

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Board of Education Administrative Offices
382 Long Hill Avenue
Board Room, 2nd Floor
April 25, 2018**

Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:10 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

Quorum – 7 present; 2 absent

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

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

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

Presentations/Recognitions

Weller Foundation Excellence in Teaching Award 2018 – Superintendent Clouet introduced Desiree Conway, Library Media Specialist at Perry Hill School, as Shelton's recipient of the award for her entry, *Escape from PHS Library*. Mrs. Conway described details of her project, which was based on PHS One School/One Book, *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*. Dr. Clouet also recognized and thanked the following teachers who submitted projects to Weller: Sara Cannon, LHS, (*Kindergarten Kindness Project*); Kim Atkinson, BHS, (*A Solid Foundation*); Courtney Dishian, PHS, (*For the Birds*); Theresa Manus, LHS (*New Friends – Connecting Art Classes Globally*).

Innovative Educator Award – Superintendent Clouet introduced Shelton High School Business Teacher and FBLA advisor Lisa Huber as recipient of this month's Innovative Educator Award. Mrs. Huber gave a presentation highlighting the various ways in which students learn to connect with local and broader community to build mutually beneficial relationships. She described some of the numerous responses received from letters composed by students requesting marketing tools, as well as presentations. She expressed appreciation for being named an Innovative Educator.

Michael Merati, CTE Curriculum Leader, discussed the development of a Teen Tech Team at SHS, currently consisting of 12 students, who provide technical assistance directly to senior citizens at the Shelton Senior Center. He stated the team has visited in March and April, again in May, and will be a monthly tradition next school year. The Shelton Herald will publish an article in this week's edition.

Public Hearing

Judson Crawford, 8 Jordan Avenue, stated the BOE's presentation to the Board of A&T and the Board of Alderman was very informative. He asked for status of bus contract and budget.

Approval of Minutes

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 28, 2018; motion seconded by Anne Gaydos and passed unanimously.

Communications to the Board

There were none.

Superintendent's Commentary/Instructional Update

Strategic Plan Update – Dr. Clouet stated the work continues with focus on the June 2nd Community Forum at SIS, which is meant to be a district-wide forum for the public to let them know about the many things going on in our schools. Superintendent Clouet explained that part of what we do is offer educational opportunities to the community, and on May 8 at 6:30 p.m. the district will be having Families in the Digital Age Forum at SIS, which will be a presentation of data privacy and other issues related to technology and data as it impacts our lives. If interested in attending, registration is encouraged.

Budget – Formal word has been received through the Mayor's presentation of his budget proposal to the Board of Aldermen that he is advocating for a \$1.23 million increase for our budget, which is a \$1.6 million gap based on our request of \$2.8 million. We remain hopeful that our allocation will be higher and are working with city officials to see if that can happen. Superintendent Clouet said we are working with City Hall on other ways that certain kinds of expenditures can be moved from our books to the city side, allowing that funding to be used primarily for staffing. He stated the final budget for the city and the mill rate will be set by the end of May by City Charter, and we are looking at some different scenarios about what it might look like if we have a \$1 million or \$1.1 million gap. Dr. Clouet stated we need the \$2.8 million that we requested and think it is reasonable; otherwise, the board would not have submitted that proposal.

Bus Contract – Dr. Clouet said we are working with the city and have had many meetings about the bus contract. We currently have not selected a contractor to provide bus services. We are obligated by law to provide transportation services to all students, including regular and special needs students, as well as other students living within the city – including parochial schools. The contract we have with our current vendor ends the last day of June. We will then begin providing transportation for the summer program, Superintendent Clouet said we are in daily contact with members of City Hall to explore other solutions that may be less costly and a decision must be made soon. Chairman Holden announced there will be a Special Meeting of the Board on Monday, April 30, at 5 p.m. to discuss the bus contract.

Redistricting - Dr. Clouet discussed redistricting and said a bid was put out for vendors that do that kind of work, specifically professionals that help with demographics, GPS visions of the city and streets, and mapping, etc. A very good bid was submitted from a highly reputable Connecticut company called Milone & MacBroom, a gold standard organization with a long list of glowing recommendations. The thought would be to work over the summer and through next year on developing a plan and looking at options and hopefully have the Board approve a redistricting plan for the following school year. He said we want this to be done at a high level of professionalism and make sure that process will help parents who might have to move from one school district to another to understand exactly why we did it and how it worked. He said this will be very helpful in alleviating the overcrowding conditions we have in some of our schools. For the next board meeting members will have a copy of the bid and details. He suggested the board might want to hold a special meeting

to meet with them and ask questions. His recommendation is to use savings that we found this year in our special education transportation to pay for it in this year's budget.

Superintendent Clouet mentioned that we are in testing season (SBAC) and feedback indicates it is going well.

Approved Field Trips

Board Members were apprised of approved field trip for SHS French classes and French Club to France and Spain on April 11-19, 2019.

Items Voted on

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the Shelton High School graduation date of Thursday, June 21, 2018 (at Finn Stadium) and rain or shine date of Friday, June 22, 2018; motion seconded by Kate Kutash. Discussion. Darlisa Ritter asked for details in the case of rain. Dr. Clouet said he will get information from Dr. Smith to pass on to board members. Motion passed unanimously.

Comments by the Board Chair

Chairman Holden commented that our budget hearing was the longest budget interview he'd ever attended. He said the Superintendent and Finance Director did a fantastic job of marshaling the facts and were ready for all the questions raised. Mr. Holden said Superintendent Clouet's mid-year evaluation will be scheduled soon. He discussed the In Plain Sight program held at PHS, which was well attended. He is pleased with the work of the committee and anticipates more activity as time passes. He noted there is a billboard in town and said an application has been submitted for a federal grant.

Reports of Standing Committees

Teaching & Learning – Anne Gaydos stated the committee met on April 17 and listened to reports on job sharing at Perry Hill School by Lorraine Williams; Student Ambassadors at Sunnyside School by Amy Yost; and a presentation of Project ExcEI by Vicky White. The next meeting will be May 8 at 4 p.m. with tentative agenda items of Next Generation Accountability Report; Math Model Classroom update, and ESS departmentalization.

Finance Committee – Thomas Minotti gave an overview of the meeting of April 18 which included a report by Ed Drapp that things are looking good with current budget. Also, the target date for prepaid card is May 1, which will be used to cover some recurring petty cash expenses. A brief summary of facilities projects was given. Dr. Ritter, as a member of the Finance Committee, has volunteered to serve on a subcommittee with Ed Drapp, John Calhoun and Gary DeFilippo to address the items regarding the non-recurring capital costs and capital repairs. Full minutes are posted.

Policy Committee – Kate Kutash stated Policy met on April 17 and heard from SIS student Charlotte Zilinek regarding the dress code and non-compliance by wearing sunglasses during the school day, which was followed by discussion and agreement by Dr. Clouet to redirect conversation with Headmaster Ken Saranich. The committee completed work on proposed Social Media Bylaw #9327, which is being presented to the full board to sit for review until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education. There was discussion of field trips, particularly for younger students, with regard to cost, which will be brought forth as a future agenda item. The next meeting is May 8 at 5 p.m. There was brief discussion of possible consequences of a board member's violation of social media guidelines.

Public Relations & Outreach Committee – Anne Gaydos stated no meeting was held.

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Thomas Minotti said the CES Regular Meeting was held on April 5. Dr. Charles Dumais has been selected as the next Executive Director of CES. Dr. Pitkoff will serve with Dr. Dumais during the transition period. CES raised \$16,000 at its annual fundraiser. Dr. Michael Regan, Special Education Director, will retire and has accepted position of Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Personnel Services in Pelham, NY.

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. Darlisa Ritter asked if the Enrollment can include the number of graduates this year. Superintendent Clouet will contact Dr. Smith for an updated number.

Highlights

Kathy Yolish said Mohegan School raised over \$3,000 at their Look for the Good Gratitude Campaign where Principal Kristen Santilli and other staff members were slimed. Mrs. Yolish attended Sunnyside's STEAM Night, which was very well organized. She commented that the Board's Retreat was successful. She enjoyed reading at Booth Hill School's One Book One School event. Mrs. Yolish looks forward to judging Sunnyside's spelling bee and attending a performance of Legally Blonde.

Mark Holden said our Robotics team is in Detroit and explained how to watch matches online. He said this has been a good year for our Robotics team. He stated we have a lot on our plate in the next month or so and will need additional meetings related to the budget, transportation contract, and evaluation of Superintendent Clouet. Mr. Holden said we've accomplished a lot this year, and he enjoys being out in the district seeing students engaged, happy and they're learning, which makes him proud to be part of this board.

Adjournment

Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Diane Luther

Secretary to Board of Education

May 2, 2018