

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
Board of Education Administrative Offices
382 Long Hill Avenue
Board Room, 2nd Floor
November 25, 2019**

6:00 p.m.

Chairman Mark Holden called the Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:02 p.m.

Roll Call:

John Fitzgerald	James Orazietti, Vice Chair
Amanda Kilmartin	Carl Rizzo
Kate Kutash	Amy Romano, Secretary
Diana Meyer	Kathleen Yolish, Chair
Patti Moonan	

Full Quorum

Board of Education Administration present: Dr. Christopher Clouet, Superintendent of Schools; Kenneth Saranich, Assistant Superintendent; Carole Pannozzo, Human Resources Director; Rick Belden, Finance Director

(1 tape on file in City/Town Clerk's office)

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

James Orazietti moved to approve the agenda; motion seconded by Carl Rizzo. Point of order called by Amanda Kilmartin regarding the agenda being out of order and lack of schedule of fees relative to legal services. She questioned the sequence and said Item B should come before A. Lengthy discussion ensued during which two motions to table failed. **Kathy Yolish called for a motion to approve the agenda. James Orazietti moved; seconded by Carl Rizzo. Motion carried with vote of 5-4.**

Action Items

James Orazietti moved that the board in accordance with City Charter shall recognize the City Corporation Counsel as attorney for the board; seconded by John Fitzgerald. Lengthy discussion ensued including debate of State Statute 10-220 versus City Charter; the costs associated with switching law firms; the need for an RFP process; and possible conflict of interest issues. James Orazietti moved to close discussion; seconded by Carl Rizzo. (Robert's Rules of Order require 2/3 vote.) Motion failed with vote of 5-4. Kate Kutash moved to table the motion until the RFP process has been followed to get legal counsel; seconded by Patti Moonan. Motion failed with vote of 4-5. Kate Kutash moved the motion to table Item A; seconded by Amanda Kilmartin. Motion failed with vote of 4-5. There was further discussion. James Orazietti moved to close discussion; seconded by Carl Rizzo. **(Note: Only one aye was heard.)** Two-thirds majority to close discussion (call the vote) was not attained and motion failed. Discussion continued. Kate Kutash moved to table Item A. until the RFP process has been followed; seconded by Patti Moonan. Motion failed with vote of 4-5.

(Note: Recess at 6:48; Reconvened at 6:55)

Lengthy discussion continued regarding clarification of who would be handling Special Education, teacher and paraprofessional negotiations and other matters requiring expertise in education law. Superintendent Clouet was asked to define some types of occurrences that would require legal counsel. Kate Kutash moved to table Item A; seconded by Amanda Kilmartin. Motion failed with vote of 4-5. There was additional discussion.

(Note: Recess at 7:27; Reconvened at 7:35)

James Orazietti moved to approve Item A, that the board in accordance with City Charter shall recognize the City Corporation Counsel as attorney for the board; seconded by Carl Rizzo. Vote of 5-4. Kate Kutash stated a 2/3 majority needed. James Orazietti said, "File an action." (Discussion was never closed.)

Kate Kutash moved to direct the Superintendent to complete a listing of all attorneys presently working for the Board of Education/School District/or Superintendent, their hourly rates and matters they are presently handling; seconded by John Fitzgerald. Motion carried with vote of 8-0-1 (abstention Diana Meyer).

Kathy Yolish stated the motion for Item III.C - Terminate employment of the Law Firm of Chinni and Meuser as the attorney for the Board of Education and School District and any other ancillary representation. Direct the Superintendent to so notify the firm to work with the office of Corporation Counsel to assume a smooth and proper transition of files and projects to firms deemed appropriate by Corporation Counsel's office with input from the Board of Education. (Nobody moved nor seconded the motion.) Kate Kutash called a Point of Order asking, as stated that Chinni and Meuser will continue to represent us in the lawsuit and possibly current negotiations, how can we terminate them at this time? Kate Kutash moved to table Item III.C since it is not in alignment with previous discussion. Motion seconded by Amanda Kilmartin. Discussion. Motion failed with vote of 4-5.

(Note: Tape 1; Side B at 7:49)

Diana Meyer moved to amend the motion to have Chinni and Meuser stay on to represent the district in the current lawsuit and current negotiations and other items requiring educational expertise; seconded by Kate Kutash. Discussion. Motion to amend failed with vote of 4-5. Diana Meyer moved to amend the motion as follows: to have Chinni and Meuser stay on to represent the Board of Education in the current ongoing lawsuit and representation for special education services; seconded by Patti Moonan. Discussion. Motion failed with vote of 4-5. Discussion of eliminating the beginning sentence of the original motion regarding termination of the Law Firm of Chinni and Meuser. **James Orazietti amended the motion, which was seconded by Carl Rizzo and all were in favor. James Orazietti moved to amend the wording of the amended motion to direct the Superintendent to so notify Chinni and Meuser to work with the office of Corporation Counsel to assume a smooth and proper transition of files and projects to firms deemed appropriate by the Board of Education with input from Corporation Counsel's office; seconded by Carl Rizzo. Motion to amend carried with all in favor. Mrs. Yolish called for a vote on the final amended motion. Motion passed with a roll call vote of 7-0-2 (abstentions Kate Kutash and Diana Meyer).**

Appointment of Negotiation Team (SEA)

Mrs. Yolish appointed James Oraziotti and Carl Rizzo to the SEA Negotiation Team. She said there will be other appointments for paraprofessional negotiations. Kate Kutash stated it has been customary to have a Republican and a Democrat on negotiating teams.

Adjournment

Mrs. Yolish adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Diane Luther

Secretary to Board of Education
December 2, 2019