

Call to order: A regular meeting of the Shelton Board of Education Finance Committee was held on Wednesday, November 15, 2017. The meeting convened at 5:07 pm. Chairman Win Oppel presiding.

Roll Call:

In Attendance: Chairman Win Oppel, David Gioiello, Faith Hack, Mark Holden, Tom Minotti, Dr. Darlisa Ritter, Amanda Kilmartin.

Also in Attendance: Kate Kutash, Board of Education Member; Edward Drapp, Director of Finance; Christopher Clouet, Superintendent; John Calhoun, Facilities Manager; Deborah Keller, President, Shelton Education Association; Judson Crawford, Shelton Senior Center Commission.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

David Gioiello MOVED to add an item to the agenda under Old Business. He would like to discuss Fairchild Wheeler High School and the pending litigation with the possible cost to the Board of Education, SECONDED by Darlisa Ritter. A vote was taken with all in favor, Motion carried.

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

Mark Holden MOVED to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 18, 2017, SECONDED by Faith Hack. A vote was taken with all in favor, Motion carried.

Year-to-Date Object Summary:

Edward Drapp stated that most of the expenditures are going according to budget. The areas that they are keeping their eyes on are Special Education tuition and transportation. In the Special Education areas, we do expect to receive roughly around \$1,000,000 in excess cost reimbursement. This is what the State gave as an estimate. The Finance Department will be filing their initial report to finer calculate those costs by December 1st, 2017. Expenditures as well as revenues are coming in at or near as budgeted. Edward Drapp stated that funding for maintenance repairs and general building upkeep needs to be addressed again. John Calhoun will be giving an update in his report later in the meeting. Mr. Drapp will be working with Dr. Clouet and John Calhoun particularly to address those areas. He stated that the City has been good as far as picking up some of those costs, however there is not enough in the budget to address the real needs of the district. It was asked how much less are we receiving with the excess cost grant. Edward Drapp stated that there is actually more money in the excess cost grant this year. The State added roughly \$7,000,000 to the grant.

Faith Hack MOVED to approve the Year-to-Date Object Summary (L2) for the 2017-2018 School Year through October, 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 Disbursement Journal, SECONDED by Darlisa Ritter. A vote was taken with all in favor, Motion carried.

Report on Facilities Projects:

John Calhoun stated that this coming weekend the contractors will be finalizing the underside of the front entryway at Sunnyside School. Once that is complete, the roofing contractor will come back and complete the fascia work within the next 2-4 weeks. There is also some warranty work taking place by Silktown Roofing. There was a failure in the some of the adhesive material that they used. The High School Fire Code Project had 500+ fire code violations, that number is now down to 29. The majority of that 29 are awaiting modification from the State Fire Marshall's office. Most of those will go away due to the presence of the sprinkler system. There have been a few leak issues. M.J. Daly will come back as needed to fix those issues. Regarding the High School Fuel Cell, they are still working with Doosan to convert the electrical panels in the High School to support the emergency power. The issue is this work has to be done when there is no one in the building. The building would need to be shut down in order to do this work. Regarding the Elizabeth Shelton Window Project, all of the paperwork has been submitted to the State and we are just awaiting final approval for that then that will go out to bid. The bid for the Sunnyside Boiler Project is currently under review and will be awarded within the next week. The bid has gone out for the High School Field Turf and Track Replacement. The bid is currently under review and will be awarded within the next few weeks. The bid is for the design and architecture of the field turf and track replacement. Win Oppel would like it to be suggested to the Mayor to have someone from the Board be a part of the Building Committee. It was stated that the Charter allows Board members to be members of a building committee so long as the project is related to the Board of Education. John was asked how it was coming along on getting blinds for the windows. He stated they have received quotes for that project and they are in the processing of measuring the rooms. They have also looked into pricing for installing fans in the classrooms. John Calhoun stated there have been many issues this Fall with hot water heaters. There have been several pump issues also. John also mentioned that preventative maintenance is being done. He suggested that they need to start doing proactive and preventive maintenance practices. They are looking at ages of equipment. John would like to meeting with Edward Drapp and Dr. Clouet on some of these issues. John stated that they would have to go through and evaluate the equipment that we have and try to establish an age and what the life cycle is on the equipment, so they can start putting a plan in place and start budgeting accordingly. John stated that they are working on some energy programs. John and Ed met with some representatives from United Illuminating. They went over the current electrical patterns in the buildings. One of changes that will be done is switching rate plans, to save roughly \$10,000 a year. Edward also stated that he spoke to the representatives to set up a type of dashboard to monitor the electrical usage in the buildings. John stated there are about 40 open orders on Schooldude, stating they are still under 30 days as far as completing them.

Old Business:

Athletic Account- There is \$72, 424.52 in the account.

Parking Lot Account- There is \$23,300.00 in the account.

Transportation Bid:

The transportation bid is out. There is a pre-bid meeting November 29, 2017, and the bids will be due December 21, 2017. A decision should be made early January 2018. Two proposals did go out; one with the City supplying the buses and the other with the contractor supplying the buses.

New Business:

Impact of State Budget

Edward Drapp stated part of the budget authorized the money for the reimbursement for the 3 reinforcement projects (LHS, ESS, MOH). The invoices were requested from the City, and we will be submitting those project costs for reimbursement. Regarding the Education Cost Sharing, last year we received about 5.9 million dollars, this year we received about 5.6 million dollars. There was a slight dip this year, however it should go up to roughly \$6,000,000 next year. With some of the scenarios out there, they did project in their budget last year receiving 4.5 million dollars in ECS, so we will get another \$1,000,000 above what they were anticipating when the budget was built last year. Regarding the Excess Cost Grant, the State went from a total of \$142,000,000 to roughly \$149,000,000. We are anticipated that roughly \$1,000,000 will come back to the City of Shelton.

Update on Fairchild Wheeler

Dr. Clouet gave a brief overview on the issue with Fairchild Wheeler. He stated that Fairchild Wheeler was built by the State of Connecticut to balance regional, racial and ethnic inequities. When the school was built, the plan was for sending districts, such as Shelton, Trumbull, Stratford, with the expectation that since the State had paid for the entire building, the sending districts would not have to pay. Suddenly last year, Bridgeport sent the Shelton Board of Education a bill. There was no negotiation, no discussion, no breakdown of what the bill was for. The Board of Education made a complaint, however the Commission sided with the City of Bridgeport. The Board of Education is currently going to court regarding this issue. The Board authorized to spend \$2,500.00 a year for two years to put towards the lawsuit. It is in the process of being re-filed.

Status of FY17 Audit

Edward Drapp stated that the Auditors were in Monday and Tuesday of this week. They received all of the information that was requested. They did not raise any questions or concerns. They have been going back and forth between the school district and the City. They will be concluding their audit in December 2017. At this point, we do not anticipate any major adjustments. An audit is done every year.

FY19 Budget Development

A handout was given to the Board detailing the Proposed 2018-2019 Budget Meeting Schedule. Dr. Clouet asked if the Board would like to see some of the workshops take place in one of the schools or the community center, with the idea of adding the public. It was discussed at what point it would be good to invite the public to one of the meetings. They discussed the issues with the new budget, what the parents would ask for, strategic planning and curriculum. It was decided that Workshop #2

(Wednesday, January 17, 2018) would be a good date to invite the public to this meeting. An updated schedule will be sent out the Board with the new amendments.

Chairman Oppel adjourned the meeting at 6:26 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Rich
Recording Secretary
November 15, 2017