

**Call to order:** A special meeting of the Shelton Board of Education Finance Committee was held on March 21, 2017. The meeting convened at 5:05 pm. Chairman Win Oppel presiding.

**Roll Call:**

**Members in attendance:** Win Oppel (via Skype), Vice Chairman Arlene Liscinsky, Faith Hack, Mark Holden, Tom Minotti, Dr. Darlisa Ritter.

**Guest in attendance:** Kathleen Yolish, Board of Education Member; Dominic Barone, Director of Finance; Christopher Clouet, Superintendent of Schools; Deborah Keller, President, Shelton Education Association.

**Excused:** David Gioiello.

**The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

**Approval of Agenda:**

**Tom Minotti MOVED to approve the agenda as presented, SECONDED by Darlisa Ritter. A vote was taken with all in favor. Motion carried.**

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Arlene Liscinsky MOVED to approve the minutes of the Special Finance Committee Meeting from February 22<sup>nd</sup>, SECONDED by Mark Holden. A vote was taken with all in favor. Motion carried.**

**Year-to-Date Object Summary (L2):**

Dominic Barone stated that the salaries are tracking as they were expected to be. The benefits and health insurance are being watched closely. Dominic noted there will be some savings, but not definite how much, but that is expected to fund most of the deficit in the Special Education tuition and private transportation accounts. Dominic stated the Instructional Materials account is tracking well, however a portion of instructional software supplies and textbook accounts were frozen, to help offset some of the deficits. Dominic Barone stated there has been a large increase in tuition, primarily from new students moving into Shelton, and from outplacing students after the year started. Next year's budget has been adjusted to accommodate the increase for the new students. The Transportation budget has also been increased for next year's budget. They are also looking at ways to save some money for Transportation in the future. Dominic stated the Fuel Cell is up and running. It has been generating since the middle to end of January. They are working on the DG Agreement. Once received, they will adjust some of the rates, as they were being billed for natural gas, which should not be billed through the supplier. Dominic stated we are over budget for the Professional Services. Nursing services were needed for some students.

**Darlisa Ritter MOVED to approve the Year-to-Date Object Summary (L2), for 2016-2017 Year through February as presented, SECONDED by Mark Holden. A vote was taken with all in favor. Motion carried.**

**Faith Hack MOVED to approve the Check Register and A/P Cash Disbursements Journal, SECONDED by Darlisa Ritter. A vote was taken with all in favor. Motion carried.**

**Finance Update:**

Cafeteria Update: A signed amendment was received by Sodexo, so they will now contribute additional funding if there is a deficit. Dominic Barone will sign the amendment and send it back.

**Facilities Update:**

A meeting will be held on April 11<sup>th</sup> with the state to go over the plan to complete the rest of the roof at Sunnyside School. The plans have not been received as of yet. The Fire Code Compliance Project is moving along well. The City of Shelton received a check for the PHS Closeout. The City should be scheduling the State audit to finalize and receive payment for the retainage amount. The Fuel Cell is up and running at the High School, however some documentation issues need to be completed. The Solar Projects at both Perry Hill and Long Hill Schools are up and running. Regarding the STEAM Lab at the High School, many options are being looked into. The STEAM Lab should be operational by next September. The SchoolDude "Use of Building" module is up and running, however it has not yet been rolled out to the schools yet. Christopher Clouet stated an OSHA meeting was held at Perry Hill. The PTO requested to have this meeting, which in turn provided a good turnout by parents. Dr. Clouet stated the parents were very pleased by what has been done thus far, and the testing that has been done in the school.

**New Business:**

The Board of Education received a letter from the town of Bridgeport stating that they will be receiving a bill for next year for Magnet School tuition payment. Dr. Clouet stated that the former practice of not charging any tuition at all for students attending Fairchild Wheeler Magnet has changed, and they want to start charging \$3,000 per pupil. It would end up costing about \$350,000. Shelton has joined in with other districts in discussions about pushing back on this request. We have also worked with our Legislative delegation, as of now that has not been successful in that committee chairs have not permitted there to be a hearing on this issue. Shelton is considering joining a lawsuit (also with the towns of Stratford, Trumbull and Monroe), against the State Department of Education stating that this is an unfair practice and that this is not what the town of Shelton signed up for when we agreed to send students to their school. The specific request would be that over a period of two years, we would contribute \$2,500 a year to the cost of the lawsuit. Dr. Clouet stated the disturbing aspects of this case, including not consulting any of the other districts regarding the \$3,000 charge, there is no clear understanding of where that number comes from, and we know that it costs a lot more than \$3,000 to educate a child. There is also no clear understanding as to what the money would be used for. Questions were raised by some members of the Board regarding what happens to those students who attend Fairchild Wheeler as this lawsuit is going on. Dr. Clouet stated the parents of these students should take action, if any, with the Bridgeport School System. Win Oppel stated that in the Statute, that Bridgeport has the ability to send this bill, that there doesn't appear to be a penalty if we don't pay. Dr. Clouet stated that the State Department of Education should convene a group of people, including Board of Education Members, Superintendents, and State Legislators, to come up with a clear plan that explains exactly how the schools in Connecticut are funded and exactly what the revenue streams are.

**A Motion is recommended that the full Board of Education agree to join with the Stratford Board of Education in their lawsuit regarding the tuition payment for the Bridgeport Magnet Schools and that we will pay \$2,500 per year over the next two years.**

**Mark Holden MOVED to approve the previously stated motion, SECONDED by Faith Hack. A vote was taken with all in favor. Motion carried.**

**Chairman Oppel adjourned the meeting at 5:35 pm.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Cheryl Rich  
Recording Secretary  
March 21, 2017**