

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
382 LONG HILL AVENUE
BOARD ROOM, 2ND FLOOR
SEPTEMBER 26, 2012**

Chairman Win Oppel called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:07 p.m.

Roll Call:

John Francino-Quinn

James Orazietti

Mark Holden

Mike Pacowta

Arlene Liscinsky, Secretary

Timothy Walsh

Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman

Kathleen Yolish

Win Oppel, Chairman

Full quorum of 9 present; 0 absent

Board of Education Administration present:

Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr

Assistant Superintendent, Lorraine Rossner

Finance Director, Allan Cameron

Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Support Services, Kathleen Bender

Human Resources Director, Carole Pannozzo

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Hearing

Dr. Diane Piazza, 67 Chamberlain Drive, discussed a SPSS decision to disallow her special needs homebound daughter to participate in Band at Shelton High School.

Josephine Demarchis, 40 Woonsocket Avenue, spoke in support of Diane Piazza's two children and their individual situations and asked the board to show that Shelton is not attempting to keep students back but to encourage them.

Judson Crawford, 8 Jordan Avenue, expressed concern that teachers of the community are expending up to \$250 of their own money for information and books for their classes and questioned if this has been brought to the attention of the full board relative to the budget.

There being no further requests to speak, the Public Session was closed.

Approval of Agenda

Mark Holden moved to approve the agenda with one adjustment to move item XIV. C. Tenure Report to follow item V. A.; seconded by Timothy Walsh; vote 9-0; motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 22, 2012; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 9-0; motion passed.

Presentations

Superintendent Burr commended Arlene Liscinsky and Timothy Walsh for their commitment for service to the Shelton Public School System and the Shelton community. At the November Connecticut Association of Boards of Education Annual Convention, they will be recognized, along with board members throughout the state, for having served ten or more years on a board of education.

Superintendent Burr announced the following names of teachers who achieved tenure status as of August 28, 2012, and the board congratulated those in attendance:

Angela Catone, Grade 6, Perry Hill School
Nicholas Corkery, Social Studies, Shelton High School
Susan DiMauro, Business Education, Shelton Intermediate School
Jodi Keller, Grade 1, Long Hill School
Jerry Kelley, General Science & Biology, Shelton High School
Stephen Malafronte, Social Studies, Shelton High School
Martha Parkins, Grade 1, Elizabeth Shelton School
Sara Peters, Grade 5, Perry Hill School
Tracey Sedlock, Grade 3, Mohegan School
Tara Siemieniewicz, English, Shelton Intermediate School
Melissa Slater, English, Shelton High School
Margaret Szadeczky, Family & Consumer Sciences, Shelton High School
Elizabeth Vicdomino, Grade 5, Perry Hill School
Angela Vigent, Special Education, Perry Hill School

Freeman Burr provided a handout and presented the changes made by the state legislature to the current standards around No Child Left Behind, which are effective July 1, 2012. Mr. Burr explained that the State of Connecticut applied for a waiver to change the No Child Left Behind requirements and thus the Adequate Yearly Progress reports. His presentation outlined the changes as a result of the waiver and the new accountability system the State is requiring of all schools. A brief question and answer period and discussion followed.

Freeman Burr briefly discussed identified goals and objectives for the 2012-2013 District Improvement Plan. He said the plan with action steps should be finalized by September 28, and schools have already begun their drafts; further discussion will occur at Principals meeting tomorrow. Mr. Burr noted that work continues on finalizing CAPT targets, free and reduced lunch targets and trend data on ELL. Those will be presented at the next board meeting for a vote.

Communications to the Board

A letter was included in packet from Carla Sullivan, Valley Community Foundation concerning the Shelton Education Endowment Fund. Thank you notes to the board from principals for opening day flower baskets were acknowledged.

Instructional Update

Superintendent's Commentary – Superintendent Burr discussed plans for the October 3 planned early dismissal date (the first of three), resulting from the board's calendar approval in response to SEA's request to include additional meeting days to address curriculum work. He thanked Kathy Bender and her team for coordinating the activities; the principals for hosting the activities at their buildings; and Lorraine Rossner for helping to organize the event. Board members will receive a schedule of the planned meetings.

Board members were advised of an approved field trip for Shelton Intermediate School grade 8 students to visit Washington, DC, May 16-19.

Items Voted On

Timothy Walsh moved to approve the following 2012-2013 fund-raising requests; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 9-0; motion passed.

- **Perry Hill School**
- **Shelton Intermediate School PTO**
- **Elizabeth Shelton School**

A fund-raising request from Shelton High School Goal Club was reviewed and discussion concerned requirement for players to sell candy; a coaching event listed in their budget; and clarification that the club, not the team, will purchase t-shirts. Mr. Burr stated our modified response letter will make it clear that perceptions of what might be mandates are not and there are no reprisals associated with it. He said the letter will indicate approval with exceptions stated. He suggested the language in the policy might need to be strengthened and should be addressed at a Policy meeting. Thomas Minotti requested a draft of the policy be given to the Policy Committee in advance of their meeting. Chairman Oppel requested that John Niski attend that meeting. ***(Note: A motion to table approval of the Shelton High School Goal Club fund-raising request was proposed by Timothy Walsh and then withdrawn with consent of James Oraziatti, who had seconded the motion.)***

Mark Holden moved to approve the 2012-2013 fund-raising request of the Shelton High School Goal Club with the exception of portions that conflict with board policy; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 9-0; motion passed.

Comments by the Board Chair

Chairman Oppel stated the board held a special meeting, and the Superintendent's contract has been extended through the school year 2014-2015. Ad hoc committee members Mark Holden and Arlene Liscinsky were thanked for serving to negotiate. Mr. Oppel announced a special meeting will be held during the week of October 15 to present the standards-based report card information. He expressed appreciation of the entire staff for a smooth opening of school.

Reports by Standing Committees

Athletics – Timothy Walsh noted minutes from the meeting held September 25 were handed out. There was discussion of a video exchange program that the committee approved on trial basis. Freeman Burr said the program will be piloted for a year, and then a suggestion from Jay Francino-Quinn will be considered to give the high school video production students an opportunity to explore alternatives.

Buildings & Grounds – Jay Francino-Quinn said the minutes from the last meeting will be completed and distributed shortly. The next scheduled meeting will be October 24 at 5:00 p.m. James Oraziatti asked to include an agenda item for the next committee meeting regarding formulating a committee to investigate turning over some of our grounds to the City, due to their eligibility for LOCIP grants.

Cafeteria/Transportation – Mark Holden said there were very few complaints about buses this year. Mr. Holden said the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act is in the news; and, in trying to make the meals healthy and cutting calories, kids in sports are hungry. No complaints have been received from parents so far. Beth Smith reported the high school cafeteria has remained open for a half hour to 45 minute window after school to sell additional food to anyone remaining after school, including athletes.

Human Resources – Mike Pacowta said the committee met earlier to discuss and accept the final version of the Superintendent's goals and objectives for 2012-2013.

Mike Pacowta moved to accept the performance objectives for the Superintendent for 2012-2013; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 9-0; motion passed.

Policy/Curriculum/Technology – Thomas Minotti said the committee met yesterday and the draft of Volunteer Coach Policy #4220.1 was presented. Administrative Regulations still must be presented and addressed. In order to move forward with fall sports, Mr. Minotti asked the board to accept the draft of Volunteer Coach Policy #4220.1, to sit until the next regular meeting of the board. Any questions should be addressed to John Niski. Tom Minotti said he asked each of the chairpersons of the standing committees to

consider the three committees suggested at the retreat – Teaching and Learning; Policy; Finance. Mr. Minotti requested that discussion at committee level should be done prior to the next Policy meeting on October 16. He said the Policy Committee requested training in the appropriate use of Robert's Rules and its format application for a smooth-running meeting. Freeman Burr will inquire through Nick Caruso at CABE. The next meeting of the committee is October 16 at 3:30 p.m.

Finance – Arlene Liscinsky stated a special meeting of the committee was held earlier. She noted the year ended with a balance of \$4,000. Mrs. Liscinsky said there was discussion of the structure of the Finance Committee and comments will be referred to Thomas Minotti.

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Arlene Liscinsky provided notes in the packets and mentioned upcoming events.

CABE – Kathy Yolish mentioned the CABE/CAPSS Convention on November 16-17 will be attended by Arlene Liscinsky, Timothy Walsh, Freeman Burr and Allan Cameron. Also noted was both registration and housing will open on October 17 for the NSBA Annual Conference in San Diego, April 13-15, 2013.

New Business

Kathy Yolish moved to add to the agenda comments of back to school nights; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 9-0; motion passed.

Mrs. Yolish commented on her attendance at Booth Hill's back to school night and commended Kathy Sheehy and the staff at Booth Hill for an outstanding explanation of the new standards-based report card.

(Note: Tape 1: Side B – 8:40 p.m.)

Kathy Yolish moved to add to the agenda comments regarding classroom size; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 9-0; motion passed.

Mrs. Yolish expressed concern that Long Hill School grade 3 class size is at 26 and asked that it be monitored closely.

Timothy Walsh moved to add to the agenda comment to compliment a staff member; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 9-0; motion passed.

Mr. Walsh commended Carole PannoZZo for the detailed reports from Human Resources.

James Orazietti moved to add discussion of facilities and inventory; seconded by Timothy Walsh; vote 9-0; motion passed.

As he stated earlier, Mr. Oraziotti proposed that the board look into the possibility of having the City take over some of our property. He expressed concern about the lack of an inventory control system for Maintenance and asked the board to look into it. Chairman Oppel stated Ken LaCroix will look into this and report back to Superintendent Burr. There was further discussion concerning maintenance personnel having to purchase items and the need for vehicles to be out of town. Mr. Burr requested any specific information should be sent to him.

For Your Information

Report on current vacancies was included in packet. The following items were noted:

Certified Staff Appointments:

Casey DeGennaro, School Counselor, SHS
Tracy Young Fagan, grade 5 Teacher, Perry Hill School
Megan Field, grade 3 Teacher, Elizabeth Shelton School
Meghan Lance, grade 5 Teacher, Perry Hill School
Marlo Verrastro-Ruggiero, .5 kindergarten/.5 reading Teacher, Long Hill School
Lindsay Wheeler, Physical Education Teacher, SIS

Non-Certified Staff Appointments:

James Burns, Bus Transportation Manager
Michele Collins, School Office Secretary, SHS
Adam Forstrom, Network Technician A
Lauren Reynolds, School Nurse, Mohegan School

Retirement:

Fernando Segui, Custodian, after 16 years of service

Stipend Appointments:

Michael Barone, Assistant Football Coach, SHS
Jerry Kelley, SHS Student Council Advisor
Lindsay Wheeler, Assistant Girls Volleyball Coach, SHS

Stipend Reappointments:

- **Athletic Reappointments Based on Evaluations**
 - James Ferro, Assistant Girls Soccer Coach, SHS
 - Robert Rotolo, Assistant Wrestling Co-Coach, SHS
- **Non-Athletic Reappointment**
 - Robert Lutka, Evening School Director

Stipend Resignation:

Roger Daigle, Assistant Boys Basketball Coach, SHS

Stipend Non-Renewals:

Elizabeth Plikaitis, Assistant Girls Volleyball Coach, SHS
Elizabeth Plikaitis, Head Boys Volleyball Coach, SHS

Back to School Nights

9/18 – Shelton High	10/1 – Long Hill
9/19 – Shelton Intermediate	10/2 – Sunnyside
9/20 – Booth Hill	10/3 – Elizabeth Shelton
9/24 – Perry Hill Grade 5	10/4 – Mohegan
9/27 – Perry Hill Grade 6	

Adjournment

Kathy Yolish moved to adjourn at 8:49 p.m.; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 9-0; motion passed.

Diane Luther
Recording Secretary – Board of Education
October 3, 2012