Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:08 p.m.

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

Final Quorum – 8 present; 1 absent

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

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda
Chairman Holden called for a motion to approve the agenda. David Gioiello moved to add to the agenda a motion under Unfinished Business regarding contracts with employees not represented by a union; motion seconded by Darlisa Ritter and passed unanimously. Darlisa Ritter moved to add an item under Unfinished Business regarding an update from Kathie Gabrielson on Typical Peer program; motion seconded by Kathy Yolish and passed unanimously. Anne Gaydos moved to add an Executive Session before Highlights for the purpose of discussing a contractual matter; motion seconded by Thomas Minotti and passed unanimously. Thomas Minotti moved to approve the agenda as amended; motion seconded by Anne Gaydos and passed unanimously.

Presentations and Recognitions
Kathy Riddle, Interim SHS Principal and Coordinator of United Way donations in the district, stated the Shelton School District received the award for Top School District for Monies Raised in the 2018-19 Campaign. Also, Mrs. Riddle presented the Non-Profit of the Year award to the board on behalf of the school system.

Public Hearing
Judson Crawford, 8 Jordan Avenue, asked for the status of the bus transportation.

Eugene Kierce, 120 Thoreau Drive, spoke about the serious problem of terrorism in schools and school safety. Mr. Kierce plans to address these topics at future board meetings.
Approval of Minutes
Kate Kutash moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 26, 2019, Special Meeting of July 31, 2019 and Special Meeting of August 13, 2019; motion seconded by Mandy Kilmartin and passed unanimously.

Communications to the Board
There were no communications.

Superintendent’s Reports & Action Items
Dr. Clouet discussed preparation for opening of schools. He said he has received very positive feedback from colleagues around the district on our warm and vibrant Convocation session, and we are looking forward to opening. He said the Excess Cost issue remains unresolved, but Finance Director Rick Belden has been able to successfully close the books for last year and is busy getting ready for the new budget season. He said Rick has been very helpful in the opening of school process in many ways, supporting the work and making sure we have what we need. Regarding transportation, the bus routes were posted this afternoon for opening day for the technical schools, Vo-Ag program in Trumbull and CES, and there will be sufficient buses available for Friday’s Bus Safety Day. Dr. Clouet said he will continue reviewing records with DMV at the bus terminal.

Approved Field Trips
There were no field trips.

Items Presented for Vote
David Gioiello moved to approve items VIII.1.A.1.a,b,d,f,g; motion seconded by Darlisa Ritter passed unanimously. (Fundraising requests from SHS Goal Club (boys’ soccer); SHS Girls’ Cross Country Parents’ Club; Booth Hill School; Perry Hill School; SHS Marching Gaels)

David Gioiello moved to approve the fundraising request from Sunnyside School PTO with exclusion of playscape portion of the request; motion seconded by Kathy Yolish and passed unanimously. The playscape issue relative to use of permanent sponsor logos will be referred to the Policy Committee for discussion.

David Gioiello moved to approve the fundraising request from Shelton Intermediate School; motion seconded by Kathy Yolish and passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to approve a one-year contract extension for the Superintendent; motion seconded by Thomas Minotti and passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to table the fundraising request from Shelton Intermediate School PTO pending receipt of raffle information; motion seconded by David Gioiello and passed unanimously. Mrs. Yolish requested a clarification of how the money was spent for the raffle and that a breakdown be included in packets for the next meeting. Superintendent Clouet agreed and said information will be presented. Mr. Gioiello asked if we are tracking and auditing GoFundMe activities per policy. Superintendent Clouet said it will be reviewed with administrative staff to refocus on that issue.
Thomas Minotti moved to approve the fundraising request from Elizabeth Shelton School PTO; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

David Gioiello moved to ratify the 2019-2023 contract for the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 30; motion seconded by Thomas Minotti and passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to accept on behalf of Mohegan School a donation for three Water Coolers with Bottle Filling Stations at $1,395 each for a sum total of $4,185; motion seconded by Darlisa Ritter and passed unanimously.

Comments by the Board Chair
Chairman Holden discussed last week’s impressive Project Excel Institute sponsored by the district, which was attended by many teachers from our schools and others from around the state and NY. He said it is wonderful that our district is taking this kind of a leadership role. He mentioned Band Camp and looks forward to what they will do this year. He noted that transportation has been frustrating and that we are all trying to work to make it happen as smoothly as possible.

Reports of Standing Committees
Teaching & Learning – Anne Gaydos said the committee did not meet in July or August. The next meeting is scheduled for September 17 at 4:00 PM. Agenda is Professional Learning - a retrospective of current PL and future plans for the year.

Finance Committee – Thomas Minotti said Finance held a brief meeting on August 21. He said the first part of the Excess Cost Grant paperwork was submitted on December 1, and we won’t receive the first payment from the State until March. We will submit the second part in March for payment by the State in May. Students have paid parking fees and some of the parking lots have been striped and numbered. With regard to the expenditure report, the budget agrees with what we submitted as a total. Groupings have been changed to better reflect what we submit to the State. Mr. Minotti said we had submitted all paperwork to the town treasurer along with required city officials to request formally the transfer of the Excess Cost Grant funds and have yet to receive anything. As of the 21st, Rick Belden, Cathy Araujo, Paul Hiller, Lynn Piscatelli, the auditor, along with John Anglace and Ray O’Leary met to discuss and finalize year-end closing. We have already had two meetings with the Board of Aldermen to go over the process of how reports are made with respect to finances. John Calhoun gave a facilities report including an update on the Sunnyside roofing, which we believe is going to be under the architect’s warranty. The ESS window project is now complete and replacement air conditioners were installed at the same time. The tennis courts at the high school have gone out to bid. Rick Belden added that we continue to work collaboratively with the City Finance Department to streamline how to report information to them. We are still working on getting information from a third party auditor to assist us in closing the books for 2018-19, which we anticipate receiving shortly. He said the relationship with downtown is fine and we continue a collaborative process with them.

Chairman Holden gave background information on the next motion. The City Finance Department and the BOE Finance Department will be working to file the ED0049F closeout paperwork to obtain state reimbursement for the funding for a project that goes to the City to pay them back.
David Gioiello moved that the Shelton Board of Education formally accepts the Shelton High School Sprinkler Project, State Project 126-0089CV, as fully complete and acknowledges that all invoices have been paid in full. Motion seconded by Kathy Yolish and passed unanimously.

Policy Committee – Kate Kutash said the committee did not meet in July or August. The next meeting will be following Teaching & Learning on September 17 at approximately 5:00 PM. Agenda items are the earlier mentioned logo discussion, the building use fees, and mileage reimbursement protocol.

Public Relations & Outreach Committee – Mandy Kilmartin stated no meeting was held and the next anticipated meeting will be announced. She said in September there are plenty of opportunities for public relations and outreach. She suggested to board members who plan to attend back-to-school nights to give thought to how they might engage with the community. She reminded board members of the opportunity to submit articles to the Shelton Herald and encouraged members to participate.

Reports of Special Committees
CES – Thomas Minotti said CES did not meet over the summer and the next meeting will be the first Thursday in September.

Unfinished Business
David Gioiello moved that a two-person subcommittee of the Finance Committee be established to:
  1. Review all new and renewed BOE contracts with employees not represented by a union.
  2. The subcommittee will report in writing, at least two weeks prior to the BOE voting on said contracts, any significant changes to renewed contracts, and any changes to new contracts regarding items not previously reviewed by the board.

Motion seconded by Darlisa Ritter. Discussion. David Gioiello moved to call the question. Motion failed. Kate Kutash moved to table the motion; motion seconded by Thomas Minotti. Motion failed with vote of 5-3. David Gioiello called for a revote on the motion to table. Motion to table passed with a vote of 6-2.

Neurotypical Peer Update - Kathie Gabrielson confirmed that letters were sent the last week in July to 15 children, some of whom will be returning as four year old students and some who would be entering as three year olds. Of the 15, we have 8 confirmed acceptances. We are charging $2,000 for the year with a 20% decrease, because we decreased the days of the week by 1 day (20%). We will be scheduling a screening to obtain more typical peers. Dr. Clouet will be apprised of the date so he can advise the board. There are four sessions over two classrooms, and typical peers are going into three of those four sessions at this time. Ms. Gabrielson confirmed the possibility of adding a classroom is in discussion. There are many options being looked at right now to increase time with neurotypical peers.
New Business
There was no new business.

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

Kate Kutash moved to reorder the agenda to have Highlights before Executive Session; motion seconded by Kathy Yolish and passed unanimously.

Highlights
Thomas Minotti said Superintendent Clouet, Mark Holden and he attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Adult Education Center’s new location in the Belden Center. Kathy Yolish said she asked Kim Atkinson to send her presentation at Convocation to board members. Kate Kutash mentioned Dr. Clouet’s appointment to the Teachers College Advisory Board.

A brief recess was observed.

Executive Session
Thomas Minotti moved to enter Executive Session at 8:26 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a contractual matter; motion seconded by Kathy Yolish and passed unanimously. Invited to stay were Chris Clouet, Kenneth Saranich, and Carole Pannozzo.

Thomas Minotti moved to leave Executive Session at 8:46 p.m.; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Chairman Holden stated no motions were taken during Executive Session.

Adjournment
Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Diane Luther
Secretary to the Board of Education
September 5, 2019