Chairman Kathy Yolish called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:
John Fitzgerald
Amanda Kilmartin
Kate Kutash
Diana Meyer
Patti Moonan

James Orazietti, Vice Chair
Carl Rizzo
Amy Romano, Secretary
Kathleen Yolish, Chair

Full Quorum

Board of Education Administration present: Dr. Christopher Clouet, Superintendent of Schools; Kenneth Saranich, Assistant Superintendent; Carole Pannozzo, Human Resources Director; Rick Belden, Finance Director

Also present: Attorney Frederick D. Stanek, Teodosio Stanek, LLC, Board Counsel

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Kate Kutash stated some board members are wondering about the role of the attorney at the board table and if there is a change in procedure or if anything unusual is expected. Kathy Yolish introduced Attorney Fred Stanek, who is with our City Corporation Counsel. Mrs. Yolish said he is here on her invitation because of the board’s discussion of a negotiated contract and is also invited to stay and participate in the regular meeting.

Approval of Agenda
James Orazietti moved to approve the agenda, motion seconded by Amy Romano and passed with all in favor.

Presentations/Recognitions
Innovative Educator – Superintendent Clouet stated the tradition of a monthly Innovative Educator recognizes teachers who exemplify what it means to think with a fresh perspective, look at things with a fresh set of eyes, and meet the needs of kids in ways that prepare them for the 21st Century challenges which they will face as adults. He introduced Meghan Sullivan, PHS grade 5 Math, Science and Social Studies teacher, who gave a presentation showing the many ways she challenges her students to learn. She said instead of just feeding students information, she asks them to stretch their thinking and understand conceptually WHY what they are doing in math is actually working. She asks her students to think in ways they have never been asked to do before. Principal Lorraine Williams spoke highly of Meghan, noting how much she has grown since being hired eight years ago. She said Meghan works tirelessly with Gavi Ziu-Pires talking about lessons and fine-tuning how to make them better and meaningful for every single student.
FIRST Lego League Robotics Head Advisor Laurie Vogl talked about the Predators’ successful season and winning the State Championship tournament, which qualified their team to advance to the FLL World Festival tournament in Detroit. Team members Jackson Guerra, Danny Hilser, Aarav Makadia, Krishiv Patel, Evan Pilkinton, Mathew Quevedo, Finn Riddle and Shreya Yadav were introduced and received applause. Krishiv Patel spoke about the program and how participation helps them academically and socially.

**Public Hearing**

Kathy Yolish said future agendas will include the following under Public Hearing:

> Public Comment provides the opportunity for the public to make comments. It is not a dialogue between the Board and the public. Based upon what is heard during Public Comment, the Board may choose to add a matter to the agenda of a Regular Meeting. If questions are presented by the public that the Chairman is able to answer, those questions may be addressed under the Chairman’s Report portion of the agenda. The Board will not discuss personnel matters. Comments should be respectful and be no longer than five (5) minutes in length. Each member of the public who wishes to comment will need to state his or her name and address for the record prior to addressing the Board.

Darlisa Ritter, 157 Long Hill Cross Road, announced that Kathy Yolish received her 10 year pin from CABE for consecutive service to our schools, parents and students. Former board members Arlene Liscinsky and Thomas Minotti were also recognized by CABE.

Terry Jones, 606 Walnut Tree Hill Road, reflected on the evolution of the Shelton Intermediate School. Terry was a State Board of Education member when their board chose to hold a retreat at SIS a few years ago and were given a tour by Ken Saranich and Eric Wolf to see the amazing things going on at SIS. In his last year on the board, a team from the School of Innovation visited the State Board and gave an excellent presentation that made him proud. He said every child learns in a different way and you just have to find a way to light that fire. The creation of the School of Innovation spoke to that. The stroke of genius was to have it be the family’s choice and the other school be the School of Excellence, so there is no stigma. He said the Jones family is donating $1,000 for the exclusive use of the principal for either school.

Eugene Kierce, 120 Thoreau Drive, discussed school security concerns he feels are urgent and need to be discussed.

Walter Dunn, 836 South Main Street, Beacon Falls, parent of SIS student, commended Superintendent Clouet for his personal efforts in addressing issues of bias and multiculturalism with members of the Ad Hoc Intergenerational Diversity Group. He recognized SIS for their recent “Create Your Own Country” project, which he feels is a good step in looking at the world beyond Shelton. He spoke about the Gay Pride Parade in NYC in March. He suggested a field trip to a court house. Mr. Dunn would like to see itemized costs for field trips.

**Approval of Minutes**

James Orazietti moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held December 18, 2019; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed with all in favor.
Communications to the Board
There were no communications.

Superintendent’s Reports & Action Item
Instructional Update – Superintendent Clouet discussed the successful rollout of phase one of the 1:1 computer program. He said the kids are absolutely glowing and it is working. He thanked board members, past and present, for making it happen. He said he is very pleased with the cooperation we have had with the City. Dr. Clouet mentioned the Multicultural Ambassadors at SHS are sponsoring a collection for families in Puerto Rico, in light of the recent earthquake. He said at the high school on Martin Luther King Day, in the spirit of giving and community service, both the boys and girls basketball teams hosted a youth clinic for younger kids, with the price of admission being a canned food item. Over 70 kids attended and donated food, and it was a way for athletes to use their athletic skills as well as their community spirit to do something good.

Budget Update - Superintendent Clouet said a preliminary meeting, an overview, was held last night. Rick Belden thanked board members for their patience as we go through this new process. Hopefully, we will submit a budget to the aldermen that will make it easier for them to understand how we arrive at decisions. He explained the January 27 meeting will focus on elementary schools and conversations will center on the work being done at the schools and the resources they indicate they will need. We will then collaborate on how to provide those resources. Mr. Belden said he will meet with a Finance subcommittee of the Board of Aldermen next Tuesday for a preliminary look at the budget and getting our processes and procedures ready for the next audit.

Approved Field Trip
There were no approved field trips.

Board Action Items
Kate Kutash moved to approve the fundraising request of the Shelton High School Robotics Team; motion seconded by Amanda Kilmartin and passed with all in favor.

Kate Kutash moved to approve the request of Shelton High School Drama Club to conduct a Dance-A-Thon fundraiser; motion seconded by Amanda Kilmartin. Discussion. It was confirmed that the event would be covered by insurance, since it will be held at school. Motion passed with all in favor.

James Orazietti moved to ratify the Shelton Education Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, 7/01/2020 to 6/30/2023; motion seconded by Amanda Kilmartin and passed with all in favor.

Comments by the Board Chair
Kathy Yolish commented on the budget process and thanked all involved for working well past midnight on December 19 to settle the teachers’ contract. She said negotiations should begin within the next few weeks on the paraprofessionals’ contract. Attorney Steve Bellis will be representing us and board members serving on the committee are Kate Kutash and Carl Rizzo.

Reports of Standing Committees
Teaching & Learning – Amy Romano said the committee met on January 14, Topics included a presentation and discussion of SBAC data. There was also a presentation on curriculum projects. The remaining agenda items were tabled until the next meeting. Proposed new high school courses will be presented at the meeting on February 11 at 4:30 p.m. Moving forward, the committee hopes to set some goals based on recommendations of the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent. Minutes are posted on the website.
Finance – John Fitzgerald reviewed the topics of the meeting of January 15 including revenue and projection reports from Rick Belden and a Facilities report by John Calhoun. Mr. Fitzgerald referenced work being done at all of the schools related to energy efficiencies and lighting projects. Minutes are posted on the website. He said Carl Rizzo and he may attend the Board of Aldermen Finance subcommittee meeting on January 28 to learn about the budget coordination with the City. The next committee meeting is February 19.

Policy – James Orazietti said the meeting of January 14 involved discussion of the 2020-2021 district calendar. Kate Kutash reviewed the revisions to the draft.

Kate Kutash moved to approve the district calendar for 2020-2021; motion seconded by Diana Meyers and passed with all in favor.

Kate Kutash moved to approve Revised Policy 5113 (School Attendance/Loss/Restoration of Credit) to sit for review until the next regular meeting of the Board of Education; motion seconded by Diana Meyers and passed with all in favor.

Mr. Orazietti passed out copies of some current policies for review. The next meeting will be on February 11 at 5:30 p.m.

Reports of Special Committees
C.E.S. – Kathy Yolish reviewed the topics of the January 9 Representative Council Meeting including announcement of officers and committee assignments. The members held an executive session to discuss the performance of the Executive Director. Mrs. Yolish made a suggestion at the meeting for C.E.S. to hold a visitation and open house so that board members from the areas that C.E.S. serves would be able to understand all that C.E.S. does and is capable of doing for the area of schools it encompasses.

CABE – Diana Meyer mentioned regional breakfast meetings. Kathy Yolish said normally the Superintendent and Board Chair attend.

Unfinished Business
There was nothing discussed.

New Business
Mrs. Yolish mentioned every board member now has copies of every contract in a folder for reference, compliments of the HR Director, her office and Chair Kathy Yolish.

For Your Information
Mrs. Yolish noted the attached reports on Vacancy, Staff and Stipend Actions and Enrollment.

(Note: Tape 1; Side B @ 8:00 p.m.)

Celebrations
Kate Kutash mentioned the SIS Concert featuring the string ensemble, jazz band, concert band and choir. Their next concert will be on May 7.

Diana Meyer attended the girls’ basketball game and said the girls’ varsity team has lost only one game and hopes they make it to the playoffs.
Kathy Yolish congratulated the staff of The Gael magazine and their advisor, Gretchen Webster, for their 1st Place award in the national contest by the American Scholastic Press Association. The magazine earned high points for its content, organization and design. She commended Dina Marks for her informative article on the benefits of student-led conferences. She discussed the SHS Winter Concert and SIS Winter Arts Festival and extended her congratulations. She said the arts are thriving in our district.

**Adjournment**
Mrs. Yolish adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

*Diane Luther*
Secretary to Board of Education
January 28, 2020