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

Roll Call:
Mark Holden, Chairman                      Kate Kutash
Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman              Win Oppel
Arlene Liscinsky, Secretary                Darlisa Ritter
David Gioiello                             Kathleen Yolish
Faith Hack

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**
Thomas Minotti moved to add item VIII. A. 5. Mohegan School PTO request to conduct fundraiser to the agenda; motion seconded by David Gioiello. The amended agenda passed unanimously.

**Public Hearing**
Michele Piccolo, 49 Cloverdale Avenue, extended an invitation to the board to attend the Perry Hill School Cornerstone Project Sharing on May 11, from 1:30-2:30 PM or 5:30-6:30 PM. The event will feature gr. 5 Enrichment classes.

**Approval of Minutes**
Win Oppel moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 23, 2016; motion seconded by Faith Hack and passed with one abstention by David Gioiello.
Presentations/Recognitions
Superintendent Clouet said the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) recognizes four students from each district yearly with a Student Leadership Award. He introduced the students individually and highlighted their strong academic achievements and leadership qualities. Personal comments were given by Shelton Intermediate School Headmaster Ken Saranich for SIS students Brynn Conrad and Siddharth Jain, and by Shelton High School Housemaster James Colandrea for SHS students Alyssa Lam and William Simics. The students received certificates and were applauded for their accomplishments. In honor of the students’ awards, CABE sent a copy of The Story of Connecticut’s Public Schools; A History 1650-2000 by William Collier to be presented to Shelton High School’s Library.

Superintendent’s Reports & Action Items
Instructional Update/Superintendent’s Commentary – Dr. Clouet said SBAC tests are underway and running smoothly at PHS and SIS and noted this is still a work in progress in that students are not taking tests on line. He commented on the impact of yesterday’s primary election being held on a school day with a delayed opening schedule and said that attendance was similar to past delays due to weather. There were no incidents of any kind at any of the polling sites. Superintendent Clouet said we are still in the early stages of strategic planning but ongoing. He discussed the five focus groups and chairpersons: Humanities (Kristen Santilli); STEAM (Tina Henckel); Career Pathways (Beth Smith); Innovation (Ken Saranich); Community (Kathy Riddle). Dr. Clouet stated that Jonathan Costa, a nationally known expert on 21st century learning, is working with our Steering Committee to discuss coherence. There will be upcoming events (forums, roundtables) for public participation. Superintendent Clouet attended the Regional United Way Dinner and accepted an award on behalf of Shelton Public Schools staff for Top Dollars Raised 2015-2016. Dr. Clouet said he has been in contact daily with our local state reps regarding the budget situation with the state and met recently with Sen. Tony Hwang, Rep. Brenda Kupchik, Rep. Laura Devlin and Rep. Cristin McCarthy Vahey to talk about the kinds of situations we’re facing as the ongoing budget negotiations are happening in Hartford. He said while we are unclear what the results will be, it is important that the school district knows we are not just paying attention but are fully engaged in the process and working with our representatives.

Dominic Barone gave an update on various projects. Sunnyside’s roof project – PIBC awarded a contract for the roof. Since the project came in a little higher than anticipated, a grant adjustment has been filed to compensate for the difference. Bids have been received and are being reviewed for the Sunnyside Media Center furniture. The contract for Fortification projects for Long Hill, Elizabeth Shelton and Mohegan has been awarded and contract negotiations are in process. The Fire Code Compliance project is going out to bid tomorrow with 4-6 weeks timeframe for receiving bids.

A Fuel Cell project to generate electricity for SHS is being considered by the City. Dr. Clouet emphasized that nothing has been signed and this is strictly information for the board. Jay Polydys of Total Energy Connections provided handouts explaining how fuel cells work and discussed the financial benefits of installing the Doosan eight-foot wide fuel cell behind SHS.
Mr. Polydys explained that Constellation will own and fund the fuel cell and Doosan will manufacture and install it. He said SHS consumes 3.6 million kilowatts of energy yearly, and the fuel cell will take care of 100% of the energy. A UI bill will be nonexistent and additional power would be sold back to the grid and would be a credit at the end of the year with a projected savings to the Board of Education of $100,000 in 2016-2017. Board members asked numerous questions concerning efficiency, noise level, maintenance, contract terms, insurance and any future costs to BOE.

Dominic Barone advised the board that the SHS Girls Basketball Club will end their fiscal year on April 30, and all of the current board members are resigning their position. The Club will transfer all funds in the amount of $4,036.81 to the new Basketball Club Board, as outlined in their letter. Mr. Barone explained that a new organization will support both boys and girls and funds are being consolidated.

Carole Pannozzo informed the board that the City, in conjunction with the BOE Human Resources office, will administer the Custodial Merit Test on May 14, from 9-11 a.m., at the SHS Cafeteria. Approximately 100 applicants have been invited to take the written portion, to be followed by a practical and a panel interview, which will include staff from the BOE. She said her office is working with Mr. Bashar and Ms. Christopher, who is the City’s new Human Resources Director. Mrs. Pannozzo reported that at the April 23 Fairfield County Teacher Recruitment Fair there were nine SPS administrators conducting 35 interviews in content areas such as Math, Science, Special Education, Music and TESOL. They also received 35 additional in areas of PE, School Counselor, Social Studies and English. Vacancies for 2016-2017 are being posted because of the quality of candidates at the Fair. Four retirements have been received (1 nurse, 1 teacher, 1 para, 1 custodian). Paraprofessional contract negotiations commenced April 26. Darlisa Ritter and Faith Hack are on that committee.

Lorraine Rossner stated she and Dr. Clouet have received inquiries concerning forgiveness of the last day of school for this year. Discussion ensued relative to State Law, teacher contract, graduation and possible rain date. Chairman Holden suggested the Superintendent and Administrators look into this and get back to the board for consideration soon and that a Special meeting of the Board could be called.

Approved Field Trip
Board members were apprised of an approved field trip for grades 6, 7 and 8 students to travel to San Francisco to participate in STEM related activities and experiences, June 17-22, 2017.

Items Voted on
Win Oppel moved to approve the Shelton High School Class of 2016 graduation date of Friday, June 10, 2016 with a rain date of Monday, June 13, 2016; motion seconded by Thomas Minotti and passed unanimously.

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the revisions to Policy Series 1000/2000 that have sat for review, as amended; motion seconded by Win Oppel and approved unanimously.
Kate Kutash moved to approve the revisions to Policy Series 3000 to sit for review until the next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education; motion seconded by Arlene Liscinsky and approved unanimously.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve a grant proposal for Valley Regional Adult Education – English Literacy and Civics Education; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to approve Mohegan School PTO’s request to conduct fundraiser; motion seconded by Kathy Yolish and passed unanimously.

Comments by the Board Chair
Mark Holden said our program on drug awareness for parents with a focus on opioids will be held at 6:30 p.m. on May 9 at SIS. The Board of Aldermen Public Hearing on the budget will be at City Hall on May 11 at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Clouet and Mayor Lauretti will attend the Robotics World Championships this weekend to support our team. Chairman Holden discussed the Robotics Regional Championships in April, at which our team received the Regional Chairman’s Award. Mr. Holden participated in JA in a Day by teaching a third grade class at Long Hill School. He commented on SIS student Siddharth Jain’s science project at the high school’s Science Fair, noting that a lot of wonderful things are happening in this district that we can and should be proud of. Mark Holden said at the end of last year, there was discussion about doing away with individual awards dinners, and recently Dr. Clouet and Dr. Smith came up with a good plan in conjunction with various booster clubs and deserve credit for a creative solution that works well to address everyone’s needs and concerns.

Reports of Standing Committees
Teaching & Learning – Thomas Minotti said there was no meeting due to lack of agenda items. The next meeting will be May 10 at 4:00 p.m.

Finance Committee – Win Oppel said the committee met on April 20 and bring forward recommendations to the full board.

Win Oppel moved to approve the following recommended budget transfers:
Increase account 5123 Summer Help by $10,063
Increase account 5561 Outgoing Tuition-Public Schools, by $135,010
Increase account 5569 Adult Education, by $13,206
Increase account 5412 Gas, by $74,300
Increase account 5423 Service Contracts, by $45,000
Increase account 5731 Replacement of Equipment, by $26,000
Increase account 5732 New Equipment, by $115,000
Increase account 5735 Computer Equipment, by $20,000
Decrease account 5210 Medical Insurance, by $438,579
Motion seconded by Arlene Liscinsky and passed unanimously.
Win Oppel moved to pay Dahill Company’s invoice #44258 in the amount of $3,302 for emergency repairs to Sunnyside School’s roof, motion seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

Policy Committee – Kate Kutash reported on the April 5 committee meeting where revisions to the 3000 Series were approved and recommended to the full board to sit until the next regularly scheduled BOE meeting.

Ad Hoc Policy Committee - Arlene Liscinsky said at the next meeting we will review the 4000 Series, which will also be at that Policy meeting. Emailed yesterday the 5000 Series to Kate and Lorraine, which we will also bring forth at the next meeting. The next committee meeting will be May 10.

Reports of Special Committees
CES - Arlene Liscinsky said Finance will meet on Friday to set the budget.

CABE – Faith Hack referenced the attachments from Arlene Liscinsky and Darlisa Ritter summarizing their attendance at NSBA. Faith Hack mentioned a Legislative Wrap-Up of the 2016 General Assembly; details are on the CABE website. The dates for the CABE/CAPSS Convention are November 18-19, 2016. May 20 is the deadline for applications to showcase talented students at the Convention.

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, and Enrollment Report.

Highlights
Darlisa Ritter shared her perspective of the NSBA Conference in Boston. A thorough report was included in the packet. She attended LHS STEM Night where there were over 100 people.

Win Oppel attended a wonderful Grandparents program at LHS and was amazed at the level of reading in Kindergarten classes. He said anyone wanting to see the impact of full-day kindergarten should listen to the students reading.
Kathy Yolish reflected on being at LHS several days this week and noted the thinking skills of a six-year-old as well as the atmosphere of a happy school, staff and learners. She talked about judging Sunnyside’s Spelling Bee, which was won by Tyler Haywood for the third year in a row, and told Lorraine Williams to get ready for some good spellers.

Tom Minotti went to Sunnyside’s “Celebrate with Humphrey” for Literacy and Math. He said it was so well received that students were showing their journals, which were filled with expressive writings. There were classroom visits and opportunities to meet the teachers. He attended the PHS Spelling Bee, Grandparent’s Day at ESS, and the Living Museum at ESS, which was very innovative. He commented on the lack of media coverage.

Faith Hack participated in Read Across the Valley at Booth Hill School and attended the breakfast for National Honor Society Induction for World Languages at SHS.

Win Oppel inquired about plans to bring the aldermen to a full-day kindergarten classroom and there was brief discussion.

Superintendent Clouet discussed a budget presentation by Mark Holden, Dominic Barone and himself to the AARP Chapter at the Senior Center, which was well attended and well received. It was a wide range of conversation beyond just the technicalities of the budget and what’s going on in the schools. He has since received calls from people wanting to visit some of the schools. Tom Minotti also attended. Dr. Clouet said it was a positive outreach. He discussed the Living Museum at ESS and commented that there is a lot of joy in the schools.

(NOTE: Tape 1, Side B at 8:32 p.m.)

Mark Holden said he was disappointed to miss LHS STEM Night and SSS Spelling Bee, but he was at Astronomy Night at ESS with a couple hundred people who got to view Jupiter through a telescope. The people from the Astronomical Society were once again appreciative of the opportunity to share their hobby with the students. He said the School Readiness Council is reorganizing with strong leadership. Chairman Holden commented that the budget interviews went well, and we’ve sent a message to City Hall that we are looking to work with them and looking to do what’s best for our students. He said he hopes it will lead to a more productive and cooperative relationship with the City. Mark Holden commented that a lot of good ideas were presented and there was active participation at the recent Lighthouse meeting. He is looking forward to continuing the process.

Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Diane Luther
Secretary to Board of Education
May 5, 2016