Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Kate Kutash
Win Oppel (via Skype)
Darlisa Ritter
Kathleen Yolish

Full Quorum

Board of Education Administration present:
Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Christopher Clouet
Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Lorraine Rossner
Finance Director, 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
Kate Kutash moved to approve the agenda; motion seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

Yearly Re-Organization of the Board – Election of Officers
Thomas Minotti moved to nominate Mark Holden as moderator for the purpose of the election of officers; seconded by Kate Kutash. Motion passed unanimously.

Thomas Minotti moved to conduct election of officers by voice vote; motion seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

Thomas Minotti moved to nominate Mark Holden as Chairman of the Board of Education for 2016-2017; motion seconded by Faith Hack. There were no further nominations and nominations were closed. Voice vote was taken: 8-1 (Nay – David Gioiello) and motion passed.

Win Oppel moved to nominate Thomas Minotti as Vice Chairman of the Board of Education; seconded by Faith Hack. There were no further nominations and
nominations were closed. Voice vote was taken: 8-1 (Nay – David Gioiello) and motion passed.

Faith Hack moved to nominate Arlene Liscinsky as Secretary of the Board of Education; seconded by Kate Kutash. There were no further nominations and nominations were closed. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing
No one from the public spoke.

Approval of Minutes
Kate Kutash moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 26, 2016; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky. Darlisa Ritter requested that her comments made during the Superintendent’s report on the Strategic Plan be included as follows:

Darlisa Ritter stated she attended the Strategic Plan meeting on October 18 and felt it is important that the public know that the board is attending and supporting this activity. She said it was like an old-fashioned think tank where everyone worked nicely together, and our Superintendent was a great facilitator.

Vote on amended minutes was taken: 8-0-1 (abstention – David Gioiello). Motion passed.

Presentations/Recognitions
There were none.

Communications to the Board
There were no communications.

Superintendent’s Reports & Action Items
Superintendent Clouet congratulated the elected officers. He discussed concerns all districts have about teaching children mathematics in light of Common Core Standards and said the country is in a period of transition in terms of how we teach mathematics, which is causing some consternation for some. He said we are lucky to have a very talented group of leaders and teachers, but it does involve some significant changes. Dr. Clouet introduced Tina Henckel and Vicky White to give the board an overview of the District Improvement Plan as it relates to mathematics.

District Improvement Plan/Math Goal Focus – Tina Henckel and Vicky White presented information on the District Improvement Plan with an overview of historical data and data analysis regarding all assessments collected on a yearly basis, as well as district goals. Handouts were provided and questions from board members were taken throughout the presentation.

Strategic Plan Update – Superintendent Clouet reviewed recent district activity including a film and speaker Joe Carbone visit to address faculty and board members about the future of work. He said the Steering Committee met yesterday and heard reports from each of the five
focus groups. One of the key themes at the meeting was the slow and steady convergence of the focus groups.

SHS Hall of Fame – Dr. Clouet referenced the bylaws previously sent to board members and stated he believes having the Hall of Fame fixed into our overall district goal of lifting the profile of the high school, celebrating the good things that have happened over the years and continue to happen, causes the public to look more favorably at the high school and see it as a vital part of the community identity. He stated this is not a sports hall of fame but is a hall of fame of the high school and is exclusively the high school, requiring some connection to the school, whether as a student, faculty member or community support. Dr. Clouet stated he will move forward with the project and apprise the board.

High School Reimaged – Superintendent Clouet explained the State solicited schools in the state to submit ideas. Shelton submitted resolutions, and one was chosen. On December 6 at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford, Shelton will be represented by two of our students, Dr. Smith and himself to present our resolution to members of the State Legislature. The names of the two students will be sent to board members.

Approved Field Trips
There were none.

Items Voted on
Kate Kutash moved to approve the Posthumous Diploma Guidelines to be added Graduation Policy #6146, which have sat for review; seconded by Thomas Minotti. Discussion – David Gioiello said he is still concerned that while the superintendent assures us that any decision he or she makes would be in concert with the board, it is not spelled out in policy. Darlisa Ritter was in agreement. There was consensus to vote on the guidelines as presented with possibility of amending at the next Policy Committee meeting. Vote: 8-2 (Nay – David Gioiello, Darlisa Ritter). Motion passed.

Kate Kutash moved to approve ByLaw #9325 addition, which has sat for review; seconded by Thomas Minotti. Discussion – brief review of wording. Vote: 9-0; motion passed unanimously.

Kathy Yolish moved to approve the 2017 Board of Education Meeting Schedule; seconded by Faith Hack. Discussion. Win Oppel moved to amend the schedule by changing the meeting of December 20 to December 13; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously. Original motion passed unanimously. The meeting dates are as follows:

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Kate Kutash moved to approve the request of the Pecylak Committee and SHS Boys’ Basketball Team parents to conduct fundraising activities for the 2016-2017 school year; motion seconded by Kathy Yolish and passed unanimously.

Faith Hack moved to accept on behalf of Shelton High School the following from the Weller Foundation:

- $2,000 donation to help support the building of a greenhouse
- $1,000 grant to enhance the Math Department Program
- $500 grant to enhance the Industrial Arts Program
- $500 grant to enhance the Robotics Team
- $500 grant to enhance the Performing Arts Program
- $500 donation to purchase educational books for the school library

Motion seconded by Kate Kutash. Discussion. Win Oppel questioned the entire cost of the greenhouse and if the board is prepared to fund the balance. Dr. Clouet stated he would present a detailed description of the project and the cost at the next meeting. David Gioiello questioned where the money will be placed until such time as it is used. Dominic Barone stated some of the money would go to the SHS Student Activity Fund and the remainder would go to Miscellaneous Revenue Fund. Brief discussion of increased grants from Weller. Motion passed unanimously.

Comments by the Board Chair
Chairman Holden commended the board for their dedication and commitment. He said SchoolDigger announced their latest rankings of school districts, and Shelton moved up 18 places in their rankings last year. Mr. Holden stated the band sounded great at last week’s football game. He commented that the New Haven Symphony Orchestra performed at SHS, and he feels improvements are needed at the stage to augment the sound. He said our substance abuse action program is off to a very good start after a couple good meetings, and there is significant interest from people in the general population. Mr. Holden supports our involvement in this critical and important issue, noting Superintendent Clouet’s aggressive leadership. Dr. Clouet agreed that significant progress is being made, and the most important part is that we are developing a well-rooted set of community partners that will be well placed to take action. He named some the partners involved. Chairman Holden commended Tina Henckel and Vicky White for their presentation earlier. He discussed upcoming Robotics events and encouraged others to attend.

Reports of Standing Committees
Teaching & Learning – Thomas Minotti stated the committee did not meet in November. The next meeting scheduled for December 6 at 4:00 p.m. will include an overview of the current music program K-12 by Debbie Keller.

Finance Committee – Win Oppel said the committee met earlier tonight and set meeting dates for the current year budget process and forthcoming year.

Win Oppel moved to authorize the Superintendent to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Custodial Union, as recommended by the Finance Committee; Motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.
Policy Committee – Kate Kutash said Policy did not meet. Next meeting will be December 6 at 5:00 p.m. Topics will include ongoing discussion of banners on the football field and transportation of students to school sponsored activities.

Reports of Special Committees
CES – Notes from last CES meeting are included in packet. Arlene Liscinsky mentioned the Legislative Breakfast at CES on December 9. Interviews will be held the end of this for Business Manager.

CABE – Faith Hack discussed the upcoming convention on Friday and noted CABE is on UTube now.

Unfinished Business
There was nothing to discuss.

New Business
There was nothing to discuss.

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

Highlights
Kathy Yolish attended the Strategic School Committee at SHS. She commended Dr. Smith for the SHS Department Highlights for Quarter 1. She was able to attend Veterans Day events at SIS and BHS and commended principals. Mrs. Yolish attended the author presentation at LHS. She made a presentation to LHS Principal Kristen Santilli for raising the most money for cancer.

Dr. Ritter attended the second meeting of the Strategic Plan, noting it is a wonderful team and feels the board will support their final plans.

Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Diane Luther
Secretary to Board of Education
November 23, 2016