Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:09 p.m.

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

Quorum – 6 present; 3 absent

Board of Education Administration present:
Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr
Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Lorraine Rossner
Finance Director, Allan Cameron
Human Resources Director, Carole Pannozzo

(1 tape on file in City/Town Clerk’s office)

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Hearing
Judson Crawford, 8 Jordan Avenue, commented that it was a pleasure to have Win Oppel present.

Approval of Agenda
Thomas Minotti moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Win Oppel; motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes
Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 26, 2014; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; motion passed unanimously.

Presentations
Tina Henckel distributed and discussed information on Smarter Balanced Assessment test completion rates as of April 23 for grades 3-8 and 11. She said the majority of students in grades 3-5 are done, and make-ups are underway with the focus of having as many students as possible participate in the assessment by June 6. Mrs. Henckel said grades 6-8 will be completing their testing within the next 2-3 weeks. She stated there have been no technical
issues of major significance and all seem to be pleased with the participation and smooth implementation. Mrs. Henckel reported that 10th grade CAPT and CMT Science for gr. 6 and 8 were sent to the State on April 4. Freeman Burr commented that there was a total team effort and commended school building leaders and staff, as well as central office staff including the Technology Department. Tina Henckel commented that one of the major components contributing to the success was the purchase of a number of Chrome Books from the technology grant that Dan DiVito and she wrote, which made a significant impact on being able to get students on computers in a timely fashion.

Communications to the Board
There were no communications.

Instructional Update/Superintendent’s Commentary
Freeman Burr discussed the selection of Sunnyside teacher Michelle Bartlett by CSDE to be a member of the Dream Team and said she will be working on implementation of Common Core State Standards.

Mr. Burr commended Principal Lorraine Williams for another successful Perry Hill School Spelling Bee. The top five winners were announced: First Place – Holly Mosher; Second Place – Taaseen Khan; Third Place – Elizabeth Porto; Fourth Place – Haley Penna; Fifth Place – Aislynn Kostandini. Students will be invited to next month’s board meeting for recognition.

Superintendent Burr commended Patrick Murphy and Victoria Begley who were named Shelton High School SCC Conference Scholar Athletes for Winter 2013-14. Students will be invited to next month’s board meeting for recognition.

Mr. Burr discussed the Shelton High School Robotics team, who won the New England FIRST Robotics Regional Championship in Boston held April 10-12, and will travel to St. Louis to compete in the FRC World Championship on April 24-26, which includes over 400 qualifying teams from across the globe. He commented that the Robotics Program, from the high school down to grade 5, continues to succeed. Students will be invited to next month’s board meeting for recognition.

Board members were apprised of approved field trips for the high school band to attend a music festival in Williamsburg, VA, April 25-27, and the high school Robotics trip to compete in St. Louis, April 23-27.

Freeman Burr mentioned that CSDE approved Shelton’s Flexibility Request for 2013-14 educator evaluation and support plan. He updated the board on the budget request stating if the full funding is not approved, it is hopeful that the alternative proposal will be accepted, which will bring full day kindergarten and will help us to be more proactive in offsetting and covering special education costs without having to dip into the general education budget. He discussed what approval of full request would mean to the district.
Mr. Burr stated the Shelton Education Endowment Fund will hold its third yearly event to award Innovative Teaching and Learning mini-grants to several of the district’s teaching professionals on May 15 at 4 p.m., location to be announced.

He discussed Dr. Wesolowski’s recent workshop for certified special education staff in grades 5-12 regarding the PPT process and plans to do same for administrators and possible presentation to the board. Mr. Burr discussed a proposed work plan with Futures Education focusing on our Special Education programming.

**Items Presented for a Vote**

Freeman Burr explained the following action on Long Hill’s acceptance of donations is after the fact and is necessary according to board rules.

Win Oppel moved to accept on behalf of Long Hill School matching grant donations totaling $6,000 from former student Janet Winnick and Dennis Arriola/Sempra Energy; seconded by Kate Kutash; motion passed unanimously.

Faith Hack moved to approve the Shelton High School graduation date of Monday, June 23, and rain or shine date of Tuesday, June 24; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky. Discussion clarified the last day of school would be June 24. Motion passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to approve the requests from Shelton High School Boys’ Volleyball Team and Shelton High School Boys’ Lacrosse Club to conduct fundraising activities during the 2014 season; seconded by Thomas Minotti; motion passed unanimously.

**Comments by the Board Chair**

Chairman Holden commented on Smarter Balanced testing; full-day kindergarten; Shelton Robotics; Michelle Bartlett selection to Dream Team; future plans to hold “Coffee with the Board” for the public to meet informally with the board; community relations and the need to find ways to disseminate positive information about student accomplishments and achievements to the community. Freeman Burr noted that the board has made its final budget presentation, and it is imperative for schools and parents to continue to follow the process. Mark Holden explained the remaining timeline for the budget process. Arlene Liscinsky emphasized the need to post the public hearing date on the website once it is scheduled.

**Reports of Standing Committees**

**Teaching and Learning** – Thomas Minotti reviewed the topics covered in the April 8 meeting including SHS proposed new courses for the next school year; ELL update; and Smarter Balanced Assessment update from Tina Henckel. Next meeting is scheduled for May 20 at 4:00 p.m.
Policy – Lorraine Rossner said the committee reviewed three policies for consideration which are in various stages for review: Graduation Requirements; Community Relations; Staff/Student Relations. The next meeting will be May 20 at 5:15 p.m.

Finance – Arlene Liscinsky reviewed the topics of meeting held April 9 including updates on Facilities; SHS Code Compliance including projects system wide and school security projects; discussion of areas of concern - propane cost; heating utilities, and temporary certified accounts.

Reports of Special Committees
CES – Arlene Liscinsky said there will be a meeting on May 1.

CABE – Kate Kutash referred to information in packet on May 13 Legislative Wrap-up Workshop. The CABE Summer Leadership Conference will be held July 22 from 2-8 p.m. in Old Saybrook; details will be forthcoming.

Chairman Holden stated the work of the Full-Day Kindergarten Committee is complete and is no longer included on the agenda but will reconvene if necessary.

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

Highlights
Thomas Minotti presented the Chairman with a certificate of appreciation awarded to the board at a recognition of the CT State FLL Robotics Champions and the Perry Hill Dominators for the board’s participation and support of the team, which helped to achieve the State Championship. Freeman Burr said the board also received a Program Sponsor recognition from the SIS Thundering Tigers, SIS Robotic Revolution, Perry Hill Dominators and Perry Hill Predators.

Kate Kutash spoke about the Perry Hill School Spelling Bee and the Elizabeth Shelton STEM Night.

Faith Hack talked about the STEM Night at Long Hill planned for this week and her experience at Sunnyside’s Dr. Seuss program.

Freeman Burr expressed appreciation to Amy Yost for inviting him, board members and central office staff to judge the doors and commended the student ambassadors.

Mark Holden commented on the door judging; recent astronomy night at Shelton Intermediate and upcoming Booth Hill STEM night combined with an astronomy night on April 30.
Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Diane Luther
Diane Luther
Secretary to Board of Education
April 30, 2014