

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
Board of Education Administrative Offices
382 Long Hill Avenue
Board Room**

BUDGET WORKSHOP #3

February 4, 2019

Chairman Mark Holden called the Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:35 p.m.

Roll Call:

Mark Holden, Chairman

Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman

Kate Kutash, Secretary

Anne Gaydos

David Gioiello

José Goncalves

Amanda Kilmartin

Darlisa Ritter

Kathleen Yolish

Full Quorum

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

(1 tape on file in Town Clerk's Office)

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the agenda; motion seconded by Amanda Kilmartin and passed unanimously.

Public Hearing

No one from the public spoke.

Review of Budget Requests

Superintendent Clouet stated Mr. Belden and he, along with cabinet members and a few staff, have worked to prepare a budget that reflects the numbers discussed at the last budget meeting. He said this is a significant cut from the budgets proposed by the various principals and program directors, resulting in a reduction of approximately \$2 million to get to 2.99% (\$2.17 million increase). Handouts were provided and a live spreadsheet of the Expenditure Budget Request Analysis was projected to look at various options. Rick Belden and Dr. Clouet responded to questions and suggestions from board members during the thorough review of line items. During discussion about cutting staff, Dr. Clouet explained teachers comprise most of our staff, as it should be, and the elimination of 14.5 teachers and an assistant principal are among the proposed cuts in order to get to 2.99%. He said regrettably, if the increase is much smaller than that or zero, then additional cuts will be required. He stated as part of the proposal, an early retirement incentive program for teachers is included; and, if the board is in agreement, we are hoping to realize some savings and possibly save some positions. The early retirement incentive program would be presented for a vote at the next Board of Education regular meeting. Relative to medical insurance, other options for providing insurance are being explored to look for savings. Dr. Clouet stated, as was asked by the BOA President, he submitted our textbook request letter, which was received at City Hall, and it is unclear at this point how that will play out. Rick Belden said textbooks are included in our budget and will be removed if the City agrees to provide funds. He noted computer equipment is similarly included.

(Note: Tape 1, Side B @ 7:37 p.m.)

Rick Belden said tuition for private schools (outplacements) for special education is very unpredictable. He acknowledged that we include, as we have done every year, the Excess Cost Grant reimbursement to the Board of Education, reducing the special education costs. He said this has been an ongoing practice since at least 2008, and it is very clear in our budgeting process that we do this. It is approximately \$1.4 million and is based on 70% reimbursement rate from the State of Connecticut. Mr. Belden stated the City will take over the transportation effective July 1, and we are in the process of planning for that conversion. He said the inclusion of bus aides is a topic to be resolved prior to completion of the budget. He is working with Kathie Gabrielson and others to look for different ways to reduce the out-of-district private transportation, which has increased significantly this year. There was discussion of non-instructional supplies and request was made to include page numbers in the budget book as a reference. Mr. Belden will review dues and memberships for Central Office. In response to questions about athletic fees, John Niski provided information on the various events and stated the line item is typically underfunded. Electricity use at Shelton High School was discussed. Mr. Belden will review to try to determine why usage increased. Other topics discussed were building usage fees and status of RCA/ECA transportation.

Superintendent Clouet restated his recommendation is 2.99% increase (\$2,173,730; total budget of \$78,873,730). He said with the expectation that budgets are always projections, and this is a fine-tuned budget, and with the likelihood that we will be reviewing this again in light of perhaps a reduction we might receive, it is a strong budget.

Chairman Holden asked if board members had further questions or comments. Kathy Yolish said she could not support it due to cutting teachers and an assistant principal and feels there are other things we could have looked at. Darlisa Ritter agreed and would not support it. Consensus of remaining members was that nobody wants the reductions but would support it reluctantly. Superintendent Clouet said he proposes it reluctantly.

Public Hearing

No one from the public spoke.

Approval of Superintendent's Recommended 2019-2020 Budget Request

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the Superintendent's Recommended 2019-2020 Budget Request of \$74,873,730 (2.99% increase - \$2,173,730); motion seconded by José Goncalves. Motion passed 7-2 (Nay – Kathy Yolish, Darlisa Ritter).

Executive Session

Thomas Minotti moved to enter Executive Session at 8:18 p.m. to discuss potential litigation; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously. Invited to stay were Chris Clouet, Lorraine Rossner, Carole Pannozzo and Rick Belden.

Thomas Minotti moved to leave Executive Session at 9:00 p.m.; motion seconded by Darlisa Ritter and passed unanimously.

Chairman Holden stated no motions were made nor votes taken during Executive Session.

Adjournment

Chairman Mark Holden adjourned the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

***Diane Luther
Secretary to Board of Education
February 11, 2019***