is April 9 at 3:30 p.m.

Policy – Kathy Yolish said the committee did not meet last month. The committee will meet on April 2 at 4:30 p.m.

Finance – Arlene Liscinsky reviewed the meeting held March 20. She said last year's budget was reviewed by the auditors and \$7,374 was left over. Discussion ensued regarding costs for health insurance and transportation and possible impact on the budget. Allan Cameron discussed the status of the 7 bus bids received for the third party service agreement on transportation; meetings are being held, final interviews will take place, and a recommendation will be made. Freeman Burr clarified that we will not have 60 buses in July, but buses will be available for summer school.

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Arlene Liscinsky spoke about the Commissioner's attendance at the recent CES board meeting and reviewed the topics discussed (teacher reform; teacher evaluation; burden of proof; mandate relief; financial strain for districts relative to administering new teacher evaluation; technology for testing). Arlene will pass along information on FLMA policy revision once CES approves.

CABE – Kathy Yolish said Superintendent Burr attended Day on the Hill. She mentioned April 2 will be the Common Core State Standards workshop presented by CABE.

For Your Information

Chairman Mark Holden referenced the attachments in packet including Enrollment and Vacancy Reports. The following items were noted:

Staff Appointment:

Lori McKulsky, part-time reading teacher/SHS, effective 2/25/13; Step 7, Level 3

Staff Resignation:

Mary Pagliaro, Spanish Teacher/SHS, resignation from leave of absence, effective 2/28/13

Staff Retirement:

Barbara Sastram, Paraprofessional/Sunnyside School, effective 2/20/13 after 30 years

Stipend Reappointments:

Kevin Chavez, Summer School Co-Director
Darla Lussier, Summer School Co-Director

Stipend Resignation:

Cynthia Filicko, Assistant Coach/Boys' Volleyball, SHS

Arlene Liscinsky questioned the personnel openings listed on the Vacancy Report. Carole Pannozzo discussed the positions and stated the paraprofessional and security guard positions are subject to the Merit System process. Carole Pannozzo was asked to send a letter to Tom Taylor requesting action by a set date and to copy board members.

Highlights

Timothy Walsh brought attention to a March 23 article in the Connecticut Post sports section concerning three Shelton High School gymnasts who were named to the All Star Gymnastics Team and asked that they be invited to next month's meeting for recognition.

Kathy Yolish referenced several articles on education that she wrote for *Shelton Life*. She commented that there were 14 projects when the Science Fair began 13 years ago; this year there were 238 projects. She discussed the CMT night at Long Hill School; Booth Hill School's Celebration of Caring; Mark Holden and a group of members of the Booth Memorial Astronomical Society's program at Long Hill School's Literacy Night; and noted the "Above and Beyond" article which outlines the projects and generosity of teachers, staff and students in response to Hurricane Sandy and the tragedy in Sandy Hook.

Chairman Holden commented that one of the judges at the State Science Fair at Quinnipiac University mentioned in the judges meeting that Rigel Mahmood's project (An Automatic Unsupervised Detection of Alzheimer's Disease from MRI Scans Using Diffeomorphism, Principal Component Analysis, and Artificial Neural Networks) was a project that would have been impressive for a Yale medical student. Mr. Holden commended Kathy Yolish for doing an incredible job for us with *Shelton Life*. He encouraged principals to contact him if they are interested in having an astronomy program at their schools.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Diane Luther

Diane Luther

Recording Secretary – Board of Education

April 4, 2013