

**SHERMAN BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT 06784**  
**REGULAR MEETING - WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 1, 2021**  
**MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM**  
**7:00 PM**

A Regular Meeting of the Sherman Board of Education was called to order by Mr. Berlandi at 7:07 PM on December 1, 2021 via Zoom.

**1. PRESENT**

For the Board:	Mr. Berlandi, Mr. Laughlin, Mrs. Lenihan, Mr. Neunzig, and Mr. Vogt
Administration:	Dr. Melendez, Mr. Kalkreuth, and Mrs. DiBartolo
Staff:	Mrs. Coonan
SPTO:	Mrs. O'Neill
Residents:	18

The Board and attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. CELEBRATIONS**

Dr. Melendez thanked the outgoing board members for their years of service, and welcomed the three incoming board members. Each incoming board member said a brief hello and expressed excitement to be a part of the Sherman board.

Dr. Melendez acknowledged Mrs. DiBartolo's recent presentation at NCTE. Mrs. DiBartolo then provided a brief description of the conference and her involvement over the last four years.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Joanna Ribisl of 13 Chestnut Hill Road expressed her gratitude to the three outgoing members of the Board and thanked them for their service to the school.

**4. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

**5.1. Review of Minutes**

Executive Session, January 31, 2021 Minutes, Executive Session May 23, 2021 Minutes, Special Meeting, September 29, 2021 Minutes, Executive Session, October 6, 2021 Minutes, Executive Session, November 3, 2021 Minutes, Regular Meeting, November 3, 2021 Minutes, Maintenance Committee Meeting, November 8, 2021 Minutes, Special Meeting, November 18, 2021 Minutes

**5.2. Personnel Actions**

New Hires  
 John O'Connor, School Safety Officer, Effective 11/8/2021  
 Chelsea Von Elm, Health Teacher, Effective 12/6/2021

**5.3. Monthly Enrollment Report**

**5.4. Monthly Budget Report**

Mr. Berlandi moved to approve consent agenda items 5.1 through 5.4 and Mr. Vogt seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

**6. APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLS**

Mr. Berlandi moved to approve current bills and Mr. Vogt seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

## 7. ORAL REPORTS

### 7.1. SPTO Update

Mrs. O'Neill noted the decision to cancel this year's in-person Gingerbread House Event due to rising cases of COVID-19 the community.

### 7.2. Sub-Committee

### 7.3. Chair

Mr. Berlandi discussed his intent to hold BOE meetings in-person beginning in January. The Board will discuss details further at the 12/4/21 Board Retreat. Mr. Berlandi also welcomed the incoming board members and said he looks forward to the skills and energy they will bring to the Board.

### 7.4. Superintendent Update

#### 7.4.1. Budget Update

Mrs. Coonan provided a brief update on the current budget status, and presented a one-page update summary.

#### 7.4.2. Stoplight Report

Mrs. DiBartolo discussed two areas of the strategic plan where significant growth and progress has been shown.

#### 7.4.3. Superintendent Update - Jeff Melendez

Dr. Melendez discussed a letter that will be going out to families shortly regarding the increase of COVID cases in the community. Brief updates on the Screen and Stay Initiative, Sherman's Reopening Plan V. 4.0, and Knight School were also provided.

## 8. PRESENTATION

### 8.1. Preschool Early Enrichment Program in Sherman (PEEPS)

This presentation has been tabled until Mr. Dudics, Director of Special Education, can be in attendance.

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

## 10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### 10.1. Discussion and possible action to adopt Policy 5118 - Nonresident Tuition

Mr. Berlandi moved to approve amended Policy 5118 and was seconded by Mrs. Lenihan. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

### 10.2. Discussion and possible action to develop an RFP for architectural services

Mr. Laughlin requested this discussion be moved to the January 2022 agenda. Mr. Laughlin's request was seconded by Mr. Vogt.

Mr. Berlandi moved to table item 10.2 until January 2022 and Mr. Vogt seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

### 10.3. Discussion and possible action to solicit services for to assess our administrative and education model and to develop a strategic plan that maximizes resources and student outcomes

The Board discussed utilizing a consultant to evaluate our current models and provide feedback.

### 10.4. Discussion regarding school lunch program offerings

Mr. Neunzig spoke of his and Mrs. Lenihan's recent observation of the current kitchen/cafe, and research of other districts. A discussion was had about improvement plans made prior to the pandemic.

**11. COMMUNICATIONS**

A Letter of Recognition from First Selectman Don Lowe to the outgoing Board members was read by Mr. Berlandi.

**12. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Joanna Ribisl thanked the Board for taking on the task of revising the Teacher/Staff Child tuition. Mrs. Ribisl also stated her opinions on the school's COVID procedures.

**13. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS**

Mr. Vogt and Mr. Laughlin expressed their gratitude to the outgoing Board members and thanked them for their years of service. Mr. Neunzig welcomed and thanked the incoming new board members for running and expressed his appreciation for their dedication to the community.

**14. FUTURE MEETINGS AND TOPICS**

- 14.1. Board of Education Retreat, December 4, 2021 at 9:00 AM
- 14.2. Budget Committee Meeting #1 - December 8, 2021 at 5:00 PM (Zoom)
- 14.3. Board of Education Meeting - January 5, 2022 at 7:00 PM

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Berlandi moved to adjourn at 8:33 PM, seconded by Mr. Neunzig.

Respectfully submitted,

Courtney Onofer, Board Clerk  
Sherman Board of Education