Carl Rizzo moved to call the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m. and appoint James Orazietti as temporary chairman; motion seconded by Kathy Yolish and carried with vote of 7-2.

Roll Call:
John Fitzgerald                James Orazietti
Amanda Kilmartin               Carl Rizzo
Kate Kutash                    Amy Romano
Diana Meyer                     Kathy Yolish
Patti Moonan

Full Quorum

Board of Education Administration present: Dr. Christopher Clouet, Superintendent of Schools; Kenneth Saranich, Assistant Superintendent; Carole Pannozzo, Human Resources Director; Rick Belden, Finance Director

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

John Fitzgerald moved to amend the order of the agenda by moving forward Item III. Yearly Re-Organization of the Board – Election of Officers; seconded by Kathy Yolish and motion carried with all in favor.

James Orazietti presented the following re-organizational formality items for approval:

Carl Rizzo moved that the board meeting be governed by Robert’s Rules of Order; seconded by Kate Kutash and motion carried with all in favor.

Carl Rizzo moved that the board adopt policy governing public portion of regular monthly meeting per Policy 9325; seconded by Kathy Yolish and motion carried with all in favor.

John Fitzgerald moved that the board in accordance with the City Charter recognize the City Corporation Counsel as attorney for the board; seconded by Carl Rizzo. Discussion. Motion carried with vote of 5-4.

James Orazietti moved that the secretary of the board be Diane Luther. (There was no call to second.) Motion carried with all in favor.

James Orazietti moved that the chair designate committee appointments as the chair deems appropriate. (There was no call to second.) Motion carried with all in favor.
Kate Kutash moved that the adoption of the 2020 Board of Education meeting dates be as follows:

January 22          May 27          September 23
February 26         June 24         October 28
March 25            July 22         November 18
April 22            August 26       December 16

Motion seconded by Amanda Kilmartin. Motion carried with all in favor.

Yearly Re-Organization of the Board – Election of Officers
(Note: Moderator was not selected, nor method of voting. Temporary Chair James Orazietti conducted the election.)

Amy Romano nominated Kathy Yolish as Chairman; seconded by John Fitzgerald. Amanda Kilmartin nominated Kate Kutash as Chairman; seconded by Diana Meyer. Nominations were closed. Kathy Yolish was selected as Chairman with 5-4 vote.

Amanda Kilmartin nominated Kate Kutash as Vice Chairman; motion seconded by Diana Meyer. Kathy Yolish nominated James Orazietti as Vice Chairman; seconded by Carl Rizzo. Nominations were closed. James Orazietti was selected as Vice Chairman with 5-4 vote.

Kathy Yolish nominated Amy Romano as Secretary; seconded by Carl Rizzo. Amanda Kilmartin nominated Kate Kutash as Secretary; seconded by Diana Meyer. Nominations were closed. Amy Romano was selected as Secretary with 5-4 vote.

(Note: Meeting recessed at 7:18 and reconvened at 7:28.)

Approval of Agenda and Addendum

James Orazietti moved that the following items be added to the agenda under XIV. New Business:

B. Introduction and presentation of Corporation Counsel, Francis A. Teodosio of Teodosio Stanek, LLC (Attorney Stanek and Attorney Cotter).

C. Direct Superintendent to complete a listing of all attorneys presently working for the Board of Education/School District/or Superintendent, their hourly rates and matters they are presently handling

D. Termination of employment of the Law Firm of Chinni and Meuser as the attorney for the Board of Education and School District and any other ancillary representation. Direct the Superintendent to so notify the firm and to work with the office of Corporation Counsel to assume a smooth and proper transition of files and projects to firms deemed appropriate by Corporation Counsel’s office with input from the Board of Education.

Diana Meyer asked that the topic of Board Training be added to New Business.

Motion seconded by Carl Rizzo. Motion carried with vote of 8-1.

John Fitzgerald moved to approve the agenda and addendum as amended. Motion seconded by James Orazietti. Motion carried with all in favor.
Presentations and Recognitions

Innovative Educator – Superintendent Clouet introduced Deanna Toohey, Reading Consultant at Elizabeth Shelton School, as this month’s Innovative Educator. Mrs. Toohey expressed her appreciation and said it is through the leadership and collaborative efforts of Principal Beverly Belden and every single teacher, staff member, parents, and students that amazing things can happen. She discussed the literacy project of reorganization of classroom libraries at ESS, which includes labeling books by category and creating baskets for those categories. Students are taught how to shop for just-right books and how to shop in a genre or category library, and results are children who become passionate, interested and excited readers. She said the generous PTO Scholastic dollars have allowed teachers to purchase books to fill the baskets. A video of some of the amazing literacy happenings at ESS was shown. Principal Beverly Belden commended Mrs. Toohey and said she is very fortunate to have her as a staff member.

Public Hearing

Walter Dunn, 836 S. Main Street, Beacon Falls, parent of SIS student, suggested that perhaps the board could save money by looking into refurbished ChromeBooks. He commented on lack of cultural diversity in the City of Shelton. He wants to see other holidays included in the school calendar, including Muslim, and that students who observe the holidays will not have their perfect attendance affected. He would like to be included in the Intergenerational Group meetings.

Greg Johnson, Ansonia Branch President of NAACP, spoke again about the need for more inclusiveness. He suggested the new board could change the paradigm, take charge and make things better for the future.

Mark Holden, 275 Soundview Avenue, congratulated the new board members. He discussed the FLL Robotics competition this Saturday at Shelton High School. Shelton again will be hosting the State Championship Tournament for FLL on December 7. He encouraged all to attend the terrific things that are going on in our schools.

Approval of Minutes

Kate Kutash moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting October 23, 2019 and Special Meeting October 28, 2019; seconded by Amanda Kilmartin. Motion carried with vote of 3 ayes and 6 abstentions. (New board members all abstained.)

Communications to the Board

There were no communications.

Superintendent’s Report and Action Items

Budget – Dr. Clouet said we have been working with our entire staff and certainly with Rick Belden playing a strong leadership role, we have begun the process of getting ready for the next budget cycle that will start with board input. The budget workshops are typically held in January with opportunities prior to that for board input.

Dina Marks was asked to review some happenings at SIS. Fox61 Kids News accepted of one of the newscasts on the Inventors Lab Class will be on the website and shown on TV November 22 at 7:20. Mrs. Marks said a video of the laser engraver and cutter purchased with funds from the PTO Car Raffle in on the website to view. She said both FLL Robotics teams, PHS Predators and SIS Resisters, won awards and will be going to the State finals.
Superintendent Clouet stated an upcoming BOE member orientation is being planned and will be discussed in detail with Kathy Yolish. He said CES Executive Director Chip Dumais is willing, at no cost, to come here to talk about roles and responsibilities.

**Anti-Bias** – Dr. Clouet discussed the seriousness of the issue, and said we, as a district, make it part and central to our work. He noted the world is changing and there have been incidents across the country and around the world; Shelton is not unique. He said multiple meetings on anti-bias began last year and continue, as well as an Inter-Generational Diversity Group that has met here three times. We have had staff training. We have a group of students that are being trained, and we also continue to teach science, and math, etc. He stated board members are welcome to attend meetings. He said the idea that there is some kind of lack of caring in this school district is false. He stated we will not allow the children to be bullied or harassed and we take it seriously and respond quickly.

Regarding a comment mentioned earlier in Public Session, Dr. Clouet said the ChromeBooks we ordered are configured to allow the students to take tests, since all the testing is done on the Chromebooks. Older refurbished Chromebooks do not work for the high demand testing.

**SBAC Scores (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium)** – Kenneth Saranich, Victoria White, and Gavriela Ziu-Pires provided a handout and presented an overview and introduction to the state assessments that our students here in Shelton take. Mr. Saranich stated the Office of Teaching and Learning will do an in-depth analysis of the aggregated data by subgroups and grade level at the next scheduled Teaching and Learning Subcommittee meeting. All board members are invited to attend and are encouraged to submit any questions to Ken, Vicky or Gavi prior to the meeting.

**Approved Field Trips**
None

**Items Presented for Vote**
Kate Kutash moved to approve the following action items:
- Acceptance on behalf of Shelton High School a donation of $3,000 from The Weller Foundation to purchase new greenhouse supplies.
- Acceptance on behalf of Shelton Intermediate School a donation of $10,000 from the Mabel B. Fischer Grant Foundation to fund ballroom dance conducted by Gabriella Takacs-Fabry.

Motion seconded by Amanda Kilmartin. Discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

**Comments by the Board Chair**
Chairperson Kathy Yolish expressed appreciation for the opportunity and in her comments stated she will make every effort to be a collaborative and effective leader of the board.

**Reports of Standing Committees**
There were no meetings held in November and no reports were given.
Reports of Special Committees
CES – No report given.

Unfinished Business
There was nothing discussed.

New Business
A. Appointment of Committee Members
Mrs. Yolish announced the following Committee appointments:

Finance – John Fitzgerald, Chair; Carl Rizzo, Vice Chair
Members – John Fitzgerald, Carl Rizzo, Amanda Kilmartin, Amy Romano, Diana Meyer, Jim Orazietti

Policy – Jim Orazietti, Chair; John Fitzgerald, Vice Chair
Members – Jim Orazietti, John Fitzgerald, Diana Meyer, Amanda Kilmartin, Patti Moonan, Kate Kutash

Teaching & Learning – Amy Romano, Chair; Carl Rizzo, Vice Chair
Members: Amy Romano, Carl Rizzo, Patti Moonan, Kate Kutash

CES Rep - Kate Kutash

CABE Rep – Diana Meyer

Adopted Schools:
Booth Hill – Amy Romano
Elizabeth Shelton – Kate Kutash
Long Hill – Patti Moonan
Mohegan – Kathy Yolish
Sunnyside – Carl Rizzo
Perry Hill – Diana Meyer
SIS – Jim Orazietti
SHS – Mandy Kilmartin

(Note: Tape 1, Side B at 8:46 pm.)

Mrs. Yolish reminded members to contact Dan DiVito to set up SPS email and Matt Testani to schedule a photo for identification building swipe card. She said in bad weather, she feels meetings should be canceled. She said a protocol is going to be set up for answering questions, designating information or requests. Mrs. Yolish and James Orazietti will meet with Superintendent Clouet to discuss.

B. Introduction and Presentation of Corporation Counsel – Francis Teodosio of Teodosio Stanek, LLC introduced himself and explained his office is the Corporation Counsel for the City of Shelton. He discussed his background of the office and himself. He introduced his partners, Fred Stanyk and Thomas Cotter, who spoke briefly of their experience and areas of expertise. Questions were taken from board members and discussion held.

C. Carl Rizzo moved to direct the Superintendent to complete a listing of all attorneys presently working for the Board of Education/School District/or Superintendent, their hourly rates, and matters they are presently handling. Motion seconded by John Fitzgerald. Discussion. Motion carried with vote of 8-0-1 (Kate Kutash abstained).
D. Amy Romano moved to terminate employment of the Law Firm of Chinni and Meuser as the attorney for the Board of Education and School District and any other ancillary representation. Direct the Superintendent to so notify the firm and to work with the office of Corporation Counsel to assume a smooth transition of files and projects to firms deemed appropriate by Corporation Counsel’s office with input from the Board of Education. Motion seconded by Carl Rizzo. Motion carried with vote of 5-4.

E. Diana Meyer discussed the New Board Member Workshop and asked if a CABE membership would be possible.

Kate Kutash moved to allot $400 for CABE membership from appropriate sources; seconded by Kathy Yolish. Motion carried with all in favor.

Unfinished Business
There was nothing discussed.

For Your Information
Mrs. Yolish noted the attached reports on Vacancy, Staff and Stipend Actions and Enrollment.

One Positive Comment
Mrs. Yolish said she will rename this item as “Celebrations”. Kate Kutash mentioned Faith Trembley was on the news for her toy drive to benefit Yale New Haven Hospital Children’s Hospital and urged people to donate. Kathy congratulated Haley Oko and David Niski for being honored as SCC Scholar Athletes. She also congratulated first grade teacher Kristen Zack, who appeared on Wheel of Fortune.

Adjournment
Kathy Yolish adjourned the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

Diane Luther
Secretary to Board of Education
November 27, 2019