Chairman Kathy Yolish called the Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 5:40 p.m.

Roll Call:
John Fitzgerald                        James Orazietti, Vice Chair (arrived 5:47 p.m.)
Amanda Kilmartin                      Carl Rizzo
Kate Kutash                            Amy Romano, Secretary
Diana Meyer                            Kathleen Yolish, Chair
Patti Moonan

Full Quorum at 5:47 p.m.

Board of Education Administration present: Dr. Christopher Clouet, Superintendent of Schools; Kenneth Saranich, Assistant Superintendent; Carole Pannozzo, Human Resources Director; Finance Director, Rick Belden

(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 Amanda Kilmartin and approved unanimously by those present.

Public Hearing
No one from the public spoke.

Review Budget Requests
Rick Belden reviewed the requests of Shelton High School, Shelton Intermediate School and the Athletics Department with recommended increases. Lengthy discussion followed. Principals of each school and John Niski were present to answer questions. Kathy Yolish asked if any of the projects could be capital budget items, such as replacement of cafeteria tables at SIS. Rick Belden said he asked John Calythoun to take a look at all schools to identify certain needs and do a 3 or 4 year plan. James Orazietti discussed possibly charging for AP classes. Among various topics of discussion were SHS staff requests; new SHS courses; textbooks; SIS School of Innovation and proposed SHS School of Innovation; gate entrance fees for students; gate receipts; arbiter pay service for referees; and impact of Pay to Participate on certain sports.

(Note: Tape 1; Side B – 7:02 p.m.)

In closing, Superintendent Clouet said we can agree that nobody likes Pay to Play. It was done for a reason and the board has the right to change that. Charging for student admission can be changed.
We want more AP courses, smaller class sizes at the elementary level, and more counselors and social worker…it’s all about vision and money. We would like to have our students achieving in the top 25% of districts in the State of Connecticut. We can’t have everything and do it for less. He asked board members to consider what their vision is for the public school system in Shelton; where is it headed? He said we need to work with the appropriating authorities so they will see what we need to have a school system that is similar to communities like ours such as Monroe and Trumbull.

Mrs. Yolish announced the next budget will be Monday, February 3, at 5:30 p.m.

Adjournment
Kathy Yolish adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Diane Luther
Secretary to Board of Education
February 3, 2020