

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES  
382 LONG HILL AVENUE  
BOARD ROOM, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR  
APRIL 24, 2013**

Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:02 p.m.

Roll Call:

Mark Holden, Chairman

John Francino-Quinn (excused)

Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman

James Oraziatti (excused)

Arlene Liscinsky, Secretary

Mike Pacowta (excused)

Win Oppel

Timothy Walsh

Kathleen Yolish

Quorum – 6 present; 3 absent

Board of Education Administration present:

Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr

Assistant Superintendent, Lorraine Rossner

Finance Director, Allan Cameron

Executive Director of Curriculum & Support Services, Kathleen Bender

Human Resources Director, Carole PannoZZo

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Win Oppel moved to adjust the agenda by moving Item V. Presentations to the next item on agenda; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 6-0; motion passed.**

**Presentations**

**Pom Pons** – Advisor Linda Gagner and members of the team were recognized for placing first in three of the competitions they entered as well as being State Champions for their Jazz Routine. In addition, they were runner up for their Jazz Routine in the New England Regional Championships.

**Cheerleading** – Co-Coach Erica McNeil and members of the team received recognition for winning the SCC Cheerleading Championship and the State Championship for the second year in a row.

**Gymnastics** - SHS students Yarden Tepper, Megan French, and Julia Lindberg were recognized for being top in their field and being selected to the All SCC team, CT Post All-Star team, and New Haven Register All-Area team. All three were also selected to the CT All-State Gymnastics team. Yarden Tepper was named the All-Area MVP and will represent Connecticut at the National gymnastics tournament in Florida next month.

### **Public Hearing**

Sandy Mahony, 16 Hawley Road, discussed the Shelton Education Endowment Fund sponsored Spelling Bee held on April 3 for Perry Hill students. She thanked Lorraine Williams, Karen Crosby, teachers and staff for supporting this successful and rewarding event.

Lisa Czaplinski, 11 Perch Road, spoke in support of a full-day kindergarten program and presented a petition with 280 signatures.

Lois Witalis, 1A Spruce Drive, First Student bus driver, spoke on behalf of the CSEA SEIU Local 2001 Union to inform the board that both First Student and Landmark Student Transportation have executed agreements with the CSEA for the purpose of providing uninterrupted school bus service for the Shelton Public School System. She spoke also as a parent in support of full-day kindergarten and First Student.

Mary Lee Barnes, 967 Howe Avenue, First Student bus driver, talked about the performance of First Student's bus drivers in this year's hazardous weather conditions.

Cheryl Krauchick, 28 Humphrey Street, Seymour, Manager of First Student, discussed the advantages of using First Student including their flexibility due to access of sister locations. She encouraged the board to stay with First Student.

Mary McMahon, Barn Hill Road, Monroe, First Student bus aide, spoke in support of First Student.

There being no one else wishing to speak, the Public Session was closed.

### **Approval of Agenda**

**Timothy Walsh moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Win Oppel; vote 6-0; motion passed.**

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 27, 2013; seconded by Timothy Walsh; vote 6-0; motion passed.**

**Communications to the Board**

Freeman Burr stated a letter was received from USDA informing us that all eight schools have been awarded the USDA's *HealthierUS* School Challenge (HUSSC) Bronze award for "improvements in the quality of food while providing both nutrition and physical education to promote healthy lifestyles." A banner, plaque and \$500 will be awarded for each of the schools for the food service account. Recognition was given to Food Service Director Linda Stanisci and her staff, as well as school principals, Allan Cameron and members of the former Cafeteria Committee.

A communication was received from The Connecticut Association of Schools regarding the CAS Board of Directors' recognition of Dr. Beth Smith for service to CAS-CIAC, which will take place at their Sixty-First Annual Meeting on May 9. Superintendent Burr congratulated Dr. Smith, commenting that she has been a stalwart in working with CAS and also as partnering with CIAC.

**Instructional Update**

Superintendent noted upcoming dates of significance are School Nurse Day on May 8, and Teacher Appreciation Week on May 6-10.

A handout on the SPS Teacher Evaluation Plan was provided, and Freeman Burr explained in depth the timeline to date, an overview of initial discussion points and specifics of the pilot plan, which has to be submitted to the state by May 3. He said the board is expected to make a proposal tonight to accept the draft for submission to the state for consideration.

***(Note: Tape 1; Side B – 7:46 p.m.)***

He spoke briefly about the Administrative Evaluation noting the state will consider a possible extension to May 15. As requested by the state, Mr. Burr will follow up with a written request for an extension. He noted that if we are unable to complete an Administrative draft with input and feedback, we will automatically default to the CT SEED plan.

There were questions and discussion of parent feedback relative to evaluations and expected percentage rate to validate the survey. Kathy Bender said the state has contracted with a company that has recommended a parent survey, which we can use and add building-specific questions. She said we have the option of using Infinite Campus, which we use currently for School Climate Surveys.

Superintendent Burr discussed the Common Core State Standards Practice testing window, which extends to May 17. He said there are random student selections; we are working with the schools to make some modifications on who is assessed. Not every student in every grade will take every subject. It will be 50-70% of students in grades 3-8 and grade 11 – but not in every subject. Next year, it will be administered as a pilot to every student in every subject, grades 3-8 and grade 11.

**Items Voted On**

**Timothy Walsh moved to approve the fundraising request of SHS Boys' Tennis Team for the 2013 spring season; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 6-0; motion passed.**

**Comments by the Board Chair**

Chairman Mark Holden commented on the impressive competition at the Spelling Bee. He referenced the Fire Marshal's report for the high school and stated the problems will be resolved. He discussed the unexpected \$900,000 gap in next year's budget and said efforts are underway to narrow it. Chairman Holden stated an ad hoc committee has been appointed consisting of Arlene Liscinsky, Tim Walsh, Tom Minotti and Kathy Yolish (Chair) to look into the possibility of all-day kindergarten, considering costs and facility requirements, etc., and come up with a proposal. Mr. Holden commented on his attendance at the NSBA Conference in San Diego.

**Reports of Standing Committees**

**Teaching and Learning** – Thomas Minotti said the committee did not meet in April but attended the budget hearing presentation to Apportionment & Taxation.

**Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the Shelton High School Graduation date of Thursday, June 20, and rain or shine date of Friday, June 21; seconded by Win Oppel; vote 6-0; motion passed.**

**Arlene Liscinsky moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to submit a teacher evaluation draft proposal to the Connecticut State Department of Education to be done by May 3 and for implementation in the 2013-2014 school year; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 6-0; motion passed.**

A tentative date for next meeting is May 14 at 3:30 p.m.

**Policy** – Kathy Yolish said the committee met on April 2 and discussed a policy concerning the use of district-sponsored social media. The committee agreed to have Dana Urban make some changes and reintroduce it. The next meeting is May 7, tentatively at 4:30 p.m.

**Finance** – Arlene Liscinsky said the regular meeting was held on April 10 to discuss the budget relative to placeholders for health care and transportation bids. The committee met again on April 17 to review bids and hear the Superintendent's recommendation.

**Arlene Liscinsky moved to empower the Superintendent of Schools to enter into a Student Transportation Contract with Landmark Student Transportation, the lowest responsible bidder, as recommended by the Superintendent and the Board of Education's Finance Committee; seconded by Timothy Walsh and Win Oppel. Discussion included Arlene Liscinsky's comments about the arduous process and**

work done by Allan Cameron, Cathy Araujo and Jim Burns to compare the bids and give us the lowest responsible bidder for the taxpayers and for our budget. Freeman Burr commented on the importance of the proposals, a transition plan and the future transportation provider's willingness to enter into an agreement with our bus drivers' union. Mark Holden commented that Landmark made it clear they were very concerned about student safety, having an effective transition plan, and doing everything possible to have good people in every position; vote 6-0; motion passed.

### **Reports of Special Committees**

**CES** – Arlene Liscinsky noted that the CES newsletter highlighted the commissioner's visit last month. The board meets on May 2.

**CABE** – Kathy Yolish said there will be a workshop on May 16 on the Law, Trends and Updates on Teacher and Principal Evaluation and Support from 12:30 - 4 p.m. in Middletown. She commented briefly on her attendance at NSBA Conference.

### **For Your Information**

Chairman Mark Holden referenced the attachments in packet including Enrollment and Vacancy Reports. The following items were noted:

#### **Staff Resignation:**

Dana Urban, Director of Technology, effective 7/3/13

#### **Stipend Appointments:**

Timothy Gilson, Career Education Advisor/Shelton Intermediate School  
Kevin Goncalves, Assistant Coach/Boys' Volleyball/Shelton High School  
Christopher Mahl, Assistant Coach/Boys' Outdoor Track/Shelton High School  
Russell Treschitta, Assistant Coach/Girls' Softball/Shelton High School

#### **Stipend Resignation:**

Michael Curran, Assistant Coach/Boys' Outdoor Track/Shelton High School

Arlene Liscinsky thanked Carole Pannozzo for following up on the MERIT positions on the Vacancy Report with Tom Taylor. Carole Pannozzo said the security guard position has not been posted yet and that she will continue to follow up with Tom Taylor.

### **Highlights**

Kathy Yolish commented on her attendance at Grandparents Day held at Long Hill, as well as other elementary schools. With regard to the Spelling Bee, she said it was good to see SPSS is having spelling again. Kathy Yolish stated she had the privilege of participating in the Read Aloud with the Valley Early Childhood Task Force.

Freeman Burr said he participated in Read Across the Valley and read to kindergarten and pre-k classes at Bright Horizons. Mr. Burr praised Sandy Mahony for her suggestion to hold a Spelling Bee funded by the Shelton Education Endowment Fund and commended Lorraine Williams, Karen Crosby and staff at Perry Hill School for doing an outstanding job. He said the future goal is to expand the program to all elementary schools, particularly focused on grades 3 and 4, and to hold a district-wide competition in April. He hopes eventually to have our students representing Shelton in state-wide competitions and ultimately in national competitions. Superintendent Burr said mini grants will be awarded to our teachers in a few weeks. He encouraged anyone interested in participating with the Shelton Education Endowment Fund to contact Valerie Knight DiGangi.

Mark Holden commented briefly on the Spelling Bee and his experience with Read Across the Valley.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

*Diane Luther*

*Diane Luther*

*Recording Secretary – Board of Education*

*April 30, 2013*