

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Board of Education Administrative Offices
382 Long Hill Avenue
Board Room, 2nd Floor
December 19, 2018**

Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:06 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

Quorum: 8 present; 1 absent

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

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

Kathy Yolish moved to approve the agenda; motion seconded by Amanda Kilmartin. Darlisa Ritter moved to amend the agenda to add the following items: Report on the Legislative Breakfast to Superintendent's Commentary and Ad Hoc Committee for Superintendent's Evaluation under Unfinished Business. Motion to amend was seconded by Amanda Kilmartin and passed unanimously. Thomas Minotti moved to approve the agenda as amended; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and approved unanimously.

Presentations/Recognitions

Innovative Educator Award – Superintendent Clouet introduced December's Innovative Educator, Amanda Wandishion, Grade 4 Literacy Teacher at Elizabeth Shelton School. Mrs. Wandishion discussed the following strategies and resources she uses to enhance instruction in her classes and followed up with a video: Habits of Mind; Newsela Pro; Energy Bursts; Student Led Conferences; Flocabulary. Principal Beverly Belden described some of Mrs. Wandishion's unique activities and said she raises the full child, not just addressing the educational component but the social needs and what they are going to need to be able to care for others and be good citizens for a community.

Redistricting Update – Rebecca Augur, Associate and Principal Planner with Milone & MacBroom, provided a handout and gave a detailed presentation including demographic and housing analyses, enrollment trends, enrollment projections (focused on elementary) and facilities utilization. Ms. Augur said the data shown is what Milone & MacBroom will be using for redistricting purposes. Discussion and questions followed. Dr. Clouet stated it is just the beginning of a very thorough process. In the next couple months there will be some public sessions for members of the community that might be most impacted.

Public Hearing

No one from the public spoke.

Approval of Minutes

Kate Kutash moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting at 5:30 on November 28, 2018; Special Meeting at 6:30 on November 28, 2018; Regular Meeting on November 28, 2018; motion seconded by Kathy Yolish and passed unanimously.

Communications to the Board

There were no communications.

Superintendent's Reports & Action Items

Dr. Clouet distributed and commented on documents that are a result of our Strategic Planning work. He said the booklet entitled The Shelton Way – The Vision of a Graduate, which was printed by People's United Bank, tells a story about how we are creating a pathway for students to become thoughtful, adaptable adults. He asked Vicky White to talk about how we are connecting The Vision of a Graduate and Milestones to actual curriculum. Vicky White said they coordinated with Technology to create an aspect of the Website that coincides with some of the documents and then showed how to access the information. Superintendent Clouet stated private schools do a very good job at defining who they are, what they do, their ethos, their identity, and public schools need to do that as well. Our district has a lot to show and a lot to be proud of, and that is what this is about. Vicky White gave a slide presentation and commentary on Defined STEM/NewsELA. She explained that teaching has evolved over time with more responsibility in different content areas in Social Emotional Learning, and providing teachers with quality resources in a streamlined fashion is one of the things NewsELA and Defined STEM are able to do.

Lorraine Rossner said with the recent approval of the new attendance policy, a culminating activity is DART (District Attendance Review Team), which is a combination of administrators, support staff, police and probation. Students who are referred to the committee have reached a danger point in their attendance to the point where it will affect their ability to accrue credit. The credit problem occurs at the high school, but the team also sees the opportunity to reach out to students at the elementary and intermediate level. Ms. Rossner discussed the first meeting held which included the students and guardians. It is anticipated that DART will have a positive impact on attendance for the students who wish to participate in the process.

Dan DiVito gave a detailed overview of the H Drives situation that occurred in early October and is still in the process of being fully restored. He responded to questions from board members. Dr. Clouet commended Dan for his handling of the situation and the way in which he has worked with staff.

(Note: Tape 1, Side B at 8:37 p.m.)

Superintendent Clouet discussed the Legislative Breakfast held in early December at CES attended by Mark Holden and himself. He said it was feisty but with no great insights into what's going to happen; however, there was some discussion of Burden of Proof.

Approved Field Trips

There were none.

Donor Projects

A listing of current donor projects by school was included in packet.

Items Presented for Vote

Kate Kutash moved to approve the request of SHS FIRST Robotics Team 230 to conduct fundraising activities during the 2018-2019 school year; motion seconded by Amanda Kilmartin and passed unanimously.

Comments by the Board Chair

Chairman Holden commented relative to the Legislative Breakfast that there is only one returning person on the Education Committee. Mr. Holden said he was impressed with the digital content presented in videos and handouts tonight and thinks it would be good for the board to find more ways to get that information out, perhaps sharing it on social media or public access.

Reports of Standing Committees

Teaching & Learning – Anne Gaydos said the committee met on December 11. Vicky White and Gavi Ziu-Pires gave a Defined STEM presentation. The 2019-2020 academic school year calendar draft was distributed for review. The calendar will be presented to the full board at the regular meeting in January. The next meeting will be January 15 at 4 p.m. with tentative agenda items are Modern Instructional Spaces presentation by Vicky White and Ken Saranich and a New Course Presentation by Dr. Beth Smith. The meeting will be held at Shelton Intermediate School to be able to view real life instructional spaces in the educational environment, exact location to be announced.

Finance Committee – Thomas Minotti stated the committee met on December 12. Ed Drapp gave a complete financial review. Two items that impacted the budget are the tentative 41 persons on medical leave requiring substitutes concurrently, and tuition and transportation to private schools for Special Education students. Mr. Drapp gave a year-to-date budget review and the dates for the 2019-2020 budget workshops. John Calhoun gave a list of issues and accomplishments for November and goals and objectives for January. During his report, a discussion was held about the duct cleaning service, and Mr. Calhoun stated he would provide the information asked for at the January 16 committee meeting.

Policy Committee – Kate Kutash said the committee met on December 11. The committee discussed gifts and donations and considered adding another numbered items to Policy 1325. Ms. Rossner will research CAFE policies to see if there is one to use as a model. The committee did a final review of the following motion that is being presented to the full board:

Kate Kutash moved to approve Promotion/Acceleration/Retention Policy #6146.2 Revision to sit for review until the next Board of Education Regular Meeting; motion seconded by Anne Gaydos. Discussion – Darlisa Ritter requested edit to the document to include social studies. Motion to approve policy as amended to sit for review passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash stated the committee had continued discussion of a New BOE Members Handbook with addition of possible calendar of a couple months in the life of a board member to give people an idea of activities. It was also stated the FOI Presentation will be on January 16 at 4 p.m. The next committee meeting will be January 15 at 5 p.m. at Shelton Intermediate School.

Public Relations & Outreach Committee – Mandy Kilmartin said the committee met earlier tonight for continued discussion and strategy for pushing forward some ideas previously presented, in particular, our opportunity to reach out to the public through the Shelton Herald and to present different perspectives from the board. There was discussion of working with school PTOs to choose dates for board members to visit schools with open time to interact with parents. She stated Dr. Clouet has reached out to student groups to start getting feedback on their interests and concerns. The committee talked about notes to staff and administrators. A photo taken this evening will be used for a holiday card. Next meeting will be January 23 at 6 p.m.

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Thomas Minotti said there is no report, as no meeting was held.

Unfinished Business

Chairman Holden stated the ad hoc committee to revise the superintendent evaluation process to better suit the needs of our district. Members will consist of Kate Kutash, Kathy Yolish, Tom Minotti and himself. Kate Kutash will Chair.

New Business

Kathy Yolish read a statement regarding Mayor Lauretti's offer of "...some financial aid to those families of the 4-year-old pre-school participants. This will only apply to those families who would have been grandfathered in this year. He is asking for those families to provide a paid receipt and a check (\$700) will be cut for reimbursement." Eligible families should contact Beth Jones or Kathy Yolish for instructions for the reimbursement process.

For Your Information

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

Highlights

Darlisa Ritter mentioned the latest issue of *Shelton Life* and commended Kathy Yolish for her articles about our school system in the education section, noting it is another way of communicating to the public. Kathy Yolish discussed the concerts at Booth Hill School and Long Hill School and said the music programs in our school system are phenomenal. Kathy also mentioned attending the CAPSS Superintendent Awards Dinner to honor four of our students. Mark Holden said earlier this month, Shelton hosted the State Championship for the FLL Robotics. The first and second place teams who will represent Connecticut in the World Championships come from Shelton. He commended all the teachers, mentors, parents and amazing students involved. Mr. Holden talked about the visit to the Senior Center for a great concert by the SIS grade 8 students. A short question and answer session was held by Superintendent Clouet, Mark Holden and Ken Saranich for the senior citizens in attendance.

Adjournment

Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Diane Luther

Secretary to Board of Education

December 27, 2018