

SHOREHAM-WADING RIVER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
250B Route 25A, Shoreham, New York 11786 ~ (631-821-8100)
Dr. Harriet Copel, Superintendent of Schools

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Public Meeting

July 6, 2011

PUBLIC SESSION

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Michael Fucito
Mr. Leo Greeley
Dr. William McGrath
Mr. Richard Pluschau
Mr. John Zukowski

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Harriet Copel, Superintendent
Mr. Glen Arcuri, Director of Finance and Operations
Dr. William Bushman, Director of Student Services
Mr. Alan Meinster, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Jack Costas, President
Ms. Marie Lindell, Vice-President

I Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

At 8:07 PM, the Public Session of the Board of Education of the Shoreham-Wading River Central School District Board of Education was called to order by the District Clerk, Ms. Janice Seus.

II Approval of Agenda

At 8:09, a motion was made to accept the agenda **as revised** (Election of Board President and Vice-President was removed) by Mr. Fucito and seconded by Dr. McGrath. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

III Statements from Residents

Ms. Miriam Logan addressed the Board of missing Wildcat Athletic Club (WAC) documents, the Suffolk County District Attorney's investigation into the District and WAC, and the missing documents related to that investigation.

Mr. Anthony DeLouise intended to comment about the Election of Board President and Vice-President, but since it was removed from the agenda, he declined to comment.

Ms. Winifred Pardo addressed the Board of the improper procedure used for changing the Re-Organization Meeting and warned that it could have been challenged and any action taken could have been overturned.

Ms. Linda Jutting asked the Board to move forward with major issues and do the right thing by the District.

Mr. Nikko Lavey asked the Board to move forward and work with the new superintendent.

Mr. Terry Kluber turned over his three (3) minutes of statement time to Ms. Miriam Logan. Ms. Logan spoke again about missing WAC documents.

Mr. Frank Franze had questions about a specific Executive Session which the Board did not answer due to confidential information.

IV Student/Staff Recognitions

None

V Old Business

None

VI Reports and Reviews

None

VII Votes and Resolutions

None

VIII Personnel
None

IX Communications
None

X Discussion

a. Dr. Steven Cohen Consultant Contract

Dr. McGrath advised the residents that because he had lost confidence in the current Board officers, he requested tonight's meeting for the purpose of replacing the officers. Dr. McGrath advised that he only became aware today that the election of Board officers had to be done at the District's Re-Organization Meeting. Dr. McGrath elaborated on his unhappiness with the Board's actions in the recent past and how he felt four (4) members of the Board kept specific information from the other three (3) members.

Mr. Pluschau asked Dr. Copel about her transition period when she became superintendent to the District. Dr. Copel advised that she believed she was not compensated for her transition period. Mr. Pluschau explained that no votes could be taken in Executive Session, however the Board could come to a consensus. Mr. Pluschau explained that is how the new superintendent was selected and later a consensus of the Board was made to offer a consultant agreement. Mr. Pluschau explained the Board's thoughts as to an overlapping of the new and old superintendent and stressed to residents that it was not a "sign on bonus."

Mr. Zukowski advised his objection to the consultant contract was the money it is costing the District, not the idea of overlapping; Mr. Pluschau advised this expense was already budgeted for. Mr. Zukowski asked if Mr. Costas had asked Dr. Cohen about transitioning without compensation; Mr. Pluschau did not know if this had been done. Mr. Zukowski raised the issue of the District being indemnified against Dr. Cohen.

Mr. Greeley pointed out that the overlap between Dr. Cohen and Dr. Copel and other District Office administrators will be minimal because of vacation schedules. Mr. Pluschau had a schedule of District Office staff and advised key employees were available for the entire overlap.

Dr. McGrath advised three (3) Board members were not privy to certain information such as if Dr. Cohen requested the consultant contract.

Mr. Greeley spoke about the newly proposed State legislation pertaining to lame duck Board members.

Mr. Pluschau addressed the Board and residents how he is an independent voter of the Board, has no personal agenda, is focused on the issues, is prepared for discussions and has a vested interest in the District as he has four (4) children in all schools and activities of the District.

Mr. Zukowski asked Mr. Pluschau if he was willing to submit to a re-vote for Resolution #1011-238 Dr. Steven Cohen Consultant Contract; Mr. Pluschau advised no.

XI Additional Comments from Residents

Ms. Shari Santoriello welcomed Dr. Cohen to the District. Ms. Santoriello addressed the Board about her unhappiness with their behavior tonight.

Ms. Debbie Lutjen thanked Dr. Copel and welcomed Dr. Cohen to the District. Ms. Lutjen asked the Board to work together with the community.

Mr. Nikko Lavey spoke about personal opinions being permitted.

Ms. Haleh Field addressed the Board about her unhappiness with their behavior tonight.

Ms. Miriam Logan spoke about the attorney fees the District spent for the past year.

At 9:00 PM, a motion was made by Dr. McGrath and second by Mr. Zukowski to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

Janice M. Seus
District Clerk