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

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

Quorum – 7 present; 2 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.

A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of Shelton High School student, Edmund Conklin.

Approval of Agenda
Thomas Minotti moved to add two items to the agenda under New Business (approval of Policy Series 1000 to sit for review and acceptance of $5,492 from Herbert Clark Fund for SHS Science); motion seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to approve the agenda as amended; motion seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

Public Hearing
Judson Crawford, 8 Jordan Avenue, discussed the Sunnyside School roof replacement project and questioned when the work would begin. Mark Holden gave a brief response saying his expectation is that the contractor will be able to start very quickly after the close of school.
Approval of Minutes
Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 24, 2016; motion seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

Presentations/Recognitions
Perry Hill School Principal Lorraine Williams introduced the recipient of the Weller Excellence in Teaching Award, Courtney Dishian. Ms. Dishian, a grade 5 teacher, received the prestigious award for her outstanding “Out of this World Aliens” project. She gave an excellent presentation of her creative project and was congratulated by the board. The Weller Foundation’s Annual Awards Banquet will be held on April 27, at which time Courtney will receive a $1,000 award and a Certificate of Honor.

Superintendent Clouet stated March is CABE’s Board of Education Appreciation Month and presented a token gift to members in recognition of their dedication and many hours of volunteer work for Shelton Public Schools.

Superintendent’s Reports & Action Items
Instructional Update - Dr. Clouet said he had an excellent experience last week attending SHS for a day, shadowing Kathryn Arena, an SHS junior. He discussed the schedule they followed throughout the day and provided the board members handouts from some of the classes (Physics, Physical Education, Home Room Introduction to Naviance, Italian, AP English, Pre-Calculus, Honors U.S. History, AP Psychology). At the end of the day, he debriefed with Dr. Smith about his observations from a student’s perspective. Superintendent Clouet said we all have reason to be very proud. He said that while there is always room for improvement, there are some solid things going on and he would highly recommend Shelton High School to any parent who asks.

Approved Field Trip
Board members were apprised of an approved field trip for SHS Robotics Team to travel to St. Louis, MO, April 26-May 1, 2016 for World Championship. There was brief discussion about cost of flights and if insurance is taken. More details will be provided once it is determined whether the team will qualify and plans are made.

Items Voted on
Thomas Minotti moved to approve the following policy revisions that have sat for review:

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<th>Policy Revision</th>
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<tr>
<td>#0200</td>
<td>Statement of Education Goals</td>
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<tr>
<td>#0521</td>
<td>Non-Discrimination Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>#4117.3</td>
<td>Reduction in Force</td>
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<td>#5118.1</td>
<td>Homeless Students</td>
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<td>#5125</td>
<td>Health and Medical Records</td>
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<tr>
<td>#6115</td>
<td>School Ceremonies and Observances</td>
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Motion seconded by Arlene Liscinsky. Discussion – Arlene Liscinsky stated this is a part of the Ad Hoc recommendation that went to Policy and is the beginning of the series of mandated policies. Motion passed unanimously.
Kathy Yolish moved to approve a yearly stipend of $1,500 for VITAHLS; motion seconded by Kate Kutash. Discussion of VITAHLS activities and clarification of the stipend. Motion passed unanimously.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the following budget transfers, as recommended by the Finance Committee:
- Increase new account titled Perry Hill (which would go under the Building and Equipment Service) by $32,650
- Increase account #5522 Liability Insurance by $27,934
- Increase account #5423 Service Contracts by $45,427
- Decrease Account #5210 Medical Insurance by $106,011
Motion was seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

Thomas Minotti moved to approve Policy Series 1000 - Community Relations to sit for review until the next Board of Education Regular Meeting; motion seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

Thomas Minotti moved to accept on behalf of Shelton High School a $5,492 check from the Valley Community Foundation from the Herbert Clark Fund to be used for the enhancement of teaching science solely through purchase of science equipment and technology; motion seconded by Arlene Liscinsky and passed unanimously.

**Comments by the Board Chair**
Mark Holden discussed the Opioid Addiction Forum held recently by our State Representatives and Senator. He said it is clearly a very serious problem in our community. As a result, Dr. Clouet has been working with the PTO Alliance, and we will be doing something to help address the opioid or drug abuse problem in Shelton. Mr. Holden said the first Lighthouse meeting went well and is a very useful tool for the board to become more efficient. He and Superintendent Clouet attended a meeting on the ALICE Program, which instructs how to deal with armed intruders. He feels it is a good program for us, and we will be moving forward. Paraprofessional negotiations will start in May, and there are two slots if anyone wants to participate. Chairman Holden said he is encouraged by the Mayor’s budget proposal. While the amount he gave us is less than we requested, it is a number we can work with. By being careful in how we structure things and looking for additional ways to save money, we will be able to accomplish all the goals the board discussed.

**Reports of Standing Committees**
**Teaching & Learning** – Thomas Minotti reviewed the topics covered at the last meeting on March 10 including a report on new courses at SHS; English Language Learner update; presentation of Special Education Student 3 Year Trend Data. The PHS Spelling Bee will be held March 29 at 6:15 p.m. Next meeting is scheduled for April 5 at 4:00 p.m.

**Finance Committee** – Arlene Liscinsky said the committee met last week and brought forward the recommendation approved by the board tonight. She said the committee discussed regular Finance business.
Policy Committee – Kate Kutash said the committee met on March 10 to approve the 1000 Series to be brought to the board. The 3000 Series revisions were reviewed and there was discussion about who would be doing the administrative regulations. Next meeting is April 5.

Ad Hoc Policy Committee - Arlene Liscinsky said the 3000 Series was presented, and the 4000 Series will be presented at the next meeting. Work is moving along well.

Reports of Special Committees
CES - Arlene Liscinsky said they met in early March (written report in board member packets). She said the highlight was getting to meet the talking robot (one of three), which eventually will be shared with districts to teach social skills to Autistic children.

CABE – Faith Hack reviewed upcoming events that are listed on the CABE website. It was noted that Arlene Liscinsky and Darlisa Ritter will attend the NSBA Annual Conference in Boston on April 9-11.

New Business
In response to a question about progress in reviewing the water quality in our schools, Dr. Clouet stated we requested a copy of testing done by Aquarion. In addition, a meeting is being organized with Aquarion, John Calhoun and himself to get a better sense of the scope of their testing. He said we are also reaching out to the CT State Department of Health for their recommendations, as well as contacting other districts to find out what they are doing in response to this national issue. Once all of that information is gathered, we are considering doing random testing on faucets and pipes to get a sense of quality and will report back to the board. He stated we are taking it very seriously.

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

Highlights
Kathy Yolish commented on Read Across America Day and her reading experiences at Booth Hill, Sunnyside and Shelton Intermediate, as well as attending PHS Invention Convention. She mentioned a heartwarming letter from Dr. Smith in appreciation of two students from Bolton who came to SHS to deliver a plant and express condolences on the loss of student Edmund Conklin. Mrs. Yolish thanked Dr. Clouet for sharing some good reading materials. Faith Hack talked about her interactive reading experience with Sunnyside students. Mrs. Hack enjoyed being a judge at the Annual Chef Contest. Kate Kutash said she read a lot about our schools on Twitter while she was home sick. Thomas Minotti attended International Night at SIS and was very impressed with the research done by students, as well as the performance by the Girls Choir. He was disappointed that there was no media coverage of the positive things happening in our schools. Dr. Clouet said he met with a subcommittee of Planning & Zoning to share and receive good information and will report to the board on future dialogue. Mark Holden attended CABE’s A Day on the Hill in Hartford and spoke to HB5175 that would allow city finance boards to make cuts to our budget in “non-educational” areas and received assurance from our State Reps that the bill is not going
anywhere. He attended the robotics competition in Waterbury a couple weeks ago. Our team did not win overall in the playoffs but scored very high. The last award presented during the Awards Presentation goes to the team that best exemplifies what the robotics program is about, and our team received the award for the second year in a row. The statewide competition will be in Hartford in a couple weeks, and he recommends attending to see them in action. Chairman Holden said he was very impressed with Courtney Dishian’s Weller Award project. Mr. Holden was pleased to be able to judge the PHS Invention Convention; and, as with our competitions at SHS and SIS, the work of our students is truly impressive. He said there will be a quorum of board members participating in Read Across the Valley in April, as well as lots of staff. He said Dr. Clouet and he had a picture taken with a celebrity, Humphrey the hamster. Sunnyside is using the book series to encourage reading.

Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Diane Luther
Diane Luther
Secretary to Board of Education
March 31, 2016