

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2015**

Chairman Arlene Liscinsky called the meeting to order at 5:08 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

In Attendance: Arlene Liscinsky, Chairman, Win Oppel, Vice Chairperson, (via skype), Tom Minotti, Faith Hack, Mark Holden.

Also in Attendance: Dominic Barone, Finance Director, Freeman Burr, Superintendent, Lorraine Rossner, Assistant Superintendent, Kathy Yolish, Kate Kutash, Carole Pannozzo, Director of Human Resources, Dan DiVito, Director of Technology as well as school administrators and public interest representatives.

Chairman Arlene Liscinsky turned the meeting over to Superintendent Freeman Burr for the purpose of presenting the adjusted proposed budget for 2015-2016. An updated copy of the proposed budget was sent out last week to everyone. Mr. Burr would like the board to think about some of the proposals presented particularly to address the administrator requests and also math specialists.

Mr. Burr advised that he was asked to show the 2014-2015 adopted budget with the city obligations. The city deal of \$459,621 has been included. It includes equipment purchases, namely technology. Only \$57,613 was purchased for FF&E that was bonded furniture, fixture and equipment money for the kindergarten classrooms. There is about \$40,000 unspent. The agreement with the city also called for the city to pick up propane/autogas above what was budgeted, (\$226,000), in the board's budget.

The net rollover increase is 2.6%. The rollover is 3.87%. The rollover amount without any new requests is \$71,119,235. Rollover is the amount needed to keep everything we have the way it is (status quo) and the city would assume the dual fuel heating contract and the propane autogas. Mr. Burr noted that we will have to make accommodations for special education. In order to hire the special education personnel we will need to reduce personnel from the other side. Mr. Burr advised The Mayor of the increase in services and the cost for special education. He advised that he does not know if this information was shared with the Board of Aldermen. As Superintendent, he feels that it was not his place to share this information with the Board of Aldermen, but that the Mayor should have done that. The Mayor received this communication shortly after Mr. Burr saw what the funds looked like in terms of the increases in special education this year in terms of the budget.

Mr. Burr proceeded to discuss the contractual agreement with the city and the propane supplier.

A discussion was had on the health savings reserve fund. The board suggested that this should not be listed in the budget proposal.

Mr. Burr went on to discuss the School Sites and Departments staff requests for the upcoming budget proposal. He also asked the board to consider another TESOL teacher. The number of English language learners in the school system has increased throughout K-12.

The Superintendent advised that we are looking at a budget of about \$72 million.

The budget presentation concluded at 6:20 PM. There was a brief recess before the Finance Committee meeting.

All board members stayed for the Finance Committee meeting with the exception of Winn Oppel who signed off of skype.

Dominic Barone, Freeman Burr, Kathy Yolish, Kate Kutash, Carole Pannozzo, Deb Keller, president of the teachers union and Judson Crawford from the senior citizen commission remained for this portion of the Finance Committee meeting which resumed at 6:45 PM.

Mark Holden moved to move New Business to the top of the agenda. Tom Minotti seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor. Motion carried.

Mark Holden moved to go into Executive session to discuss the Non-Bargaining unit staff health insurance plan revision. Tom Minotti seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor. Motion carried.

The board went into executive session at 6:47 PM. The executive session ended at 7:00 PM.

The regular Finance Committee resumed at 7:00 PM.

Faith Hack moved to empower Carole Pannozzo to proceed with the health insurance plan revision for the non-bargaining units. Tom Minotti seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor. Motion carried.

Carole Pannozzo left the meeting after the executive session at 7:00 PM.

Tom Minotti moved to approve the agenda for the meeting. Faith Hack seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor. Motion carried.

Tom Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2014 meeting. Faith Hack seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor. Motion carried.

Tom Minotti moved to approve the check registers. Faith Hack seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Barone advised the board that someone had gotten a hold of the accounts payable checking account information and was creating fraudulent checks against the account and trying to cash them. It is the city's bank account and they are working with the legal authorities investigating the matter. We are not liable for these transactions but he wanted the board to be aware of this situation.

Old Business

A handout of the YTD Object Summary (L2) was given to the board members. Dominic Barone stated that everything is tracking as expected.

Benefits: Mr. Barone wanted everyone to understand that in this area we do not pay premiums, we pay claims, so this amount could fluctuate significantly.

Dominic also mentioned that they are aware that the tuition in the special education budget is still the same and that it is more than likely going to stay over budget for the remainder of the year. He hopes that there will not be a need to place additional students for the rest of the year. Mr. Burr advised the board that we

have had an influx of special education children. He also stated that the best we can do is to offer programs that can keep students who have special needs in our district.

Heat & Utilities: Dominic Barone stated that we should be seeing more activity in this area now that we are in the winter months.

Mr. Barone advised that the ED001 was finalized and sent to the state in December.

The weight room project is under way at Shelton High School. The old weight room equipment needs to be disposed of or sold/donated.

It was also pointed out that the grants are now listed on the L2 summary as well.

Faith Hack moved to approve the YTD Object Summary (L2). Tom Minotti seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor. Motion carried.

Facilities Projects – There was nothing new to report. Dominic stated that we are now burning propane at all of the K-4 schools.

Fortification Project – Mr. Barone advised that there was a meeting with Bernie Simons, Silver Petrucelli and the Mayor on January 5, 2015. Dominic was not invited to this meeting so he does not have an update on this.

The Board of Aldermen appropriated \$20,000 for the architect for the Sunnyside School roof project.

Shelton High School Code Compliance: Dominic hopes to get the project registered on Friday with the State.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to give John Niski authority to keep, donate, sell or scrap items listed on the weight room inventory worksheet. For any items purchased with general budget funds, approval from the City is required prior to disposition. All proceeds will be turned over to the Finance Department to be recorded in the MUNIS financial system and deposited in the BOE bank account. Mark Holden seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor. Motion carried.

There was no further business to discuss.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to adjourn the meeting. Faith Hack seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Respectfully Submitted;

Teresa Milyo
Recording Secretary