Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:02 p.m.

Roll Call:
Mark Holden, Chairman John Francino-Quinn (arrived 7:14 p.m.)
Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman Faith Hack
Arlene Liscinsky, Secretary Kate Kutash
Win Oppel (excused) Timothy Walsh (absent)
Kathleen Yolish

Initial Quorum 6 present, 3 absent. Changed to 7 present, 2 absent at 7:14 p.m.

Board of Education Administration present:
Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr
Assistant Superintendent, Lorraine Rossner
Director of Finance & Business Services, Dominic Barone
Human Resources Director, Carole Pannozzo

Also present: Sara Legister, UConn Executive Leadership Intern

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda
Thomas Minotti moved to adjust the agenda by moving forward item V.A. The Gael Student Presentation to follow item II. Approval of Agenda; motion seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously. Approval of the adjusted agenda was unanimous.

The Gael, Student Presentation
Editor, Charles O’Keefe, and Online/Managing Editor, Sara Brown, and staff presented the first publication of Shelton High School’s student news magazine, The Gael, which is a transition from the traditional newspaper, Gael Winds. They reported positive feedback and said all copies sold out quickly. The board was invited to attend the official launch of the magazine at a breakfast on February 26 at the high school from 7:45 to 9:00 a.m.

Public Hearing
Judson Crawford, 8 Jordan Avenue, spoke about the recent news of a $60,000,000 mistake by the Office of Policy Management in Hartford and expressed concern over any implications it might have for cities and towns.
Approval of Minutes
Kate Kutash moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 28, 2015; Regular Meeting of January 28, 2015; Special Meeting of February 4, 2015; and Special Meeting of February 10, 2015; motion seconded by Thomas Minotti and passed unanimously.

Presentations
Victoria White, Supervisor of Literature, Assessment and Professional Learning, gave an informative, detailed presentation on upcoming assessments for SBAC and CMT/CAPT Science. She discussed the testing windows and estimated testing times and provided links to various resources for further information. Vicky White, Tina Henckel and Janice Simonetti answered questions and provided additional information throughout the presentation, a copy of which will be emailed to board members.

Communications to the Board
No communications were received.

Superintendent’s Reports
Instructional Update - Freeman Burr discussed the status of Teacher of the Year program and commended Deborah Keller and Michele Piccolo for their contributions. Mr. Burr gave a technology grant update noting the final request of $473,850. He reminded the board that notice of confirmation was received on security grant round 2, which is almost $309,000, and discussed key projects included.

Superintendent’s Commentary - Superintendent Burr discussed his concerns with the Governor’s proposed budget with respect to education.

Approved Field Trips – Board members were informed of an approved trip for SIS Science students to travel to Costa Rica, April 11-17

Items Presented for a Vote
Thomas Minotti moved to approve and adopt the 2015-2016 district calendar, as presented at the last regular meeting; motion seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

Comments by the Board Chair
Chairman Holden commented that board members put a lot of time and effort into developing a budget request they feel is frugal and yet meets the most critical needs and continues what is currently being done. Mr. Holden noted the small public representation with no questions at the public hearing compared to last year when the issue was full day kindergarten. He said Superintendent Burr and he will meet this week with State Board of Education member Terry Jones to discuss ideas regarding the new State Commissioner of Education. Mr. Holden said he was impressed with SHS juniors taking 500 AP tests and noted how we compare to other towns in our area with much larger budgets.
Reports of Standing Committees

Teaching and Learning – Thomas Minotti said there was no committee meeting in February due to lack of agenda items. A tentative meeting is scheduled for March 10.

Policy – Kathy Yolish stated the committee did not meet due to lack of agenda items but will meet tentatively on March 10.

Faith Hack moved to approve Policy #1325 Advertising & Promotion; seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn and passed unanimously.

Finance – Arlene Liscinsky noted the March 18 Finance Committee meeting will be held as a Special Meeting on March 25 at 5:00 p.m. She reviewed the topics covered at the meeting of February 18; minutes will be posted.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to accept the donations from Dennis Arriola and Janet Winnick ($500) and the Dennis Arriola and Janet Winnick Family Trust ($500) for the needs of Long Hill School at the discretion of the Principal with thanks; motion seconded by Thomas Minotti and passed unanimously.

Thomas Minotti moved to authorize the Director of IT to enter into a three-year software maintenance agreement with Alarm New England for the software related to the district-wide security system; motion seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Arlene Liscinsky stated no meeting was held in February and the next meeting is March 5. She stated the most comments received at the CABE Legislative Breakfast concerned the mandated calendar, along with lack of special education funding. She said the message imparted was to keep representatives in the loop, have your board meet with state representatives and communicate.

CABE – Kathy Yolish highlighted several events and news from CABE including:
- A Day on the Hill on March 25
- Empowered to Lead Symposium – Grow the Profession: Cultivating Collective Capacity on March 18 from 8:00-3:30 in Cromwell
- 75th NSBA Conference, Nashville
- 2105 CAPSS Executive District Leaders’ Roundtable Conference on March 27
- CABE Student Leadership Awards due by March 31
- 11th Annual CABE Leadership Institute, April 1 and May 7
- State Student Advisory Committee accepting submissions for Educational Citizenship Award Program – due April 27
- 2015 CABE/CAPSS Convention, November 20-21
- Guide available for download on CABE website – “How We Can Ensure That All Children Have Excellent Educators”
For Your Information
Chairman Holden referenced the attachments in the packet including Vacancy Report, Staff and Stipend Actions, and Enrollment Report.

Highlights
Kathy Yolish commented on Long Hill School’s reading kickoff. Freeman Burr noted the innovative projects at the high school’s science fair and the SIS exhibition. Mark Holden commented on Robotics events held at the end of January and upcoming event this weekend. He stated the new publication of The Gael is a tremendous step forward. Mr. Holden said he helped judge the SIS science fair and was impressed with the projects. He commended Kathy Yolish for several excellent articles on education, especially the one about full day kindergarten, in the recent issue of Shelton Life. He mentioned he will be participating with telescopes at the upcoming STEM night at Elizabeth Shelton School.

Adjournment
Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Diane Luther
Diane Luther
Secretary to Board of Education
March 4, 2015