Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:04 p.m.

Roll Call:
Mark Holden, Chairman
Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman
Arlene Liscinsky, Secretary
Win Oppel (via Skype)

John Francino-Quinn
Faith Hack
Kate Kutash
Timothy Walsh (absent)

Kathleen Yolish

Quorum 8 present, 1 absent

Board of Education Administration present:
Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr
Assistant Superintendent, Lorraine Rossner
Director of Finance & Business Services, Dominic Barone
Human Resources Director, Carole Pannozzo

Also present: Sara Legister, UConn Executive Leadership Intern

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda
Thomas Minotti moved to approve the agenda; motion seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn and passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes
Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 25, 2015; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Public Hearing
There were no comments from the public.

Presentations
Weller Excellence in Teaching Award Winner – Amanda Dempsey, grade 1 teacher at Long Hill School, was recognized for her winning project, “Reach for the Stars with Research.” She discussed her interdisciplinary project that required students to do research in partners for three weeks and then use that information in creative writing pieces and 3-D murals. Amanda expressed appreciation to be working in a district that not only allows risk taking within the curriculum but celebrates it.
Board of Education Member Appreciation Month – Board members were presented with a token gift in appreciation of their service and commitment.

Communications to the Board
No communications were received.

Superintendent’s Reports
Instructional Update - Freeman Burr invited Tina Henckel and Victoria White to give an update on SBAC testing, which is halfway through at elementary schools with only a couple minor issues. Elementary level testing should be completed prior to April break, and other schools will be starting after the break. According to the State, results should be available in July.

Superintendent’s Commentary - Superintendent Burr said Special Education and Support Services will hold a parent workshop (Strategies for Supporting Student Social Cognition and Awareness) at Shelton Intermediate School Auditorium on April 7 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. There will be one more workshop in May. Mr. Burr mentioned that the Shelton Education Endowment Fund has committed once again this year to fund 8 mini-grants, ideally one per school. Applications went out to staff on March 13, and proposals are due April 24. He stated the 3rd Annual Perry Hill School Spelling Bee sponsored by SEEF will be held at Perry Hill School on April 8.

Items Presented for a Vote
Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the fundraising request of Sunnyside School as presented; motion seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn and passed unanimously.

Comments by the Board Chair
Chairman Holden stated Shelton Public Schools is ranked in the top 37% of districts in the state for student achievement and is funded in the bottom 10% in the state on a per pupil basis. Mr. Holden discussed the Mayor’s budget proposal, which includes only $709,000 of new money. He commented on last year’s budget challenges and the success of full-day kindergarten. Chairman Holden said while the ramifications of the proposed budget are unknown, Special Education is the only program not at risk. He committed to doing all he can to ensure the budget will be adequate for next year and encouraged support from parents and community.

Reports of Standing Committees
Teaching and Learning – Thomas Minotti said there was no committee meeting in February due to lack of agenda items. Next meeting is scheduled for April 7 at 4:00 p.m.

Policy – Kathy Yolish stated the committee did not meet due to lack of agenda items but will meet on April 7 at 5:00 p.m.

Finance – Arlene Liscinsky said the committee met earlier this evening and the next regular meeting date of April 8 may be changed. The following two motions are being brought to the board:
Arlene Liscinsky moved to accept the Shelton High School Code Compliance educational specs, as amended, for filing the construction grant application; motion seconded by Thomas Minotti and passed unanimously.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to accept the employee match grant from Sempra Energy Foundation in the amount of $1,000 for the needs of Long Hill School to be used at the Principal’s discretion; motion seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

Mrs. Liscinsky stated there was considerable discussion of a cooperative agreement concerning the Board of Education and the City of Shelton for the operation of an employee medical self-insurance fund, a policy and procedure for administering it. Committee members should direct any comments or questions to Dominic Barone.

Reports of Special Committees
CES – Arlene Liscinsky discussed topics of interest that the CES Representative Council plans to address in future meetings.

CABE – Kathy Yolish stated there is nothing new to report at this time.

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

Highlights
Kathy Yolish referred to a discussion at the beginning of the year about scheduling a kindergarten visitation. At Chairman Holden’s request, Mrs. Yolish will work with Lorraine Rossner to coordinate a visitation.

Board members talked about participating in Read Across the Valley and STEM Night at Elizabeth Shelton School. Kathy Yolish said she was approached in public by a person who commended the staff and administration at Shelton Intermediate School and found the Headmaster to be very accommodating and informative. Freeman Burr shared his experience reading to students at Mohegan School, as well as his observations from visiting the Read 180 lab and the math intervention area at the intermediate school. Mark Holden reported that Superintendent Burr and he met with State Board of Education member Terry Jones to give input regarding qualifications for the next Commissioner of Education. Mr. Holden mentioned the SHS Robotics competitions can be viewed on webcasts, and the team will be competing in Hartford this weekend. He discussed the recent STEM Night at Elizabeth Shelton School that drew over 200 people.

Adjournment
Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Diane Luther
Diane Luther
Secretary to Board of Education
March 30, 2015