Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:07 p.m.

Roll Call:
Mark Holden, Chairman
Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman
Arlene Liscinsky, Secretary
Win Oppel (via Skype)
Kathleen Yolish
John Francino-Quinn
Faith Hack
Kate Kutash
Timothy Walsh (excused - illness)

Quorum 8 present; 1 absent

Board of Education Administration present:
Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr
Director of Finance & Business Services, 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
Thomas Minotti moved to adjust the agenda by moving Item V.B. Recognition of Dana Jeanette-Kneen ahead of III. Public Hearing, and Item VIII.A.2. Approval of SHS proposed Core Values, Beliefs and Learning Expectations ahead of Item VII. Superintendent’s Reports & Action Items; seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky and passed unanimously.

Presentations/Recognitions
Freeman Burr stated the recognition of Commended Students in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program will be tabled until the November meeting, since several of the students are participating in an athletic event this evening.

Sara Legister, an Intern with the UConn Executive Leadership Program, was introduced and welcomed.

Dana Jeanette-Kneen was recognized as a recipient of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of CT and Western MA Local Hero Award.
Public Hearing
Judson Crawford, 8 Jordan Avenue, inquired about the progress of the windows and doors at the elementary schools, particularly Sunnyside School.

Approval of Minutes
Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of September 24, 2014; Regular Meeting of September 24, 2014; Special Meeting of October 9, 2014; seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Communications to the Board
There were no communications.

Item Presented for a Vote
Freeman Burr explained the document to be approved is part of the NEASC process to review and revise core values and beliefs. He said a committee of school staff, parents and students met a few years ago and developed a draft of Shelton High School's Core Values, Beliefs and Learning Expectations document that was subsequently voted on and approved by all Shelton High School constituents, parents and students. Dr. Smith said this is the final stage of the process as SHS moves from being a mission driven school to a core values beliefs driven school.

Thomas Minotti moved to approve Shelton High School’s proposed Core Values, Beliefs and Learning Expectations as presented; seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

Instructional Update/Superintendent’s Commentary
Freeman Burr discussed the successful regional area Infinite Campus workshop hosted by Shelton on October 16. He stated it was a total team effort and commended Dan DiVito and Tina Henckel for their comprehensive presentation on Shelton Public Schools data. Mr. Burr reviewed the September 24 meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee for Students with Disabilities. He discussed the status of the Dual Fuel project and underground liquid propane tank installations at Elizabeth Shelton, Long Hill, Booth Hill and Mohegan. Relative to a question raised earlier in Public Session, Mr. Burr said the Public Improvement Building Committee met and there is no change from the last report of late August/September; there are ongoing discussions between the architect and the City. Superintendent Burr gave an update on School Improvement Plans and discussed the Career Pathways program. Mr. Burr referred to his discussion with Bob Klancko, a NHMA Board Member, who has volunteered to review our Pathways work and provide guidance for moving forward. At the request of Thomas Minotti, Mr. Burr will invite Mr. Klancko to attend the December Teaching & Learning Committee meeting.

The board was informed of an approved field trip for SHS Journalism/Yearbook Journalism students to visit Washington, DC, November 6-8, 2014.
Items Presented for a Vote (continued)

Thomas Minotti moved to approve request of the Pecylak Committee/SHS Boys’ Basketball Team Parents to conduct fundraisers during the 2014-2015 school year; seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the 2015 Board of Education meeting dates as presented; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn and passed unanimously.

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<td>December 16*</td>
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Comments by the Board Chair

Chairman Holden discussed Freeman Burr’s recent recognition as Outstanding Educator by Junior Achievement Mr. Holden mentioned the Valley Shakespeare Festival will be doing presentations this spring in gr. 4 classes. He said one of the major emphasis areas in the upcoming budget season will be computer infrastructure.

Reports of Standing Committees

Teaching and Learning – Thomas Minotti reviewed the topics covered at the last meeting of October 14. He said the participation rate in the Summer Reading program increased from 88-91% due to PBIS tie ins as well as participation bonuses and recognitions. Mr. Minotti reviewed Tina Henckel’s presentation on Professional Learning Workshop Calendar and Freeman Burr’s report, which included Title I Grant application and School Improvement Plans. Next meeting is November 11 at 4:00 p.m.

Policy – Kathy Yolish said the committee will consider concerns expressed by a member of the public, Joseph Knapik, regarding prohibiting candidates from campaigning during back to school nights as well as other related political topics. Mrs. Yolish reviewed topics discussed including Technology Acceptable Use Policy revision; By-Law #9132(a); Field Trip Policy and possible chaperone contract; Policy #1325 regarding politics in education and plans to contact CABE for input on updating our current policy. The committee will meet on November 11 at 5:00 p.m.

Finance – Arlene Liscinsky said Finance met last week. Budget session begins 11/17. She reviewed the schedule of budget meetings and encouraged all to attend.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to accept the budget line item transfers for 2013-2014 as presented; seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.
Reports of Special Committees
CES – Arlene Liscinsky discussed the ribbon-cutting ceremony, which was attended by many dignitaries.

CABE – Kate Kutash said the convention is November 14-15 and reviewed upcoming workshops and events.

Arlene Liscinsky suggested hosting a parent forum to give parents a better understanding of Common Core. Mark Holden agreed to discuss possibility of setting up public information meetings after the holidays.

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

Highlights
Kathy Yolish spoke about back to school nights, Long Hill’s successful Literacy Night, and Shelton Day, where the overwhelming response to full day kindergarten was very positive. Kate Kutash commented on the uniformity of presentations at Sunnyside’s back to school night as well as her visits to Elizabeth Shelton and Long Hill. Freeman Burr acknowledged positive response about a video of a SHS student, who is involved with the Virtual High School, and recognized Joan Tichy, Beth Smith and Tina Henckel and numerous staff members for their involvement with VHS. Mr. Burr also commented on Long Hill’s Literacy Night. Mark Holden said he received remarkably positive comments at Shelton Day about full day kindergarten. He mentioned the success of the summer reading program and talked about the Capstone Project and his involvement with one of our students, who is building a telescope and learning about optical theory.

Adjournment
Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.