

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Board of Education Administrative Offices
382 Long Hill Avenue
Board Room, 2nd Floor
December 13, 2017**

Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:06 p.m.

Roll Call:

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| Mark Holden, Chairman | Jose Goncalves |
| Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman | Amanda Kilmartin |
| Kate Kutash, Secretary | Darlisa Ritter |
| Anne Gaydos | Kathleen Yolish |
| David Gioiello | |

Full Quorum

Board of Education Administration present: Dr. Christopher Clouet, Superintendent of Schools; Lorraine Rossner, Assistant Superintendent; Carole Pannozzo, Human Resources Director; Edward Drapp, Finance Director

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Perry Hill School student, Matt Sahagun, played the Star Spangled Banner on saxophone. The Mohegan School chorus, under direction of Music Teacher Ashleigh D'Addio, performed three holiday songs, followed by saxophone solos and duet by Matt Sahagun and Ryan Delgado, PHS grades 6 and 5 respectively.

Approval of Agenda

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the agenda; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Yearly Re-Organization of the Board – Election of Officers

Thomas Minotti moved to select Mark Holden as moderator for election of officers; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Darlisa Ritter moved to conduct election of officers by written ballot; seconded by Kathy Yolish. Roll Call Vote: Aye – D. Ritter, K. Yolish, D. Gioiello. Nay – T. Minotti, K. Kutash, A. Kilmartin, J. Goncalves, A. Gaydos, M. Holden. Motion failed with vote of 3-6.

Thomas Minotti moved to conduct election of officers by roll call vote; seconded by Kate Kutash. Roll Call Vote: Aye – D. Ritter, T. Minotti, K. Kutash, A. Kilmartin, J. Goncalves, D. Gioiello, A. Gaydos, M. Holden. Nay – K. Yolish. Motion passed 8-1.

Thomas Minotti moved to nominate Mark Holden to continue as Chairman; motion seconded by Kate Kutash. Darlisa Ritter moved to nominate David Gioiello as Chairman; motion seconded by Jose Goncalves. There were no further nominations. Roll call vote: For David Gioiello – K. Yolish, D. Ritter, J. Goncalves, D. Gioiello. For Mark Holden – T. Minotti, K. Kutash, A. Kilmartin, A. Gaydos, M. Holden. With a vote of 5-4, Mark Holden was elected Chairman.

Kate Kutash moved to nominate Thomas Minotti to continue as Vice Chairman; motion seconded by Anne Gaydos. Jose Goncalves moved to nominate David Gioiello as Vice Chairman; motion seconded by Darlisa Ritter. There were no further nominations. Roll Call vote: For Thomas Minotti – M. Holden, A. Gaydos, A. Kilmartin, K. Kutash, T. Minotti. For David Gioiello – K. Yolish, D. Ritter, J. Goncalves, D. Gioiello. With a vote of 5-4, Thomas Minotti was elected Vice Chairman.

Thomas Minotti moved to nominate Kate Kutash as Secretary; motion seconded by Amanda Kilmartin. There were no further nominations. One unanimous vote was cast for Kate Kutash as Secretary.

Committee Assignments

Chairman Mark Holden announced the following committees:

Finance:

Thomas Minotti, Chair; Anne Gaydos, Vice Chair, Darlisa Ritter, Amanda Kilmartin;
David Gioiello, Jose Goncalves, Mark Holden, Voting Member;

Teaching & Learning:

Anne Gaydos, Chair; Darlisa Ritter, Vice Chair; Thomas Minotti; Kathy Yolish;
Kate Kutash; Jose Goncalves

Policy:

Kate Kutash, Chair; Kathy Yolish, Vice Chair; Amanda Kilmartin; Mark Holden, Voting Member

Mr. Holden said there will be at least one additional committee appointed at a later date.

Public Hearing

John "Jack" Finn, no address given, spoke on behalf of the cafeteria workers and stated his belief that they should be treated fairly.

Fred Tagg, 18 Geissler Drive, spoke on behalf of the cafeteria workers, testified to their work ethics and value to the students and school system as a whole, and expressed hope for a positive outcome.

Kerri Reynolds, 14 Glendale Terrace, parent, expressed support of cafeteria workers.

Denise Scollin, 34 Westminster Avenue, cafeteria worker for 19 years, asked for support to keep benefits.

Dave Ferrara, junior at Shelton High School, discussed a rumor about Advanced Placement course admissions and removal of minimal requirements such as teacher recommendations, classroom experience, etc. Superintendent Clouet agreed to meet to discuss his concerns.

Approval of Minutes

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 15, 2017; motion seconded by Darlisa Ritter and passed unanimously

Presentations/Recognitions

Superintendent Clouet announced Sunnyside Elementary School's recognition by Connecticut Association of Schools for Positive School Climate Practices. Principal Amy Yost, accompanied by several of Sunnyside's teachers, explained the selection process and the hard work by students, teachers and community members that led to the recognition.

Communications to the Board

There were none.

Superintendent's Commentary/Instructional Update

Superintendent Clouet stated the Strategic Planning Core Committee met recently and talked about working on the Milestones that are being piloted this year, which are ways to help students see at what point in their school career they are assessed and measured for their ability to master certain skills and dispositions. Dr. Clouet said consideration is being given to piloting coding for students next year. He said we will also be looking at a Shelton vision of the graduate, working with the board, the committee, at faculty meetings and public events and will solicit input on what exactly is our vision of a graduate in 2030 and beyond. Superintendent Clouet informed the board that in January he will be giving a report and small presentation on the balances and imbalances of our schools.

Approved Field Trips

There were none.

Items Voted on

Darlisa Ritter moved to approve the request of Perry Hill School ColorGuard to fundraise using a GoFundMe campaign to purchase new poles and flags; motion seconded by Amanda Kilmartin and passed unanimously.

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the request of the SHS Wrestling Booster Club to conduct fundraising activities during the 2017-18 season; seconded by Kate Kutash. Discussion. It was confirmed that the law applicable to 50/50 raffles has been changed. Motion passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to approve the request of Sunnyside School to conduct fundraising activities as outlined in letter during the 2017-18 school year; motion seconded by Darlisa Ritter and passed unanimously.

Comments by the Board Chair

Chairman Holden stated he will give members an opportunity later to define something they would like to see accomplished by the board or by themselves within the next year.

Mr. Holden stated the board approved the contract with the Administrator's union earlier this evening. He will be sending out a questionnaire to the board members relative to finding ways to improve communication with each other. Mr. Holden said the board needs to start planning for our next board training or retreat, noting that the addition of three new members calls for a review of acronyms, the meaning of different titles in terms of funding, and protocol of expulsion hearings, etc.

The following goals were stated:

Mandy Kilmartin would like to see improvement in communication between the board and the community, as well as engagement. She would like to take an in-depth look at our disciplinary process, resources and standards of accountability.

Jose Goncalves would like to see the SHS parking lot repaved and would like to rescind the parking fee for SHS students.

David Gioiello would like the board to set specific measurable goals for the education program every year, in order to measure accomplishment. Also, the superintendent should have firm, measurable goals that the board sets with him to determine whether he has met or exceeded those goals.

Kate Kutash would like to continue to see expansion of the music program and to continue to rebuild the high school band size, as well as 8th grade involvement in the high school band like it used to be and the whole range of electives the kids use when they move on to a career in music. She would like to see PTO representatives from each school involved here at the meetings, as it once was.

Thomas Minotti would like to see the music program expand to what it was previously and to improve communication with the community.

Mark Holden is focused on improving student achievement and would like to continue to expand emphasis on music and the arts.

Darlisa Ritter would like to raise math scores and get our financial house in order.

Anne Gaydos said she is on board with expanding communications between the community and our board. She also wants to ensure milestones for each grade level are communicated to the community and hopes to continue her work with the Strategic Planning Committee in that effort.

Kathy Yolish would like to bring the high school music program up to its full capacity. She would like to have more inclusive communication within the board.

Mark Holden commented that one of the issues with the high school is many of our students who have an interest in music choose to attend a program like RCA. He said we need to overcome this drain of talent by making them feel SHS is the best place for all of their education.

Reports of Standing Committees

Teaching & Learning – Thomas Minotti reviewed the topics of December 12 committee meeting including an overview of the current status of Strategic Planning Committee work; discussion and overview of Teaching & Learning calendar for 2018. Minutes are posted online. Next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 10, at 4:00 PM. Tentative agenda items: new course proposals; tentative calendar for Teaching & Learning presentations for the remainder of the year.

Finance Committee – Thomas Minotti stated the committee met earlier tonight to review L2 narratives, check registers and expenditures.

Policy Committee – Kate Kutash reviewed the topics of December 12 committee meeting including reviewing a policy family each month; update of National Federation High School Sports School Broadcast Program; CABE policy information on Social Media Proposals shared with members for review; discussion of bullying to be continued next meeting. Next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 10, at 5:00 PM.

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Thomas Minotti stated CES did not have a formal meeting.

Unfinished Business

There was nothing discussed.

New Business

There was nothing discussed.

For Your Information

Chairman Holden noted the attachments in the packet including Vacancy Report, Staff and Stipend Actions, and Enrollment Report. There was brief discussion of a Math position.

Chairman Holden recognized two Boy Scouts from Troup 21 who were in attendance to fulfill a requirement to attend a public meeting.

Highlights

Kate Kutash talked about Mohegan's Polar Express Literacy Night, which was well attended. Darlisa Ritter discussed Sunnyside's Literacy Night, which focused on using technology. Anne Gaydos mentioned the CAPSS Student Awards Dinner honoring two SIS students and two SHS students. Mark Holden discussed the SIS Food Drive for victims of the devastating hurricane in Puerto Rico and the SIS Spanish Club event to present the food to the Honorable Pedro Garcia Figueroa, Mayor of Hormigueros, Puerto Rico and hear him speak about plans to aid his community's recovery. Mr. Holden talked about the SHS Football season and the FLL Lego League Robotics teams, all five of which qualified for the State Championship. He said for the second year in a row, SIStematic won and will represent us at the World Championship in Detroit. He said the volunteer engineers in the community and the SHS students who mentor the younger students contribute to the success of our program.

Adjournment

Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Diane Luther

Secretary to Board of Education

December 20, 2017