

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
382 LONG HILL AVENUE
MARCH 28, 2012**

The Board of Education met at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room C for discussion of Personnel – Status/Progress of Superintendent’s Performance Objectives; Pending Negotiations Update. Thomas Minotti **moved to go into Executive Session** at 6:35 p.m.; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 7-0; motion passed. Present were Win Oppel, Arlene Liscinsky, Kathy Yolish, Thomas Minotti, James Orazietti, Mark Holden, Jay Francino-Quinn, Carole Pannozzo and Freeman Burr. Thomas Minotti **moved to leave Executive Session** at 7:02 p.m.; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Chairman Win Oppel called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call:

John Francino-Quinn
Mark Holden
Arlene Liscinsky, Secretary
Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman
James Orazietti
Mike Pacowta (excused)
Timothy Walsh (excused)
Kathleen Yolish

Quorum of 7 present; 2 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, Kathy Bender
Human Resources Director, Carole Pannozzo

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Hearing

Deborah Keller, 311 Pheasant Glen, President of the Shelton Education Association, requested the Board to mention the names of those being appointed, retiring, resigning, taking leaves of absence, as well as those teachers attaining tenure.

Approval of Agenda

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Mark Holden; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Jay Francino-Quinn moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 22, 2012; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 5-0-2 (abstentions by Win Oppel and Thomas Minotti); motion passed.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 28, 2012; seconded by Mark Holden; vote 4-0-3 (abstentions by Kathy Yolish, Thomas Minotti, Jay Francino-Quinn); motion passed.

Presentations

Teachers Kim Gugliotti and Kerry Mizak were recognized for creating their recent kindergarten presentation to the Shelton School Readiness Council.

In honor of CABA's Connecticut Board of Education Member Appreciation Month, Superintendent Burr spoke about the dedication and commitment of our volunteer Board Members and presented each with a token gift for their service.

Public Hearing (Reopened)

Thomas Minotti moved to reopen the Public Hearing; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Mayor Mark Lauretti addressed the Board concerning a Yankee Gas proposal for energy gas conversion for Shelton High School and needs authorization of the Board of Education. Mayor Lauretti discussed the Board of Education's budget surplus and encumbrances for the previous fiscal year.

Curriculum and Instruction Presentations

Shelton Intermediate School Headmaster Ken Saranich and Mohegan School Principal Anne Hamilton each presented information on their School Improvement Plans. Handouts were provided and questions from Board Members were answered.

Communications to the Board

Chairman Win Oppel noted a letter was received from the Valley Community Foundation in appreciation of the Herbert M. Clark contribution and private donations from Superintendent Freeman Burr and former Superintendents Leon Sylvester and Robin Willink. It was clarified that no money came from the Board of Education.

Instructional Update

Assistant Superintendent Lorraine Rossner gave some background information on The Weller Excellence in Teaching Award and the application and selection process. She noted that there were six applicants from Shelton, and Melissa Manning of Elizabeth Shelton School was selected for the award for her project entitled "Tangram Stories."

Freeman Burr stated that CMT and CAPT testing is completed. Mr. Burr noted that the Shelton Education Endowment Fund Committee will meet tomorrow with Lorraine Rossner, Kathy Bender and himself. Discussion will include the Superintendents' gifts to the fund, which will be used to finance eight mini-grants of \$250 each, one per school. He said there will be information forthcoming regarding the spring event. Superintendent Burr recognized the three Shelton High School teams that earned first honors and numerous other awards at the Connecticut State Science Fair for their exceptional projects, which were highlighted at the last Board of Education meeting. Mr. Burr extended congratulations to all eight teams that entered projects into the Sixty-fourth Annual Statewide Connecticut Science Fair. Freeman Burr commented that the cheerleading squad has made tremendous progress under the leadership of coaches Christine Oddo and Erica McNeil and finished first in their competitions, won the state championship, and finished eighth in the regional competition.

Comments by the Board Chair

Chairman Win Oppel extended congratulations to Melissa Manning for her Weller Award achievement and wished success to the Gael Hawks Robotics Team at the statewide competition this weekend. Mr. Oppel said he has formed an ad hoc committee including Arlene Liscinsky, Mark Holden and himself to meet with Superintendent Burr and the survey consultant to discuss results and plan the next steps. Board Members were urged to attend the next Lighthouse Project Workshop which will include continued discussion of board committees. Chairman Oppel noted the City's Charter Revision Commission has asked for changes regarding possible changes to the Charter related to the Board of Education. Members were asked to email any comments to Win Oppel within the next two weeks.

Reports by Standing Committees

Athletics – Win Oppel noted the minutes of the 1/31/12 meeting were attached.

Buildings & Grounds – Jay Francino-Quinn reviewed the topics discussed at the February 22 meeting, minutes of which were attached. He confirmed that the brush behind the backstop on the girls softball field is scheduled to be cut.

Cafeteria/Transportation – Mark Holden noted the minutes of the 2/7/12 meeting were attached, and the next meeting will be April 3 at 5:00 p.m.

Personnel – Chairman Oppel said Mike Pacowta reported that the policies regarding Personnel were circling back to that Committee from the Policy/Curriculum/Technology Committee for additional comments.

Policy/Curriculum/Technology – Thomas Minotti reviewed the topics discussed at the March 13 meeting and outlined in the attached minutes. The committee will meet again on April 16 at 4:00 p.m.

Finance – Arlene Liscinsky stated the Superintendent made a phenomenal presentation to A&T and the Board of Aldermen on March 14; however, the meeting was sparsely attended. Mrs. Liscinsky encouraged people to take interest in the budget. A&T will make their presentation to the Board of Aldermen tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Liscinsky said the minutes of the February 15 Finance meeting are attached, and the committee also met on March 21. Arlene Liscinsky discussed two areas of concern: Workers' Compensation bill from the city that was unexpected and not in our budget; unemployment charges which will be rectified by June 30. She mentioned that SB 24 potentially will have some serious financial ramifications to every district and teachers union in the state. In response to questions from James Oraziotti, a listing of all dues and subscriptions will be emailed to Board Members. Mr. Oraziotti questioned how much the BOE spends on conferences. There was further discussion about the budget that will be addressed during a special workshop at a later date.

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Arlene Liscinsky said two State Board of Education members were invited to the last CES meeting and addressed SB 24 and some of the initiatives coming forth from the State BOE. She mentioned that the State BOE is under reorganization and some staff is not in place yet, so there are questions as to how the new changes will be implemented.

CABE - Arlene Liscinsky reported A Day on the Hill was attended by Freeman Burr, Timothy Walsh, Thomas Minotti and Arlene Liscinsky. Kathy Yolish said the date for the next CABE Convention in Mystic is November 16-17, 2012. She said there is information online concerning leadership workshops in March/April.

Unfinished Business

Chairman Oppel said the Board had tabled approval of the 2012-2013 district calendar at the last regular meeting and held a special meeting to address questions and concerns.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the 2012-2013 Shelton Public Schools District Calendar as presented; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn. Discussion – James Oraziotti thanked Lorraine Rossner for making the suggested changes. Vote 7-0; motion passed.

New Business

Thomas Minotti moved to add comment of articles in *Shelton Life*; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 7-0; motion passed. Mr. Minotti commended Kathy Yolish for the education articles she has written for the *Shelton Life* newsletter. He noted that Kathy has taken an inordinate amount of her personal time to write the articles, and it is an excellent way for the community to see all the positive activities in our school system.

Jay Francino-Quinn moved to add discussion of school participation in support of the Second Company Governor's Horse Guard; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 7-0; motion passed. Mr. Francino-Quinn expressed appreciation of Perry Hill, Shelton Intermediate and Shelton High for their fantastic efforts to save an historical cavalry unit located in Newtown, the Second Company Governor's Horse Guard, which had been at risk of being eliminated due to state budget issues.

For Your Information

Reports on current vacancies and enrollment were included in packet. The following items were noted:

Teachers Who Attained Tenure December 1, 2011 - February 1, 2012:

- Michelle Cairella, December 1, 2011
- Dayle Gaudio, January 1, 2012
- Nicole Pavese, February 1, 2012

Appointments:

- Katelyn Botsford, Assistant Girls Track Coach, Shelton High School
- Arleen Viglione, Boys Tennis Coach, Shelton High School
- Charles Fowler, Freshman Boys Lacrosse Coach, Shelton High School

Retirements:

None

Resignations:

- Stephanie Ferreira, Girls Freshman Soccer Co-Coach, effective March 14, 2012
- Jaclyn DeLoma, grade 5 teacher, Perry Hill School, after eight years of service, effective March 1, 2012
- Laura Dempsey, Bus Coordinator, effective March 5, 2012

General Leave of Absence:

- Mary Pagliaro, World Language teacher, Shelton High School, academic year 2012-2013

Adjournment

Kathy Yolish moved to adjourn at 8:38 p.m.; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Diane Luther
Recording Secretary – Board of Education
April 4, 2012