Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

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

Quorum 8 present; 1 absent

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

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda and Addendum
Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the agenda and addendum; seconded by Thomas Minotti and passed unanimously.

Public Hearing
Joseph Knapick, Stonewall Lane, addressed again the issue of politics in the public schools specifically related to a Lauretti for Governor Campaign booth at SHS and the lack of action on behalf of the board. He also spoke about prohibition of campaigning by BOE candidates outside school buildings on back-to-school nights.

Deborah Keller, 311 Pheasant Glen, and SEA President, spoke highly of Kristen Santilli and her accomplishments as Acting Principal of Long Hill School and applauded the board’s decision to appoint her officially as Principal.

Yearly Re-Organization of the Board – Election of Officers
Thomas Minotti nominated Kathy Yolish as moderator for election of officers; seconded by Faith Hack and passed unanimously.
Thomas Minotti moved to conduct election of officers by voice vote; seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.

Thomas Minotti nominated Mark Holden as Chairman of the Board of Education to serve until November 2015; seconded by Faith Hack. Moderator asked for further nominations and closed nominations. Secretary cast one unanimous ballot for Mark Holden.

Kate Kutash nominated Thomas Minotti as Vice Chairman; seconded by Faith Hack. Moderator asked for further nominations. Mark Holden moved to close nominations and cast one unanimous ballot for Thomas Minotti.

Thomas Minotti nominated Arlene Liscinsky as Secretary; seconded by Kate Kutash. Moderator asked for further nominations and closed nominations. Thomas Minotti cast one unanimous ballot for Arlene Liscinsky.

Approval of Minutes
Faith Hack moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 22, 2014; seconded by Kathy Yolish and passed unanimously.

Presentations/Recognitions
Freeman Burr congratulated the board for receiving the Board Leadership Award from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education for the fifth consecutive year. Mr. Burr said the award recognizes the collective board for maintaining high standards, maintaining dedication; and demonstrating teamwork. He challenged the board to meet the standards of required criteria for a Level Two distinction in 2015. He expressed appreciation for the board’s efforts in supporting the administration’s goals to increase and sustain student achievement.

Communications to the Board
Superintendent Burr stated a note was received from the Piccolo family in acknowledgement of a gift basket sent upon the passing of former educator and administrator Tony Piccolo.

Superintendent’s Commentary
Mr. Burr discussed the annual CAPSS Superintendent Student Awards Dinner to be held on December 8 at Villa Bianca, at which two high school and two intermediate school students and families from Shelton and surrounding districts will be recognized.

Superintendent Burr informed the board that the 2014-15 District Consolidated Application for Title I, II, and IIIA has been submitted. He said under the leadership of Tina Henckel, the budget has been revised based on principal requests, submitted to the State and approved.
He discussed the CSDE proposed District Profile and Performance Report, which is a newly merged report of the previous Strategic School Profile and the School and District Performance Reports. The Office of Instruction is preparing feedback, which will be reported to the board prior to submission to the CAPSS Assessment and Accountability Committee.

Mr. Burr reviewed topics discussed at his bi-monthly meeting held last evening with PTO/PTA and community representatives including status of school security upgrades; enterovirus and other communicable diseases and the board's process for sending out information; special education updates; budget process.

Superintendent Burr reviewed the budget calendar and noted that most of the budget workshops will be held in January. He said based on the District Management Council Conference in Boston, we will be applying academic return on investment and looking at the true cost of effectiveness, the lessons learned, to this year's budget process. Our team identified a long range plan under the framework established by the District Management Council to evaluate the efficacy of our full day kindergarten implementation over the next three years.

Mr. Burr discussed plans to reinstate a Teacher of the Year program. The committee will convene to review sample programs from other Fairfield County districts and devise a plan for Shelton.

Freeman Burr discussed his recommendation to appoint Kristen Santilli as Principal of Long Hill School, explaining the numerous contributions and impact Kristen has made since assuming the leadership position at LHS.

**Items Presented for a Vote**

Win Oppel moved to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to appoint Kristen Santilli as Principal of Long Hill School, effective November 20, 2014; seconded by Kathy Yolish and passed unanimously.

Mrs. Santilli expressed appreciation to Mr. Burr, Mrs. Rossner, Chairman Holden and the board members, as well as her staff members, PTA parents, and colleagues in attendance for their support. She said her staff is a stellar group of individuals and professionals and is thrilled to work with them every day. She looks forward to working with the staff at LHS, collaborating with parents, families and students in order to make great achievements in the future.

Chairman Holden called for a recess at 7:34 p.m. Meeting reconvened at 7:46 p.m.
Kate Kutash moved to approve the following requests to conduct fundraisers during the 2014-2015 school year; seconded by Thomas Minotti. Motion passed with a vote 7-0 (Kathy Yolish had stepped out of room):
- Shelton High School PTSO
- Shelton High School Boys’ Lacrosse Club
- Shelton High School (Scotland, England and France trip)

Comments by the Board Chair
Chairman Holden discussed the Superintendent’s challenge to the board to pursue the CABE Level II award, noting the board’s accomplishments through teamwork. He stated the future will bring challenges, and the best approach will be continued work as a team with emphasis on doing what is best for the students. Mr. Holden is happy to continue to serve as Chairman, appreciates the confidence shown, and will do his best to support the Shelton Board of Education.

Board members were encouraged to attend and spread the word about the Robotics Competition this Saturday at SHS. Mr. Holden said Robotics is a fantastic STEM program that has incredible parent/mentor/community/business support and is one of the ways to show what we do.

Reports of Standing Committees
**Teaching and Learning** – Thomas Minotti reported on the topics covered at the meeting of November 11 including reports on Naviance by Kathy Riddle; Professional Learning by Tina Henckel; Teacher Evaluation by Lorraine Rossner; and an update by Freeman Burr. Minutes are posted. Mr. Minotti reminded board members that Tina Henckel will present additional SMI information at a BOE Special Meeting on November 20. The next committee meeting will be December 9 at 4 PM.

**Policy** – Kathy Yolish reviewed the meeting of November 11 noting that Technology Acceptable Use Policy revision was brought forward to sit for review until the December BOE Regular Meeting. Minutes are posted. The next meeting of the committee will be December 9 at 5 PM and one of the topics will be Policy 1325, Political Campaigning, to review options and proposals to suggest a revision. Any submissions for changes/additions should be sent to Kathy Yolish or Lorraine Rossner for inclusion on agenda. It was noted that Bylaw #9132 has sat for review and will brought to a vote at next BOE Regular Meeting.

**Finance** – Arlene Liscinsky said Finance met last week and discussed a proposal from Solar City to install solar panels on several elementary schools. Mrs. Liscinsky said the Mayor has approved and the bid process has been initiated with a deadline of December 5. She reviewed the topics of the committee meeting held today including an update on various facilities projects and said the line item for special education continues to be monitored. She briefly covered the upcoming budget process.
Arlene Liscinsky moved to approve the Finance Department reorganization and job description as recommended by the Finance Committee; seconded by Win Oppel. Motion passed with a vote 7-0-1 (Jay Francino-Quinn abstained).

Reports of Special Committees

CES – Arlene Liscinsky discussed upcoming elections for CES; ribbon cutting for adult program; approved audit with no issues; SFCSA Legislative Breakfast at CES on 12/5; Silent Auction at 6:30 PM and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat student presentation at 7:30 PM on December 4 to benefit CES Foundation.

CABE – Kate Kutash said four board members and Freeman Burr attended numerous workshops at the CABE Convention in Mystic. The NSBA convention in Nashville will be held in March.

For Your Information

Chairman Holden referenced the attachments in the packet including Vacancy Report, Staff and Stipend Actions, and Enrollment Report. He mentioned the resignation of Steven Swensen, SHS Housemaster, to take a position in another district.

Highlights

Kathy Yolish, Faith Hack, Freeman Burr and Mark Holden made various comments about school events including PD workshops; Veterans Day programs; Literacy Night at Elizabeth Shelton; PHS PTO Meeting; Sunnyside’s bus safety event. Mrs. Yolish commended Vicky White for collaborating with Written Words to hold a program at SHS auditorium with Jeff Kinney, author of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, which was attended by over 1,000 Shelton Public School students gr. 3-5. Mr. Burr commented that 25 parents attended Special Ed's first parent night at SHS. He noted the third ad hoc meeting with the parent group held this evening yielded very positive feedback. Mr. Burr attended CABE’s Legislative Assembly and encouraged board attendance in the future to experience the number of items brought to a vote that change legislation. Mark Holden said the SPSS programs held on Veterans Day help ensure that veterans know their service is honored and explains the importance of Veterans Day to the students. He noted there will be a make-up date for Mohegan’s astronomy night, due to heavy cloud coverage. Mr. Holden commended Vicky White for her active participation in the School Readiness Council meetings.

Adjournment

Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Diane Luther

*Diane Luther*  
*Secretary to Board of Education*  
*November 26, 2014*