Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:05 p.m.

Roll Call:
Mark Holden, Chairman             John Francino-Quinn (absent)
Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman      Faith Hack
Arlene Liscinsky, Secretary        Kate Kutash
Win Oppel (via Skype)              Timothy Walsh (absent)
Kathleen Yolish

Quorum 7 present; 2 absent

Board of Education Administration present:
Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr
Assistant Superintendent, Lorraine Rossner
Director of Finance & Business Services, Dominic Barone
Human Resources Director, Carole Pannozzo

Also present: Sara Legister, UConn Executive Leadership Intern

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda
Thomas Minotti moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Faith Hack. Kathy Yolish moved to adjust the agenda by moving item V. A and B (Presentations/Recognitions) forward on the agenda; seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously. Thomas Minotti moved to approve the agenda as amended; seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

Presentations/Recognitions
Commended Students, National Merit Scholarship Program - Dr. Beth Smith explained the recognition of Commended Students in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program is based on PSAT performance and allows students to participate in certain scholarship opportunities. In a previous press release, Dr. Smith noted the students placed in the top five percent of the more than 1.5 million students who entered the competition by taking the 2013 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The six Shelton High School seniors Elizabeth Carlson, Wesley Kocurek, Austin Kothary, Christopher Lipscomb, Michael Lynders and Scott Shnipes were acknowledged for their exceptional academic promise.
Tenured Teachers – The following teachers achieved tenure status effective January 1, 2015 and those present were congratulated:

- Melody Bowman, General Science, SIS
- Krista Bush, Library Media Specialist, ESS
- Christine Purcell, Language Arts Teacher, SIS
- Heather Weatherly, School Psychologist, LHS

Public Hearing
Austin Kothary, 40 Meadowridge Drive, and Wesley Kocurek, 15 Partridge Lane, Track team leaders, asked the board to consider an alteration to a rule regarding athletic competition on Sundays prior to 12 noon. Reference was made to this Sunday’s Division meet from 10 AM to noon, which is the only means of qualifying for the SEC Championship meet. Mr. Burr commented that John Niski appropriately informed him, and it is an administrative decision that will be communicated directly to Mr. Niski.

Approval of Minutes
Kate Kutash moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 10, 2014; Regular Meeting of December 17, 2014; Special Meeting of December 18, 2014; and Special Meeting/Budget Workshop of January 13, 2015; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky and passed unanimously.

Communications to the Board
Reference was made to a thank you note in the packet from Anne Hamilton.

Instructional Update
Freeman Burr referred to the draft District Calendar 2015-16 included in the packets, which will sit for review and be presented for approval in February. Lorraine Rossner noted this will be the last year the district will be able to set the opening day, and a state-mandated standardized regional calendar will take effect beginning 2016-17. Mrs. Rossner discussed the draft calendar, which is consistent with calendar format for the last two years including a start date before Labor Day, April vacation, snow days added to the end of the year, and shows the beginning and end of school quarters and trimesters. She said in response to a suggestion by administration, the second round of parent/teacher conferences will occur a bit earlier in the school year. Any suggestions should be sent to her with a copy to other board members. There was general discussion about a regional calendar. In a response to a question from Win Oppel concerning the extra religious holidays observed by other districts, Mrs. Rossner said there will be five free days for each district to use at their discretion. Superintendent Burr suggested the board should communicate with CABE as well as elected officials about the state’s proposal to standardize the calendar.
Superintendent’s Commentary
Superintendent Burr said receipt of the Security Grant was confirmed; the City would get $110,000 back and would have to put out approximately $200,197. Mr. Burr discussed the National Incident Management System (NIMS), which had been required training for all staff this year, is now at the discretion of the district and will not be mandatory, no exam and no certification. He gave an update on the Technology Grant and discussed specific needs within the district. Mr. Burr noted we are officially at the half-year mark, the testing window is open and ultimately results will be put into our IC System.

Approved Field Trips
The board was informed of two approved field trips: SHS Ski Club trip to Stowe, VT, March 6-8, and Robotics Competition, Worcester, MA, April 8-11.

Items Presented for a Vote
No motions were presented.

Comments by the Board Chair
Chairman Holden discussed the budget process, noting that nothing in our requests is superfluous and all are important in terms of meeting the needs of the students. He expressed concern about the current 6.4% increase.

The following committee and liaison assignments were announced:

Teaching & Learning
Thomas Minotti (Chair), Kathy Yolish, Arlene Liscinsky, Kate Kutash, Faith Hack

Policy
Kathy Yolish (Chair), Win Oppel, Tim Walsh, Kate Kutash

Finance
Arlene Liscinsky (Chair), Win Oppel, Thomas Minotti, Jay Francino-Quinn, Faith Hack

SAC Liaison – Win Oppel
SEA Liaison – Kate Kutash
CES Liaison – Arlene Liscinsky
CABE Liaison – Kathy Yolish

Board members were asked to submit requests for school assignments as soon as possible.
Reports of Standing Committees

Teaching and Learning – Thomas Minotti stated the January 13 meeting was moved to the Board Room to accommodate the large number of people in attendance. Agenda included grade reporting timeline for second quarter/trimester; professional learning activities for first quarter/trimester; proposed academic calendar; reading survey protocol; SHS graduation requirements revision; SHS new course proposals including Introduction to Video Game Design, Intermediate Video Game Design, and Applied Research. Tentative committee meeting is scheduled for February 10.

Policy – Kathy Yolish discussed the topics of the January 13 meeting including a review of the committee version and the legal edit version of Policy 1325 Advertising and Promotion and decision to support the legal edit version for approval at this board meeting. Following discussion of suggestion to support ongoing review of policy families for updating and revision as needed, a decision was made to submit the current BOE Policy Book to CABE for review and analysis to determine which policies may need revision. Tentative committee meeting is scheduled for February 10.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to allow Policy #1325 Advertising & Promotion to sit for review until the next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education; seconded by Kathy Yolish and passed unanimously.

Finance – Arlene Liscinsky said Finance met for a budget workshop on January 21 followed by the Finance Committee regular meeting.

Faith Hack moved to authorize John Niski to keep, donate, sell or scrap items listed on the Weight Room Inventory worksheet. For any items purchased with general budget funds, approval from the City is required prior to disposition. All proceeds will be turned over to the Finance Department to be recorded in the MUNIS financial system and deposited in the BOE bank account. The motion was seconded by Kate Kutash and approved unanimously.

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the proposed insurance premium cost share rate and deductibles for the High Deductible Health Plan with a Health Savings Account (HSA) for the Non-Bargaining Unit, as recommended by the Finance Committee; seconded by Kate Kutash and approved unanimously.

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Thomas Minotti stated that Arlene Liscinsky once again has been elected unanimously as President of the CES Council. Arlene Liscinsky reminded the board of the legislative breakfast tomorrow at Staples High School.

CABE – Kate Kutash said CABE’s Day on the Hill is March 25.
For Your Information
Chairman Holden referenced the attachments in the packet including Vacancy Report, Staff and Stipend Actions, and Enrollment Report.

Highlights
Board members commented on various events including the recent SIS Jazz Band and Chorus performance; Adaptations; Literacy Night at Booth Hill School; and Sunnyside School Winter Festival. Mr. Burr commended Ken Saranich for his vision of the SIS music program and the fruition, as displayed at the recent concert. He also congratulated Mark Bilotta and Carole Sylvester for a job well done. Administration and staff were commended for handling the early dismissal and delayed opening this week. Mr. Burr recognized the cooperation between the City and Central Office Administration relative to road preparation and school opening decisions.

Adjournment
Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Diane Luther
Diane Luther
Secretary to Board of Education
February 6, 2015