

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
382 LONG HILL AVENUE
FEBRUARY 23, 2011**

The Board of Education met at 6:20 p.m. to discuss a teacher leave of absence; Workers' Compensation matter re: Tim Tagg. Thomas Minotti **moved to go into Executive Session** at 6:25 p.m.; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 7-0; motion passed. Members present were Timothy Walsh, Arlene Liscinsky, Win Oppel, Thomas Minotti, Kate Kutash, Jay Francino-Quinn and Kathy Yolish. Paula Ellis arrived at 6:41 and Mike Pacowta arrived at 7:00 and departed at 7:13. Invited to stay were Freeman Burr, Allan Cameron and James Brant. Thomas Minotti **moved to leave Executive Session** at 7:16 p.m.; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Chairman Timothy Walsh called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:22 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 members

Board of Education Administration present:

Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr

Director of Finance, Allan Cameron

Interim Director of Human Resources, James Brant

Acting Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Support Services, Kathy Bender

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

The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing

No one from the public spoke.

Approval of Agenda

Win Oppel moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 9-0; motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Paula Ellis moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 9, 2011; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 9-0; motion passed.

Presentations

Jessica Olavarria of Shelton High School was congratulated and presented with a plaque for designing the winning emblem for the Student Spaceflight Experiment Program. Plaques were also presented to the members of the winning team: James Szabo, Leanne Misencic, Jason Shnipes, Kayla Russo and Omar Sobh. Mary Clark, Science teacher, was also recognized for her support and guidance of the team. Freeman Burr gave an update of the program including plans for the students to work collaboratively at Perkin Elmer to set up the experiment and prepare it for shipment for the Space Shuttle Endeavour launch on April 19 at 7:58 p.m. As additional information becomes available, postings will be made on the website.

Appointments

Paula Ellis moved to appoint Edward Kacey to the stipend position of transition coordinator at Shelton High School, effective February 24, 2011; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 9-0; motion passed.

Win Oppel moved to appoint Jennifer Volpe to the part-time position of behavior analyst for the school district; seconded by Paula Ellis; vote 9-0; motion passed.

Resignations

Freeman Burr informed the Board of the resignation of Patricia Atkinson, Special Education teacher, effective February 28, 2011.

Leaves of Absence

Paula Ellis moved to approve an extension of unpaid leave of absence to July 10, 2011 for Melissa Lantz, Art teacher at Booth Hill/Sunnyside; seconded by Kate Kutash. Discussion – Paula Ellis added a condition that the Human Resource Director will write a letter to Melissa Lantz explaining the Board's stance on her leave of absence. Kate Kutash accepted the condition. Vote 9-0; motion passed.

Instructional Update

Freeman Burr stated the Executive Director position was posted on February 22 for a period of 10 workdays. He discussed the kickoff presentation for the Shelton Public Schools Leadership Academy to be held tomorrow. Keynote speaker and presenter will be Connecticut Association of Schools High School Principal of the Year, Timothy Sullivan, who is Principal of the Greater Hartford Classical Magnet Academy. Mr. Burr discussed future speakers and the structure and goals of the Leadership Academy. Jim Brant elaborated on a simulated model used extensively in industry that is being considered for use in the program.

A report will be given to the Board following the first phase of the program and the Board will be apprised throughout the process.

A brief report was given on the four-day voluntary instructional program held last week during February recess. Mr. Burr stated of the expected 515 students who expressed interest, attendance ranged from 475 for the first two days to around 430 for the last two days. A full report will be given to the Board at the March meeting that will include results of a survey being sent to the tutors, principals and staff who were in attendance and an online survey for parents of the attendees. Mr. Burr confirmed that total cost for the program will be included in the report to the Board. Mr. Burr said staff will explore the feasibility of offering a similar program for a fee during April recess next year.

Items Voted On

Kate Kutash moved to amend the language at the bottom of the 2010-2011 Shelton Public Schools Calendar and to approve April 18-20, 2011 as make-up snow days; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn. Discussion involved additional snow days and possible exceptions for travel plans during the make-up timeframe. Vote 9-0; motion passed.

Win Oppel moved to approve the 2011-2012 Shelton Public Schools Calendar with a comment; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky. Discussion – Win Oppel requested multiple back-to-school nights to be shown on the calendar. Designated snow make-up days were reviewed, as well as notification time frame if it becomes necessary to use April recess. Vote 8-1 (nay – Paula Ellis); motion passed.

Paula Ellis moved to reappoint Mark Berritto to the stipend position of assistant boys' baseball coach at Shelton High School; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 9-0; motion passed.

Win Oppel moved to authorize the Superintendent or his designee to make settlement recommendations regarding Board of Education employees for Workers' Compensation benefits and to report such to the Personnel Committee; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 9-0; motion passed.

Comments by the Board Chair

Chairman Walsh announced that he is appointing Arlene Liscinsky to the position of Acting Chair, and that he is stepping down (temporarily) as Board of Education Chair but remaining on the Board as a full voting member. Mr. Walsh said he does not want to inconvenience the Board and administration during his expected surgery on March 7 and convalescence and hopes to return soon.

Reports by Standing Committees

Athletics – No report was given.

Building and Grounds – Win Oppel stated the committee met last week and discussed the snow removal activity relative to cost and resulting leaks and possible roof damage. The committee discussed budget considerations due to the cost of snow removal. The committee is exploring the creation of a district procedures manual for maintenance and custodial staff. The committee also discussed the HVAC position. Mr. Oppel said a joint meeting with Cafeteria/Transportation is needed to discuss the installation of grease separators at the sink sources of our schools at a potential cost of \$3,000 per sink. Kate Kutash confirmed the topic will be on the next Cafeteria/Transportation Committee agenda.

Cafeteria/Transportation – Kate Kutash stated there will be a meeting on March 1.

Policy/Curriculum/Technology – Thomas Minotti reported the next meeting will be March 22 at 4 p.m.

Personnel – Mike Pacowta stated no formal meeting was held. With regard to negotiations, he stated the paraprofessionals are going to arbitration, and the contracts for following three unions expire in June 2012 and will be going to negotiation soon: Shelton Administrators' Council; Shelton Educational Secretaries; International Union of Operating Engineers (maintenance and custodial workers). Chairman Walsh appointed the Personnel Committee to work with Jim Brant to develop standards for salary and other benefits for the non-affiliated personnel. He stated Win Oppel and Arlene Liscinsky will serve as the negotiators for the Shelton Administrators' Council. Mr. Walsh said he will make appointments for the other two unions shortly.

Finance – Arlene Liscinsky discussed the Mayor's budget presentation. She stated our present budget is \$63,100,000; the Board approved budget request is \$64,861,457, leaving a difference of approximately \$1,761,000. The Mayor's budget proposes \$63,700,000 in our Operating Budget with a proposal to cover \$250,000 on the city side for unemployment additional cost. That unemployment cost was in our original budget figure and has been separated; however, a shortfall of more than \$300,000 remains. The Superintendent and Mr. Cameron will make some recommendations at the next Finance Committee meeting. The Board of Education will meet with Apportionment & Taxation for the budget presentation at City Hall on March 8 at 7 p.m.

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Arlene Liscinsky stated there will be a meeting on March 3.

CABE – Kathy Yolish reminded members of CABE’s Day on the Hill and Area 6 Legislative Breakfast on March 1 and distributed a handout.

Win Oppel spoke on behalf of the Board and others wishing Tim Walsh well with his surgery and recovery.

Adjournment

Paula Ellis moved to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 9-0; motion passed.

Diane Luther

Diane Luther

Recording Secretary – Board of Education

March 1, 2011