Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:10 p.m.

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

Quorum 8 present, 1 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

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda
Win Oppel moved to approve the agenda with a modification to move forward item IV A, B & C, Presentations/Recognitions forward to precede item III. Public Hearing; motion seconded by Thomas Minotti and passed unanimously.

Presentations/Recognitions
SHS Junior State of America – President Ashley Chan and members Adnan Shilleh, Emily Yih, and Armana Islam gave an informative presentation about Shelton High School’s JSA chapter that attended the Spring State Regional Competition and received the Ernest Andrew Rogers Chapter of the Year award, which is given to one school in the Northeast and only 10 schools nationwide. Kai McDonald and Adnan Shilleh were recognized for winning Best Speaker Awards. Advisor James Allan was commended for his work with the students.

Shelton mentors Thomas and Patti Gawlak were recognized for their contributions to the mentoring program. The board presented Tom with a plaque in appreciation. Valerie Knight-DiGangi spoke highly of Tom’s commitment and efforts to grow Shelton’s mentoring program, which resulted in significant increased participation by Pitney Bowes employees. She noted Tom was one of three mentors statewide who were inducted recently into the 2015 Hall of Fame at the 14th annual Corporate Mentoring Honor Roll Breakfast in Rocky Hill.
CABE Student Leadership Award recipients Charles O'Keefe and Elise Sullivan (Shelton High School), and Clayton O'Brien and Gianna Silva (Shelton Intermediate School) were recognized and presented congratulatory letters and certificates from CABE.

Public Hearing
Trish Lampart, 28 Rugby Road, appealed to the board to assist with ongoing issues concerning her daughter's inability to receive appropriate education as a special education student.

Approval of Minutes
Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of April 22, 2015 and Regular Meeting of April 22, 2015; motion seconded by Arlene Liscinsky and passed unanimously.

Communications to the Board
No communications were received.

Instructional Update
Superintendent’s Commentary - Freeman Burr stated The Gael Winds newspaper version won second place in The American Scholastic Press Association’s Scholastic Newspaper Awards contest (national). Editor Charles O'Keefe and Layout Editor Ashley Chan discussed the significance of receiving the award and said the new magazine format is being submitted for awards over the summer.

Mr. Burr read the recipients and projects for the Shelton Education Endowment Fund Teacher Mini-Grants, which were awarded at a previous ceremony. He said just under $2,000 was awarded and noted the money from SEEF relies solely on volunteer donations and contributions.

Freeman Burr briefly discussed the State’s potential mandate of a Kindergarten Entrance Inventory, which is not being received well by many districts.

Superintendent Burr discussed the Capstone projects, which seniors at the high school are completing for the first year, and remarked about the level of student engagement and ownership of their projects. He talked about Long Hill School's recent STEM Night. Mr. Burr mentioned that Booth Hill Principal Kathy Sheehy has submitted her retirement and discussed the status of hiring a replacement. Superintendent Burr commended English Language Learners who wrote short stories, read them and interacted with elementary students, literally assuming a role of teachers in a classroom. Mr. Burr read the names of companies represented at JA in a Day at Perry Hill School.
(Note: Tape 1; Side B – 8:12 p.m.)

Freeman Burr announced and discussed his intention to separate his services with Shelton Public Schools effective January 1, 2016. He said he is announcing his decision at this time to give the Chairman Holden and board membership ample time to conduct an effective search for his successor.

Approved Field Trip – Board members were advised of an approved field trip for SHS Student Council to attend NASC National Conference in Albuquerque, June 25-28.

Items Presented for a Vote
Jay Francino-Quinn moved to accept on behalf of Shelton High School a donation of equipment and installation of a sound system for the weight room, with an approximate value of $8,550, from William and Nicole Charney of Advanced Home Audio, Inc.; motion seconded by Win Oppel and passed unanimously.

Win Oppel moved to approve a grant proposal for Valley Regional Adult Education – English Literacy and Civics Education; motion seconded by Arlene Liscinsky and passed unanimously.

Comments by the Board Chair
Chairman Holden discussed the Superintendent’s announcement and appointed a committee of the whole of the Shelton Board of Education as the Superintendent Personnel Search Committee, in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes 1-200 (2) Freedom of Information. He stated because nine other districts are currently seeking replacement superintendents and other factors, he is concerned about finding a good, qualified candidate in time to work with Freeman for a short while to ensure a smooth transition. Mr. Holden said he has spoken with CABE, discussed their service and fees, and recommends hiring them.

Mr. Holden commented on the Valley Shakespeare presentation of “As You Like It” to grade 4 students and the organization’s desire to expand their program with the help of grant funds. He said he attended the Robotics State Championship; and, in spite of not having a number of their experienced drivers, the team made it to the semifinals. Mr. Holden commended the students, mentors and teachers working with Robotics.

Reports of Standing Committees
Teaching and Learning – Thomas Minotti stated a meeting was not held due to lack of discussion items. Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 9 at 4:00 p.m.

Policy – Kathy Yolish stated a meeting was not held due to lack of discussion items. Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 9 at 5:00 p.m.
Finance – Arlene Liscinsky said the committee met last week, and the following motion is brought forth:

Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the Shelton Education Association Voluntary Retirement Incentive Plan as recommended by the Finance Committee at their May 20, 2015 meeting; motion seconded by Win Oppel and passed unanimously.

Mrs. Liscinsky stated the Board of Aldermen will meet tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. to set the mil rate and the budget. She encouraged those wishing to speak to do so at the public portion.

Reports of Special Committees
CES – Arlene Liscinsky said CES approved their budget with no increase in tuition to the districts for the sixth consecutive year. There will be a report at their next meeting from their lobbyist, who will present to the board all pertinent legislative actions from the last session.

CABE – Kathy Yolish said there will be a Legislative Wrap-Up of the 2015 General Assembly on June 9 from 9-11 at the Legislative Office Building; 5th Annual Summer Leadership Conference on July 27 in Old Saybrook; 2015 CABE/CAPSS Convention at Mystic Marriott on November 21.

New Business
Thomas Minotti moved to add to the agenda a motion to accept on behalf of Shelton Intermediate School and Shelton High School two grants in the amount of $1,000 each, totaling $2,000, from the Mary A. Schmecker Turtle Shell Fund, to be used toward the purchase of art supplies and/or funding of programs; motion seconded by Arlene Liscinsky and passed unanimously. Win Oppel moved the motion; seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

Win Oppel moved to add to the agenda a motion to authorize the board to enter into a contract with CABE to perform the appropriate tasks to assist with the hiring of a new superintendent; motion seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously. Win Oppel moved the motion; seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

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

Highlights
Kathy Yolish acknowledged and expressed appreciation of the eight retiring teachers. She commented on The Addams Family play and commended Vicky White for collaborating with The Written Word bookstore for the recent author visit for Perry Hill School students.
Faith Hack commended student Zak Shilleh for his comments and composure at the recent Board of Aldermen meeting.

Kate Kutash commented on the Long Hill School STEM Night; The Addams Family play; SIS concert and Spelling Bee.

Freeman Burr spoke about the Chefs Competition at Perry Hill School and said the students did an outstanding job creating snack food. He congratulated Shelton High School on receiving Silver Medal of Distinction by U.S. World and News Today as one of the top 50 high schools in Connecticut.

Mark Holden commented on the JSA presentation tonight stating they are an amazing group of students and commended Advisor Jamey Allen. Mr. Holden stated he is genuinely impressed with the teachers he has met in the district and administrators, as well, which is why Shelton is able to outperform most districts in the state, most of whom spend more money on a per pupil basis. He mentioned the Sunnyside School Spelling Bee and the difficulty of some of the words. Chairman Holden commended Adnan and Zak Shilleh for their comments at the Board of Aldermen meeting.

Adjournment
Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Diane Luther
Diane Luther
Secretary to Board of Education
June 3, 2015