Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:17 p.m.

Roll Call:
John Francino-Quinn, James Orazietti (excused)
Mark Holden, Chairman Mike Pacowta
Arlene Liscinsky, Secretary Timothy Walsh
Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman Kathleen Yolish
Win Oppel (excused)

Quorum – 7 present; 2 absent

Board of Education Administration present:
Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr
Assistant Superintendent, Lorraine Rossner
Finance Director, Allan Cameron
Executive Director of Curriculum & Support Services, Kathleen Bender
Human Resources Director, Carole Pannozzo

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Hearing
There were no public comments.

Approval of Agenda
Timothy Walsh moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Approval of Minutes
Thomas Minotti moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 19, 2012; Regular Meeting of December 19, 2012; seconded by Mike Pacowta; vote 7-0; motion passed.
Presentations
Superintendent Burr presented updated information on school and district safety and security. He discussed the RFQ and RFP process the Public Improvement Building Committee will follow for entryways and exterior door projects at Elizabeth Shelton, Long Hill and Mohegan. A brief video was shown that demonstrated an attempted break-in through glass lined with 12mm film, a product being considered that could be installed by our personnel. Discussion included evaluation of security cameras, use of keyless entry cards and interior door locking options. Lorraine Rossner noted that the Police Department has offered services to any school wanting to conduct an intruder drill.

Communications to the Board
There were no communications.

Instructional Update
Superintendent’s Commentary – Freeman Burr commented that the end of the mid-year is nearing and mid-term exams will take place next week at the high school. He added that kindergarten registration and screening are scheduled for next week, and the elementary trimester will occur in March.

Approved Field Trips – Board members were advised of two approved field trips: SHS Band trip to Pennsylvania for music festival, May 17-19; SHS Robotics trip to New Hampshire for competition, February 27 – March 2.

Items Voted On
There was discussion of the 2013-2014 district calendar relative to changing December 23 to a half-day. There was no action taken to do so.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the 2013-2014 District Calendar as presented; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 5-2 (nay – Kathy Yolish, Timothy Walsh); motion passed.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the following fundraising requests for the 2012-2013 school year:
- SHS Wrestling Parents Booster Club
- SHS Caddie Club
- SHS Girls Soccer Parent Organization
Motion was seconded by Kathy Yolish; vote 7-0; motion passed.

Comments by the Board Chair
Chairman Holden announced the online version of Gael Winds (www.gaelwinds.com) is live and noted the SIS Viking Voice is also online. Mr. Holden commented on the security
symposium he attended with Freeman Burr and staff members; upcoming kindergarten screening; resolution of Mohegan recess issue. He said the installation of photovoltaic cells on three of our schools will save about $30,000 per year for electricity, and two schools will be getting domestic hot water provided by solar. Chairman Holden thanked Allan Cameron for researching opportunities such as these and noted the energy budget for the current year with additional 200,000 sq. ft. is $535,000 less than it was in the 2007/2008 school year.

Reports of Standing Committees

Teaching and Learning – Thomas Minotti reported on the meeting held January 15 at which Kathy Bender gave an update on standards for Unified Arts; Tina Henckel and Lorraine Rossner gave an update on grading and report card marks; articles including the Case Against Zero and Leading to Change, the Effective Grading Practices were presented for review; Kathy Bender, reporting for Dr. Smith, gave an update on new courses at SHS. Mr. Minotti said a curriculum update was given by Kathy Bender, Kristen DiPalma and Tina Henckel regarding Rigorous Curriculum Development work sessions for the rest of the year. Superintendent Burr gave the committee positive comments on bi-monthly parent meetings regarding school safety and the system of budgeting. The Leadership Academy will continue working with developmental learning activities such as budgeting, mock interviews and evaluations. The next committee meeting will be on Tuesday, February 12, at 3:30 p.m.

Policy – Kathy Yolish said no meeting was held but discussion took place following the meeting of Teaching and Learning. It was decided to hold meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at a time yet to be determined.

Finance – Arlene Liscinsky said the committee met earlier tonight and there were updates on health insurance, workers compensation, student transportation and tentative capital budget request. She said the February 20 Finance Committee meeting will be cancelled.

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Arlene Liscinsky said CES elections were held and she was re-elected as President. It is hoped that Commissioner Pryor will be in attendance at the March meeting.

CABE – Kathy Yolish said there will be a Legislative Breakfast on February 25 at Betsy Ross Arts Magnet School in New Haven to discuss education issues with legislators. She said on CABE’s website there is a link for a Webinar on February 7 regarding the Governor’s budget. Mrs. Yolish stated the NSBA Annual Conference will be April 13-15 in San Diego.
New Business
Chairman Holden stated there will be a Special Meeting of the Board on February 11 to make possible adjustments to the budget request. He explained there were place holders for health insurance and bus contract in the budget request approved by the Board.

For Your Information
Chairman Mark Holden referenced the attachments in packet including Enrollment and Vacancy Reports. The following items were noted:

Staff Resignations:
Barbara Lang, LHS Paraprofessional
John Nicolett, SHS Security Guard
Maria Pompano, SIS 7/8 Science Dept. Chairperson

Stipend Appointments:
Karen Devonshuk, Co-Coach, SHS Unified Basketball

Stipend Reappointments:
Christopher DeBlock, SHS Co-Coach, Wrestling

Stipend Resignation:
LeAnne Bianchine, Assistant Coach, SHS Girls Softball

Highlights
Kathy Yolish commended SHS staff and all connected to the recent presentation of Adaptations by the SHS Drama Club.

Thomas Minotti commented on the superb security evident during his evening visits to Perry Hill School and Mohegan School.

Jay Francino-Quinn noted the SIS Dance Team will have a competition this Saturday and encouraged attendance.

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Diane Luther
Diane Luther
Recording Secretary – Board of Education
January 30, 2013