

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
382 LONG HILL AVENUE
NOVEMBER 16, 2011**

The Board of Education met at 6:35 p.m. in Conference Room C for discussion of Personnel – Professional Status/Classification. Win Oppel **moved to go into Executive Session** at 6:35 p.m.; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 7-0; motion passed. Present were Mike Pacowta, Arlene Liscinsky, Kathy Yolish, Win Oppel, Thomas Minotti, Kate Kutash, Jay Francino-Quinn, Freeman Burr, and James Brant. Kathy Yolish **moved to leave Executive Session** at 6:50 p.m.; seconded by Mike Pacowta; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Vice Chair Arlene Liscinsky called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:07 p.m.

Roll Call: (alpha order)

Paula Ellis (excused)

John Francino-Quinn

Kate Kutash

Arlene Liscinsky, Vice Chair

Thomas Minotti, Secretary

Win Oppel

Mike Pacowta

Timothy Walsh, Chairman (excused)

Kathleen Yolish

Quorum of 7 present; 2 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, Kathy Bender

Acting Director of Human Resources, James Brant

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Hearing

No one from the public asked to speak.

Approval of Agenda and Addendum

Win Oppel moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 26, 2011; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 5-0-2 (abstentions by Kathy Yolish and Mike Pacowta); motion passed.

Presentations

Freeman Burr recognized Kate Kutash for having served on the Board for the past two years. He thanked her for her commitment to the students and the Board of Education, as evidenced by her regular attendance at so many meetings.

Appointments

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the appointment of Valerie Knight DiGangi to the stipend position of Perkins Grant Coordinator for Shelton Public Schools; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 7-0; motion passed. Arlene Liscinsky commented that this used to be a full-time position. Lorraine Rossner explained that we had not applied for the Perkins Grant for two years due to the understanding of state guidelines that we no longer qualified; however, that is not the case, and Valerie will apply for the grant. She stated the grant could fund between \$30,000-\$60,000 for programs that fall under the Perkins guidelines for equipment and activities for student participation.

Instructional Update

Superintendent Burr noted the end of the first marking period and stated parent conferences will start tomorrow. He discussed the standards-based report card and indicated most issues have been resolved. He said discussion will take place at committee level about potential for moving the elementary schools to trimester versus quarterly. Mr. Burr gave a curriculum update. He also reported that nine members of the Leadership Academy will assume their shadowing assignments at various schools starting next week. He added that efforts continue to schedule speakers for the Leadership Academy; Board members will be notified of the schedule and will have the option of attending. Superintendent Burr said the Shelton Public Schools held its first district wide data team meeting on October 28 and will meet again on November 17.

Items Voted On

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the following, which have sat for review since last meeting:

- Policy Revision #5145.4, Non-Discrimination (Students)
- Policy Revision #4118.11, Non-Discrimination (Personnel)
- Policy #1324.2, Fund-Raising and Solicitation, Sports Booster Clubs

The motion was seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Kate Kutash moved to approve the stipend position renewals listed on the attachment; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Win Oppel moved to change the December 28 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to a Special Meeting of the Board of Education on December 14, 2011; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Comments by the Board Chair

Vice Chair Arlene Liscinsky asked for a point of personal privilege to the next Chairperson to allow Timothy Walsh to make his final remarks as outgoing Chairman at the December meeting. Mrs. Liscinsky made some personal remarks about Kate Kutash and expressed appreciation to her for having served so well on the Board. She commented that the Board benefitted from the expertise, knowledge and outspokenness that Paula Ellis brought during her time on the Board. Arlene Liscinsky gave thanks to Chairman Tim Walsh and noted that he has been an inspiration to all and will continue to impart his knowledge and wisdom. She extended a welcome to new Board member Mark Holden and returning Board member Jim Oraziatti. She noted that regardless of political affiliation and differences of opinion, Board members have a passion for education and are motivated to work together to raise the bar and continue to make Shelton Public Schools an excellent school system.

Reports by Standing Committees

Athletics – No report was given.

Building and Grounds – Win Oppel said the committee discussed issues concerning Elizabeth Shelton and Sunnyside that arose during the election and notified Ken LaCroix for resolution. Mr. Oppel said other topics of discussion included fire reports and a Fire Marshal's report which may be expected; Shelton High School tree cutting, roof patching and interior work. Mr. Oppel asked Anne Hamilton for clarification of extensive damage by a vehicle to the Mohegan's property. Win Oppel said John Niski presented a list of potential capital projects regarding athletic facilities.

Cafeteria/Transportation – Kate Kutash reported on the meeting of November 2, which was attended by representatives from First Student as well as John Niski and several principals. Mrs. Kutash said concerns were shared regarding the bus situation,

and First Student is very willing to work with us. With regard to Cafeteria, she said there are several new promotions to help the students make healthy choices, with meatless meals being offered as well. Kate Kutash said it has been a pleasure to serve as Chair of the committee.

Policy/Curriculum/Technology – Thomas Minotti discussed the meeting held on December 15, noting the committee is comprised of hardworking members. He extended an invitation to Kate Kutash to stay on as an ex-officio member. Mr. Minotti said Tina Henckel had given a report on the 3 Year Technology Plan, the draft of which has been forwarded to CES for review and then will be sent to the State for approval.

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the draft format of the 3 Year Technology Plan; seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 7-0; motion passed.

The Board was asked to review the draft and address any questions to Tina Henckel. Superintendent Burr noted it is a State mandate with no funds.

Thomas Minotti reported that Kathy Bender had given a curriculum update to the committee. He discussed several programs planned by VITAHLS, an ongoing community initiative, supported by a grant program in Griffin Hospital. Mr. Minotti said Dana Urban had given the committee information on Internet safety and E-Rate. In addition, the committee had reviewed a proposal for a personal complaint procedure for bullying/harassment; more information will be forthcoming. Mr. Minotti said the Board would like staff to encourage as many parents as possible to sign up for the Parent Portal sessions either on November 17, November 21 or December 12 at Perry Hill School, where technical assistance will be offered. The next Policy meeting is scheduled for January 17 at 4 p.m., subject to change.

Personnel – Mike Pacowta stated the committee did not meet, and no report was given.

Finance – Arlene Liscinsky said the committee met earlier today and began discussion of Shelton budget five year history. Allan Cameron was asked to provide copies to new Board members. Any questions can be forwarded to Mr. Cameron for continued review at next budget meeting.

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Arlene Liscinsky mentioned upcoming presentations by Connecticut Commissioner of Education Stefan Pryor.

CABE – Kathy Yolish discussed the CABE Convention on November 18-19 at the Mystic Marriott, which will be attended by Arlene Liscinsky, Kathy Yolish and Freeman Burr. Mrs. Yolish mentioned CABE's New Board Member Orientation on December 6 at the Rocky Hill Marriott. She said the National School Board Association will hold its annual meeting next April in Boston and would be beneficial to any Board member wishing to attend.

Unfinished Business

Kathy Yolish requested a copy of the new report card. She commented on the Veterans Day programs held throughout the system and commended administrators, staff and veterans for wonderful programs. Mrs. Yolish said she attended Democratic Vistas and several of the programs from Teaching American History grant. She commended Carolyn Ivanoff and said she hopes the grant will continue.

Adjournment

Kate Kutash moved to adjourn at 7:53 p.m.; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Diane Luther

Diane Luther

Recording Secretary – Board of Education

November 22, 2011