

SHERMAN BOARD OF EDUCATION
SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT 06784
REGULAR MEETING - OCTOBER 6, 2021
MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM
7:00 PM

A Regular Meeting of the Sherman Board of Education was called to order by Mr. Neunzig at 7:09 PM on October 6, 2021 via Zoom.

1. PRESENT:

For the Board:	Mr. Neunzig, Mr. Berlandi, Mrs. Diotte, Mr. Laughlin, Mrs. Lenihan, Mrs. Seeger, and Mr. Vogt
Administration:	Dr. Melendez, Mr. Kalkreuth, Mrs. DiBartolo, and Mr. Dudics
SPTO:	Mrs. O'Neill
Residents:	59

The Board and attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CELEBRATIONS

2.1. The Arrow of Light Award

Dr. Melendez acknowledged and congratulated the following students on receiving the highest awarded recognition in Cub Scouting: Ellie Garcia, Sally Hafer, Liana Mattison, Candace Mattison, Nadia Ordinas-Lewis, and Isabel Ordinas-Lewis.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Before opening the floor for public comment, Dr. Melendez and Mr. Berlandi noted the Board's awareness of the public's support for reduced or free tuition for staff children attending The Sherman School. Mr. Berlandi stated that this has been inserted into Union Negotiations, and therefore cannot be discussed in detail at this point in time.

The following residents spoke in support of permanent free or reduced tuition for staff children attending The Sherman School from out of district: Joanna Ribisl of 13 Chestnut Hill Road, Molly Garcia of 22 Church Road, Amy Bocompani of 5 Partridge Trail, Helen & Tony Brazil of 3 Rising Sun Trail, Don Lowe - First Selectman, Cheryl Mandracchia of 62 Wakeman Hill Road, Caitlin Mandracchia of 1 High View Lane, Barbara Jacobowitz of 4 Mary Bee Lane, Rosemarie D'Ostilio of 41 Cozier Hill Road, and Wendy Quinby of 10 Atchison Cove Road.

Additionally, the following teachers expressed desire for their children to remain part of The Sherman School Community and in support of permanent free or reduced tuition for staff children attending the school from out of district: Mrs. Shaela Hillmann, Mr. Stephen Rianhard, Mr. Jake Butler, Mrs. Vicky Butler, Mrs. Bernadette Linero, Mrs. Dawn Perlman, Mrs. Tanya Silva, Mr. Stephen Trinchillo, and Mrs. Sheila Reidy.

4. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

No additions to the agenda at this time.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Neunzig moved and Mr. Berlandi seconded the approval of the Consent Agenda, including the following: Special Meeting Minutes - 7/12/21, Board Retreat Minutes - 7/28/21, Executive Session Minutes - 9/1/21, Regular Board Meeting Minutes - 9/1/21, Maintenance Committee Meeting Minutes - 9/14/21, Personnel Actions, Enrollment Reports, Budget Reports, and Weeding Report.

The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

6. APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLS

Mr. Neunzig moved and Mr. Vogt seconded to approve the 2021-2022 current bills.

The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

7. ORAL REPORTS

7.1. SPTO Update

Mrs. O'Neill reported on upcoming events, and noted the next SPTO meeting on 10/13 will be the last meeting at the beach pavilion until Spring. Future meetings will be held inside at the Firehouse starting in November.

7.2 Sub-Committee

7.3 Chair Report

Mr. Neunzig conveyed his heartfelt appreciation for all of the members of the community in attendance, and encouraged all to continue to attend meetings in the future.

7.4 Superintendent Update - Dr. Jeff Melendez

Budget Update

Mrs. Coonan provided a budget update and discussed budget savings and overages. The current budget report was presented for viewing.

Stoplight report

Mr. Kalkreuth discussed Stoplight Report items 5.5, 6.1, and 12.1. Mrs. DiBartolo reported progress on Stoplight Report item 11.4.

8. PRESENTATION

8.1. Quarantine Instruction Plan - Knight School

Dr. Melendez provided a high level overview of Knight School, the instruction support plan for students having to quarantine due to COVID-19. Dr. Melendez stated that the full plan will be sent out to families shortly.

9. NEW BUSINESS

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10.1. Second Reading of Policy #9132 - Bylaws of the Board

The policy was discussed by the board and it was suggested that the policy be adopted beginning 1/1/2022.

Mr. Neunzig moved and Mr. Vogt seconded to adopt the revised policy starting January 1, 2022. The motion passed 4-3 (Opposed: Mrs. Lenihan, Mrs. Seeger, and Mrs. Diotte).

10.2. Discussion Regarding Capital Repairs and State Reimbursement

Mr. Laughlin discussed capital projects and possible state reimbursement. He discussed intentions to keep the public and board informed of next steps. A maintenance meeting will also be held as soon as possible.

11. COMMUNICATIONS

- 11.1. Mr. Neunzig acknowledged the numerous communications submitted to the board, and expressed gratitude for the participation of so many members of the community during tonight's meeting.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- 12.1. Molly Garcia of 22 Church Road reiterated her support for Sherman's teachers, and expressed hope that their children continue to attend The Sherman School on a tuition free basis.
- Joanna Ribisl of 13 Chestnut Hill Road spoke in favor of all future Board meetings being recorded for later public viewing and also commented positively on the meeting's new webinar format. In addition, Mrs. Ribisl requested to know the next steps for determining the status of staff children attending The Sherman School on a free or reduced tuition basis.
- Mr. Neunzig stated that next steps will be determined as quickly as possible and the public will be kept informed of any new information as it is available.

13. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

- 13.1. Mr. Vogt spoke of his honor in serving as a board member for the last year. Mr. Vogt also spoke of his pride of community and of the support shown for Sherman teachers this evening.
- Mrs. Lenihan expressed her gratitude for the community support by way of attendance during this meeting, and she thanked all participants. Mrs. Lenihan also encouraged everyone to learn how boards operate and the importance of process and the continuation of community involvement.

14. FUTURE MEETINGS AND TOPICS

- 14.1. Policy Committee Meeting - Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 12:00 PM
- 14.2. Board of Education Meeting - Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 7:00 PM

15. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Neunzig moved and Mr. Vogt seconded to adjourn the meeting of the Sherman Board of Education at 9:36 PM and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Berlandi
Vice Chair, Sherman Board of Education

Prepared by Recording Secretary: Courtney Onofer