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 (excused)                         Timothy Walsh
Kathleen Yolish (excused)

Quorum – 7 present; 2 absent

Board of Education Administration present:
Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr
Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Lorraine Rossner
Finance Director, Allan Cameron
Human Resources Director, Carole Pannozzo

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

A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of deceased Shelton High School student, Kristjan Ndoj.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Public Hearing**
Elizabeth Tomasewicz, 2 Waverly Terrace, special education paraprofessional at Long Hill School and Vice President of Local 1303-196, requested the board to support and ratify the signed tentative agreement of the Paraprofessional Contract.

Lisa McKinnon, staff representative for the Paraprofessionals, took issue with statements in letter written under Freeman Burr’s name. She emphasized that both parties signed the tentative agreement; and, if there was an issue, it should have been brought up at that meeting. She urged the board to support the process.
Approval of Agenda
Chairman Holden called for a vote to move Presentations before Approval of Minutes. Motion was made by Arlene Liscinsky; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Presentations
CT State Science Fair - The board recognized the following winners: Veina Pillai; Rigel Mahmood; Joshua Kreitler; Alexander Ercolani; Joseph Niski, Ian Diaz; Samantha Rubio, Monica Holler; Jared Peck; and Kelly Sou. Congratulations were extended to Mary Clark, SHS Science Curriculum Leader; Dr. Beth Smith, and her administrative team; and parents.

The Weller Excellence in Teaching Award Winner - Long Hill School teacher Marlo Verrastro-Ruggiero, expressed appreciation and discussed her project entitled “Countries Connect.” Marlo will attend a banquet with other recipients at Fairfield University on April 30, where she will be presented with $1,000 and a Certificate of Honor. Mr. Burr recognized Jennifer Keene, Theresa Manus, and Jamie Weber for submitting projects.

Board Member Appreciation Month – Superintendent Burr recognized board members for their service and presented each with a small gift.

Approval of Minutes
Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 26, 2014; seconded by Thomas Minotti; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Communications to the Board
There were no communications.

Instructional Update/Superintendent’s Commentary
Freeman Burr reported on a required proposal submission to the State of CT under the new Flexibility Guidelines provided by the Commissioner’s office. He stated upon meeting with elementary principals, it was agreed that the option to reduce the number of observations for the pilot was the most appropriate action to take. This is an action item to be presented for a vote.

Superintendent Burr discussed the Mayor’s recommended $2 million budget, stating that there is a funding gap of $400,000. A meeting with the Board of Aldermen and Apportionment & Taxation is scheduled for April 3 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Burr commented that the Special Education Ad Hoc Committee and Meet and Greet held last week was very successful. The committee has representation from every school plus four alternates.
He stated the Shelton Education Endowment Fund once again will be funding the teacher creativity and innovative awards.

Freeman Burr and Allan Cameron gave an update on security surveillance stating that the contract for the security cameras has been signed and the pay and performance bond has been approved; work can begin at any time. Mr. Burr stated the funding for the security film is on hold.

Lorraine Rossner discussed the proposed two-hour delay schedule that will be effective in 2014-2015 school year.

Superintendent Burr referred to the approved field trip request for Perry Hill Robotics trip to represent CT as state champions in North American FLL Invitation Tournament in California, May 15-19. He said efforts are underway to provide funds toward sending the students to this tournament.

**Items Presented for a Vote**

Timothy Walsh moved to accept on behalf of Shelton High School a donation of furniture from Electri-Cable Assemblies with an estimate cost of $5,861.64 and a book value of $343.82; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve Connecticut’s Educator Evaluation and Support System 2013-14 Flexibility Request for the required number of teacher observations; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the request from Shelton High School Softball Team to conduct fundraising activities during the 2014 Softball season; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 7-0; motion passed.

**Comments by the Board Chair**

Chairman Holden commented on the impact of Kristjan Ndj’s death on SHS students and staff. He discussed the budget; site visit to Bungay School’s full-day kindergarten program; high school robotics competitions; Marlo Verrastro-Ruggiero’s Weller Excellence in Teaching Award; CT State Science Fair winners; Invention Convention at SIS on 4/2; Astronomy Night at SIS on 4/7; Administrative Intern Program; Read Across America event on 3/24; Special Education Ad Hoc Committee; and collaborative efforts at SAC meetings.

**Reports of Standing Committees**

**Teaching and Learning** – Thomas Minotti reviewed the topics discussed at the meeting held 3/11 including new course proposals at SHS; two-hour delay schedule for 2014-2015; report from Superintendent Burr about Teacher Evaluation Plan, changes to SBAC and Common Core rollout. Mr. Minotti said the SHS Guidance Department shared a list of post-secondary schools and the number of 2013 SHS graduates attending those schools. Next meeting is 4/8 at 4:00 p.m.
Policy – In Kathy Yolish’s absence, Mark Holden read her report on the meeting of 3/18, which included discussion of Policy 1212 – Community Relations – School Volunteers, the main concern being who will pay for cost of background check/fingerprinting. A draft will be reviewed by corporation counsel and final policy proposal will be brought before the board in April. Also discussed was Policy 4118.24 – Personnel – Staff/Student Relationships; a draft with suggested revisions will be reviewed by corporation counsel. Draft policies on high school diplomas were passed out and graduation requirements were reviewed to consider amending current policy statement. Next meeting is 4/22.

Ad Hoc Full-Day Kindergarten – Mark Holden reported the site visit to Bungay School on 2/28 was very successful with Aldermen Simonetti, Papa, Kudej and McPherson attending along with Mayor Lauretti. Also in attendance were Freeman Burr, Mark Holden, Arlene Liscinsky, Thomas Minotti, Kathy Yolish, Kristin Santilli, and Tina Henckel. Mr. Holden said the visit affirmed our belief that this is the right direction for Shelton to take.

Finance – Arlene Liscinsky reviewed the topics of meeting held 3/19 including security updates and projects going forward. She said the biggest concern is the cost of propane; the line item is overbudget by $253,000 and is being watched closely. The next meeting is 4/9 at 5:00 p.m.

Reports of Special Committees
CES – Arlene Liscinsky said there was a meeting in early March (notes included in packet). The next meeting is April 3.

CABE – Kate Kutash said CABE is seeking talented students to perform at the state convention next November.

NSBA – Annual conference will be April 5-7 in New Orleans.

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

Chairman Holden briefly addressed the issue brought up by the Paraprofessionals Union in the Public Session.

Highlights
Freeman Burr and Tina Henckel commented briefly on the Smarter Balanced Assessment that began this week. Mr. Burr said Elizabeth Shelton School will sponsor a STEM night on April 2. Faith Hack commented on Read Across the Valley and the upcoming door judging contest at Sunnyside School. Kate Kutash said the memorial service for Kristjan Ndoj at the high school was handled very well. Thomas Minotti made some observations about his dealings with staff and offered commendations.
Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

**Diane Luther**

*Diane Luther*  
*Secretary to Board of Education*  
*April 2, 2014*