Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:01 p.m.

Roll Call:
Mark Holden, Chairman
Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman
Arlene Liscinsky, Secretary
Win Oppel
Timothy Walsh (excused)

John Francino-Quinn (absent)
Faith Hack
Kate Kutash
Kathleen Yolish

Quorum 7 present, 2 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: Incoming Superintendent, Dr. Christopher Clouet

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Mark Holden discussed the board’s extensive search for a new Superintendent of Schools and announced the appointment of Christopher Clouet, who will transition with Freeman Burr and join the district officially in January 2016. Dr. Clouet expressed his appreciation and enthusiasm, noting it is an honor to have been selected to serve the district and the community as Superintendent of Schools. He is appreciative of the board’s creating a transition plan that will benefit the district and will help him to learn about the practices of the Shelton public schools and about the challenges ahead. He said he intends to listen very closely to teachers, parents, elected officials, community members and students to learn more about what makes Shelton a positive place to live and learn, what the hopes and dreams are for the future, and what the role of Shelton’s public schools will be in defining the future of the city. A warm welcome was extended to Dr. Clouet.

**Approval of Agenda and Addendum**
Win Oppel moved to approve the agenda and addendum; motion seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.
Public Hearing

Judson Crawford, 8 Jordan Avenue, discussed the Sunnyside roof project and questioned when the project would begin and end.

Kristine Ray, 8 Sunset Drive, parent of Sunnyside student and PTO President, discussed the roof condition and expressed concerns about completion of the project in a timely manner.

The superintendent stated the following:

I am well aware that city officials blame me and staff. BOE is a pass-through agency, yet we have to file paperwork. A lot of the paperwork to be filed to get a project accepted has to come from the city, and therein lies the problem. I am aware they brought up the fact that BOE does not have a point person. Dominic Barone has been in constant contact with the State Facilities Unit since January, beginning with the Fire Code Compliance project. And, on September 3, both Dominic and I spoke directly with Paul Hiller and Alderman Anglace, and that was the first time a city person (Anglace) brought up the notion of a point person. We agreed to support a “point person” if that would help the city, but I also expressed concerns that it was not the BOE’s responsibility to place a point person on a city-run committee. We gave them name a person who has already done work for the city. In addition, there were still motions needed by the city to approve projects. The city approved motions; however, they did not submit to us the appropriate paperwork for the state. The state wants to see that the City of Shelton has established line items for each project individually with the full 100% amount of money designated and finances earmarked for that project. The city has submitted information saying “undesignated fund balance” would be used without specific figures. As we were filing the paperwork we got from the city last week, we uncovered that the only accurate financials are for the Fire Code project. The city has put in the wrong financial numbers on the information they gave us on the three building upgrade projects as well as the Sunnyside roof. The city has agreed to correct that information and will get it to us by tomorrow afternoon. I don’t mind taking responsibility when we are at fault, but we have worked through these issues with the city several times. On August 3, I sent an email communication to PIBC and all its membership regarding an inquiry I got on what they need to do to get the project forward. In that communication to the chairperson and committee members, I outlined specifically the items not addressed by the city, and I said if the city can provide to me this information by August 19, that the BOE would put it on their agenda to accept the specs for those two building projects. We never received that information. More recently, in response to PIBC’s recommendation that the BOE should proceed with haste to approve a motion to accept the Ed. Specs, I sent an email reminding the Chairperson that we requested the needed information from the city dated August 13. The board has reviewed the Ed. Specs and they have been approved, and yet the information the city sent over with the financials is still inaccurate. The only person from PIBC that assisted us in any way was Francis MacIlvain, who reached out to John Anglace and asked John if he could help get the BOE the information. That email precipitated John Anglace’s call with Paul Hiller to me to discuss the point person. I am happy to share all the documentation, which has been sent to the Sunnyside PTO for their discretion and distribution, and would be happy to debate any city official at any time on the process and who has done what.
John Hunt, 44 Beech Tree Hill Road, discussed the Policy Committee’s June minutes regarding eligibility of magnet and charter school students to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities and referenced CIAC bylaws. Mr. Hunt expressed his opinion that the CIAC clearly grants eligibility for magnet and charter school students and doesn’t believe the intent of CIAC is to prevent an entire class of otherwise eligible students to be shut out of participation in interschool athletics, nor should the right afforded to the principal by CIAC be construed as a discretionary privilege. He said such students are deemed to be eligible by CIAC and the right to override that should be exercised judiciously and with pause and not in some sweeping indiscriminate manner. While responses from the board normally are not made, Chairman Holden commented that the CIAC guidelines are just that – guidelines. He stated that the Policy Committee is not going to do anything imminently; it will be an ongoing topic of discussion, and other options are being explored that may alleviate some of the concerns expressed. Any possible change is not likely to impact students before next September.

**Approval of Minutes**
Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of August 26, 2015 (with one correction); Regular Meeting of August 26, 2015; Special Meeting of August 31, 2015. Motion seconded by Arlene Liscinsky and passed unanimously.

**Presentations/Recognitions**
Freeman Burr announced the names of teachers who attained tenure status as of August 26, and the board recognized and applauded those present.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employee</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mark Bilotta</td>
<td>Performing Arts Teacher</td>
<td>Shelton Intermediate School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jason Collette</td>
<td>Special Education Teacher</td>
<td>Elizabeth Shelton School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Cooper</td>
<td>Visual Arts Teacher</td>
<td>Perry Hill School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathryn Dowling</td>
<td>Pre-K Teacher</td>
<td>Mohegan School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margery Festini</td>
<td>Biology Teacher</td>
<td>Shelton High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Huber</td>
<td>Career/Business Education Teacher</td>
<td>Shelton High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Lindsey</td>
<td>English Teacher</td>
<td>Shelton Intermediate School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alfredo Mazza</td>
<td>World Languages Teacher</td>
<td>Shelton High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sean O’Rourke</td>
<td>Social Studies Teacher</td>
<td>Shelton Intermediate School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachel Santorelli</td>
<td>School Psychologist</td>
<td>Shelton Intermediate School</td>
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<td>Megan Sherry</td>
<td>English Teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Snell</td>
<td>Social Studies Teacher</td>
<td>Shelton High School</td>
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<td>Jennifer Wolyniec</td>
<td>Special Education Curriculum Leader</td>
<td>Shelton Intermediate School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patrice Yagnowski</td>
<td>World Languages Teacher</td>
<td>Shelton High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Yannicky</td>
<td>General Science Teacher</td>
<td>Shelton Intermediate School</td>
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</tbody>
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Communications to the Board

Notes of appreciation were received from all schools thanking the board for opening day floral arrangements.

Instructional Update
Superintendent’s Commentary - Freeman Burr said the BOE retreat dates have been set for October 1 and October 8. Session 1 will include a presentation by CABE; Curriculum overview of MWEA assessments in science and mathematics and overview of SBAC; and a Special Education presentation. Session 2 will include Nick Caruso and colleagues from CABE for a presentation of SBAC data and presentation by Dan DiVito and Tina Henckel on year-end district data in reading. There will also be a legal presentation on legislative updates for this year with emphasis on those that may impact policy. The one-page parent letter on SBAC has been finalized and will be sent out on October 1. Mr. Burr discussed a slight change to the Marshall rubric for the teacher evaluation instrument. He stated with the new information on Dyslexia and its classification as a disability, staff training will begin in October. He said tomorrow begins the District Management Council elementary scheduling kickoff with K-4 principals and Central Office teams.

Mr. Burr reminded board members of a communication he sent them on September 14 detailing all of the school building projects and stated the delay is a concern, particularly on getting the appropriate information so we can forward it to the state. Relative to the Fire Code Compliance, which Dominic began submitting to the State Facility Unit in January, what the city gave us to submit was rejected in January, resubmitted in May, rejected yet a second time, and resubmitted September 4 to the state and rejected yet again. A communication between Dominic and I and Dominic to the city specified samples from other districts on what the city needed to do. As mentioned earlier, we received the financing information for all the projects, and the only one with inaccurate information after three submissions and three rejections was the Fire Code Compliance. We are not holding things up. We can’t create city forms in their budget and send it to ourselves. The money is at the state, is earmarked and ready to go. City officials have been involved in every one of my communications, not just PIBC, the Fire Code Compliance Committee, the city officials, in addition to board members, and the only person to respond to any communications was Francis MacIlvain, who reached out to John Anglace.

Superintendent Burr congratulated the board on its selection of a successor. Mr. Burr assured the board that there will be a full, complete transition with himself, his administration and all school sites with Chris Clouet. Transition dates have been identified, and Chris will be here tomorrow to attend the District Management Council elementary scheduling kickoff. There will be over a dozen transition dates from tomorrow to the holiday season that will include a variety of district activities and also meetings with every Central Office department. Chris will be here every day from Thanksgiving to Christmas, and we will be embarking on school site visits and debriefing with school leadership and teams. It will also be the initial foray into the budget season. Mr. Burr expressed assurance that that the transition will be selfless and all information he has will be shared with Chris.
Field Trips
Mr. Burr referred to the approved field trips that are included in packets.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the Shelton Intermediate School field trip request for Science/Social Studies students to travel to Iceland, June 28-July 3, 2016 with the Superintendent’s usual caveats; motion seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

Items Presented for a Vote
Faith Hack moved to approve the following items; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously:

- Request of Perry Hill School PTO to conduct fundraising activities during the 2015-16 school year
- Accept on behalf of the SHS Boys & Girls Tennis Teams a $2,500 donation from the Tennis Foundation of CT and to deposit the funds in the appropriate accounts
- Request of Elizabeth Shelton School PTO to conduct fundraising activities during the 2015-16 school year
- Request of Shelton High School Boys’ Lacrosse Club to conduct fundraising activities during the 2015-16 school year

Comments by the Board Chair
Chairman Holden discussed the previously mentioned school projects and said the Superintendent has copies of emails showing the real reason for the delays is the city has not passed resolutions meeting the specifications the state is demanding for reimbursement. The resolution passed on the 10th still didn’t meet the requirements as it didn't create line items in the city budget. I’ve heard that this can be fixed with an accounting change that won't require Board of Alderman action; but, to the best of my knowledge, this has not been done yet. Until that happens or the aldermen take action, nothing will happen on the Sunnyside roof, which is an embarrassment. The library smells of vomit after a rainstorm. It is utterly inexcusable that our students should be in such conditions. My hope is the city will get us the documentation needed in time for this to be resolved before the cold weather sets in. The tar plants close down in colder weather. If it’s not finished before that time, our students are going to be stuck in those conditions until next spring. As a result of that meeting, there has been a lot of public outcry, particularly on social media, for city boards to make available online video coverage of meetings. I had appointed one of our board members who is not here this evening to look into video coverage of our meetings during my first year as chairman of this board. When I asked for updates, it appears the focus of the project was changed from making information available to the public to create a program worthy of national awards. I’m not aware of any actual progress. I have checked and the cost of basic equipment to get our meetings recorded and posted on the district YouTube site is small enough so that no board action needs to be made. I have asked the appropriate
people to get the system ordered, up and running by the October board meeting. If we can get students involved in upgrading our production in the future, I’m fine with that, but the first goal of this project should be public information - transparency, and that can be done by hanging one camera aimed at the front of the room and tying into our audio system so that people can hear what’s happening. You won’t be able to tell what color somebody’s eyes are, but you’ll be able to tell who is speaking, and that’s good enough for public information. So, we are going to do it.

Chairman Holden stated I have had several meetings with Dr. Clouet while negotiating his contract, and I feel that we are lucky to have been able to attract someone with his talent and qualifications. He is a personable guy with strong vision. I have no doubt he will be a worthy successor to Superintendent Burr, and he will take us to the next steps to make our school system the very best it can be.

Reports of Standing Committees
Teaching and Learning – Thomas Minotti said no meetings were held due to lack of agenda items. The next meeting is scheduled for October 20 at 4:00 p.m.

Policy – Kathy Yolish reported the committee was canceled because several members were unavailable. The next meeting will be October 20 at 5:00 p.m.

Finance – Arlene Liscinsky said the committee held numerous meetings over the last several weeks, the most recent being September 16. The committee reviewed the L2 and went through the building project status, had a report on facilities and held discussion on propane gas concerning a glitch with the city’s agreement to pay for anything above and beyond the money we appropriated in our budget, as well as discussion concerning a bill for the footings in the fortification project that the city passed on to us, which is being returned to PIBC. A Special Meeting may be scheduled to hear a presentation on energy performance.

Arlene Liscinsky explained that the point of sale systems currently used in our cafeterias are aging and failing daily and interfering with the ability of our students to buy lunch in a timely fashion.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to authorize the Superintendent and the Finance Director to purchase a new POS (Point of Sale) system compatible with Infinite Campus, not to exceed $35,000; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Reports of Special Committees
CES – Arlene Liscinsky said the first meeting of the year included an introduction of the Teacher of the Year and Paraprofessional of the Year. Dr. Wentzell attended the first meeting of the CES Governing Council and was very gracious in answering questions about SBAC and other topics. Mrs. Liscinsky will forward copies of a few policy updates to Kathy Yolish and Lorraine Rossner.

CABE – Kathy Yolish reviewed upcoming events including a Conference for Educational Foundations on September 29; School Finance Moving Forward on October 14; 2015 CT
Financial Literacy Summit on October 15; CT Association for the Gifted New England Conference on Gifted Education and Talent Development on October 22-24; School Facility Workshop on November 6. The C.A.B.E./C.A.P.S.S. Convention in Mystic is November 21-22. NSBA Annual Conference in Boston will be held April 9-11 with registration starting in October.

**For Your Information**
Chairman Holden referenced the attachments in the packet including Vacancy Report, Staff and Stipend Actions, and Enrollment Reports. Back to School Nights are listed on the agenda.

**Highlights**
Kathy Yolish commented on various back to school nights. Mark Holden mentioned that our new principals are doing a fantastic job. He has heard a few comments from people complaining about bus stops, but comments from the schools from their end indicate it is actually a very good year for transportation. Mr. Holden said he is thrilled to have Dr. Clouet join the team and is quite certain that he and Superintendent Burr will work closely together to ensure that in January we will be able to hit the ground with our feet running.

**Adjournment**
Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

*Diane Luther*  
_Diane Luther_  
*Secretary to Board of Education*  
*September 30, 2015*