

SHERMAN BOARD OF EDUCATION
SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT 06784
REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 8, 2020
THE SHERMAN SCHOOL - MULTI PURPOSE ROOM
8:00 PM

A regular meeting of the Sherman Board of Education was called to order by Dr. Melendez at 8:15 PM on January 8, 2020 in the Multi Purpose Room.

1. PRESENT:

For the Board:	Dr. Alexander, Mr. Berlandi, Mrs. Diotte, Mr. Laughlin, Mrs. Lenihan, Mr. Neunzig and Mrs. Seeger
Administration:	Dr. Melendez, Ms. Edwards, Mr. Kalkreuth and Mrs. Snowden
Staff:	Mrs. Davidson and Ms. DePuy
Residents:	3 Residents

The Board and attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICERS:

Mrs. Lenihan moved and Dr. Alexander seconded the nomination of Kasey Diotte as Board Chair, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Mrs. Diotte moved and Dr. Alexander seconded the nomination of James Neunzig as Vice Chair/Secretary, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

3. CELEBRATIONS:

2.1 Regional Audition Results

Dr. Melendez proudly shared a total of 20 students auditioned for the Western Connecticut Regional Auditions, and 12 students were accepted. This is the highest percentage of acceptance for any District competing. Dr. Melendez acknowledged the students, parents and music teachers.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comment.

5. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

No additions

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

Mrs. Diotte moved and Mrs. Lenihan seconded the approval of Consent Agenda Items 6.1 to 6.4, with the exception of the Curriculum Minutes, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

6.1 Review of Minutes:

Minutes - Special Meeting, December 13, 2019
Minutes - Regular Meeting, December 4, 2019
Minutes - Curriculum Meeting, December 4, 2019
Minutes - Maintenance Meeting, November 21, 2019

Minutes - Maintenance Meeting, October 31, 2019

Minutes - Maintenance Meeting, October 9, 2019

Minutes - Maintenance Meeting, October 8, 2019

6.2 Personnel Actions

Resignation

Dawn Robitaille, Paraprofessional, Effective December 21, 2019

6.3 Monthly Enrollment Report

6.4 Monthly Budget Report 2019-2020 Budget by Function & Summary of Funds

7. APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLS:

Mrs. Diotte moved and Mr. Laughlin seconded the approval of current bills, and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

7.1 2019-2020 Current Bills

8. ORAL REPORTS:

8.1 SPTO Update

No SPTO update

8.2 Sub-Committee

Budget Workshop

The first Budget Workshop will take place on January 27th at 6:00 PM in the Library Media Center. All budget workshops will be posted on the school's website.

8.3 Chairperson

Mrs. Diotte welcomed Brian Berlandi to the Sherman Board of Education. She also commented positively on the Winter Concert.

8.4 Superintendent Update - Dr. Jeff Melendez

- **Strategic Plan Update**

Dr. Melendez highlighted two action steps and provided an update to the Board.

Innovation Fund Award Recipients - Dr. Melendez reported five Innovation Fund requests have been approved, totaling approximately \$7,000.00. Dr. Melendez presented a slide of the items and explained the focus of each request:

ActivPanel Titanium Promethean Display - Tanya Silva

Art Room Light Filters - Jess Yagid

Die Cutter - Tim McGuire, Jen Rianhard, Patty Corso and Jess Yagid

Nintendo Switch Peripherals - Tim McGuire, Physical Education and STEAM

The Sherman Band Festival - Chris Carlone

Student Enrichment

Mr. Brian Kalkrueth, provided an overview of one of the recently purchased enrichment programs, Exemplars. The program is a supplement to the Bridges math program intended for grades K - 2. The goal of the program is to provide teachers with support for differentiation of instruction for students demonstrating readiness for a challenge. It aids with critical thinking and problem solving. Mr. Kalkreuth shared samples of the program with the Board.

9. PRESENTATIONS

9.1 ISTE Standards

Mrs. Snowden reported the State of Connecticut has adopted new CSTA and ISTE standards. Mrs. Snowden provided a broad overview of the standards, the difference between the standards and plans to implement.

ISTE Standards are embedded into content area and are taught in Math, Language Arts, Social Studies and Science. Mrs. Snowden shared the ISTE Standards were introduced during Professional Development to a small group of teachers. She plans to introduce to the rest of the staff at an upcoming Professional Development day.

Mrs. Snowden noted the Computer Science standards are more technical and often require separate lessons and activities. Mr. McGuire has already reviewed the standards and identified which ones are part of the EdTech Program. Mrs. Snowden shared that many are currently used. She stressed the importance of the standards for middle school students due to the new high school graduating standards.

As a District, Mrs. Snowden would like the entire faculty to be aware and comfortable with the ISTE standards, but noted the school must evaluate internally to what extent and decide if more should be done. She feels the school is at a good starting point and will continue into the next school year.

Mrs. Snowden will discuss this issue with the internal Curriculum Committee for input, and then to the Board level Curriculum Committee.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1 Review and Discussion of Sub-Committee Assignments

The Board reviewed and discussed committee assignments. Following are the 2020 Committee Assignments:

Budget, Finance & Insurance

James Neunzig, Chair
All Members

Communication Committee

Missy Alexander, Chair

Curriculum and Textbooks

Dorinda Lenihan, Chair
Brian Berlandi

Maintenance & Operation

Tim Laughlin, Chair
James Neunzig

Negotiations

Brian Berlandi, Chair

Policy

Susan Seeger, Chair

Special Education

Dorinda Lenihan, Chair

Transportation

Susan Seeger

10.2 Discussion and Possible Action to Update the Strategic Plan

Enc. 10.2

Dr. Melendez presented recommended revisions to the Strategic Plan based on feedback regarding goals and objectives from faculty and community members. He shared that the Administration reviewed the current plan and discussed a refocus.

- Dr. Melendez noted there is no action step in the plan currently regarding the potential building project. The project will take a significant amount of time and resources to manage and Dr. Melendez recommended the addition of an Action Step to continue with transparency and tracking progress.
- Dr. Melendez suggested modifications to Actions Steps 1.1, 2.1 and 5.1 to afford greater emphasis on ELA and Math.
- Dr. Melendez recommended extending the year in which Action Steps 1.3, 6.2, 9.1, 9.2, 11.4, 11.5, and 12.2 will become actionable due to the new and modified Action Steps.

Mrs. Diotte moved and Mrs. Seeger seconded to approve changes made to the Strategic Plan as proposed and the motion passed unanimously. 6-0.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11.1	Second Reading Policy 3152 Spending Public Funds for Advocacy	Enc.11.1
11.2	Second Reading Policy 3160 Trans of Funds Between Categories; Amendments	Enc.11.2
11.3	Second Reading Policy 3313.5 Affirmative Action	Enc.11.3
11.4	Second Reading Policy 3432 Budget & Exp.Reports, Annual Financial Statement	Enc.11.4
11.5	Second Reading Policy 3516 Safety	Enc.11.5
11.6	Second Reading Policy 3524.1 Pesticide Application	Enc.11.6

Mrs. Seeger moved and Mrs. Diotte seconded to adopt Policy 3152, 3160, 3313.5, 3432, 3516 and 3524.1, and the motion passed unanimously. 6-0.

11.7 Update and Discussion Regarding Conceptual Design Services Project

Mrs. Diotte noted the Conceptual Design Services Project will be a standing agenda item. She requested fellow Board members present their questions and thoughts during this time at each monthly Board meeting. The Board discussed the following topics:

- **Enrollment Report**
Dr. Melendez provided an update on the history of the Enrollment Report. The report has been updated to reflect data from the past two years. The report will be available on the school's website.
- **Town Organizations**
The Board agreed that the Senior population and Parks & Rec will be part of the scope. Their needs must be evaluated to determine potential compatible options within the school environment.
- **Communication**
The forums will be recorded over a PowerPoint presentation. A webinar will be set up to accommodate up to 200 callers. All links pertaining to the conceptual design project will be available on the school's website. Dr. Alexander will also publish an article in the Town Tribune and requested fellow Board members input.
- **Feedback/Questions**
The Board discussed how they will handle feedback and questions regarding the conceptual

design project. Dr. Melendez will share all inquiries with the Board and he will respond to the inquiries. Depending on the level of input/inquiry, the Board may develop a plan to respond.

- **Design & Innovation Meeting and Second Public Forum**

The Board discussed what Tecton will be providing to the Design & Innovation committee on February 5th.

Mr. Laughlin expressed concerns regarding if there was adequate time for the Board to create EdSpec for the Architects conceptual design prior to the February 5th meeting. He also expressed concerns regarding if the appropriate needs were communicated for a model based on the year 2023 and beyond.

Dr. Melendez also confirmed that Tecton will present a draft and options, but the EdSpec will not be developed until if and when the application is submitted. Dr. Melendez stated all seven Pages of feedback from the December 13, 2019 meeting with Tecton, Dr. Jacobs, faculty and Administration were shared with the Board and the architects to insure all input was communicated.

Mrs. Diotte acknowledge Mr. Laughlin's concerns, but would like to see what Tecton presents on February 5th as a launching point first. Many Board members felt that Tecton has time to modify the draft prior to the second public forum in the event that the Board wanted to move in a different direction.

12. COMMUNICATION

Mrs. Diotte acknowledged two thank you notes were received and shared with fellow Board members.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Joanna Ribisl expressed concerns regarding the school calendar and requested the Board consider approving the calendar in December prior to the upcoming school year for planning purposes.

Mrs. Ribisl also expressed concern regarding the school lunch program and inquired about the status of the School Lunch Committee. Mr. Neunzig provided an update on the newly formed committee and shared a site visit planned with the Chappaqua School District Food Services Department. He also will be meeting with the Senior Center for preliminary discussions regarding combining potential food service resources.

14. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

Dr. Melendez shared that he completed the Superintendent Survey regarding benchmarks with area Superintendents. He will report his findings at the next Curriculum Meeting.

15. FUTURE MEETINGS AND TOPICS

- 15.1 Policy Meeting, January 27, 2020 at 4:00 PM - Library Media Center
- 15.2 Curriculum Meeting, January 27, 2020 at 5:00 PM - Library Media Center
- 15.3 Budget Workshop, January 27, 2020 at 6:00 PM - Library Media Center
- 15.4 Maintenance Meeting, January 27, 2020 at 8:00 PM - Library Media Center
- 15.5 Board of Education Meeting, February 5, 2020 at 7:00 PM - Multi Purpose Room

16. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Diotte moved and Mr. Neunzig seconded the Board adjourned at 9:36 PM and the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

James Neunzig
Vice Chair, Sherman Board of Education

Prepared by Recording Secretary: Nancy Winkler