Chairman Mark Holden called the Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:09 p.m.

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

Kate Kutash (excused/prior commitment)
Win Oppel (via Skype)
Darlisa Ritter
Kathleen Yolish

Quorum: 8 present; 1 absent

Board of Education Administration present: Christopher Clouet, Superintendent of Schools; Lorraine Rossner, Assistant Superintendent; Carole Pannozzo, Human Resources Director; Dominic Barone, Finance Director

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

Prior to starting the meeting, Perry Hill School’s Advanced Strings and Shelton High School’s Concert Choir performed and student artwork was on display.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda
Thomas Minotti moved to approve the agenda; motion seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

Presentations/Recognitions
CIAC Unified Champion Banner School Award to Shelton High School – Superintendent Clouet and Athletic Director John Niski gave introductory remarks about the high school’s Unified Sports Program, which is in its thirteenth year. CIAC Director of Special Olympics Unified Sports George Synnott discussed the qualification criteria for the national award sponsored by Special Olympics International and noted that Shelton’s Unified program serves as a model, not only for Connecticut schools but for high schools throughout the country. Coaches Karen Devonshuk and Mike Gambardella, John Niski, Beth Smith, and students from the team (Emily Manzo and Ally Yakowicz) were commended as the banner was displayed, which will be hung in the gym.

Public Hearing
Michelle Piccolo, FIRST Lego League Coach, discussed the success of the Robotics teams. Of the four teams, three advanced to the state level and the SIS team won the State Championship.
Approval of Minutes
Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2016 Regular Meeting; motion seconded by Kathy Yolish and passed unanimously.

Communications to the Board
There were none.

Superintendent’s Reports & Action Items
Strategic Plan Update – Dr. Clouet stated the group has been meeting and is moving forward with passion and energy, and a full report will be given at the next board meeting.

Arts – Superintendent Clouet discussed the importance of arts and the student performance prior to the meeting. He stated we have great professionals that are helping kids explore what it means to be artistic in a variety of ways. Deb Keller commended the board for emphasizing the arts. She discussed the current expansion of arts and music programs and cited the performance earlier as a sample. She said the Jazz Band members enjoyed performing at the regional CAPSS dinner recently and announced there will be an all-district arts show in the Spring. She discussed the need to provide more opportunities for students to express and expand their talents.

Approved Field Trip – Board members were apprised of a field trip for SHS Robotics to participate in the New England District Championships in New Hampshire on April 5-8. Darlisa Ritter questioned the cost of the trip, which was not included.

Items Presented for a Vote
Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the request of SIS Cheerleading Team to conduct a fundraising event during the 2016-2017 school year; motion seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the request of SHS Girls Basketball Booster Club to conduct fundraising activities during the 2016-2017 school year; motion seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

Comments by the Board Chair
Chairman Holden stated the board received the CABE Board Recognition Award. He discussed Shelton’s enhanced security measures including A.L.I.C.E. training; Jazz Band performance at CAPSS Dinner; PHS Advanced Strings and SHS Concert Choir performance and art display; Unified Sports Banner Award; Best Buddies Program; FLL Robotics Championship.

Reports of Standing Committees
Teaching & Learning – Thomas Minotti said the committee did not meet this month. The next scheduled meeting is January 10 at 4:00 p.m.

Finance – Win Oppel said the only action taken at the meeting held earlier tonight was to set the meeting schedule for 2017. The committee reviewed the current budget and is looking at issues in Special Education and Special Education transportation.
Policy – Mark Holden read a report in Kate Kutash’s absence. The committee met on December 6 and discussed Building Use Rental for Multiple (consecutive) Days. Consensus was there is no need to change the printed fee/policy at this time. Other topics covered were sponsored banners at home football games; transporting students to and from school events in private vehicles; chronic absenteeism; Magnet School students participating in SHS events. Discussion of those topics will continue at next committee meeting on January 10 at 5:00 p.m.

Reports of Special Committees
CES – Arlene Liscinsky said the next meeting will be in January. Mark Holden reviewed the topics from the CES Legislative Breakfast for Superintendents and Board Chairs including charter school tuition and discussion about trying to change the Burden of Proof with respect to Special Education, which currently falls with the district and not the parents.

CABE – Faith Hack provided the December Newsletter in packets.

Unfinished Business
There was nothing to discuss.

New Business
There was nothing to discuss.

For Your Information
Chairman Holden stated the Vacancy, Staff and Stipend Actions, and Enrollment reports are included in packets.

Highlights
Faith Hack discussed the FIRST Lego League competitions where the kids are focused, energized and excited to talk about what they are doing. She would like to see the program extended to fourth graders.

Kathy Yolish thanked SIS for their impressive holiday video. She also commented on Booth Hill School’s Cultural Literacy Night and upcoming concerts at Long Hill, Booth Hill, and Mohegan schools. She congratulated Dr. Smith and staff for all the awards and acknowledgements that have been shared with the board. Mrs. Yolish commended Dr. Clouet for his dedication and commitment to Shelton, especially with Word of the Week, which has sparked a community buzz. Dr. Clouet was given a special ornament with all of the words.

Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Diane Luther
Diane Luther
Secretary to Board of Education
December 21, 2016