Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:02 p.m.

Roll Call:
Mark Holden, Chairman                      Kate Kutash
Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman               Win Oppel (via Skype)
Arlene Liscinsky, Secretary                 Darlisa Ritter
David Gioiello (excused)                    Kathleen Yolish
Faith Hack

Quorum: 8 present, 1 absent

Board of Education Administration present:
Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Christopher Clouet
Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Lorraine Rossner
Finance Director, Dominic Barone
Human Resources Director, Carole Pannozzo

(1 tape on file in City/Town Clerk’s office)

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda
Thomas Minotti moved to add item VII. A. 1. a. SEEF Mini-Grant Awards and VIII. A. 4. Mohegan School PTO fundraising request to the agenda; motion seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously. Faith Hack moved to approve the addendum and agenda; motion seconded by Win Oppel and passed unanimously.

Presentations/Recognitions
Superintendent Clouet discussed the recent news of the Barton Weller Scholarship and the award of the following grants from the Weller Foundation to SHS: $2,000 for construction of a greenhouse; $500 for the Robotics team; and $1,000 for the Math Department. One of our students was named a finalist in the Wendy’s Heisman Award. The Weller Scholarship Foundation had five top finalists, three of whom are SHS students Alex Ercolani, Marissa Peck and Tyler Warner.

Public Hearing
Deborah Keller, 311 Pheasant Glen, Visual & Performing Arts Chair, commended LHS Music Teacher Nancy Adams and grade 2 students for a heartwarming visit and performance at Wesley Heights Assisted Living Facility. As Band Director, she discussed the outpouring of
love and support for students and staff following the passing of an SHS student. She commended Dr. Smith and the SHS Crisis Team for their professionalism and thanked all who showed compassion and gave support at a time when it was most needed.

**Approval of Minutes**
Kate Kutash moved to approve the minutes of the Special and Regular Meetings of September 28, 2016; motion seconded by Thomas Minotti and passed unanimously.

**Communications to the Board**
There were no communications.

**Superintendent’s Reports & Action Items**

**District Overview of SPED and Support Services** – Elizabeth Hannaway, Carla D’Orio and Janice Simonetti gave a presentation reflecting on last year and highlighting changes in this year's program with data analysis and detailed program discussion. Social Workers Joanna Nappi, Jennifer DeLeon, Tracy Gigliotti, Kay Redmond, Lisa Luis and Leann Roberts discussed their roles, challenges and goals.

**Technology Department Update** – Dan DiVito provided detailed information on key summer projects that were completed and an analysis of helpdesk requests reflecting improved response and completion times since reorganization of the department. Mr. DiVito noted the new structure already has made an immediate positive impact. Copies of his presentation will be emailed to board members.

**Strategic Plan Update** – Dr. Clouet said the Steering Committee and five focus groups have been meeting regularly. Most recently, members of the Steering Committee talked about narrowing our focus and were given a copy of a strategic coherence plan to be used as a point of reference. On November 2, Joe Carbone, CEO of The Workplace, will be at SHS at 2:15 p.m. to speak to interested faculty, members of Strategic Planning, and board members about his vision of what work in Connecticut will look like in the future. Superintendent Clouet said the process has begun for submitting a National Science Foundation proposal for a planning grant that focuses on informal science and discussed a positive brainstorming meeting held recently with key community members from Sikorsky and Yale, as well as teachers. Dr. Clouet stated he served as an education representative on the Valley Community Foundation’s panel discussion last week to release the Community Index data. He said he has been asked to be the speaker at the Chamber of Commerce gathering this Friday and will convey the district’s desire to work more closely with members of the Chamber and the business community to provide opportunities for our students relative to Career Pathways. Superintendent Clouet notified the board that the money is now in place for the SEEF mini-grants previously announced.

**Approved Field Trips** - Board members were apprised of an approved trip for SHS Junior Statesman of America students to attend the JSA Fall State Convention in Boston, December 9-11, 2016.
Items Voted on

Kate Kutash moved to approve the revisions to Bylaw #9110, #9132(a) and #9323 that have been reviewed; motion seconded by Arlene Liscinsky and approved unanimously.

Win Oppel moved to approve the line item transfers as presented (YTD Object Summary 2015-16 Proposed Year-End Budget Adjustments) and recommended by the Finance Committee; motion seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to accept on behalf of each school in the district a donation of $500 from Big Y World Class Market in Shelton; motion seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to approve Perry Hill School PTO’s request to conduct fundraising activities during the 2016-17 school year; motion seconded by Thomas Minotti and approved unanimously.

Comments by the Board Chair

Chairman Holden commented on the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Sunnyside School’s library/media center; ESS Literacy Night; upcoming SHS Financial Reality Fair on November 3; magnet school tuition issue; teacher negotiations status; undefeated Varsity Football Team to be featured on Channel 8 Sports Edge Game of the Week.

Reports of Standing Committees

Teaching & Learning – Thomas Minotti stated the committee did not meet due to lack of agenda items. The next meeting scheduled for December 6 at 4:00 p.m. will include an overview of the current music program K-12 by Debbie Keller.

Finance Committee – Win Oppel said the committee met on October 19. The committee discussion included transfers for previous fiscal year budget, which was approved tonight; special education costs for this year and next; topic of cafeteria being able to accept credit cards online basis.

Policy Committee – Kate Kutash said Policy met on October 11. President of SHS Quarterback Club spoke in Public Session questioning the restriction of banner fundraisers at athletic events, which will be investigated and added to next meeting agenda for further discussion.

Kate Kutash moved to approve the Posthumous Diploma Guidelines to be added to Graduation Policy #6146 to sit for review until the next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education; motion seconded by Faith Hack and approved unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to approve Bylaw #9325 addition to sit for review until the next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education; seconded by Faith Hack. Discussion – Mark Holden clarified that the change is to make it clearer for the general public to understand what is and is not appropriate during Public Portion of a meeting. Motion approved unanimously.
Mrs. Kutash stated the committee heard a report from John Calhoun including a revised building use form that will be used for input into School Dude and information about staff training. The committee discussed parents transporting their own children to events; a statement will be created. Other topics covered were the Next Gen Accountability Standards, ESSA, and concern about chronic absenteeism definition; magnet school student participation in athletics and school sponsored activities. The next meeting is scheduled for December 6 at 5 p.m.

**Reports of Special Committees**

**CES** – Notes from last CES meeting are included in packet. Arlene Liscinsky said the 2017-2018 calendar was approved.

**CABE** – Faith Hack reviewed upcoming events.

**Unfinished Business**

**New Business**
There was nothing to discuss.

**For Your Information**
Chairman Holden noted the attachments in the packet including Vacancy Report, Staff and Stipend Actions, Enrollment Report.

**Highlights**
Thomas Minotti commented on the Varsity Girls’ Soccer game and the camaraderie of the players.

Mark Holden discussed the Girls’ Soccer game; Debbie Keller’s comments about the LHS students; excellent Literacy Night at ESS; and outstanding presentation from SPED Department showing that we take things seriously and accomplish a lot with the resources we have.

Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

**Diane Luther**

*Diane Luther*

*Secretary to Board of Education*

*November 2, 2016*