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

Roll Call:
Mark Holden, Chairman
Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman
Arlene Liscinsky, Secretary
Win Oppel
Kathleen Yolish (excused – emergency)

Quorum 7 present; 2 absent

Board of Education Administration present:
Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr
Assistant Superintendent of Schools, 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 and Addendum
Thomas Minotti moved to approve the agenda and addendum; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing
Joseph Knapik, Stonewall Lane, expressed his concern about use of the public schools for political purposes, referring to an incident involving petition signing that occurred at SHS during a special election. He stated that a board policy is needed or needs to be confirmed to prohibit political activity in the public schools.

Judson Crawford, 8 Jordan Avenue, commended the Transportation department head for flawless transportation to and from Emmett O’Brien today for his grandson. Mr. Crawford asked if the $348,000 added to this year’s budget by the Board of Aldermen will fall under the Board of Education’s budget or the City’s.

Chairman Holden answered his question, although it is not the practice to respond, and said the money was for textbooks and equipment and is part of the $500,000, which will remain on the City side of the budget.
Approval of Minutes
Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 23, 2014; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; motion passed unanimously.

Presentations
Superintendent Burr read the names of all newly appointed teachers and administrators, and those present were welcomed and stood for recognition.

Communications to the Board
Chairman Holden and Superintendent Burr acknowledged receipt of a communication from the office of Registrar of Voters thanking custodial staff for assistance with the recent special election. Mr. Burr noted SIS custodian Bill Langhammer is recuperating after an emergency procedure.

Instructional Update/Superintendent’s Commentary
Freeman Burr discussed curriculum work done over the summer and said the work will continue. He noted that about 40-45% of the budget has been spent, and the remainder of the allocation is estimated to be paid out during the school year. Mr. Burr stated SPSS has been selected by Infinite Campus to host a workshop on October 16 as well as present, primarily on the work started by Dana Urban and continued by Dan DiVito, Ken Saranich, Beth Smith and others using IC. He said SPSS will reap non-monetary benefits in the form of technical assistance and new releases as they upgrade. Superintendent Burr stated a first grade teacher has been added at Booth Hill due to class size. He discussed full day kindergarten and continuing support and training for kindergarten teachers. It was noted that registration is over 300 students district wide, higher than the estimate of 275. Chair deliveries started today, and student tables will be rented at $700-$800 until the tables arrive during the week of September 15. Mr. Burr gave updates on Teacher and Administrator Evaluations; walk-thru calibration protocols; and District Improvement Plans. He noted that Smarter Balanced assessments from the State are not expected until next spring and, at best, schools and districts will not be ranked by the State until summer 2016 or as late as post-January 2017. A full data presentation will be given at the September board meeting. Mr. Burr said Lorraine Rossner and he are reviewing the NEASC report of SHS and expect to submit it well before the September 1 deadline.

Items Presented for a Vote
Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the following requests to conduct fundraisers during the 2014-2015 school year:

- Long Hill School PTA
- Shelton Intermediate School
- Shelton Intermediate School PTO
- Shelton High School Wrestling Parent Club
- Shelton High School Girls Cross Country Parent’s Club
(Continued Motion)

- Shelton High School Quarterback Club
- Shelton High School Swim Team Parents Club
- Perry Hill School
- Mohegan School PTO
- Sunnyside School PTO

The motion was seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

Comments by the Board Chair
Chairman Holden commented on a positive convocation with teachers in good spirits; tremendous growth in student improvement shown at Sunnyside School and all schools doing well; update on security film projects noting anticipated completion at three schools within a few weeks or sooner. He encouraged board members to attend as many back to school nights as possible.

Reports of Standing Committees

Teaching and Learning – Thomas Minotti reported on topics discussed at the August 19 meeting including professional development calendar; Teacher Evaluation and Support Plan; Google Apps; Naviance. Superintendent had reported on Professional Development; Administrative Training; NIMS Training for Building Administrators; CAPT scores still being analyzed; Commissioner of Education leaving by December 31. Next meeting is on September 9 at 3:45 p.m.

Policy – In Kathy Yolish’s absence, Win Oppel read her report of the August 19 meeting. One item discussed was waiving Donation/Naming Policy-Recognition Policy #1170.1 relative to an offer from a former student to donate up to $100,000 in funding for new gym equipment for SHS in his deceased father-in-law’s name. The committee’s recommendation is for the board to waive Policy #1170.1 for the purpose of accepting the donation. The committee also discussed By-Law 9132 concerning committee appointments, quorums and attendance issues, as a result of the board retreat. Next meeting is on September 9 at 4:45 p.m. for continued discussion of By-Law 9132 and review of current field trip policy and technology acceptable use policy and contracts.

Win Oppel moved to adopt Policies #1212 – Community Relations, School Volunteers, and #4118.24(a) – Personnel, Certified/Non-Certified Student/Staff Relationships; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Mr. Oppel noted Policy #6146 – Graduation Requirements in the packet will sit for review until the next regularly scheduled board meeting and questions or suggestions should be directed to the Chairman or Kathy Yolish prior to the next committee meeting.
Finance – Arlene Liscinsky said the committee met on August 20.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the superintendent’s request and Finance Committee’s recommendation to transfer $125,000 from object 5210 to: object 5112 ($35,000); object 5119 ($30,000); object #5731 ($25,000); object 5732 ($35,000). Motion was seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

Mrs. Liscinsky said the committee discussed the cost of propane and authorized the superintendent to negotiate with HOCON Autogas for propane next year. Mr. Burr gave a status report of discussions with HOCON. Arlene Liscinsky stated the committee discussed fortification of doors and windows, which is on hold. She said the mandated ED001 report has been completed and submitted.

Reports of Special Committees
CES – Arlene Liscinsky gave an update of the addition to 40 Lindeman to create School Readiness seats and said a dedication and ribbon cutting will be announced.

CABE – Kate Kutash said the CABE/CAPSS Convention is November 14-15 at Mystic Marriott, and five board members are registered.

New Business
Win Oppel moved to add an item to the agenda, Donation from Mr. and Mrs. Paparella; seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Win Oppel moved that the Shelton Board of Education accept the donation of up to $100,000 by Mrs. and Mrs. Paul Paparella for the refurbishment of the weight room at Shelton High School and to waive Board Policy 1170.1; 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. He noted the back-to-school nights information on agenda.

Highlights
Freeman Burr discussed Shelton’s response to the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge from Derby Public Schools.

Jay Francino-Quinn asked about the possibility of readdressing the use of solar panels. Freeman Burr agreed it is worth looking into again and should be brought to attention of the Public Improvement Building Committee. Mr. Francino-Quinn also thanked any teachers or principals present who may have instructed his daughter, who is off to college.
Faith Hack spoke about the opening of school and expressed appreciation to teachers and administrators.

Mark Holden thanked everyone and said he looks forward to a successful start of the school year.

Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Diane Luther
Diane Luther
Secretary to Board of Education
September 4, 2014