

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Board of Education Administrative Offices  
382 Long Hill Avenue  
Board Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
January 29, 2014**

Chairman Mark Holden called the Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Mark Holden, Chairman	John Francino-Quinn (absent)
Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman	Faith Hack
Arlene Liscinsky, Secretary	Kate Kutash
Win Oppel (excused)	Timothy Walsh
Kathleen Yolish (excused)	

Quorum – 6 present; 3 absent

Board of Education Administration present:

Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr  
Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Lorraine Rossner  
Finance Director, Allan Cameron  
Human Resources Director, Carole PannoZZo

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Public Hearing**

There was no one from the public who wished to speak.

**Approval of Agenda**

**Thomas Minotti moved to adjust the agenda by moving forward item V. Presentations/ Recognition; seconded by Faith Hack; motion passed unanimously. Thomas Minotti moved to approve the adjusted agenda; seconded by Faith Hack; motion passed unanimously.**

**Presentations/Recognition**

William Langhammer, head custodian at Shelton Intermediate School, was recognized for saving the life of a choking student by performing the Heimlich maneuver. Bill was presented a Certificate of Recognition and received commendations from the board.

The Perry Hill Dominators robotics team was recognized for their achievement as 2013 Connecticut FLL State Champions. The following team members were congratulated: Jake

Daxner; Siddarth Jain; Justin Gidwani; Keegan McDonough; Amelia Nankervis; David Niski; Megan Pereira; Ian Pleasant; Anish Rajamanickam; Anaya Yadav. Also recognized were coaches Kamal Jain, Peter Nankervis and Vijay Vir; Program advisors Faylynn Haight, Michelle Piccolo and John Niski, as well as program sponsors Barnum Engineered Systems, Valley Community Foundation, Cytec Corporation and Shelton Board of Education. John Niski noted the team is awaiting an invitation to the North American Open Robotics Invitational in San Diego. Phil Cavallaro of Barnum Engineered Systems spoke personally about his experience with the robotics program and the quality of education in Shelton.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Thomas Minotti moved to select for approval the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 11, 2013 prepared by Allan Cameron; seconded by Faith Hack; motion passed unanimously.**

**Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 11, 2013; Special Meeting of December 18, 2013; Regular Meeting of December 18, 2013; Special Meeting of January 6, 2014 (Executive Session); and Special Meeting of January 6, 2014 (Budget); seconded by Faith Hack; motion passed unanimously.**

### **Communications to the Board**

There were no communications.

### **Instructional Update/Superintendent's Commentary**

A draft of the District Calendar for 2014-2015 was distributed and an overview was given by Lorraine Rossner. It was explained that proposed changes to parent/teacher conferences and combined professional learning days will be presented at the next Teaching & Learning Committee meeting; and, if approved by the committee, those changes will be incorporated into the calendar. Board members were asked to review the calendar and email any input to Lorraine Rossner prior to the next Teaching and Learning Committee meeting. The vote to approve the calendar is expected at the February board meeting. It was noted that Shelton is the only district in Fairfield County to have a post-Labor Day start date. Superintendent Burr reminded the board that this was based on results of a survey done four years ago whereby the majority of parents preferred a post-Labor Day start, a decision that could be revisited if the board so chooses. There was brief discussion of the status of a unified regional calendar.

Freeman Burr said the Office of Instruction, Lorraine Rossner and he have conversed with Dr. Smith and administration, as well as Curriculum Leaders and Department Chairs relative to findings of the Shelton High School NEASC report. He said a calendar will be proposed to get the necessary written curriculum documents in place to put us in a much improved standing relative to curriculum and instruction for the September 1st NEASC five-year report and progress report.

Allan Cameron reported on the SHS Code Compliance Building Committee relative to their recommendation to hire a consultant to assess the high school's code compliance issues. He said it is the intent of the Committee to resolve all the code issues.

Mr. Cameron stated the Public Improvement Building Committee reviewed five proposals for security cameras and two finalists will make presentations in executive session at their next meeting. He stated leadership of PIBC are authorized to award a bid, and the aldermen are prepared to vote to finance the entire cost to install the interior and exterior security cameras at the five elementary schools. Freeman Burr commented on the status and expected timeline of projects at Long Hill, Elizabeth Shelton and Mohegan for front entryway refortification and redesign, exterior door change outs and window replacements; and security window film for exposed large glass areas at the high school, intermediate school and Perry Hill.

Mr. Burr stated an ad hoc committee has been established for parents of students with disabilities, and names are being solicited for consideration. There will be one parent representative and one alternate from each school. The committee is expected to hold its initial meeting on March 1.

#### **Item Voted On**

**Timothy Walsh moved to approve conditionally the request of SHS Diamond Club to conduct fundraising activities during the 2014 season, subject to receiving financial information; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; motion passed unanimously.**

*Clerk's notation: Upon request, the Diamond Club's financial report was received and forwarded to board members on February 4.*

#### **Comments by the Board Chair**

Chairman Holden expressed appreciation to staff for working with the board to finalize the budget proposal and commented that it is appropriate based on state mandates and our goals for full day kindergarten. Mr. Holden acknowledged and welcomed Dr. Wesolowski.

#### **Reports of Standing Committees**

**Teaching and Learning** – Thomas Minotti reviewed the topics covered at the meeting of January 14 including SBAC training; elementary report cards; Robotics Mentor Program; technology update regarding new district website. The next meeting is scheduled for February 11 at 4:15 p.m.

**Policy** - Arlene Liscinsky reported the committee met on January 14 to review and discuss By-Law revision #9320. The next meeting is February 11 at 3:30 p.m. Agenda items will include Instruction-Magnet Schools; Personnel-Staff/Student Relationships; and review of Volunteer Policy.

**Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the revision to By-Law #9320; seconded by Thomas Minotti; motion passed unanimously.**

**Ad Hoc Full-Day Kindergarten** – Arlene Liscinsky reported the committee did not meet in January. Presentation dates to elementary school PTA/PTOs are scheduled for February 12 and 13 at 6:30 p.m., at Shelton Intermediate School Auditorium. Snow date is February 20 at 6:30 p.m. The field trip to Bungay School in Seymour to view their program is February 28 at 9:30 a.m. The Mayor, Board of Aldermen members, Central Office representatives and BOE team will leave from Central Office by bus at 9:10 a.m.

**Finance** – Arlene Liscinsky stated the committee met for its regular meeting last week. At the Special Meeting of the Board of Education held previously tonight, the board approved a budget of \$69,120,000 representing a 5.37% increase. Mrs. Liscinsky noted that full-day kindergarten is included and that the budget is always a working document and will be updated as it moves through the process. She emphasized the importance of participation at the upcoming A&T and BOA presentations and public hearing.

#### **Reports of Special Committees**

**CES** – Arlene Liscinsky referred to and briefly reviewed CES meeting notes provided in packet.

**CABE** – Board members were reminded of Day on the Hill, March 5, 2014.

#### **For Your Information**

Chairman Holden referenced the attachments in packet including Vacancy Report, Staff and Stipend Actions, and Enrollment Report.

#### **Highlights**

Faith Hack and Thomas Minotti commented on their attendance at the Unified Basketball Playdate at SHS. Arlene Liscinsky talked about Adaptations and encouraged others to attend next year. Kate Kutash discussed the relocation of Perry Hill students to the high school on the day of the downtown fire and noted how well the transfer was handled. Mark Holden noted the Science Fair at the high school on February 5 and encouraged others to attend.

Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

*Diane Luther*

***Diane Luther***  
***Secretary to Board of Education***  
***February 7, 2014***