Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:10 p.m.

Roll Call:
Mark Holden, Chairman
Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman
Kate Kutash, Secretary
Anne Gaydos
David Gioiello

Jose Goncalves (excused)
Amanda Kilmartin (via Skype)
Darlisa Ritter
Kathleen Yolish

Quorum – 8 present; 1 absent

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

Also Present: Rebecca Auger, Milone and MacBroom Consultant

(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. He moved to add an addendum to the agenda to include motions under Board Action Items VIII.C, D, E, F, G; motion seconded by Anne Gaydos and passed unanimously.  Mr. Minotti moved to amend Board Action Item VIII.A to reflect date for graduation on June 13 and rain date of June 14; motion seconded by Kathy Yolish and passed unanimously. Mr. Minotti moved to add an Executive Session to discuss pending litigation and negotiations to the agenda following XI. Highlights; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously. The motion to approve the agenda as amended was seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Presentations and Recognitions
CABE Student Leadership Awards – Superintendent Clouet said each year the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education asks districts to identify students who are exemplary in their leadership skills and meet the list of criteria. Shelton High School students Cristina Chirsky and Andrew Connolly were recognized for receiving CABE’s Student Leadership Award and each expressed their appreciation.

Innovative Educator Award – Shelton Intermediate School Library Media Specialist Ron Gydus was recognized as this month’s Innovative Educator and gave a presentation on the News and Media Literacy Program at SIS. Ron discussed a handout brochure describing the four units used to teach students 21st Century skills to help them to collaborate, think critically and act with empathy. Ron gave a presentation on Media Literacy and explained that students are getting their media from non-traditional sources like text messages, memes, blogs, vlogs, podcasts, viral videos, social media, video games, etc. and get their news from new media sources such as Snapchat and Instagram. Ron discussed how students are taught to analyze news to discern between actual and fake news and recognize bias and propaganda. Ron expressed his gratitude to the members of the board for their
support, hard work and commitment to the students and staff of Shelton Public Schools and the community. Superintendent Clouet said it is a great gift we are giving our students to prepare them with knowledge they will need for the future.

Thomas Minotti made a motion to move forward Board Action Item VIII. D, discussion of redistricting; motion seconded by Anne Gaydos and passed unanimously.

Redistricting Plan Update
Rebecca Auger, Consultant with Milone and MacBroom, stated there were many comments and questions at last night’s meeting about class sizes, number of classrooms and impact that scenario 5 would have, especially on Elizabeth Shelton School. She presented additional information for clarification.

Public Hearing
Beverly Belden, Elizabeth Shelton School Principal, discussed the need for redistricting noting the complexities of overcrowding and space issues at ESS. She acknowledged the comments made by ESS parents at previous meeting and said a plan moving forward would give ESS the ability to have class sizes more on par with other schools in the district. She has talked with her colleagues about ways to welcome new students into their buildings. She said the perspective we all need to take, as educators, the Board of Education and the community as a whole, is that they are always our kids. She said everyone will work hard to make the necessary adjustments. It is about collaboration and doing the right thing for children.

Items Presented for Vote
Thomas Minotti made a motion to move forward Board Action Item VIII.A. Graduation Date; motion seconded by Kathy Yolish. Motion passed unanimously.

Anne Gaydos moved to approve the Redistricting Plan for K-4 Schools, Option 5, as discussed; motion seconded by Kate Kutash. Discussion – Comments were made by Darlisa Ritter, David Gioiello, Kate Kutash and Mandy Kilmartin. Motion passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to approve the Shelton High School graduation date of Thursday, June 13, 2019 and rain date of Friday, June 14, 2019; motion seconded by Anne Gaydos. Discussion - In response to a question from David Gioiello, Dr. Clouet confirmed there is a caveat, and it is always the case in the event of the unexpected, torrential storms, gas leak, etc. He said the public should be aware that it is possible the date will be later than projected. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes
Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of Special Meeting on March 19, 2019 (Redistricting Plan); Special Meeting on March 27, 2019; Regular Meeting on March 27, 2019; and Special Meeting on April 3, 2019; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Communications to the Board
There was acknowledgement of a parent’s donation of an LCD television to the district, which was very much appreciated.

Superintendent’s Reports & Action Items
Dr. Clouet mentioned our robotics team is in Detroit competing with the best teams from around the world, and we are very hopeful for them. He said as part of our Strategic Planning, our Shelton Showcase, which is part of our Community Committee, was a huge success with unprecedented attendance. In preparation for the event, there was a lot of hard work and cooperation from many
people around the district, including students and their parents. He said people in the community are still stopping him to say it was one of the best things they had attended in years.

Superintendent Clouet said the budget work is ongoing and is at the point before the final budget decision by the City. He said no date has been set, but we may be asked to have a follow-up meeting with the Board of Aldermen. Dr. Clouet stated today the SEIU bargaining unit that represents the bus drivers that work for Durham authorized a strike. There is no date set, nor is there certainty they will strike, but they have given authorization to strike. He will keep the board apprised of information as he receives it, likely on a day-to-day basis. He will meet with administrators in the morning to talk about possible contingency plans, should the strike occur. He has also talked with the Boys and Girls Club about possible support that they may offer. Dr. Clouet stated it has been reported that prior to this authorization of a strike, the City had reached out to the drivers’ union about next year.

**Approved Field Trips**
There were none.

**Donor Projects**
A listing of current donor projects by school was included in packet for information.

**Items Presented for Vote**

Kate Kutash moved to accept on behalf of the SHS Band a donation of new marching percussion equipment worth approximately $14,000 from the SHS Marching Gaels Parents Association; motion seconded by Kathy Yolish and passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to approve a Voluntary Retirement Incentive Plan for teachers, as discussed; motion seconded by Kathy Yolish. Discussion – Carole Pannozzo confirmed there were 7 retirement notifications. In response to a question from Kathy Yolish, Superintendent Clouet said while the decision is up to the board, it is his recommendation that the Early Retirement Incentive would not be given to anyone who decides to retire after the offer expired, unless there is a hardship case before the end of the year that the board wants to consider on an individual basis. Motion passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to approve a non-renewal of employment; seconded by Thomas Minotti. Discussion - David Gioiello asked for the employee’s name for the record. Dr. Clouet said she is currently a member of the Teachers’ Union and her employment would cease at the end of this school year, and she has a right to petition for a hearing. Name will be included in the minutes (*Tania Lecomte*). Motion passed unanimously.

Thomas Minotti moved to accept on behalf of Elizabeth Shelton School a donation of $6,120 from Elizabeth Shelton School PTO to purchase 24 chromebooks; motion seconded by Darlisa Ritter and passed unanimously.

Thomas Minotti moved to accept on behalf of Elizabeth Shelton School a donation of $1,499 from Elizabeth Shelton School PTO to purchase a 3D printer; motion seconded by Kathy Yolish and passed unanimously.

*(NOTE – Mandy Kilmartin signed out of Skype)*

**Comments by the Board Chair**
Chairman Holden noted there are actually two robotics teams, FLL and Gaelhawks, competing in Detroit. He stated Shelton Showcase was an amazing night for the Shelton school district, and the things that our team of teachers and administrators and our students have been doing was very impressive to the general public. He would like to see the event happen every year.
Reports of Standing Committees

Teaching & Learning – Anne Gaydos said the April 9 meeting was canceled, and agenda items will be moved to future agendas. Tentative agenda items for the May 14 meeting at the Sunnyside Library Learning Commons will include presentations on Student Portfolios; Keyboarding and Media Accuracy.

Finance Committee – Thomas Minotti gave a detailed report of topics of the committee meeting held at 5:00 tonight including Finance Director Rick Belden’s reports on revenue and expenditure. It was noted that the district has collected revenues from various sources in the State of Connecticut for a total of $1,531,084 in offset revenues as of April 15, 2019, which will be used to offset certain line items in the BOE budget. In reference to the Grant Fund, the final State of Connecticut estimated revenue report indicates we will be receiving $1,529,171 in Excess Cost Grant reimbursement towards 2018-2019 fiscal year, which represents approximately 74% of the uncapped entitlement. The initial reimbursement request letter was sent to the City in March, and the final request will be sent in early June 2019. Mr. Minotti noted the overall deficit projection for the fiscal year June 30, 2019 is currently estimated at $108,932; however, the Finance Department will be reviewing accounts and will make transfers as necessary to mitigate or eliminate the projected year-end deficit. He restated the major contributions to the deficit include substitute teachers ($182,000); special education tuition (approximately $492,000); special education transportation ($390,000); and special education professional and technical services (approximately $193,000). He stated the freeze in hiring and discretionary spending remains in place until we can accurately project our final balances in the variable line items. Mr. Minotti said John Calhoun provided a handout and gave a narrative report on Facilities issues and accomplishments thus far.

Policy Committee – Kate Kutash said the committee did not meet in April and the next meeting will be May 14, following Teaching and Learning, at Sunnyside School. Agenda items will be continued discussion of age for kindergarten enrollment with information from neighboring towns; building use fees; and reviewing policy for mileage reimbursement.

Public Relations & Outreach Committee – Anne Gaydos stated the committee did not meet and date will be announced for next meeting.

Superintendent Evaluation Revision Ad Hoc Committee – Kate Kutash said the committee meeting on April 2 was very productive. Using CABE’s superintendent evaluation criteria, the committee crafted a document to be reviewed and used to create a grid or rubric for evaluation. The next meeting is scheduled for April 29 at 4:30 p.m.

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Thomas Minotti reported on the April 4 meeting of the CES Representative Council on April 4. He noted CES is recruiting superintendents and past superintendents to work on the executive search team. At CES on May 1, CES will be working with superintendents and the leadership team to discuss when, where and how to help districts. The Professional Development Service will host a regional information session on Illustrative Mathematics end of May. There is a five-day training session at CES in October being conducted by a group from Rhode Island on the Science Framework Enabling District Science Leaders and Teachers. Dr. Clouet mentioned that this is almost identical to the Next Generation Science Standards and is much less expensive than what has been offered in Hartford, and we are very interested. Mr. Minotti said the RESC Alliance is planning a statewide conference around the theme, Portrait of a High School Graduate. Focus is on three areas that have been overlooked by the current descriptions from school districts – Workforce Development Trends; Social Emotional Learning; and Inclusivity and Diversity. Mr. Minotti said we have all of that in our Habits of Mind and Vision of a Graduate. He mentioned the CES Foundation Dinner on May 4.
Unfinished Business
Kathy Yolish asked if a report will be coming from SIS on the raffle. Dr. Clouet said yes, that it is taking a bit longer because there a couple things still being counted and we want to be precise in reporting it to the board.

New Business
There was nothing discussed.

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

Highlights
Thomas Minotti mentioned Center Stage production of I Remember Mama with Ken Saranich portraying Papa. He also spoke about Shelton Showcase and the surprise performance of The Professors, Chris Clouet and Dan Ebert. Kathy Yolish thanked all who supported the SEEF raffle and named the winners. Kathy also mentioned Mohegan School’s Literacy STEAM Night – Escape to the 21st Century, which was clever and unique. She mentioned Long Hill School will have their Family Night tomorrow at 6 p.m. Kathy talked about Perry Hill School’s Cook Off where she was asked to be a judge. Mark Holden mentioned two events at Perry Hill School tomorrow: Community Conversations from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., Vision of a Graduate with Emphasis on Science and Technology. Dr. Clouet said Barnum Financial is financing all of the food for the community dinners. This is the first in a series of four events. Mrs. Ziu-Pires has put together a panel with expectations of a very interesting conversation. The next will be at Shelton High School, Student Voice, on May 7 with a panel of students. Mr. Holden said the second event tomorrow at 6:00 p.m. at Perry Hill School will be In Plain Sight, being run by Shelton Empowers, our substance abuse group.

Executive Session
Darlisa Ritter moved to enter Executive Session at 8:32 p.m. for purpose of discussing negotiations and potential litigation; motion seconded by Kathy Yolish and passed unanimously. Invited to stay were Superintendent Clouet and Cabinet members Lorraine Rossner, Rick Belden and Carole Pannozzo. Board member Mandy Kilmartin was not in attendance.

Kathy Yolish moved to leave Executive Session at 9:09 p.m.; motion seconded by Darlisa Ritter and passed unanimously. Chairman Holden stated no votes were taken during Executive Session.

Adjournment
Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

Diane Luther
Secretary to Board of Education
April 30, 2019