

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Board of Education Administrative Offices
382 Long Hill Avenue
Board Room, 2nd Floor
April 26, 2017**

Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:04 p.m.

Roll Call:

Mark Holden, Chairman

Kate Kutash

Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman

Win Oppel (via Skype; departed 8:10)

Arlene Liscinsky, Secretary

Darlisa Ritter

David Gioiello

Kathleen Yolish

Faith Hack

Full Quorum changed to 8 present, 1 absent at 8:10 p.m.

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

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of recently deceased School Secretary, Valerie Byszczynski.

Approval of Agenda

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the agenda; motion seconded by Faith Hack and passed with vote of 9-0.

Presentations/Recognitions

CABE Student Leadership Award Winners Brandon Acervida and Lia Fadiman of Shelton Intermediate School and Carly Nicholas and Tyler Werner of Shelton High School were recognized by the board and school administration and presented award letters and certificates.

Shelton High School Science Fair Finalists who were also recognized at the state level were honored with certificates. Greg Corsale, Siddarth Jain, Michael Kichar, Lauren Pawlowski, Marissa Peck, Hunter Wronski, Kyle Young and Jacob Zuklie shared their projects with commentary from their teacher/mentors.

Public Hearing

James Oraziotti, 81 Williams Street, referenced Policy #1170, Community Relations Recognition Policy, and discussed honoring former Coach Joseph Benanto, noting his outstanding accomplishments and contributions to Shelton Public Schools.

Judson Crawford, 8 Jordan Avenue, asked what action the board took on the two agenda items at the Special Meeting of the Board, which preceded the Regular Meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 22, 2017; motion seconded by Darlisa Ritter and passed with vote of 9-0.

Communications to the Board

There were none.

Superintendent's Instructional Update

Superintendent Clouet stated the board and entire district appreciate the \$250,000 recently appropriated by the Board of Aldermen for Chromebooks as well as a new phone system at SIS, both of which are on order. He said the aldermen also voted and appropriated significant funding for replacement windows at ESS. Dr. Clouet said an announcement was made at last night's Valley United Way Annual Dinner that Shelton Public Schools once again was recognized for Top Dollars Raised (over \$12,000). He discussed his letter released to parents about a controversial book 13 Reasons Why and now a television series, to alert them about the topics including suicide. Superintendent Clouet noted not only is our SHS robotics team once again at the international robotics competition in St. Louis, the PHS/SIS team is there as well. He discussed the erroneous information reported in a recent newspaper article relative to Shelton's chronic absenteeism numbers. Mrs. Rossner explained there is a coding issue with our measurement of daily attendance, which is much stricter than the state's measurement. This is addressed and more comparative data will be available at the next board meeting. Dr. Clouet said the lawsuit regarding charging tuition for Bridgeport's Fairchild Wheeler Magnet School being led by Stratford, which now includes Trumbull and Monroe, is becoming a very complex issue. He said Shelton is not signed on yet on advice of our attorney, because we have not received a signed MOU from Stratford Public Schools. He explained that we received an MOU from the law office in charge of filing suit, and the board voted at last meeting to make sure we are protected from paying more than the amount agreed to by the board. He said there are a lot of moving pieces and no action has been taken yet.

Strategic Plan Update – Dr. Clouet said a meeting will be held next week to discuss milestones for next year. More details will be reported at the next board meeting.

Budget – Superintendent Clouet discussed the situation in Hartford, which is very delicate and disheartening. He said we have been in regular discussions with members of the Board of Aldermen on what different options might be, but we need to wait. Dominic Barone provided a handout showing the current year expenditures and a summary of our proposal made to the aldermen and addressed questions from board members. Anticipated is a small surplus but not a deficit at end of this fiscal year.

(Note: Win Oppel departed at 8:10)

Superintendent Clouet discussed the two naturalization ceremonies to be held on April 27 at SIS, and a copy of a press release was distributed to board members.

Approved Field Trips

There were none.

Items Voted on

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the Shelton High School graduation date of Thursday, June 15, 2017 and rain or shine date of Friday, June 16, 2017; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed with vote of 8-0.

Darlisa Ritter moved to accept on behalf of Perry Hill School (Courtney Dishian) a grant of \$1,970 from Best Buy Education for the purchase of six Acer R-11 touchscreen Chromebooks; motion seconded by Arlene Liscinsky and passed with vote of 8-0.

Comments by the Board Chair

Chairman Holden's comments pertained to the science fair; robotics; Read Across the Valley. He requested support of PHS student, Kayla Kilincoglu, who is in running at national level of Future Chef Program.

Reports of Standing Committees

Teaching & Learning – Thomas Minotti reviewed the meeting of April 18, which featured introduction of new course proposals by Dr. Beth Smith and Superintendent Clouet's report. Minutes are posted online. The May 9 meeting is canceled (lack of attendance) and items will be brought forward to June 13 meeting at 4:00 p.m., including ESS Departmentalization.

Finance Committee – Arlene Liscinsky said the April 19 meeting topics were review of L2 and discussion of the few areas being monitored closely. She stated a vendor conference was held yesterday for the food service contract. Additional topics were furniture for Elizabeth Shelton Media Center; Elizabeth Shelton windows project; Phase 2 Sunnyside roof project - bids received and contract award to be recommended tomorrow night. David Gioiello asked for more in-depth information about strategies to remove possible asbestos-contaminated caulking for window project at ESS, as well as a copy of the OSHA indoor air quality report for PHS.

Policy Committee – Kate Kutash stated the committee met on April 18 for presentation by Dr. Smith on graduation requirements for various classes and discussion of the Proposed Booster Club Sponsorship Banner Administrative Regulations. Arlene Liscinsky had an issue with the process and recommended the regulations should be sent back to Policy for further discussion and attachment to an existing policy. Related discussion followed. The May 9 meeting is canceled (lack of attendance) and next scheduled meeting will be June 13 at 5:00 p.m. A Special Meeting may be scheduled for Policy.

(Note: Tape 1; Side B at 8:38)

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Arlene Liscinsky said a budget meeting was held on Monday with majority of discussion about grant money that comes from the State to districts for magnet school tuition. The State informed RESCs that all tuition will be reduced 6% this year and 6% next year, and this will be the first time in eight years that CES will increase tuition to districts.

CABE – Faith Hack discussed events included in the newsletter in packet.

Unfinished Business

There was nothing to discuss.

New Business

There was nothing to discuss.

For Your Information

Chairman Holden noted the attachments in the packet including Vacancy Report, Staff and Stipend Actions, Enrollment Report. Dr. Ritter requested information on number of students who are outplaced.

Highlights

Kathy Yolish mentioned Elizabeth Shelton's Grandparents Day; Sunnyside's Wellness Fair; award to Mohegan student Sam Jones for growing 22 pound cabbage; Mohegan's Literacy Night; PHS Enrichment; BHS One School, One Book; Administrative Assistants Week; PHS Spelling Bee; Sunnyside STEAM night. Darlisa Ritter commended staff for the variety of STEAM nights at the schools. Faith Hack commented on strong parental involvement at the STEAM nights. Kathy Yolish thanked Dr. Smith and her staff for the quarterly highlights report. Mark Holden stated the PHS Open House was an opportunity for people to learn more about our schools. He said the Jazz Band performance was excellent. Mr. Holden encouraged others to work with students on their Capstone projects, as it is worthwhile.

Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Diane Luther

Secretary to Board of Education

May 3, 2017