The Board of Education met at 6:15 p.m. to discuss the Superintendent’s contract; Workers’ Compensation matter re: Tim Tagg; non-renewal process. Thomas Minotti moved to go into Executive Session at 6:15 p.m.; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 9-0; motion passed. Members present were Timothy Walsh, Arlene Liscinsky, Win Oppel, Thomas Minotti, Kate Kutash, Paula Ellis, Jay Francino-Quinn, Kathy Yolish and Mike Pacowta. Invited to stay were Freeman Burr and James Brant. Thomas Minotti departed at 6:30 p.m. Attorney Kevin Blake joined the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Mike Pacowta moved to leave Executive Session at 7:25 p.m.; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Chairman Timothy Walsh called the Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call: (alpha order)
Paula Ellis
John Francino-Quinn
Kate Kutash
Arlene Liscinsky, Vice Chairman
Thomas Minotti, Secretary (arrived at 8:00 p.m.)
Win Oppel
Mike Pacowta
Timothy Walsh, Chairman
Kathleen Yolish

Initial quorum - 8 present; 1 absent
Full quorum at 8:00 p.m.

Board of Education Administration present:
Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr
Director of Finance, Allan Cameron
Interim Director of Human Resources, James Brant
Acting Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Support Services, Kathy Bender

(1 tape on file in City/Town Clerk’s Office. Note – Recorder malfunctioned intermittently for several minutes starting at approximately 8:44 p.m.)

The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was observed to reflect on the passing of Shelton Intermediate School student Amber Kingsersky.
Public Hearing
Deborah Keller, 311 Pheasant Glen, Band Director of Perry Hill School, invited all to attend the first band and chorus concert on February 10 at 8:45 a.m. and 9:45 a.m.

Approval of Agenda and Addendum
Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Approval of Minutes
Win Oppel moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 15, 2010; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; vote 6-0-2 (abstentions by Paula Ellis and Kathy Yolish); motion passed.

Appointments
Paula Ellis moved to appoint Douglas Packard to the position of Reading Specialist at Shelton High School; seconded by Kate Kutash; vote 8-0; motion passed.

Retirements
Freeman Burr informed the Board of the retirement of Richard Cataldo, custodian at Shelton Intermediate School, effective July 1, 2011, after more than 12 years of service.

Resignations
Freeman Burr informed the Board of the following resignations:
- Lauren Amaturo, Science teacher at Shelton Intermediate School, effective January 18, 2011
- Kathleen Falzarano, sign language interpreter at Shelton Intermediate School, effective December 16, 2010
- Kalani Efstanthiou, Boys’ Assistant Volleyball Coach, effective January 11, 2011
- Ryan Woodcock, Boys’ Head Volleyball Coach, effective January 26, 2011
- Steven Malafronte, Freshmen Baseball Co-Coach, effective January 31, 2011
- Mary Piccirillo, SIS Interscholastic Girls’ Track Coach, effective January 31, 2011
- Keefe Manning, Freshmen Baseball Co-Coach, effective January 31, 2011

Instructional Update
Freeman Burr updated the Board on the progress of Readers/Writers Workshop within the District. A review meeting will be held tomorrow with Lit Life’s training consultant, Delia Coppola. A summary presentation on agreement with Lit Life and status of Readers Workshop will be given to the Board at the March meeting. Mr. Burr noted that Tina Henckel will work with Science, Technology and Math personnel at the high school to develop STEM courses. Kathy Bender, Tina Henckel and Kristen DiPalma were thanked for their support with respect to Response to Intervention (SRBI). Mr. Burr stated our team will research Easton/Redding’s implementation of SRBI/Reciprocal Teaching. With regard to the Leadership Academy, Freeman Burr and Jim Brant are reviewing the recommendations received. The kick-off first speaker presentation will be
on February 24 and will be open to principals, central office staff and Board members. Mr. Burr discussed a voluntary academic program being explored for Monday through Thursday next week for four hours per day. The primary goal of the program is academic review and support. It would be offered to grades 3-8, grade 10 and selected grade 11 students; participation numbers are still being reviewed. Kathy Yolish inquired about the cost to run the program, which is estimated to be $40,000. Allan Cameron stated funds would come from ARRA (stimulus money). A stipend of $175 per each 4.5 hour day was agreed upon by the teachers union. Kathy Yolish asked for data to be presented following the program. Kate Kutash suggested tracking the students and reviewing scores. It was clarified that there would be no transportation or lunch provided.

(Note: Thomas Minotti arrived at 8:00 p.m.)

Shelton Public Schools Calendar
Lengthy discussion ensued regarding the 2011-2012 district calendar. Win Oppel requested to schedule elementary back-to-school nights on separate dates to enable Board members and others to attend multiple schools. Superintendent Burr agreed and added that some principals were unable to attend previous CAS back-to-school events due to scheduling. Another change shown on the proposed calendar is 5 snow days to be encumbered for the end of the school year versus 7. Suggestion was made to consider February 17 as a possible snow day or eliminate. Consensus was to start school after Labor Day with a long weekend in February (in lieu of a week’s recess) and traditional spring recess in April consisting of Good Friday followed by a week for recess. The proposed calendar will be posted on the district website.

(Note: Tape 1; side B – 8:31 p.m.)

The 2010-2011 district calendar was discussed. The approved calendar contains an error and must be amended to correct the April 22 start date for excess snow days, as that is Good Friday. It was the consensus of the Board to apply three excess snow days to April 18, 19 and 20. The final number of snow days will be reviewed and a motion to amend the current calendar will be addressed at the next Board meeting. Win Oppel emphasized that the Superintendent has the consensus of the Board to post a message on the website concerning recommended make-up days for snow.

Comments by the Board Chair
Chairman Walsh complimented Mr. Burr and his staff on the judicious use of snow days and the Maintenance Supervisor’s proactive decision to remove snow from the elementary school roofs. Mr. Walsh discussed the February recess and the process involved in deciding not to hold school. He commented on the Leadership Academy, which will prepare our eligible staff to move into administrative positions.
Reports by Standing Committees

Athletics – No report was given.

Building and Grounds – Win Oppel stated there was no formal meeting; the committee will meet on February 14. Ken LaCroix addressed concerns about snow on roofs and explained the process that was followed for snow removal from the elementary school roofs, which are older construction with different codes. Freeman Burr noted that Ken LaCroix was proactive in making the solicitation to the architect and engineers. Mr. Burr commended Ken LaCroix and the custodial and maintenance staff for an exemplary job. Chairman Walsh asked the Superintendent to send appreciation letters to all who worked on the project.

Cafeteria/Transportation – Kate Kutash stated the committee has not met. She said the latest round of adaptations to the middle tier started January 10.

Policy/Curriculum/Technology – Thomas Minotti reported on the highlights of the committee meeting of January 11. Minutes are posted on the district website for review. Mr. Minotti confirmed that data on the number of students at level will be addressed at the next committee meeting. The February 10 committee meeting will be rescheduled.

Personnel – No report was given.

Finance – Arlene Liscinsky stated the committee met earlier today and received an update on the budget, workers compensation issues, unemployment charges, pay-to-participate status ($190,000 collected), and audit report to the aldermen. Mrs. Liscinsky asked Mr. Cameron to notify the Board of the Mayor’s budget presentation date.

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Arlene Liscinsky stated there will be a meeting on March 3. January meeting notes were included in packets.

CABE – Kathy Yolish reminded members of CABE’s Day on the Hill and Area 6 Legislative Breakfast on March 1.

Adjournment
Paula Ellis moved to adjourn at 9:03 p.m.; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; vote 9-0; motion passed.

Diane Luther
Diane Luther
Recording Secretary – Board of Education
February 16, 2011