

Revised 9/8/2013

**SHERMAN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2013  
THE SHERMAN SCHOOL – SCHOOL LIBRARY  
7:10 pm**

**Mission Statement**

**We are dedicated to creating an educational environment that encourages all children to reach their potential as self-confident, responsible and caring citizens, equipped to succeed in a rapidly changing society.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL BY CHAIRPERSON**

PRESENT:

**Board of Education:** Mr. Rowland Hanley, Mrs. Themis Enright, Mrs. Jamie Spannhake,  
Mr. Robert Gamper, Mrs. Ginny Zellner, Mr. Joseph Keneally  
**Selectman:** Mr. Chris Jellen

**2. CELEBRATIONS: None**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Parent John O'Connell referred to his earlier email message to administration and Board requesting a meeting with Mr. Fital. A meeting was scheduled for Friday at 9:00 a.m.

**4. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: None**

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| 5.1 Minutes – Regular meeting - June 5, 2013 | (Enclosure 5.1a) |
| Minutes – Policy Meeting – June 10, 2013     | (Enclosure 5.1b) |
| Minutes – Policy Meeting – June 17, 2013     | (Enclosure 5.1c) |
| 5.3 Monthly Budget Report                    | (Enclosure 5.3)  |

**6. APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLS**

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 6.1 2012 – 2013 | (Enclosure 6.1) |
|-----------------|-----------------|

**Motion to approve by Mr. Joseph Kenneally; Seconded by Mr. Rowland Hanley.**

**All in favor. Vote: 6-0**

**7. ORAL REPORTS**

**7.1 SPTO UPDATE**

President , Mrs. Ashleigh Blake was not present as the SPTO has already had their last meeting, however, Mrs. Spannhake commented that all officers will remain the same for next year.

## 7.2 Sub-committees

### **Policy Committee – Mrs. Ginny Zellner**

Mrs. Zellner reported that the 5000 series was completed with Mr. Fiftal's help. It is being sent back to CABE for finalization and it is expected that the Board of Ed will review it in September.

### **Maintenance Committee – Mr. Joseph Keneally**

Mr. Keneally stated that the summer maintenance program has already begun.

## 7.3 Chairman Gamper

Mr. Gamper summarized the end of school year as being on target with budget and also having reached a tentative contract agreement between non-certified staff and BOE. He thanked all members for their hard work during this past year.

## 7.4 Superintendent

Mr. Fiftal commented on awards night and graduation stating that both events were very nice and he was impressed with the diversity of awards and the deserving nature of the students receiving recognition. Mr. Fiftal felt the graduation, which was held outdoors, was flawless thanks to the administration and especially to secretary Mrs. Linda Christie.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

- 8.1 Mr. Fiftal discussed the district's pending change of health insurance carrier, from Anthem to ConnectiCare, stating that discussion began in the spring as a way to try to contain insurance costs. The school insurance year starts on September 1, so any changes would become effective on that date. Mr. Fiftal began obtaining quotes in May from various insurance carriers. ConnectiCare's plan proposal could potentially save the Board tens of thousands of dollars.

The teachers' union is examining the coverage. Connecticare promises that coverage will be equal to the current Anthem plan, plus the insured have one full year of transition. In addition, there is a 97% match of providers between ConnectiCare and the existing carrier. The changeover, if it takes place, will need to be in collaboration with Town Hall employees, as well. Thus, finalizing any transition will take time over the summer.

Motion was made to approve ConnectiCare as the district's health insurance carrier for the eligible staff members' medical, hospitalization, and prescription coverage by

**Mrs. Spannhake and seconded by Mr. Keneally. All in favor: Vote: 6-0**

- 8.2 Mr. Fiftal stated that there is approximately \$8,500 remaining in the budget for 2012-2013. With only a few outstanding bills to be paid, the district is anticipating a small year-end balance.
- 8.3 Discussion and action taken on renewal of Superintendent Fiftal's contract for 2013-2014.  
**Motion to renew Mr. Fiftal's contract made by Mrs. Ginny Zellner and seconded by Mr. Rowland Hanley. Passed unanimously. Vote: 6.0**  
Mr. Fiftal and Mr. Gamper signed contract.

## **9.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **9.1 Security Update**

Mr. Fiftal reported that the school is in a good place with the new security enhancements which have been made possible by a \$75,000 LoCIP grant. Phase 1 of the security plan, to date, cost approximately \$52,000. For additional installations, \$7,600 is allocated in the 2013-2014 budget as well as the remainder of the LoCIP grant. Phase 1 has been completed and Phase 2 is beginning. Mr. Rob Johnson is also seeking an additional state grant for up to 26% reimbursement of security expenditures.

## **10. COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Gamper read a letter from Senator McLachlan granting Vietnam Veterans diplomas if they had left school before graduation for reasons of joining the armed forces. It's another way to thank them for what they did for this country.

## **11. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Selectman Chris Jellen thanked the Board for all their cooperation and help during this past school year.

## **12. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS**

Mrs. Spannhake thanked Mr. Fiftal and Mr. Gamper for their significant time and commitment over the past fiscal year, including successes in the areas of health insurance, budget, and security. She also thanked Selectman Chris Jellen for his continued involvement with the Board of Education. The other Board members echoed these sentiments.

## **13. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Mr. Gamper asked Mr. Hanley to prepare a Superintendent's evaluations draft to send to board members for feedback. When that information is received back a future meeting date can be scheduled.

13.1 Next regular meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 11, 2013

## **14. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion for adjournment made by Mr. Keneally; seconded by Mr. Hanley.  
All in favor. Vote 6.0**

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Spannhake,  
Vice Chairman/Secretary