

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
382 LONG HILL AVENUE
NOVEMBER 17, 2010**

The Board of Education met at 6:45 p.m. in Conference Room C to discuss Central Office Administrative Vacancies; Human Resources Director; Supervisor of Literacy; Teacher Leave of Absence. **Win Oppel moved to go into Executive Session** at 6:50 p.m.; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 7-0; motion passed. Members present were Timothy Walsh, Arlene Liscinsky, Win Oppel, Kate Kutash, Kathy Yolish, Mike Pacowta, Paula Ellis and Jay Francino-Quinn. Invited to stay were Freeman Burr, Lorraine Rossner, Allan Cameron, and James Brant. Win Oppel **moved to leave Executive Session** at 7:09 p.m.; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Chairman Timothy Walsh called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:18 p.m.

Roll Call: (alpha order)

Paula Ellis

John Francino-Quinn (departed 8:15 p.m.)

Kate Kutash

Arlene Liscinsky, Vice Chairman

Thomas Minotti, Secretary (excused)

Win Oppel

Mike Pacowta

Timothy Walsh, Chairman

Kathleen Yolish

Initial quorum 8 present; 1 absent.

Mr. Francino-Quinn departed at 8:15 p.m. – 7 present; 2 absent.

Board of Education Administration present:

Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr

Assistant Superintendent, Lorraine Rossner

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

JoAnn Popoli, 15 Ten Coat Lane, read a letter from the Shelton High School PTSO Executive Board expressing gratitude and commending Dr. Smith, administration, faculty staff and students of SHS for the excellent job done during the NEASC visitation.

Michele Dellolio, 21 Tahmore Place, thanked the Board of Education members for their support in working with the Pom Pon situation and noted it was good to see the continuation of a tradition.

Deborah Keller, 311 Pheasant Glen, spoke as a disgruntled citizen and taxpayer about associated home tutoring costs related to recent student expulsions, as well as expenses incurred as a result of the students' actions.

Arlene Liscinsky made a motion to move forward Agenda Items V. A and C; seconded by Win Oppel; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Presentations

Freeman Burr commented that Shelton Intermediate School Art Club students illustrated a published book entitled The Yellow Dog With One Bad Eye. All 17 students and advisor Susan Weir will be invited to the next meeting for recognition.

Tina Henckel, Assistant Director of STEM, gave a brief presentation on the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program and awarded certificates of recognition to all student participants who submitted proposals to the Phase 1 Review Board in November. Teacher facilitators were acknowledged also. Three teams were selected as finalists, and their proposals have been submitted to the National Phase 2 Review Board. This final review will determine which experiment will fly aboard STS-134 Shuttle Endeavor on February 27, 2011. The following three finalists were announced:

Corey Ann Chapin, Gr. 12, "The Effects of Microgravity on the Biochemical and Cellular Makeup of Escherichia Coli"

AnnaMaria Marini, Gr. 11, "Is the growth rate and bacterial resistance of Chromobacterium violaceum ATTC 12472 produced in Nutrient Agar affected by the exposure to microgravity for the duration of ten days?"

Team members: Leann Misencik, Kayla Russo, Jason Shnipes, Omar Sobh, James Szabo, all Gr. 12, "Development of Prokaryotic Cell Walls in Microgravity"

Approval of Agenda and Addendum

Kathy Yolish moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 8-0; motion passed. Paula Ellis moved to approve the addendum; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 27, 2010; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 6-0-2 (abstentions by Mike Pacowta, Paula Ellis); motion passed.

Presentations (continued)

Focus Monitoring - Freeman Burr prefaced Kathy Bender's presentation by stating a letter from the State was received mid-October regarding Focus Monitoring. If the State Department of Education finds that our students with disabilities are not making enough progress as determined by the Connecticut Mastery tests, the State has the right to put our district under Focus Monitoring. The requirement for the district was 60% of our identified students with disabilities would have to be proficient or above. Significant improvement was made this year as reported in the CMT results; however, district wide our students with disabilities were 59.5% proficient or above. Our district was identified and one of the requirements of our team was to assemble a data wall showing how we service our students with disabilities in an effort to get all of them to 60%. Kathy Bender presented the data wall and gave detailed information about the process. The State will rank the districts. Our score will determine if continued monitoring is necessary.

Paula Ellis made a motion to move forward the addendum items; seconded by Win Oppel; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Appointments

Paula Ellis moved to appoint Linda Gagner to the position of Acting Advisor to Shelton High School Pom Pons; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Retirements

Superintendent Burr informed the Board of the retirement of Hildegard Szokol, Special Education teacher at Long Hill School, after 30.5 years of service.

Yearly Reorganization of the Board – Election of Officers

Timothy Walsh moved to select Kate Kutash as moderator for the election of officers; seconded by Win Oppel; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Win Oppel moved to conduct the election of officers by voice vote; seconded by Paula Ellis; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to nominate Timothy Walsh as Chairman; seconded by Win Oppel; vote 7-0-1 (abstention by Jay Francino-Quinn); motion passed.

Win Oppel moved to nominate Arlene Liscinsky as Vice Chairman; seconded by Paula Ellis; vote 7-0-1 (abstention by Jay Francino-Quinn); motion passed.

Mike Pacowta moved to nominate Tom Minotti as Secretary; seconded by Timothy Walsh; vote 7-0-1 (abstention by Jay Francino-Quinn); motion passed.

Appointments

Paula Ellis moved to appoint Michele Coppotelli to the position of Special Education teacher at Shelton Intermediate School; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Paula Ellis moved to appoint Kristen DiPalma to the position of Supervisor of Literacy, Assessment, and Professional Learning; seconded by Win Oppel; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Kate Kutash moved to appoint Adrienne Ziemkiewicz to the position of .5 nurse at Perry Hill School; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Paula Ellis moved to appoint Erica McNeil to the position of co-head cheerleading coordinator at Shelton High School; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Paula Ellis moved to appoint Jeffrey Napoli to the position of girls' basketball coach at Shelton Intermediate School; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 8-0; motion passed.

(Note: Jay Francino-Quinn departed at 8:15 p.m.)

Resignations

Superintendent Burr informed the Board of the resignations of:

Tracy Hussey, stipend position for Assistant Director of the Shelton Summer School Program

Jennifer Volpe, system-wide Behavior Analyst, after four years; effective November 24, 2010

Alicia Leone, assistant girls' lacrosse coach at Shelton High School

Leave of Absence

Superintendent Burr informed the Board of the unpaid leave of absence for Melissa Lantz, art teacher (Booth Hill/Sunnyside) beginning immediately through March 31, 2011.

Instructional Update

Freeman Burr reported on the accreditation process at Shelton High School including some of the observations and recommendations made. He commented that there will be an ongoing review between January and March with a final decision in the spring.

(Note: *Tape 1; Side B – 8:22 p.m.)

Mr. Burr said on December 9 the district will be involved with the following activities:

- A retreat for all Central Office staff and principals to synthesize the School Improvement Plans to form a District Improvement Plan
- The core committee involved with the Futures Report will be reconvening. Two teams will be formed: One team will take the recommendations from the organizational and structure report and come up with an action plan. The other team under Allan Cameron's leadership will produce an action plan based on the financial recommendations. Those action plans will serve for the remainder of this year as addendums to our School Improvement Plans and District Improvement Plan.
- The 2014 Strategic Plan is being formulated. Building Administrators have been asked to recommend participants for the seven subcommittees. Parent groups were notified and have already submitted input. Chairs and co-chairs will be chosen to lead the subcommittee teams, and the Board of Education will vet the generated reports. More information will be presented to the Board in December.

Comments by the Board Chair

Chairman Walsh noted the completion of Central Office reorganization and appointments. He commented on the student recognitions and expressed his hope that the press will cover the achievements in arts and science. Mr. Walsh stated he will appoint Kathy Yolish to chair an ad hoc committee on communications and will ask her to report to the Board in the spring with recommendations for reaching out to different facets of the community. Chairman Walsh commended Dr. Beth Smith and her staff for their handling of the NEASC session this past Sunday. He also commended Dr. Smith and her staff on the way they conducted business during the recent threats at the high school.

Superintendent Burr commented that in spite of speculation, in each and every incident, the high school handled everything exactly the way it was supposed to be done. Each of the incidents involved different circumstances and appropriate protocols as established by Homeland Security were followed. The students involved are being identified and will be subject to full legal and disciplinary action. Mr. Burr commended Dr. Smith, the administrative team, staff at Shelton High School and students, as well as the police, fire and emergency personnel.

Kathy Yolish asked that her comments be included in the minutes as follows:

"I would like to take this opportunity to commend Dr. Beth Smith, her Leadership Team, and entire staff for their outstanding job in undertaking the recent NEASC accreditation as well as their handling of the additional problems that they had to deal with during the last few weeks.

Dr. Smith demonstrates superb leadership skills that serve the best interests of her staff and students. She is always proactive in her role as Shelton High School Headmaster and faces every day with dedication, strength, determination and effectiveness.

As a citizen of Shelton, former educator, and now member of the Shelton Board of Education, I would like to express my wholehearted support for Dr. Smith and convey a strong vote of confidence in her performance and ability as Headmaster of Shelton High School."

Kate Kutash commented that Shelton High School has come a long way since the arrival of Dr. Smith and said her leadership has been key in the accreditation process.

Win Oppel addressed the issue of recouping costs and expenses relative to recent incidents. Counsel has advised that the Board of Education cannot take such action; however, the City of Shelton is a victim when it comes to the legal process and when students have been arrested and could claim costs borne by the municipality.

Reports by Standing Committees

Athletics – Paula Ellis said no meeting was held this month but the gymnastics team is going forward.

Building and Grounds – Win Oppel stated there was not a quorum for a meeting; however, informal discussion took place with Superintendent Burr, Win Oppel and Ken LaCroix about the current state of affairs and moving forward addressing cleanliness of facilities.

Cafeteria/Transportation – Kate Kutash said the committee did not meet; however; there is another shift of transportation taking place December 6. The committee will meet on December 1 at 5:00 p.m.

Policy/Curriculum/Technology – There was no meeting.

Personnel – Mike Pacowta said a meeting is scheduled for November 22 at 5:00 p.m.

Finance – Arlene Liscinsky said the committee met earlier tonight to continue budget discussions. The meetings of December 1 and December 8 have been cancelled. The committee will meet on December 9 at 4:30 p.m. and will convene into a Board of Education meeting. The goal is to have the budget voted on by December 15.

Arlene Liscinsky stated the following for the record:

“On 11/15/09 the Board employed 25 administrators. On 11/15/10 it employed 23 with 2 positions being filled by interim appointees; one position being filled by a consultant (James Brant) and one position is vacant. On 11/15/09 the Board employed 415.4 teachers. On 11/15/10 the Board employed 379.5 teachers. In the non-certified payroll we have committed 33.1% of the budget compared with 31.4%. On 11/15/09 there were 62 tutors; today there are 42 tutors. On 11/15/09 there were 63 paraprofessionals; today there are 45 paraprofessionals. On 11/15/09 there were 20 reading and math assistants; today there are none. On 11/15/09 there were 44.75 secretaries; today there are 39 with one open position and there are 4.75 fewer. There is one less security guard. In summary, today the Shelton Board of Education employs 100.65 fewer people than this time last year.”

Allan Cameron discussed the proposed line item transfers. He noted that Annual Report of the City of Shelton will reflect that we had an authorized budget of \$63,004,638 and we spent \$63,004,638. Arlene Liscinsky added that we had a zero surplus and no shortfall.

Kate Kutash moved to approve the 2009-2010 Budget Line Item Transfers as detailed and recommended by the Finance Committee; seconded by Win Oppel; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the 2010-11 Budget Line Item Transfers as detailed and recommended by the Finance Committee; seconded by Win Oppel; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Arlene Liscinsky noted that Allan Cameron was requested to provide several scenarios as to what the budget might be for review during the budget process.

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Arlene Liscinsky reported that CES will meet in January. She reviewed the last meeting and discussed the Commissioner’s proposal to move the kindergarten age cut-off date from December 31 back to September 1 and the impact. CES will be having a legislative breakfast for all board chairs and superintendents.

CABE – Mrs. Yolish and Mr. Walsh will attend the CABE Convention on 11/19. Mrs. Yolish will attend CABE’s Leading Leaders Workshop at CES.

Adjournment

Paula Ellis moved to adjourn at 8:56 p.m.; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Diane Luther

Diane Luther

Recording Secretary – Board of Education

November 24, 2010