

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
ELIZABETH SHELTON SCHOOL
138 WILLOUGHBY ROAD
MAY 26, 2010**

The Board met at 6:30 p.m. in the Elizabeth Shelton School Principal's Conference Room for the purpose of discussing Redistricting, Central Office Reorganization, and Employee Retirement Incentive Programs in Executive Session. In attendance were Timothy Walsh, Arlene Liscinsky, Thomas Minotti, Win Oppel, Mike Pacowta, Kate Kutash, Paula Ellis, Kathy Yolish and John Francino-Quinn. Win Oppel moved to go into Executive Session at 6:30 p.m.; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 9-0. Invited to stay were Freeman Burr, Lorraine Rossner, Allan Cameron and Rita McDougald-Campbell. Motion to leave Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. was made by Arlene Liscinsky; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 9-0.

Chairman Timothy Walsh called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:45 p.m.

Roll Call: (alpha order)

Paula Ellis

John Francino-Quinn

Kate Kutash

Arlene Liscinsky, Vice Chairman

Thomas Minotti, Secretary

Win Oppel

Mike Pacowta

Timothy Walsh, Chairman

Kathleen Yolish

Full quorum of 9 present.

Board of Education Administration present:

Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr

Assistant Superintendent, Lorraine Rossner

Director of Finance, Allan Cameron

Director of Instruction, Patricia Curran

Director of Special Education, Valentina Parchin

Director of Human Resources, Rita McDougald-Campbell

Operations Manager, William Banfe

(2 tapes on file in City/Town Clerk's Office)

Chairman Walsh apologized for the delay in starting the meeting due to a lengthy Executive Session.

The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing

Cheryl O'Brien, 153 Village Drive, addressed the Board concerning budget matters and possible implementation of pay to play for sports. Carolyn Finley, 53 Greystone, spoke about allocation of the reduced budget. Mandy Blakeslee, 164 Village Drive, stressed the importance of not laying off teachers and finding other ways to cut costs.

No one else wished to speak and the Public Hearing was closed.

Approval of Agenda

Mike Pacowta moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Win Oppel; vote 9-0; motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of April 21, 2010; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 9-0; motion passed.

Presentations

Shelton High School students Vincent Patino and Hania Zaman and Shelton Intermediate School students Alexandra Gjoni and John Zoppi were recognized as recipients of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education Student Leadership Awards.

Nan Zhao of Shelton High School was recognized for achieving his selection as a National Merit Scholarship Finalist.

Gael Winds Teacher Advisor Deborah Stellavato and her students were commended for earning another First Place with Special Merit ranking in the American Scholastic Press Association's annual competition with a score of 950 out of a possible 1000 points.

Teacher Dennis David and SIS students Sivan Tepper, Charlie O'Keefe and Riley Casey were recognized for winning first place (third year in a row) in the Fox Student News competition this year for their story, "*The Rail Road Museum of New England.*" The video, which included an award of \$2,500 for the SIS program, was viewed.

Catherine Araujo and Laura Dempsey were commended for performance of their duties related to a bus accident that involved student injuries.

Superintendent Burr read a proclamation recognizing School Nurse Day from Governor M. Jodi Rell, which was previously sent to Debra Petrushonis, Head Nurse. Mrs. Petrushonis, representing all school nurses, received congratulations from the Board.

Presentations (continued)

The annual Shelton Life Art Contest, sponsored by Shelton Economic Development Commission and Shelton Economic Development Corporation, was conducted for the Shelton Public Schools. Commission Chairman Fred Ruggio commented that all the entries were excellent, which made the selection process very difficult. Mr. Ruggio, with assistance from Aleta Miner of the Corporation and Department Chair Ellen Cox, presented monetary awards to the winners of the 2010 Shelton Life Art Contest.

Gr. 2-4	1 st Place	Rupp, Sara	Gr. 2 ESS
	2 nd Place	Yi, Emily	Gr. 4 BH
	Honorable Mention	Pankrat, Hanna	Gr. 4 Laf
	Honorable Mention	Shuby, Jessie Rose	Gr. 4 SS
	Honorable Mention	Khachadoorian, Kaitlin	Gr. 4 BH
Gr. 5-6	1 st Place	Cable, Madelynne	Gr. 6 LH
	2 nd Place	Bures, Mackenzie	Gr. 5 LAF
	Honorable Mention	Kreager, Kendall	Gr. 6 BH
	Honorable Mention	Struyk, Connor	Gr. 6 SS
	Honorable Mention	Sagehorn, Braeden	Gr. 6 LAF
Gr. 7-8	1 st Place	Plucienik, Mary	Gr. 8
	2 nd Place	Cortigiano, Anastasia	Gr. 8
	Honorable Mention	Simons, Melissa	Gr. 8
	Honorable Mention	Theiss, Alicia	Gr. 8
	Honorable Mention	Rubenstein, Nicole	Gr. 8
Gr. 9-10	1 st Place	McGinnis, Kathleen	Gr. 10
	2 nd Place	Jankura, Nicole	Gr. 10
	Honorable Mention	Merriam, Alexa	Gr. 9
	Honorable Mention	Komornik, Emily	Gr. 10
	Honorable Mention	Conklin, Ashley	Gr. 10
Gr. 11-12	1 st Place	Kintner, Alex	Gr. 12
	2 nd Place	Esposito, Christine	Gr. 12
	Honorable Mention	Pinelli, Kate	Gr. 11
	Honorable Mention	Reid, Davon	Gr. 12
	Honorable Mention	Santos, Theresa	Gr. 12

The winning projects, which consist of photography, pottery, paintings, etc., will be on display for the public at Plumb Memorial Library.

Presentations (continued)

Freeman Burr announced the district received awards for this year's campaign from Valley United Way for Top Dollars Raised (over \$20,000) and Campaign Growth (100% over last year). Mr. Burr thanked all of the staff who contributed and highly commended Sandy Zuraw and Kathy Riddle for organizing the campaign so successfully.

Redistricting Presentation and Possible Vote

Arlene Liscinsky moved to table the Redistricting Presentation (item V.E.) and Vote on Adoption of Plan (item VIII. B.1.) to a near-future date; seconded by Mike Pacowta; vote 9-0; motion passed.

Chairman Walsh declared a short recess at 8:37 p.m. and the meeting reconvened at 8:52 p.m.

Principal's Presentation to Board

Elizabeth Shelton School Principal Beverly Belden presented information on foundational beliefs, CMT, PBS, School Improvement Plan highlights and progress to date, as well as future goals.

(Note: Tape 1, Side B – 9:01 p.m.)

Retirement

Freeman Burr advised the Board of one retirement:

- Karen Jennings, school nurse at Booth Hill School, effective June 30, 2010.

Resignation

Freeman Burr advised the Board of one resignation:

- Lynn Giordano, cheerleading coach at Shelton High School, effective immediately

Instructional Update

Freeman Burr stated one of his performance goals assigned by the Board of Education was to implement a reorganization of central office staff, including but not limited to redistribution of responsibilities and functions by both individuals and departments. Mr. Burr gave a slide presentation of Central Office Reorganization 2010-2011 with supporting data.

School Facilities Report

Bill Banfe's written report was included in board packets. Mr. Banfe commented that the Board is cognizant of a situation at Mohegan School. He said the removal of the oil tank at Elizabeth Shelton School is progressing and that Perry Hill is on schedule. He stated the moving scenario is on target. Mr. Banfe reported the bid opening for the boiler room upgrade at Shelton High School is tomorrow evening and further information will be available at the next Board Meeting.

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 2010; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 9-0; motion passed.

Win Oppel moved to approve 4 grant proposals for Valley Regional Adult Education: Preparing the 21st Century Workforce; Family Literacy Services; English Language Acquisition/Civics Education; Valley Even Start; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 9-0; motion passed.

Win Oppel moved to adopt the Superintendent's 2010-2011 Central Office Reorganization Plan as outlined to the Board with the five job descriptions for the Executive Director of Curriculum and Support Services; Assistant Director of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Education and Data Management; Assistant Director of Special Education and Support Services; Supervisor of Literacy Assessment and Professional Learning; Supervisor of Special Education Pre-K through 12; subject to some adjustments to the certification and education qualifications which shall be approved by the Personnel Committee; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 5-4 (Aye – Arlene Liscinsky, Thomas Minotti, Win Oppel, Mike Pacowta, Timothy Walsh. Nay – Paula Ellis, Jay Francino-Quinn, Kate Kutash, Kathy Yolish); motion passed.

Paula Ellis moved to reappoint the stipend position holders as listed on the attachment; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn. Discussion - Win Oppel moved to table the motion until the meeting where a budget vote takes place; seconded by Mike Pacowta; vote 9-0; motion passed.

Comments by the Board Chair

Chairman Walsh commented that it is self-evident that the Board has had deep discussions and are very bothered about a number of areas. He said most of the troubles arise from the deficient budget received from the city fathers. He commented that the Board does not have enough to operate at the level they would prefer; and although there may be differences at times, they will do their best to give the students a quality education in Shelton.

Reports by Standing Committees

Athletics – Paula Ellis stated the committee has a large task assigned to it with a job they don't want to do but understand the need for pay to play. She said due to the current budget situation, it will be necessary to impose some form of pay to participate. Mrs. Ellis said she is in discussion with the Finance Chairman and Committee about the amount of money the Board wishes the Athletic Department and clubs at the high school to absorb as part of our budget. She said it is a lot to put on the backs of the parents and efforts are being made to lower the number and find a fair way to handle pay to participate. The committee will meet on Wednesday, June 2, at 4 p.m., at the high school.

Building and Grounds – Win Oppel said the committee met earlier this week to look at the building use form to include more information from applicants. Mr. Oppel stated the oil tank is installed and the fence is up at Elizabeth Shelton School, but the bigger issue will be draining and removing the tank and determining if there is an environmental issue. That work will take place after the students leave for the summer. He said the gym floor at Mohegan will have to be replaced at an expense of about \$10,000 due to a pipe deterioration that caused damage to the floor. He clarified that a section of the floor needs to be replaced and most it re-sanded. Mr. Oppel reported that the Perry Hill move is going well. He said Jay Francino-Quinn is working with the Long Hill School PTA to move the playscape from Central Office; Jay has also examined the playscape at Lafayette and will initiate talks with Sunnyside about moving to that facility. Win Oppel reported the committee is looking into contracting for HVAC services, and Bill Banfe is soliciting some parameters for the ice storage system at Perry Hill as well as the intermediate and the high school.

Cafeteria/Transportation – Kate Kutash reported the committee met and discussed cafeteria issues for next year. She said Sodexo is hosting the Board for dinner on Wednesday, June 9, at 6:00 p.m. to discuss expectations and what we would like to see in their program. Board Members were asked to RSVP to Allan Cameron.

Curriculum/Policies/Technology – Thomas Minotti stated the committee did not meet due to schedule conflicts and budget meetings; June meeting will be announced.

Personnel Committee – Mike Pacowta said the committee met on June 12 to discuss several pending items; continued discussions will held with a report to the Board when appropriate. He noted the May 25 meeting was postponed due to budgetary discussions. Final year's evaluation of the Superintendent was to have been discussed. Mr. Pacowta said he received 8 of 9 evaluation reports from Board Members and anticipates receipt of the last report. The committee will meet sometime in early June.

Finance – Arlene Liscinsky gave a reminder that the Board will meet on May 27 at 7:00 p.m. to continue budget discussion.

(*Note: Tape 2, Side A – 10:00 p.m.)

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Report was included in packet.

CABE – Kathy Yolish said the CABE dues will remain the same for next year. She reported there will be a workshop on Collective Bargaining and Teacher Compensation on June 15 at ACES. The CABE Convention will be November 19-20; more details to follow. Mrs. Yolish will leave information in mailboxes on CABE's annual Legislative Wrap-Up Workshop held in May. Chairman Walsh mentioned the Board has been working with CABE and the Connecticut State Department of Education on the Lighthouse Project, and Nick Caruso of CABE recently announced Shelton's region has been changed to Area 6.

Unfinished Business

Kathy Yolish said she will be preparing articles for a summer issue of *Shelton Life*. One will be about the Lighthouse Project and another on being a board member. She asked Board Members to contact her with any suggestions. Mrs. Yolish informed Board Members that she purchased plastic portfolios to be used for agenda packets, which need to be returned to Mrs. Luther at each Board Meeting for reuse. Paula Ellis gave a reminder that graduation will take place on June 18, rain or shine.

Adjournment

Paula Ellis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 p.m.; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 9-0; motion passed.

Diane Luther

Diane Luther

Recording Secretary – Board of Education

June 3, 2010