Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:05 p.m.

Roll Call:
Mark Holden, Chairman                John Francino-Quinn
Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman        Faith Hack
Arlene Liscinsky, Secretary          Kate Kutash
Win Oppel                           Timothy Walsh (absent)
Kathleen Yolish

Quorum 8 present, 1 absent

Board of Education Administration present:
Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr
Assistant Superintendent, 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
Thomas Minotti moved to approve the agenda; motion seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

Public Hearing
Judson Crawford, 8 Jordan Avenue, discussed the importance of continuity for students and requested the board to weigh all sides before voting for non-renewal of employment of long-term substitutes.

Approval of Minutes
Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 25, 2015; motion seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

Presentations
There were no presentations.

Communications to the Board
No communications were received.
Instructional Update

Superintendent’s Commentary - Freeman Burr stated the District Technology Grant is on hold due to a State Department of Education error in the development of the RFP. Within 45 days, a new RFP should be issued and we will reapply. He noted the best expectations would be receipt of equipment sometime in the fall.

Mr. Burr discussed a document he sent to board members from the new Commissioner on 2013-14 version of The Condition of Education in Connecticut.

The board was alerted that an audit will be done to ensure that booster clubs are submitting 501 (c) (3) verification, fundraising reports and end of season financial reports.

Superintendent Burr discussed concerns about the SBAC assessment raised at the April CAPSS meeting. He said State committee recommendations coming in the fall may include a change in the testing window for gr. 11 or a change in the assessment to be used. In addition, the State is considering having an entrance exam for kindergarten.

Mr. Burr said work continues on finalizing articles on the school system for Shelton Life Annual Report.

The Special Education Workshop that was canceled last month is rescheduled to May 20 at SIS (Strategies for Supporting Students’ Social Cognition and Awareness at Home and School).

At the Valley United Way Annual Dinner, Shelton Public Schools was recognized for the fifth year for Top Dollars Raised and also received a Bronze recognition certificate for employee participation. Freeman Burr stated he accepted the chairmanship for the fall campaign.

School Hours 2015-16 – Lorraine Rossner discussed the schedule of school hours for 2015-16. She explained the new schedule aligns to the negotiated contract additional instructional hours. In accordance with the plan to add 15 minutes over 3 years, last year 5 minutes were added to the start; this year 5 were added at the end; next year will probably be a mixture of both. There was brief mention of universal calendar status.

Approved Field Trips – Board members were notified of approved field trips to SHS Band Concert in Maryland, May 1-3, and Robotics trip to St. Louis to compete in National Championship, April 22-26.

Items Presented for a Vote

Win Oppel moved to approve the Shelton High School graduation date of Friday, June 19, and a rain or shine date of Monday, June 22; motion seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn. There was brief discussion about possibly moving the rain date closer. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to approve the fundraising request of Shelton High School Boys Volleyball during the 2015 season; motion seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.
Comments by the Board Chair
Chairman Holden discussed the status of the budget and the upcoming BOE Public Information Night at SIS on Tuesday, April 28, at 6:30 p.m., which will be an abbreviated version of material presented at the A&T interview. Discussion will include potential cuts to cover the gap we are going to have, which is currently a little over $1.75 million. He stated also identified will be cuts that various board members have proposed; none of these cuts are attractive and not all of them are apt to be necessary to make up the difference. Mr. Holden expressed concern that our program will be decimated.

Chairman Holden talked about the spectacular Spelling Bee at Perry Hill School, which was supported by SEEF.

Mr. Holden stated Shelton’s Board of Education is doing a fantastic job in terms of providing services for our students; however, he is very concerned about being able to maintain the level of services.

Reports of Standing Committees
Teaching and Learning – Thomas Minotti reviewed the committee meeting of April 7; minutes are posted. Some of the topics covered were Virtual High School flex classes; attendance and impact on instruction report from Jim Geissler and the need for an attendance policy at SHS and in the district; draft professional learning calendar for 2015-16; SBAC testing completion rates; investigating pilot math and science assessment at the end of this year for Perry Hill School. The next meeting will be May 12 at 4 p.m.

Policy – Kathy Yolish stated the committee met on April 7 and suggestion was made to create a working committee onsite to work with CABE policy members to create a comprehensive review and report on our policy framework, the policies and those that require changes and/or modification. Superintendent Burr contacted Vin Mustaro at CABE, who would undertake this task beginning work no later than July 1 and completing the review and summary report with delivery no later than September 30. The next meeting will be May 12 at 5 p.m.

Kathy Yolish moved to retain the services of CABE to do a comprehensive review, revision and update of our policy handbook; motion seconded by Thomas Minotti and passed unanimously.

Finance – Arlene Liscinsky said the committee met earlier this evening. She said Dominic Barone had highlighted areas of concern in the current budget, and a Facilities report was also given.

Reports of Special Committees
CES – Arlene Liscinsky stated there will be a speaker at the next CES meeting to present information on declining enrollment in schools.
CABE – Kathy Yolish reviewed upcoming events including:

- Employee Relations Spring 2015 Workshop, Middletown, May 28
- CABE briefing in Legislative Office Bldg., June 9
- CABE/CAPSS Convention, Nov. 20-21
- SSEP Mission 9 to the International Space Station for 2015-16
- School Climate & Anti-Bullying Conference, Goodwin College, May 15

Additional information on the events can be found on CABE’s website.

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

Highlights
Kathy Yolish discussed various events including the Perry Hill School Spelling Bee; Long Hill School Wellness Fair for 4th grade sponsored by Sodexo; Long Hill School Grandparents’ Day; Shelton Intermediate School International Fair; and Sunnyside School Spelling Bee. Freeman Burr stated Mohegan student Jackson Jones is being recognized this week for his award of the 2014 Connecticut State Winner of the Bonnie Plants 3rd Grade Cabbage Program and will receive a $1,000 scholarship. Jackson is donating $250 of the scholarship to Mohegan School for purchase of science materials and/or equipment. Kathy Yolish suggested scheduling a couple dates for follow-up kindergarten visitations at Long Hill School and Elizabeth Shelton School; she will coordinate with Lorraine Rossner.

Adjournment
Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Diane Luther
Secretary to Board of Education
April 28, 2015