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

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

Jose Goncalves (absent)
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; Rick Belden; Finance Director; Carole Pannozzo, Human Resources Director

(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 Anne Gaydos and approved unanimously.

Presentations/Recognitions

SHS Sikorsky Credit Union Internship Program – Shelton High School students Allison Dapp, Siddharth Jain, and Zach Kozlowski discussed their on-the-job experiences as interns in the program. As part of the internship, they are required to conduct Reality Fairs at different high schools in surrounding towns where they teach students about managing their money. Another assignment of the internship is to promote financial literacy. They have taught SIS students in business classes about financial literacy, banking, saving and money management and overall financial wellness. They have the opportunity to job shadow and work with professionals in areas of risk management, loans and various jobs in the industry. Sikorsky Credit Union has plans to expand the program for our juniors. Superintendent Clouet noted the students are highly regarded for their maturity, intelligence and ability to fit in with the world of adults. Dr. Smith commented that this program is an example of the community working with our students.

Innovative Educator – Superintendent Clouet introduced Perry Hill School art teacher Michael Cooper as February’s Innovative Educator, describing him as a stellar art teacher who lifts up his students. He said there is always something going in his room. Mr. Cooper gave a slide presentation of the methods he uses as a means of communicating and engaging students to be inquisitive. Using the Word of the Week vocabulary project, Mr. Cooper creates weekly cartoon drawings with a few words and images. Between the picture and the caption, he tries to give enough simple contexts to provide everything you need to know to convey the word. Students and staff give a lot of feedback and enjoy stopping in the hallway to view the cartoons. He stated art by definition elicits a reaction, promotes conversation, observation, understanding and empathy; it is how many of us learn and understand the world around us. Based on his experience, he feels the best way to teach children is
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to encourage them to be inquisitive and challenge them to take risks. Art class is where that can happen at every turn. He showed examples of student artwork and ceramics. He mentioned a website (https://www.artsonia.com) to view more student artwork. He expressed his appreciation for being honored as an Innovative Educator. Principal Lorraine Williams talked about the importance of art and the great art program at Perry Hill. She said Mr. Cooper is so talented, and it is a pleasure to visit his room. Superintendent Clouet commented that the skills Mr. Cooper is teaching his students will lead them to creativity and future work opportunities.

Public Hearing
No one from the public spoke.

Approval of Minutes
Kate Kutash moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting/Budget Workshop on January 16, 2019; Regular Meeting on January 23, 2019; Special Meeting/Budget Workshop on February 4, 2019; motion seconded by Thomas Minotti and passed unanimously.

Communications to the Board
There were no communications.

Superintendent’s Reports & Action Items
Superintendent Clouet said our budget work is ongoing. We continue to be committed to reducing and ultimately eliminating the current year deficit. Some aspects of the Strategic Plan are starting to take root in new ways, one of which will be our hosting as a district the Community Showcase at SHS on April 4. This districtwide program will highlight the sciences, arts and the great work our students are producing. Work continues with City Hall on the transportation transition, and we will be providing route information to the mayor, as he requested. Superintendent handed out the CABE Newsletter and a position paper, The Future of Education and Skills – Education 2030, and requested members to read the latter and be prepared for discussion at next month’s meeting. Superintendent Clouet, Lorraine Rossner and Rick Belden met today with Milone & MacBroom to review their study, and an announcement will be made tomorrow of two redistricting community meetings and more if needed. The regional Chamber of Commerce will hold their monthly breakfast business meeting at SIS on March 14, followed by a tour of some of the learning spaces at SIS. There will be a Silent Auction at Smile Dental on March 21, which is associated with the car raffle on March 27. Our local State Board Member Terry Jones was so impressed by an article in the Shelton Herald that he invited SIS students to the State BOE in Hartford tomorrow to present information on the use of plastics.

Approved Field Trips
Board members were apprised of SHS Robotics trip to District Competition in Springfield, MA; SHS Robotics trip to District Competition in Worcester, MA; and SHS Robotics trip to World Championship Competition in Detroit.

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

Items Presented for Vote
Kate Kutash moved to approve Advertising and Promotion Policy 1325 Revision; motion seconded by Kathy Yolish and passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to accept on behalf of the SHS Athletic Department a donation of a new batting screen worth approximately $4,000 from the SHS Diamond Club; motion seconded by Thomas Minotti and passed unanimously.
Kate Kutash moved to accept the following donations as one motion; motion seconded by Mandy Kilmartin and passed unanimously:

- On behalf of Mohegan School a donation of $17,509 from Mohegan School PTO to purchase an outdoor shelter to be used as a classroom and 4 picnic tables
- On behalf of Long Hill School a $5,000 donation from Big Y to be used solely for purchase of moveable library furniture
- On behalf of Long Hill School a $6,964 donation from Long Hill Elementary School PTO to be used toward the purchase of 23 Chromebooks and 1 cart
- On behalf of Booth Hill School a donation of $5,764 from Booth Hill School PTO for the purchase of the following materials for the Library Media Center: library books, iPad stands, book binding materials, and an Ozbot class set

Kate Kutash moved to approve the request of Shelton FLL (FIRST Lego League) program to conduct fundraising activities to help offset the costs of participating in the World Festival Tournament, including the creation of a GoFundMe page, restaurant parent night and seeking donations from local businesses; motion seconded by Thomas Minotti and passed unanimously.

Thomas Minotti moved to approve an Early Retirement Incentive Program for teachers; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Thomas Minotti moved to accept on behalf of Booth Hill School a $611.16 donation from BHS PTO to be used to purchase 132 books for the One School One Book initiative; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the request of SHS Girls Softball Parents Organization to conduct fundraising activities during the 2019 season to assist with team expenses as outlined in their letter; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Thomas Minotti moved to accept on behalf of Shelton Intermediate School donations totaling $7,775 from multiple donors for supporting the innovative practices and associated technology tools at SIS; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Thomas Minotti moved to accept on behalf of Sunnyside School a donation of $773.19 to purchase Learning A-Z (11 licenses) for the last 4 months of this school year; motion seconded by Kathy Yolish and passed unanimously.

Comments by the Board Chair
Chairman Holden said it is really impressive to see the work that our teachers are doing to help our students participate in the recent Invention Conventions and science fairs. He said events such as those help explain why half of our schools qualified as Schools of Distinction. In spite of a tight budget in our district, every year our teachers and administrators do their best to make sure that our students are learning as much as possible. He also mentioned we had another visit from the sister school in China last month. He said these are just examples of good things happening in our district and commended staff for their efforts.

Reports of Standing Committees
Teaching & Learning – Anne Gaydos said February meeting was cancelled due to weather. The committee will meet on March 12 with the following agenda topics: Keys to Success presentation – Martha Parkins; Business Advisory Committee presentation – Mike Merati; One–One presentation – Dan DiVito; Roles and Responsibilities of the Assistant Superintendent – Lorraine Rossner.
Finance Committee – Thomas Minotti said the committee held a special meeting on February 21 due to cancellation of the regular meeting due to weather. He reviewed the topics including Rick Belden’s revenue and expenditure reports and John Calhoun’s Maintenance Director’s report. Complete minutes are posted on the website. The following motion is brought forward:

Darlisa Ritter moved to approve the replenishment of the personal pre-paid credit card at $500 level; motion seconded by Kathy Yolish and passed unanimously.

Policy Committee – Kate Kutash said the February meeting was cancelled due to weather. The agenda for the March 12 meeting will include a follow-up discussion of the FOI presentation heard in January and the BOE New Members Handbook.

Public Relations & Outreach Committee – Mandy Kilmartin said the committee did not meet due to weather. The next meeting is scheduled for March 12 at 6 p.m.

Reports of Special Committees
CES – Thomas Minotti said there was no meeting due to weather. The next meeting is March 7.

Unfinished Business
None

New Business
David Gioiello moved that the Board of Education provides a copy of its final approved budget, approved after the Board of Aldermen has approved the city budget, to the Board of Aldermen; motion seconded by Darlisa Ritter. Discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

David Gioiello moved that the Board of Education’s Finance Committee meet quarterly with the Board of Aldermen to review the status of the Board of Education budget; motion seconded by Mandy Kilmartin. Discussion. Consensus was this would be a Special Meeting of the Board of Education. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Highlights
Kathy Yolish mentioned the latest issue of The Gael; John Niski and Beth Smith being named King and Queen at the Fashion Show; Mohegan’s Look for the Good Program at which Gavi Ziu-Pires was slimed; Long Hill School’s Dr. Seuss Day celebration attended by 14 retired teachers and a police officer; Mohegan’s event is this coming Friday. Rick Belden said Ken Saranich will have the lead role in Center Stage’s production of I Remember Mama. Mark Holden discussed this weekend’s Robotics and Band events.

Adjournment
Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Diane Luther
Secretary to Board of Education
March 12, 2019