Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call:
Mark Holden, Chairman                      Jose Goncalves
Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman               Amanda Kilmartin
Kate Kutash, Secretary                      Darlisa Ritter
Anne Gaydos                                  Kathleen Yolish
David Gioiello

Full Quorum
Board of Education Administration present: Dr. Christopher Clouet, Superintendent of Schools; Lorraine Rossner, 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.

Approval of Agenda
Thomas Minotti moved to add a motion under VIII.A.1. to accept two donations on behalf of the Shelton High School Baseball team totaling $7,000; motion seconded by Jose Goncalves. Kathy Yolish moved to add a motion under VIII.A.2. to extend the Voluntary Retirement Incentive Plan for teachers until April 23, 2019 to include an additional financial incentive, pending agreement by the Shelton Education Association; motion seconded by Thomas Minotti. Motions passed unanimously.

David Gioiello moved to approve the agenda as amended; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Presentations/Recognitions
Weller Foundation Excellence in Teaching Award 2019 – Renee Giordano, Kindergarten teacher at Long Hill School, was congratulated as this year’s awardee for her project Holidays Around the World. She will be presented with the Weller Excellence in Teaching Award at the Weller Foundation Annual Awards Banquet on April 23 at Fairfield University. Superintendent Clouet recognized participants Kari Yacawych, Alicia Fernandez, Andrea Clark and Amanda Wandishion for submitting their projects.

Innovative Educator – Superintendent Clouet introduced Sunnyside School reading specialist Kristen Festa as Innovative Educator for March. Ms. Festa said even though there have been a lot of positive things in the world of growing technology today, it is a challenge for us to inspire children to enjoy reading, as well. She said through the innovation and all the hard work we’ve done, Sunnyside has seen continued growth over the years and has been recognized as a School of Distinction for the past three years. Ms. Festa’s presentation included transformation of the Academic Support Center with flexible seating; High School Pen Pal project; Vocabulary Fashion Show and Parade; Scribble Day; Whole School Read; Parent Literacy/STEAM Night; Parent/Child Literacy Workshops; World Read Aloud Day; Read Across America Day. Ms. Festa expressed her appreciation for being named
Innovative Educator and said she will continue to come up with innovative ways to inspire students and increase scores. Principal Amy Yost commended Ms. Festa and said she continually creates ideas to engage children to read. It is not just the Academic Center...she has taken all the initiatives that the district has rolled out such as Habits of Mind, Social Emotional Learning, and creating a welcoming environment for children who might be apprehensive and struggling with reading. She continually digs for fun ideas to make reading enjoyable.

**Invention Convention Finalists** – Gavirola Ziu-Pires, Interim Supervisor of Teaching & Learning – STEM, discussed the Invention Conventions and the judging process. She said this milestone for our students provides an opportunity to spread learning, for students to critically think, identify problems, and create solutions while incorporating science, technology, engineering and math. She talked about the top growing jobs in Connecticut and the skills and qualifications sought by employers and drew a parallel to our initiatives with our Vision of a Graduate, which focuses on creating habits of mind and preparing students with 21st Century skills. The following students will move on to the competition at UConn:

- Will Zaccagnino, BHS gr. 4
- Owen Russell, ESS gr. 4
- Stephanie Sanborn, LHS gr. 4
- Michael Skeffington, MS gr. 4
- Kailey Hill, SS gr. 4
- Lucas Kellogg, PHS gr. 6
- Elena Gasbarro, PHS gr. 6
- Alexander Baneat, PHS gr. 6
- Kaitlyn Bergers, SIS gr. 8
- Sena Ho, SIS grade 8
- Luke Sanborn, SIS gr. 7
- David Ferrara, SHS gr. 12
- Sanya Oak, SHS gr. 9
- Kyle Young, SHS gr. 11

These finalists presented their inventions and answered questions from board members:

- **Kailey Hill**, Sunnyside gr. 4, Bum, Bum Buddy, to make elementary school classroom chairs more comfortable, and to make lessons in the classroom less disruptive.

- **Lucas Kellogg**, Perry Hill gr. 7, Cold Clappers, to allow you to clap when you wear gloves.

- **Sena Ho**, SIS grade 8, C the Purity, to help supply clean drinking water to third world countries with use of a bucket lid that has a UV light to kill bacteria and a filtration system.

- **Kyle Young**, SHS grade 11, Clean Screen, designed to disinfect screen surfaces in restaurants, kiosks, ATM machines and store checkouts with use of a revolving screen protector to provide clean surfaces with each use.

- **David Ferrara**, SHS grade 12, Sky Sugar, was recognized for successfully creating a biodegradable balloon.

Mrs. Ziu-Pires thanked those who helped with the Invention Conventions – teachers, parents, building administrators, reading consultants, math specialists, volunteers, and judges.

**Board Member Appreciation Month** – Superintendent Clouet thanked board members for their service and said it is important to note that board members are volunteers who work many hours, often with controversy and conflict.

**Public Hearing**

Eric Modica, 71 Fairlane Drive, SHS junior, accompanied by three classmates, discussed the cancellation of the second half of a University of Bridgeport Chemistry program, originally due to low participation, which is not now the case. He stated the students have already paid for textbooks. Six students plan to challenge themselves next year by taking the class. They believe the reinstatement of the course next year is only fair, since many other classes run with similar numbers. Superintendent Clouet stated he will follow up and get back to the students.
Approval of Minutes
Kate Kutash moved to approve the minutes of two Special Meetings on March 5, 2019 and a Special Meeting on March 19, 2019; motion seconded by Thomas Minotti and passed unanimously.

Communications to the Board
There were no communications.

Superintendent’s Reports & Action Items
In response to a question at the last board meeting, Superintendent Clouet discussed the selection process for Innovative Educator. Discussion was held with board members of a document handed out last month, The Future of Education and Skills – Education 2030 produced by OECD.

Transportation Transition Update – Dr. Clouet said Finance Director Rick Belden is working with City Hall to provide information they requested, such as future bus routes for next year. He said there are a number of things yet to be resolved, but we are in dialog. He said while there is no redistricting plan yet, looking at some of the scenarios being considered, it appears so far there will not be any major transportation changes nor cost impact.

Barr Foundation – Superintendent Clouet stated this New England foundation looks to support education innovation, and they are looking for school districts and school leadership to help create a high school and post-high school overlap for young people who are off track and not on track to graduate and go to college. Shelton has shown leadership and has been selected to go to Boston on Friday to be interviewed as a finalist for a major planning grant to create a regional center in Shelton for that purpose. There is no cost to the district. He said that just being invited is a good reflection on the work this district is doing.

Community Conversations – Discussion of flyer with upcoming dinner events funded by Barnum Financial Group. This is meant for students and parents and will be run by teachers, educators and experts, including students and fits into what we are talking about with Strategic Planning, getting the community involved and student voice. He encouraged board members to attend as many as they wish.

Approved Field Trips
Board members were apprised of Marching Band and Color Guard trip to Hershey, PA for Parade Competition, May 31 – June 1.

Donor Projects
A listing of current donor projects by school was included in packet for information.

Items Presented for Vote
Thomas Minotti moved to accept two donations on behalf of Shelton High School Baseball team totaling $7,000 (PowerAde grant - $2,000 to be used to help purchase new batting cage and help with Pay to Play; Donation from the City of Shelton - $ 5,000 to be used to purchase new uniforms). Motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Thomas Minotti moved to extend the Voluntary Retirement Incentive Plan for teachers until April 23, 2019 to include an additional financial incentive, pending agreement by the Shelton Education Association; motion seconded by Kathy Yolish and passed unanimously.
Comments by the Board Chair
Chairman Holden stated he and Anne Gaydos had the pleasure of representing the Board for the statewide Teacher of the Year and said Amy Yost is one of two finalists. He said the Special Meeting on April 3 will start a board discussion on the budget, which will be a challenge with some uncomfortable cuts. He said we will try to find ways that will have the least impact on our students.

Reports of Standing Committees
Teaching & Learning – Anne Gaydos reported on the topics of the committee meeting on March 12 including presentations of One-to-One and Keys to Success. Minutes are posted online. The next meeting will be April 9 at 4 p.m. and will include presentations of the Assistant Superintendent – Roles and Responsibilities; Business Advisory Committee; and Mindfulness.

Finance Committee – Thomas Minotti gave a detailed report of topics of the committee meeting on March 20 including revenue and expenditure reports from Rick Belden, as well as a Maintenance Director’s report from John Calhoun. Complete minutes are posted online. The next meeting will be held on April 24 at 5 p.m.

Policy Committee – Kate Kutash said the committee met on March 12 and in public session heard concerns from a parent whose child will not turn five until after the January 1 cutoff date for kindergarten. This will be carried over to the next meeting while research is being conducted. There was follow-up discussion of FOI workshop from month before and a review of a basic calendar for the new member handbook. Next meeting will include continued discussion of kindergarten entrance date and a look at building use fees.

Public Relations & Outreach Committee – Mandy Kilmartin said a meeting was held on March 12 and there was continued discussion of increasing engagement in partnership with students. One idea was to have student presentations at Board of Aldermen meetings throughout the year. Also suggested was a printed showcase for Shelton schools to highlight what is going in our schools with possible sponsorships. The committee discussed better use of in-school opportunities for interaction with parents and community. Next meeting is scheduled for April 11 at 5 p.m.

Superintendent Evaluation Revision Ad Hoc Committee – Kate Kutash said the initial meeting will be April 2 at 4:30 p.m. to take a look at the evaluation tool used in the past and review other sources.

Reports of Special Committees
CES – Thomas Minotti reported on the meeting of March 27 including approval of salaries, approval of auditor and ratification of teacher contract effective July 1, 2019. Mr. Minotti discussed a project called Eastern Fairfield County Diagnostic Center, started September 2018 by CES. It is a consortium-based interim educational program for students experiencing significant learning and/or behavioral challenges in their own school or transitioning between educational settings. The goal is to provide short-term placement that allows students a positive break, the opportunity to better understand a student’s learning needs and to plan next steps for students’ return to their home schools. The population is for K-3 students, and districts can buy a number of seats that remain open throughout the school year with a cost per seat of $59,720. Dr. Clouet said that is probably much less expensive than it would be to have children outplaced. Mr. Minotti mentioned a CES fundraiser on May 4 at Mill River Country Club.

Unfinished Business
David Gioiello suggested Finance Director Rick Belden should send a letter to the Board of Aldermen with suggested dates to meet quarterly to review budget, as discussed at last meeting.

New Business
None
For Your Information
Chairman Holden noted the attachments in the packet including Vacancy Report, Staff and Stipend Actions, Enrollment Report.

(Note: Tape 1; Side B @ 8:29 p.m.)

Highlights
Board members discussed Perry Hill School’s Spelling Bee; congratulated Dr. Beth Smith, one of four selected to represent Connecticut to advocate for secondary education in Washington, DC; Booth Hill School’s One School One Book launch; Sunnyside School 3rd year of Raise Praise fundraiser – students raised $9,040 and completed 306 acts of kindness; Mohegan School Dr. Seuss Day. Mark Holden mentioned the Shelton Intermediate School Read Aloud; Foreign Language Honor Society program that was organized by students; and Robotics update – Gael Hawks won Waterbury event and were eliminated in the semi-finals in Springfield.

Adjournment
Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Diane Luther
Secretary to Board of Education
April 4, 2019