

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
FINANCE COMMITTEE SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING
NOVEMBER 28, 2012**

Arlene Liscinsky called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

In Attendance: Committee Members: Arlene Liscinsky, Mark Holden, and Win Oppel.

Also in Attendance: Allan Cameron, Director of Finance; Freeman Burr, Superintendent of Schools; and Board Members: Tom Minotti, Kathy Yolish, Jim Oraziotti, Tim Walsh and Michael Pacowta; Carol Pannozzo, Director of Human Resources, Kathy Bender, Exec Director Curriculum and Support Services, and Judson Crawford, A & T.

A PowerPoint document entitled “Shelton Board of Education 2013-2014 Proposed Budget Estimate—BOE Budget Workshop #2 11/28/12” was distributed to the attendees.

Superintendent of Schools Freeman Burr gave a presentation that was based on requests from the Cost Center Managers. The net rollover amount taking into account increases in salaries, benefits and transportation increases was \$4,074,688 resulting in a total rollover budget of \$67,811,315 or 6.39%. Mr. Burr went on to detail the 2013-2014 increases in salaries that included an additional \$296,790 to do away with Pay-to-Participate.

Benefits were estimated to increase by \$1,1701,340 for 2013-2014. The latest information from the City’s broker of record indicated that the cost of premiums could go up but would not exceed 18%. Allan Cameron and Carol Pannozzo are scheduled to meet with the State regarding Connecticut’s partnership plan for benefits. It was also recommended that the BOE go out to bid for benefit insurance.

Mr. Burr went on to discuss the Principal’s budget requests by school. He showed each school’s request versus his recommendations. The requests came in at approximately \$1 million and were reduced to approximately \$300,000. The requests were reduced, eliminated or shifted based on enrollment numbers and dividing resources between schools.

Discussion followed regarding Perry Hill Schools request for the addition of an assistant principal. It was thought that there may be a need but it would not be financially prudent. The State is pushing for more intensive teacher evaluation; therefore, an assistant principal might be needed to satisfy the mandate that is expected to be in force July 1st next year. Mr. Minotti recommended giving the schools the needed help. Mr. Burr recommended stipend positions could satisfy this.

Maintenance and Operations, Office of Instruction, and Technology requests were recommended unchanged. Discussion with Kathy Bender followed regarding 17 behavior needs students at SHS were currently served by 2 teachers and 2 aides. The possibility of bringing outplaced students back to the system was discussed. Keeping students in the district is cost effective in the long run. It was mentioned that because of the way the system is presently constructed there was a risk of having to send more students out. There are not enough teachers to fill the need. They needed to spend more to provide the services needed to attract outplaced students back to the district.

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Mr. Burr summarized that school site requests were reduced to \$368,881, eliminating a total of \$696,634 from the original requests.

Promethean Board requests for 2012-2013 are going to be paid for by the City. The Board of Aldermen has agreed to acquire the remaining promethean boards over a 2-year period.

Mr. Burr felt the maintenance repairs requested ESS, SHS, and SIS for 2012-2013 would be finished this year. He addressed roof replacement for Mohegan, Perry Hill, SHS and SIS for 2013-2014. He indicated that City/BOE Capital items are not integrated into a plan. He also indicated that the Mayor was aware of the City/BOE project list including computer rooms, STEM lab and reconstruction of the front entrance to SHS.

Mr. Burr presented the total Budget request for 2013-2014 including School/Dept Requests, Dept/Cost Center requests, supplies and technology as \$68,734,839. This includes \$4,998,266 new dollars, an increase of 7.8%.

Mr. Burr asked the board members to email their recommendations to himself, Allan Cameron and each other.

Tim Walsh recommended the purchase of a new ice machine for the Athletic Dept. for injuries that occur, and a generator for SHS

Arlene Liscinsky asked if the Superintendent had anything on his wish list to add. She also brought up HSA.

Mr. Burr mentioned that the Principals were hoping for Board commitment to their requests because of the needs created by austerity over the past few years.

Mr. Oppel was concerned about the 18% benefits figure and wanted to find out far that figure would go down.

ACTION: Win Oppel moved to adjourn the meeting.
Mark Holden seconded the motion.
A vote was taken with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Faith B. Hack
Recording Secretary