Chairman Mark Holden called the Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:11 p.m.

Roll Call:
Mark Holden, Chairman
Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman
Arlene Liscinsky, Secretary
Win Oppel
Kathleen Yolish

John Francino-Quinn
Faith Hack
Kate Kutash
Timothy Walsh (absent)

Quorum – 8 present; 1 absent

Board of Education Administration present:
Superintendent of Schools, Freeman Burr
Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Lorraine Rossner
Finance Director, Allan Cameron
Human Resources Director, Carole Pannozzo

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Hearing
Karin Moriarty, 171 Roosevelt Drive, Seymour, an employee with Sodexo, submitted a signed petition and commented on the upcoming bid process for food service provider, expressing the importance of retaining the current workers and honoring their contract.

Susan Silvestro, 11 Meeting House Road, Haddam, a food service worker at Westland University and President of Local 217 CT/RI, supported retention of workers and their contract.

Carly Seamon, 119 Gray Street, SHS senior and Student Council President, discussed proposed revision to this year’s calendar and opposed adding days to the end of June.

Kyle Drost, 66 Hickory Lane, SHS senior and Captain of football and lacrosse teams, referred to the SHS Student and Parent Handbook and required signed acknowledgement of having read the book (and calendar) thoroughly. He argued against changing the rules mid-year by revising an approved calendar.
Elena Curran, 28 Ridge Lane, parent of children at Elizabeth Shelton, SIS and SHS suggested changes to be considered for future calendars by starting early and taking days from February recess rather than adding to end of year.

Judson Crawford, 8 Jordan Ave, expressed concern over the rising cost of propane fuel relative to the city-owned buses.

Superintendent Burr commented briefly on the required bid process for food service provider.

**Approval of Agenda**
Thomas Minotti moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Arlene Liscinsky; motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes**
Kate Kutash moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 29, 2014 (budget) and Special Meeting of January 29, 2014 (rescheduled monthly meeting); seconded by Jay Francino-Quinn; Vote 7-0-1 (abstention Kathy Yolish).

**Presentations**
Tina Henckel and Kristen Santilli gave a PowerPoint presentation on Smarter Balanced Assessment. Questions and concerns of board members were addressed including tips for parents to help prepare students; accommodations for non-English speakers; timing of scores; keyboarding skills of lower grade students.

**Communications to the Board**
There were no communications.

**Board Action Items**
Thomas Minotti reviewed the discussion at the Teaching and Learning Committee meeting regarding snow day cancellations in excess of seven make-up and referral to board for action. Freeman Burr explained the recommendation to leave April vacation as is and add days to the end of June, based on last year’s experience. General discussion followed.

A vote was taken to approve the Superintendent’s recommended 2013-14 district calendar revision as discussed and approval was unanimous.

Lorraine Rossner discussed the final revisions to the proposed 2014-15 district calendar with respect to consolidating two hour professional development calendar in order to create universal early release dates across the district for all early release days.

A vote was taken to adopt the recommended 2014-15 district calendar as discussed and approval was unanimous.

*(Note: Quorum changed to 7 present and 2 absent with departure of Win Oppel at 8:34 p.m.)*
**Instructional Update/Superintendent’s Commentary**

Freeman Burr said a two-hour delay schedule is being proposed for next year, based on input from principals and Transportation; Lorraine Rossner is preparing proposed schedules for presentation at the next Teaching and Learning Committee meeting. He stated the goal is to reduce cancellation days.

Mr. Burr stated the Commissioner’s focus is to clean up teacher evaluation, Common Core and SBAC.

Superintendent Burr gave a quick update on security projects. Camera Surveillance – Public Improvement Building Committee will hold a special meeting on February 27 and is expected to authorize a camera vendor. Ballistic Film – Five bid proposals will be evaluated at the PIBC meeting. He stated the City authorized more than $180,000 for Silver/Petrucelli to do the three-school project to include redesign of entryways, exterior door change outs, and window replacement including whatever asbestos or PCB remediation is required.

Board was advised of an approved field trip for SHS Robotics, Boston, April 9-12, 2014.

**Comments by the Board Chair**

Chairman Holden mentioned receiving a second quarter report detailing all the positive things happening at Shelton High School and said he has heard good things from all of the schools. Mr. Holden said he attended the Science Fair at SHS and that SIS will be holding a Science Fair next month. Chairman Holden discussed the proposal for full day kindergarten, noted the public information meetings went exceptionally well and commended staff, committee members and parent representatives.

**Reports of Standing Committees**

Teaching and Learning – Thomas Minotti highlighted the topics covered at the February 11 meeting including system-wide Professional Development Committee report; curriculum update; 2014-15 district calendar; Robotics Mentor Program; review of proposal to SDE regarding certification/endorsement for Master’s Degree; report from Superintendent on Commissioner’s letter to SDE regarding standardized testing/evaluation; observations and the evaluation document; data collection – student and teacher observation data; and revision of the CCT. The next meeting is March 11 at 4:00 p.m.

*(Note: Tape 1; Side B – 8:40 p.m.)*

Policy – Kathy Yolish said at the February 11 meeting Carole Pannozzo discussed Policy 1212 - School Volunteers; a draft has been sent to corporation counsel for review. The committee also discussed Policy 4118.24 – Staff/Student Relationships defining boundaries to be established for appropriate staff/student relationships. Policy 6172.12 – Magnet Schools was tabled for future discussion. Mrs. Yolish said the committee is planning to review any policies in need of updating. The committee will meet on March 18 at 3:45 p.m.

Ad Hoc Full-Day Kindergarten – Kathy Yolish discussed the site visit to Bungay School in Seymour planned for this Friday. She said several aldermen, Mayor Lauretti, Freeman Burr and BOE representatives will participate.
Finance – Arlene Liscinsky discussed the meeting held earlier tonight where discussion included a couple of line items that are of concern; report on facilities projects; school security grant; technology grant (750 Chrome Books going into schools). She said the budget has been given to the Mayor, and we await his recommendation by March 22. Our budget request will be posted on the website within a week or so. The committee reviewed the job description for Finance Director and timeline for posting the position.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve continuing participation by the Board in Connecticut’s Healthy Food Certification for school year 2014-15, subject to the same exceptions and exclusions as in school year 2013-14; seconded by Thomas Minotti; motion unanimous.

Arlene Liscinsky moved to authorize the Superintendent to accept the SEA counterproposal for the voluntary retirement incentive plan; seconded by Thomas Minotti; motion unanimous.

Reports of Special Committees
CES – Arlene Liscinsky said there was no meeting in February. A new board orientation was held.

CABE – Board members were reminded of Day on the Hill, March 5, 2014; Arlene Liscinsky and Timothy Walsh will attend. A Webinar on the Affordable Care Act and Collective Bargaining in Connecticut Schools is offered on March 12 from 12:15 – 1:15. CABE is seeking presenters for November’s CABE Convention.

NSBA – Annual conference will be April 5-7 in New Orleans.

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

Highlights
Kate Kutash had heard the scholar athletes had been named and would like to see them recognized by the Board at the next meeting. She commented that too many people have a “dumb jock” image, and these kids work hard to play sports and still maintain excellent grades. Kathy Yolish said she was very impressed with Dr. Smith’s SHS Highlights for Quarter 2, which detailed each department’s activities. Mr. Burr talked about his positive “office hours” visit to Perry Hill School, where a steady stream of staff met one-on-one to express recommendations, concerns and questions.

Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Diane Luther
Diane Luther
Secretary to Board of Education
March 4, 2014