Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:12 p.m.

Roll Call:
Mark Holden, Chairman
Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman
Arlene Liscinsky, Secretary
David Gioiello
Faith Hack

Kate Kutash
Win Oppel
Darlisa Ritter
Kathleen Yolish

Full Quorum

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 approve the agenda; motion seconded by Faith Hack. Win Oppel moved to amend the agenda by adding under New Business a motion to modify the hours for part-time Social Worker position; motion seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously. Faith Hack moved to approve the amended agenda; motion seconded by Arlene Liscinsky and passed unanimously.

Presentations/Recognitions
There were none.

Public Hearing
Anne Gaydos, 24 Ann Avenue, and Jessica Scerbo, 42 Laurel Heights Road, expressed their concerns about the Sunnyside School roof project delay due to recent finding of asbestos and the fact that it had not been suspected or tested already due to the age of the building and roof. Mrs. Gaydos asked if the board had a plan or options as to how the project will get done prior to the first day of school. Dr. Clouet stated he met with the Mayor and the architect this morning, and there is reason to be optimistic that this is going to be completed (not before school starts) and said he will cover this topic in his report. He said he will have
more information to share when he meets with the PTO on August 1. Chairman Holden stated the board does not normally respond during public session; however, this issue is very troubling for the board, and we’ve been concerned about delays with getting the roof done.

Greg Mann, 119 Richard Boulevard, commented on the Sunnyside roof project and faulted the City and BOE that it’s taking this long to get the work done. He stated trading a library to appease parents until the roof gets done is a shame. He expressed frustration for the length of time it is taking and said all should be ashamed. He stated the project is mismanaged and in private industry someone would be held accountable. Chairman Holden commented that the school board does not have any involvement in capital improvement projects; those funds are not part of our budget. The Public Improvement Building Committee is appointed by and reports to the Board of Aldermen for such projects.

Jamey Allan, 29 Bodyk Place, SHS teacher and Advisor for Junior Statesmen of America, expressed gratitude on behalf of the students for the board’s support and brought thank you notes from the students.

Judson Crawford, 8 Jordan Avenue, gave general comments on the Sunnyside roof project asking for details on plans for completion.

Approval of Minutes
Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 16, 2016 and the Regular Meeting of June 22, 2016; motion seconded by Arlene Liscinsky and passed unanimously.

Communications to the Board
There were none.

Superintendent’s Reports & Action Items
Superintendent Clouet discussed the Sunnyside roof project and acknowledged the frustration felt by many, including himself, about the way things have unfolded. He said he met this morning with Mayor Lauretti and the architect to discuss ways to move forward. Superintendent Clouet reviewed the timeline of the project and the bid procedure under the Public Improvement Building Committee. He stated that during the process, there was an impression on the part of a number of people on the city side that because the building had been substantially remediated in the 1990s (or around the time when it had been closed, reopened as a senior center and then as a school) that asbestos had been removed. He said testing determined that there is a layer of gypsum slurry and that a percentage of asbestos is encapsulated in that liquid. The proper abatement of the asbestos can be done only when there are no children in the building. He stated it will not be possible to complete it before school starts. Mayor made a firm commitment this morning that this is an ongoing project. Dr. Clouet stated he is working with the Mayor and his team to stay on track. He is discussing through the architect, at the direction of the Mayor, to find a roofing company that might be able to do a piece of the project. Superintendent Clouet said he takes exception to the notion that this is an appeasement. He said it makes sense to at least consider doing the roof over the Library/Media Center since it is being entirely redone to include new furniture that has been ordered. He said there is new information each day. Today’s discussion
included the idea of planning for the end of the school year to have a contracted bidder with a plan for remediation set up so that work could start immediately after last school day. There was discussion about the possibility of doing work on evenings or weekends and the consequences of any asbestos getting leaked into the building, which would result in having to close down the school. Dr. Clouet said he would keep the board and parent group informed of any additional information.

Superintendent Clouet discussed the .5 Social Worker position that was approved by the board as part of last year’s budgetary process and stated the position was posted, interviews were conducted, and a qualified candidate was selected to work directly with students, specifically on issues with drug issues and abuse. He stated his recommendation to expand the position from .5 to .6 would allow us to start the process of developing a Drug-Free Community Council, which is a specific kind of group consisting of police and health officials, religious organizations, media and others. That would then put us in a position to apply for a grant that funds such councils. He said there are towns and municipalities in this region that have received grants; Shelton has never applied and he thinks we should. He said it is an epidemic and troubling issue and doing this small piece will allow us to have a well-trained, serious person onboard to help with the process.

Dr. Clouet said the Summer Learning Program at Perry Hill School has gone very well. It provides opportunities for students with special needs as well as more traditional summer school programming that allow students to catch up. At summer school, we are piloting use of an online learning tool for high school level mathematics set up to be either remedial (credit recovery) or for someone wishing to get a jump on more advanced mathematics.

**Items Voted on**

Kate Kutash moved to approve the request of Sunnyside School PTO to conduct fundraising activities for the 2016-17 school year; motion seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to approve Policy Series 5000 and 6000, which have sat for review. Discussion – It was explained that changes were mostly changes to coding or recoding. Motion seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

**Comments by the Board Chair**

Chairman Holden discussed the Sunnyside roof project, noting that the every member of the board wants to get it done as quickly and safely as possible. Mr. Holden talked about attending CABEL’s Summer Leadership Conference and the main focus of attracting new board members for the future and the importance of having diversity of board membership relative not only to ethnic or racial matters, but having members with vocations, avocations and various skillsets to contribute to issues that the board will face. Mr. Holden stated there is one Connecticut town that has a non-partisan board, and some districts have student representatives (non-voting); discussion followed. It was suggested that topic of student representatives be discussed during the upcoming retreat.
Reports of Standing Committees

Teaching & Learning – Thomas Minotti reported the committee did not hold a meeting in July, and the next meeting is scheduled for August 16 at 1:00 p.m.

Finance Committee – Win Oppel said the committee met on July 20 and there are three motions to bring forward with recommendation to approve.

Win Oppel moved to approve recommended schedule of salary increases for the non-bargaining unit employees; seconded by Kate Kutash. Motion passed with vote of 7-0-2 (abstentions David Gioiello and Faith Hack).

Win Oppel moved to approve recommended hourly rate increase to $24 for substitute nurses; motion seconded by Kathy Yolish and passed unanimously.

Win Oppel moved to approve recommended payment to the City for costs incurred to remove oil tank at Shelton High School, estimated at about $9,800, and that it be taken from the 2015-2016 school year budget; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Policy Committee/Ad Hoc Policy Committee - Kate Kutash said there was no July meeting, and the next meeting is scheduled for August 16 at 2:00 p.m. Arlene Liscinsky stated next to be reviewed by the Ad Hoc Policy Committee is the 9000 Series. She requested members to email any questions or suggestions relative to Bylaws prior to the meeting. David Gioiello once again raised an objection to scheduling committee meetings during the day, which prevents public attendance. Chairman Holden acknowledged his comment and said this is a topic for discussion at the summer retreat.

Reports of Special Committees

CES - Arlene Liscinsky stated no meetings are held in the summer. Next meeting will be in September.

CABE – Faith Hack said there are no updates.

Unfinished Business

There was nothing to discuss.

New Business

Win Oppel moved to increase the part-time Social Worker position from .5 to .6 for the purpose of discussion; seconded by Faith Hack. Discussion. Win Oppel talked about the need and responsibility to begin to address the issue that is currently facing our community, specifically in the area of drug abuse and opiates in particular. He recommended moving the position from .5 to .75, which will increase the time to work with students and provide an opportunity to apply for grant money that will allow us to further our work within the community. It was clarified that there would be no increase in the single-only benefits. There was discussion about additional expansion of the position and associated costs, and consensus was to increase to recommended .75 for now.
Win Oppel moved to amend the motion to increase the position to .75; motion seconded by David Gioiello and passed unanimously. The amended motion to increase the part-time Social Worker position from .5 to .75 passed unanimously.

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

**Highlights**
There was nothing to report.

Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

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**Diane Luther**

*Diane Luther*

*Secretary to Board of Education*

*August 3, 2016*