

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
Board of Education Administrative Offices  
382 Long Hill Avenue  
Board Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
October 24, 2018**

Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:05 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; Ed Drapp, Finance Director

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Agenda and Addendum**

**Thomas Minotti moved to add an addendum to the agenda; motion seconded by Anne Gaydos and passed unanimously. Thomas Minotti moved to approve the agenda as amended; motion seconded by Darlisa Ritter and approved unanimously.**

**Presentations/Recognitions**

Dr. Clouet introduced his recommendation to become Supervisor of Special Education and Pupil Services, Katharine Gabrielson.

**Thomas Minotti moved to approve the hiring of Katharine Gabrielson as Supervisor of Special Education and Pupil Services; motion seconded by Amanda Kilmartin and passed unanimously.**

Ms. Gabrielson thanked the board and said she looks forward to working with staff, families, students, and board members starting December 3.

2018 Summer Learning Challenge Raffle – Tina Henckel explained that she, Vicky White, and the Office of Teaching and Learning organized the summer reading and math challenges throughout the district with support for initiatives from Reading and Math Specialists, secondary curriculum leaders, and principals. A district random raffle was open to students who completed school-level criteria to receive another prize for participating. Mrs. Henckel solicited support from local businesses and numerous products and gift cards were received. In addition to donations, many of the businesses chose to participate in our Word of the Week project. Two student raffle winners (Romeo Thompson, BHS gr. 3, and Jackson Nastu, SS gr. 1) were present to receive their prizes. Mrs. Henckel read the winning student names and prizes awarded. Superintendent Clouet thanked Tina for her vision and service over the past ten years and presented her with a floral bouquet, as she will be leaving the district for another position.

Innovative Educator Award - Superintendent Clouet presented the October Innovative Educator Award to Carrie Frederick, SHS teacher of Tech Ed, Video Productions, Video and Photography, Gael News Class, Graphic Arts, and Digital Art using Photoshop. Mrs. Frederick presented and discussed many creative student activities taking place in her classes. Dr. Beth Smith spoke highly of Mrs. Frederick. Chairman Holden mentioned that Carrie is also active and a terrific asset with Shelton Empowers.

### **Public Hearing**

Beth Jones, 71 Rocky Rest Road, discussed the pre-k program and available spots for typical peers, as well as state mandated ratio regulations, as discussed at the last Finance Committee meeting. She questioned what plan is in place to remain in compliance if there are not enough paying typical peers in November. Dr. Clouet confirmed there was, in fact, a waiting list but indicated as October it no longer existed because people made other arrangements. He told Mrs. Jones he would be happy to speak with her regarding her concerns.

James Allan, SHS Social Studies teacher, discussed the public's uninformed perception of our school system and several topics such as budget difficulties, bus contract, environmental issues at SHS and recent districtwide technology issues relative to the effects on staff and students. He commended the board for resolving the transportation issue to allow opening of school on time and for their efforts to try to secure adequate funding for education.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 26, 2018 and Emergency Meeting of September 28, 2018; motion seconded by Anne Gaydos and passed unanimously.** Kate Kutash noted for the record that she was not present at the September 28 meeting.

### **Communications to the Board**

Chairman Holden shared a letter of appreciation from Donna Kosiorowski on behalf of SHS Class of 1968, who recently celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> reunion.

### **Superintendent's Commentary/Instructional Update**

Dr. Clouet asked Dr. Smith to share a story about replacement of American flags that were unusable due to the recent mold issue. She said part of our core beliefs speak to students, staff and parents in the community working together for the benefit of our children and recognized the American Legion for giving the high school two dozen new flags with individual cards recognizing Shelton service members who were killed. In addition, the American Legion will retire the old flags.

Lorraine Rossner spoke about Shelton Empowers, now in its third year and how it was originally formed to combat the opioid crisis and now is focused on risky behaviors and good judgment about life choices. She noted a number of SIS and SHS students are on the committee and have been vital in the production of PSAs and involved with Youth-to-Youth and health fairs presented to our fourth graders.

Superintendent Clouet said Congressman Jim Himes made a visit earlier this week to SIS. Ken Saranich stated Congressman Himes came to SIS to do a brief tour of the building, as he was interested in the School of Innovation and what's happening with education in Shelton. He was able to meet with staff to talk about programs, toured the school, and met with students in classrooms. The Student Council Officers had a sit-down with him and were able to ask questions. Mr. Saranich said it was a good educational experience for all.

Dr. Clouet said he and Vicky White have gone to each school's faculty meeting to discuss Habits of

Mind and Vision of a Graduate and are getting interesting feedback from teachers on how they can weave in the habits. He said professional learning on Election Day is dedicated to Habits of Mind and he expects good things coming out of it to help us prepare students for the challenges and opportunities of the mid to late 21<sup>st</sup> century when they will be adults. It's good for both staff and students and something they can carry with them into the future, no matter what the scenario is with regard to technology and the role of artificial intelligence.

Superintendent Clouet stated the OSHA report for Shelton High School is taking longer than expected due to the strange New England weather pattern and the backlog of requests for tests. He said we will be receiving some recommendations, many of which we have addressed. Clearly, OSHA would have closed the building had they felt there was a dangerous environment for students and staff. Once received, the report will be made publicly available to all on our website.

Dr. Clouet gave an update of the districtwide computer issue, noting an outside company (Ontrack) has been brought in to help restore files. He said once our system is up and running, a complete analysis will be done to make sure this will never recur.

### **Approved Field Trips**

Board members were apprised of SIS gr. 7 trip to Philadelphia, May 4-5, 2019 and Junior Statesman of America trip to Regional Fall State Convention in RI, December 1-2, 2018.

### **Items Voted on**

**Kathy Yolish moved to group Board Action Items A. 1-5 for one vote; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.**

**Kate Kutash moved to approve Board Action Items A. 1-5; motion seconded by Kathy Yolish and passed unanimously.**

- **SHS Wrestling Parent Booster Club fundraising request**
- **Acceptance of two donations of \$1,500 each from Shelton Sports Outreach Organization**
- **Acceptance of \$897 donation from BHS PTO to purchase iPads**
- **Acceptance of \$2,900 donation from BHS PTO to purchase teacher supplies**
- **Acceptance of \$1,000 donation from Eamon O'Connor to purchase basketball shooting machine for SHS**

**Kate Kutash moved for discussion acceptance on behalf of Shelton High School a donation of approximately \$3,000 from Skyler Wells and Dave Melanson for construction of the new ticket booth at Shelton High School; motion seconded by Kathy Yolish. Following discussion, motion passed unanimously.**

**Kathy Yolish moved to approve Board Action Items A. 7-10; motion seconded by Thomas Minotti and passed unanimously.**

- **Acceptance of \$4,185 donation from BHS PTO to purchase 3 water bottle/fountain refilling stations**
- **Acceptance of \$2,550 grant from the Trustees of the Mary Fitch Trust for Learn with High Tech High in New York**
- **Acceptance of \$5,000 grant from The Mabel B. Fischer Grant Foundation to fund the ballroom dance program**
- **Acceptance of two donations from The Weller Foundation: \$882.09 for Industrial Arts/Robotics for competition grade VEX kits; \$1,600 for Robotics to purchase two ASUS Vivobook laptops**

**Comments by the Board Chair**

Chairman Holden reminded members of the upcoming grand opening of the SHS field.

**Reports of Standing Committees**

**Teaching & Learning** – Anne Gaydos reviewed the meeting topics of October 9 meeting including FOI concerns regarding taping and minutes of subcommittee meetings; SBAC Presentation by Vicky White and Ken Saranich. Next meeting will be November 13 at 4 p.m. Agenda items will be further discussion of FOI concerns regarding taping and minutes of subcommittee meetings and Habits of Mind general presentation on System Initiatives.

**Finance Committee** – Thomas Minotti stated two meetings were held on October 17. The Ad Hoc Committee for Capital Projects and Non-recurring Costs met at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Minotti said there was general discussion of handout of 22 items on the Capital Repair list and 8 items on the Operating Budget list. The Finance Committee met and had a complete financial review from Ed Drapp.

Mr. Drapp provided a handout to board members concerning the Pathway to the Final Budget, a step-by-step explanation of the recent budget process. While incomplete, the draft provides a timeline for the Public Relations Committee to work with in preparation of a final document. General discussion followed. Board members are invited to attend the next committee meeting.

**Policy Committee** – Kate Kutash said the committee met on October 9 and brings forward the following motion:

**Kate Kutash moved to accept Revised Policy #6146.2 Promotion/Acceleration/Retention to sit for review until the next scheduled Regular Meeting of the Board of Education; motion seconded by Thomas Minotti and passed unanimously.**

The meeting topics reviewed included Wellness Policy Revision 6142; New Board Member Packet/Orientation; vendor donations issue and suggestion to discuss and add language to the Donations Policy. The next meeting date is November 13.

**Public Relations & Outreach Committee** – Mandy Kilmartin said the current project is the Pathway to the Final Budget. The committee welcomes input, suggestions and feedback from board members.

**Reports of Special Committees**

**CES** – Thomas Minotti reviewed the topics of the October 14 meeting of the Representative Council. He discussed robotic technology previously mentioned and a second piece of technology, a virtual reality teaching tool. Mr. Minotti said he requested the CES District Director to contact Dr. Clouet to arrange presentations for the board and possibly for the public at a board meeting.

**Unfinished Business**

None

**New Business**

None

**For Your Information**

Chairman Holden noted the attachments in the packet including Tenure Report, Vacancy Report, Staff and Stipend Actions, and October 1<sup>st</sup> Enrollment Report.

**Highlights**

Kathy Yolish read a verification statement regarding past discussion about payment to City Counsel for representation at expulsion hearings. She stated her source of information was incorrect and apologized to the Finance Committee and Mr. Drapp for insisting it was true that the City's Corporate Counsel does not bill the Board of Education for representation. She since checked with the City's attorney, who confirmed that the information Mr. Drapp sent out the day following the meeting was correct; however, the cost per hour is minimally \$135-\$160. Mr. Drapp's spreadsheet affirmed the Corporate Counsel's billing over a period of 17 years averaged \$2,600 yearly for a total of \$45,500. Mrs. Yolish expressed her concern that we are spending money we may not have, as well as concern about violating the City Charter by not using City Counsel, whose job is to represent all City boards. She stated prior to selecting any additional counsel, the board should have the opportunity to interview the potential candidate as a team and make sure we don't violate any part of the City Charter and check if we do have to go out to bid.

Kate Kutash discussed the board's decision, due to current state of funding, not to fund board member attendance at the CABA/CAPSS Convention, which she has attended in the past and found to be a valuable professional development for board members. Kathy Yolish added that the CAPSS Student Awards Dinner is another unfunded event. Chairman Holden mentioned that board member training has been provided in the past and some members have not participated. Mr. Holden stated it is time to schedule a board retreat. Mrs. Yolish stated she and Darlisa Ritter were judges at Mohegan Goes Pink and discussed the event. David Gioiello complimented Ed Drapp for information he provided at the last Finance meeting and felt it one of the best summary reports and answered all of the questions the board has been asking. He also discussed Jim Himes' visit to SIS. He said the questions students asked were quite probing.

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

Mark Holden noted the FLL Robotics upcoming competitions on November 10 with New Haven and Wolcott, and November 17 hosting competition at SHS.

**Adjournment**

Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

***Diane Luther***

**Secretary to Board of Education**

**October 31, 2018**