

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
382 LONG HILL AVENUE
SHELTON, CONNECTICUT
MAY 27, 2009**

Chairman Win Oppel called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:39 p.m.

Roll Call: (alpha order)

Paula Ellis

Eugene Kierce

Arlene Liscinsky

Francis MacIvain

Thomas Minotti (excused)

Win Oppel, Chairman

James Oraziotti

Bernard Simons

Timothy Walsh

A quorum of 8 present and 1 absent

Board of Education Administration present:

Superintendent of Schools, Robin Willink

Assistant Superintendent, Lorraine Rossner

Director of Finance, Allan Cameron

Director of Human Resources, Rita McDougald-Campbell

Director of Instruction, Patricia Curran

Director of Special Education, Valentina Parchin

Operations Manager, William Banfe

(2 tapes on file in City/Town Clerk's Office)

The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was no one from the public who wished to speak.

Approval of Agenda and Addendum:

Timothy Walsh made a motion to approve the agenda and addendum; seconded by Bernard Simons; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Eugene Kierce made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of April 21, 2009, Regular Meeting of April 22, 2009, and Special Meeting of May 6, 2009; seconded by Francis MacIlvain. Votes as shown below. Motion carried.

April 21, 2009	vote 5-0-3 (Paula Ellis, Arlene Liscinsky and Bernard Simons abstained)
April 22, 2009	vote 7-0-1 (Bernard Simons abstained)
May 6, 2009	vote 8-0

Presentations:

Shelton High School student Julie Lavin was recognized for being elected as North Atlantic Region Vice President of DECA. Superintendent Willink presented a proclamation from Governor Rell to Debi Petrushonis on behalf of all nurses in Shelton Public Schools. Shelton Public Schools had received a plaque from Valley United Way for top dollars raised.

(Note: Tape 1, Side B – 7:44 p.m.)

Tina Parchin gave an update to the Board on the accomplishments of the Special Education Department. She reviewed the district's Annual Performance Report on Connecticut's State Performance Plan, which indicated Shelton met requirements for IDEA in 2007-08. Dr. Parchin discussed the report in detail and answered numerous questions from Board Members. The Board was particularly interested in the significant increase in actual excess cost money returned to Shelton since 2003-04 and commended Dr. Parchin and her department for pursuing those dollars.

Appointments:

James Orazietti made a motion to approve the appointment of Mary Maciulewski to the position of head girls' basketball coach; seconded by Paula Ellis; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Timothy Walsh made a motion to approve the appointment of Cathi Schneider to the position of Pom Pon advisor at Shelton High School; seconded by Eugene Kierce; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Retirements:

Robin Willink advised the Board of the following retirements:

- Louis Schmecker, SHS science teacher, after 30 years of service
- Mary Lou Viola, Mohegan gr. 1 teacher, after more than 3 decades of service
- Denise Turecek, SIS math teacher, after 35 years of service
- Patricia Megai, Long Hill gr. 5 teacher, after 40 years of service

Resignations:

The Board was advised of the following resignations:

Ron Fabrizi, Staff Development Coordinator, effective immediately
Ernest Pagliaro, SHS National Honor Society Advisor, effective June 30, 2009

Superintendent's Reports & Action Items:

Robin Willink updated the Board on her research of mulch for our playgrounds, which had been addressed by Chris Panek at last month's meeting.

Bernard Simons made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to allow the use of city woodchips on all school playgrounds, and that Mr. LaCroix work with Mr. Banfe to establish the depth needed based on the CPSC recommendations, and that the Maintenance supervisors shall be responsible for checking the playgrounds each spring to ensure that there are sufficient woodchips; seconded by Francis MacIlvain; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Instructional Update – Mrs. Willink thanked Beth Smith and John Niski for initiating a program at the high school that resulted in a student's winning \$20,000 toward a car.

Robin Willink noted the NEASC visit has been changed from April 2010 to November 13 and 14, 2010 due to the April vacation schedule.

Mrs. Willink noted that SIS students achieved three first place and one second place awards for the Fox 61 Student News. In addition, the outstanding news story in Connecticut was done by our students on the Children's Garbage Museum. CRRRA will present a special award to those students on June 1.

School Facilities Report – Bill Banfe reported the bus lot is 100% complete.

Perry Hill School Building Committee – Ongoing site work includes ledge removal and storm drain installation. The underground storm water detention was approved and installation will start next week. Section A of the roof installation is complete and work continues on other areas. The oil tank is installed, and a great deal of concrete and interior work being done.

Public Improvement Building Committee – The roof bids from Allied Restoration Company were approved by the Board of Aldermen. The high school chiller motor repair is complete. The elementary boilers are almost complete.

SHS Renovation Building Committee – Submittal for exterior door replacements has been approved and work will commence at the end of this school year. Plans have been submitted for the boiler room upgrade that was not part of the original project and that will be done shortly. The issue of the other three boilers is under advisement. Roof leaks are being investigated with Fusco to determine who is responsible.

James Orazietti reiterated that he would like the Board to look into a committee to start a process of allocating funds for furniture for Perry Hill School. He said furniture was not part of the bonding, and the Board should be proactive in finding ways to fund equipment or furniture. Win Oppel said this will be addressed in the next couple weeks.

Items Voted On:

James Orazietti made a motion to approve the 2009 fall fundraiser for the SHS Swim Team Parents Club, "An Evening with Lorraine Warren"; seconded by Timothy Walsh; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Timothy Walsh made a motion to approve three Valley Regional Adult Education grant proposals: Preparing the 21st Century Workforce; Family Literacy Services; English Language Acquisition/Civics Education; seconded by Bernard Simons; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Paula Ellis made a motion to reappoint the stipend position holders as presented on the revised list; seconded by Timothy Walsh; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Paula Ellis made a motion to review Policy Proposal #5134, Student Transportation, for 30 days; seconded by Francis MacIlvain; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Timothy Walsh made a motion to accept applications through Friday, June 5, 2009 for use of Elizabeth Shelton School for before and after school programs; seconded by Paula Ellis. Discussion – Chairman Oppel explained that this is a mechanism to invite vendors/providers to offer this service. The Board will not operate the program and will follow current building use regulations. This is basically a building use issue with no liability for the Board. Robin Willink stated providers will submit proposals and a small committee will review and conduct interviews. The Superintendent will make a recommendation to the Board. There was discussion about the competitiveness of local groups. Mrs. Willink said one significant change is non-profit groups do not have to pay a building use fee. Mr. Oppel clarified that the service would begin next school year and would not be year-round. **Vote 7-0-1 (James Orazietti abstained); motion carried.**

Timothy Walsh made a motion to approve the purchase of textbooks for the University of Connecticut's Early College Experience (ECE) course entitled *Intermediate Spanish Composition*, in the amount of \$3,538; seconded by Bernard Simons; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Bernard Simons made a motion to approve the purchase of new social studies textbooks for grades 7 and 8, in the amount of \$36,225; seconded by Eugene Kierce; vote 8-0; motion carried.

(Note: Tape 2, Side A – 8:45 p.m.)

Items Voted On: (Continued)

Paula Ellis made a motion to grant permission to the Superintendent, in consultation with the Board Chairman, to fill instructional vacancies in June, July and August, 2009; seconded by Timothy Walsh. Discussion - James Orazietti expressed concern that a new superintendent might not be in place. Robin Willink explained the process for hiring during summer months and the risk of losing candidates without extending this permission. James Orazietti moved to table the motion until the June meeting; seconded by Francis MacIlvain. Discussion; vote 2-6 (aye by James Orazietti and Francis MacIlvain). Motion to table failed. Paula Ellis made a motion to amend the original motion by adding “or designee”; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 5-3 (James Orazietti, Francis MacIlvain and Timothy Walsh opposed). Vote on amended motion 5-3; motion carried.

Arlene Liscinsky made a motion to approve the I.D.E.A. 611, 619 grant application for the 2009-2010 school year; seconded by Bernard Simons; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Francis MacIlvain made a motion to direct the Superintendent and/or the Finance Director to enter into contract negotiations with Sodexo to establish Sodexo as the district’s food service provider; seconded by Bernard Simons; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Francis MacIlvain made a motion to authorize the Superintendent and/or the Finance Director to sign the resulting contract with Sodexo after review and approval by Corporation Counsel; seconded by Bernard Simons; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Comments by the Board Chair:

Chairman Oppel asked the building administrators to express appreciation to all their employees for a job well done. Based on the upcoming year’s budget, Mr. Oppel asked everyone to look for ways to save and to convey any ideas to Central Office. Congratulations were extended to all SIS and SHS Student Achievement Award winners.

Reports By Standing Committees:

Athletics – James Orazietti said meeting was held with two parent groups and the committee is in the process of resolving the situation brought forth.

Building & Grounds – Eugene Kierce said no formal meeting was held.

Eugene Kierce made a motion to purchase and install an “Event Parking” sign, to be located at the intersection of Constitution and Daryll Ellis Drive, directing event participants and spectators to park in the Shelton High School parking lot; seconded by Timothy Walsh; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Cafeteria/Transportation – Francis MacIvain thanked his committee members for participating in the bid process for food service provider.

Policy/Curriculum/Technology – Lorraine Rossner said the committee will investigate a policy for naming school facilities. Arlene Liscinsky commented that the committee asked the Board to focus another meeting on issues dealing with curriculum, strategies, SAT scores, etc.

Personnel – Timothy Walsh said he, as Chairman, met a number of times with the Board Chairman taking feedback from community groups and school employees concerning criteria for a new superintendent.

Finance –

Bernard Simons made a motion to adopt an interim 2009-10 budget, subject to revision after July 1, to allow schools to prepare orders for supplies to be ordered after July 1, as recommended by the Finance Committee and documented on the handout labeled “Summary of Proposed Allocation of Board of Aldermen Approved Budget Amount Based on BOE Approved Budget Estimate, by Object, for School Year 2009-10” dated 5/26/09; seconded by Timothy Walsh; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Bernard Simons made a motion to select Infinite Campus as its Student Information System and that the Board of Education recommend to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation that a contract in the amount of \$186,793 be awarded to Infinite Campus, funds to be provided by the Board of Education; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Reports of Special Committees:

C.E.S. – Arlene Liscinsky reported on the meeting held this month, including the approval of policies on technology and discipline; discussion of stimulus funds and brochure on ARRA funds, copy of which was sent electronically to Board Members. Also noted was a golf tournament on June 30 and a 5K race on October 3.

CABE – No report

Old Business:

Robin Willink and Debbie Keller commented on our students' performances at the Essex Music Festival. Mrs. Willink showed a book project by Maria Zampano's special education students funded by an IDEA grant. The book will be on display in Central Office.

Chairman Oppel noted the Board will hold a Special Meeting on May 28 at 5:30 p.m. to conduct three interviews for superintendent.

James Oraziotti commented on the excellent performances by our bands in the Memorial Day parade.

Adjournment:

Paula Ellis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m.; seconded by Bernard Simons; vote 8-0; motion carried.

Diane Luther

Diane Luther
Recording Secretary – Board of Education
June 3, 2009