Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 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 (excused)
Kathleen Yolish (excused)

Quorum 7 present; 2 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

Also present: Sara Legister, UConn Executive Leadership Intern

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda
Win Oppel moved to approve the agenda with one revision to move VIII.A ahead to precede III. Public Hearing; seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

Item Presented for a Vote
Freeman Burr discussed his recommended appointment of Victoria White as Supervisor of Literacy, Assessment, and Professional Learning, detailing her numerous accomplishments and contributions to the district since assuming the position of Acting Supervisor.

Win Oppel moved to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to appoint Victoria White as Supervisor of Literacy, Assessment and Professional Learning, effective December 18, 2014; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn and passed unanimously.

Ms. White expressed appreciation to the board for the opportunity and said she is eager to continue her work in this role for Shelton Public Schools.
Public Hearing
Judson Crawford, 8 Jordan Avenue, commented on the Board of Aldermen decision to table action on the Solar City power purchase agreement until they could get further information from the Board of Education and inquired about the final outcome of the board's recommendation to City Hall. While it is customary to not respond during public session, Freeman Burr outlined the steps taken, noting that the board does not get involved in BOA action and the agreement had to be executed by the City. Mr. Holden stated the BOA is meeting tonight.

Approval of Minutes
Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 19, 2014 and Special Meeting of November 20, 2014; seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Communications to the Board
Superintendent Burr referred to a thank you note in the packet from Linda Philie upon her retirement.

Superintendent’s Commentary
Freeman Burr said with this being his sixth year, this is the finest and smoothest start to the school year, which is directly attributable to our teachers for the efforts they've made with support from administration and Special Education. He commented on the progress made with IC data visualization and the invitation to present at an upcoming conference in New York. He commended Lorraine Rossner for doing an amazing job supporting our schools and for her work with committees and COLT teams. Mr. Burr thanked Human Resources for continually keeping an eye on substitutes. Dominic Barone was commended for his budget presentation. The board was thanked for their commitment to the progress we are making. Although SBAC results are unknown, Mr. Burr is looking forward to benchmark assessments.

Items Presented for a Vote
Win Oppel moved to approve Policy #6141.321, Acceptable Technology Use, and Bylaw #9132(a), Standing Committees; seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

Comments by the Board Chair
Chairman Holden commented on the SHS Robotics qualifying and state championship rounds; SHS football final game, and the appointment of Vicky White.
Reports of Standing Committees
Teaching and Learning – Thomas Minotti reported on the topics covered at the meeting of December 9, which included a proposal by the SHS Gael Winds students to move from print to online and hardcopy news magazine format, which was supported unanimously by the committee. The next committee meeting will be January 13 with focus on social studies curriculum, impact on graduation, and new course discussion for SHS.

Policy – In Kathy Yolish’s absence, Mark Holden discussed the last meeting topics including development of language to cover political activities at school buildings for the advertising policy, which was reviewed by board attorney. This will be on agenda for next Policy meeting and brought to the board to sit for 30 days in January.

Finance – Arlene Liscinsky said Finance met for the budget rollover presentation.

Reports of Special Committees
CES – Nothing to report.

CABE – Kate Kutash said the CABE Area 6 Legislative Breakfast is January 29 at Staples High School in Westport. CABE’s Day on the Hill is March 25.

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

Highlights
Board members commented on various events including the CAPSS Superintendent Student Recognition Awards Dinner; National Honor Society Induction Ceremony; SHS Gingerbread War. In addition, there was mention of positive feedback from parents about full day kindergarten. Freeman Burr discussed the Teacher of the Year committee meeting noting optimism about program going forward. Mr. Burr spoke highly of the SHS football team’s performance and resiliency. Mark Holden discussed a receptive response from the Senior Center and Library about promoting the State Robotics Championship. Mr. Holden stated the changeover to The Gael, a news magazine, is evidence that the Journalism Department is moving onto the next step and improving what has been done in the past.

Adjournment
Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Diane Luther
Diane Luther
Secretary to Board of Education
December 22, 2014