Chairman Mark Holden called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call:
Mark Holden, Chairman
José Goncalves (absent)
Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman
Amanda Kilmartin
Kate Kutash, Secretary
Darlisa Ritter
Anne Gaydos
Kathleen Yolish
David Gioiello (joined via phone @ 8:00 p.m.)

Final Quorum at 8:00 p.m. – 8 present; 1 absent

Board of Education Administration present: Christopher Clouet, Superintendent of Schools; Lorraine Rossner, Assistant Superintendent; Rick Belden, Finance Director; Carole Pannozzo, Human Resources Director

Also Present: Kenneth Saranich, Superintendent’s Recommended Candidate

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda
Thomas Minotti moved to add a motion to the agenda under Board Action Item VIII.E, to ratify the Shelton Educational Secretaries Collective Bargaining Agreement; motion seconded by Anne Gaydos and passed unanimously.

Thomas Minotti moved to approve the agenda as amended; motion seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously

Presentations and Recognitions
CABE Student Leadership Awards – Superintendent Clouet said each year the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education asks districts to identify students who are exemplary in their leadership skills and meet the list of criteria. Shelton Intermediate School students Anthony Pisacreta and Julia Wilkinson were recognized for receiving CABE’s Student Leadership Award and were presented with letters and certificates from CABE. Principal Ken Saranich said both Angelo and Julia are model students for SIS. He said Angelo has been Student Council President this year and has done an amazing job of bringing the whole student community together. Julia was highlighted in Shelton Life for not only being a model student at SIS and in the community, for her work with Girl Scouts, and being instrumental in doing a transformation to empower girls with restroom renovations.

Unified Sports Michael's Cup Overall High School Winner for 2018 – Dr. Clouet stated the Shelton High School Unified Sports team was the best in the state of Connecticut for 2018. Athletic Director John Niski said the statewide unified sports program includes special education students and regular education students competing together on the same teams at athletic events throughout the state in basketball, track and cheer. The Shelton program is in its 12th year of participation and has grown significantly. He attributed much of the success and growth of the program to coaches Mike Gambardella and Karen Devonshuk. Three team students (Kelly Stanley, Sarah Falsetti and Taylor
Whalley) were introduced and displayed the banner awarded at the banquet, which will be hung in the gymnasium in perpetuity. The Michael's Cup is on display in the SHS lobby for a year. Mr. Niski thanked the board for their commitment in funding the program, as well as the athletes, coaches and partners (Connecticut Special Olympics and CIAC) that make the program successful.

**Whitsons Foods Overview of Nutrition Services Program** – Rick Belden commented he has had some positive meetings with Whitsons staff and said they provide a good quality product and great value for our students. John Gersbeck, Sr. Vice President of New England Region, introduced Jen Syrowsky, Food Service Director, and Rick Emery, District Manager, and gave an overview of Whitsons’ services focused on rooted philosophy, accomplishments, statistics, participation in comparison to midyear, and some of the marketing and specials they do throughout the year.

**Innovative Educator Award** – In the tradition of recognizing an innovative educator each month, Superintendent Clouet talked about the many great educators in the district and the difficulty in choosing a singular person. He said innovation is defined in different ways, not necessarily someone who can code computer language, nor someone who does multi-media work, nor necessarily someone associated with our SIS School of Innovation. Gary Macek, Sunnyside Physical Education teacher, runs classes that are spectacular. His classes lift the students. Dr. Clouet said he has seen him work with special needs students, has seen kids throwing balls at giant bugs on a screen, and he has witnessed his rapport with kids. Mr. Macek gave a presentation of his fitness videos and various creative activities to motivate students to be physically fit and have fun. Some activities mentioned included an eight week before-school jogging program to run 25.2 miles with an additional mile at Cheshire High School with 10 other schools; Jump Rope for Heart; incorporating math games with bowling; Activity Bursts in the Classroom with GoNoodle website; keyboarding with activity bursts; Mindfulness with yoga, relaxation, deep breathing; Adaptive PE; working one on one with special needs students in the classroom. John Niski congratulated Mr. Macek and said he is clearly not the traditional vision of a PE teacher, and the work he does translates directly to Sunnyside’s physical fitness test scores, which are among the highest in the district year after year.

**Public Hearing**
Deb Keller, 311 Pheasant Glen, SEA President, commended Lorraine Rossner for always putting the children first and being a strong advocate for teachers who is always willing to listen. She wished her a long and healthy retirement.

**Approval of Minutes**
Kate Kutash moved to approve the minutes of Special Meeting April 23, 2019; Special Meeting April 24, 2019; Regular Meeting April 24, 2019; and Special Meeting April 30, 2019; motion seconded by Mandy Kilmartin and passed unanimously.

**Communications to the Board**
There were none.

**Superintendent’s Reports & Action Items**
Dr. Clouet said SBAC testing is underway, going well and is being monitored by Central Office leadership. Rick Belden was asked to give an update on the current budget. He reported through the hard work of staff and administration in terms of a freeze and bringing the books up to date by looking at grants and things that needed to be posted, the potential deficit of $.5 million identified earlier this year has been reduced to a $200 surplus this year. Mr. Belden said Munis, our accounting software company, will be doing an assessment for us to address some of the concerns raised by the auditors in the recent audit report in terms of how to improve our practices. In response to a question raised by Mrs. Yolish, Mr. Belden clarified the anticipated receipt of Excess Cost money is reflected in the $200 surplus calculation.
Superintendent Clouet stated the redistricting letters going to K-4 families whose children will be moving to new schools next year as part of our year-long study will be sent this week.

Dr. Clouet said we are getting ready to transition to the City of Shelton running our transportation system as of July 1. He said Rick Belden has been working with Durham Transportation and staff at the City to make sure they are prepared and ready for the extended school year Summer Learning Program, which is a federally mandated program for special needs students requiring transportation. Mr. Belden said he is preparing a package for the City to show what we are updating in Versatrans regarding new students and boundary changes so the City can start assigning buses and drivers to have the runs ready for July 8.

(Note: David Gioiello joined the meeting via phone at 8:00 p.m.)

Approved Field Trips
There were none.

Donor Projects
A listing of current donor projects by school was included in packet for information.

Items Presented for Vote
Thomas Minotti moved to approve hiring Superintendent’s recommended candidate Kenneth Saranich as Assistant Superintendent of Schools; motion seconded by Mandy Kilmartin. Discussion. Superintendent Clouet was asked to explain the role of Assistant Superintendent. Motion passed with a vote of 6-2 (Nay – Kathy Yolish and Darlisa Ritter).

Ken Saranich said he is very honored to accept this appointment, is excited and looks forward to working with Dr. Clouet in moving our school district forward into the future. Mr. Saranich said Shelton is his community, where he lives and has raised his children. He said he is looking forward to continuing his relationship with colleagues and working with board members. He thanked Lorraine Rossner for her leadership and mentorship and looks forward to their transition period.

Kathy Yolish requested her statement be included in the minutes:


Presently we do not know our set budget. We need $2.17 million according to the Board Chairman as quoted in the Herald.

Although I am aware that the Assistant Superintendent of Schools position was included in our budget, and is a necessary position, so are many of the other positions that might have to be eliminated if we do not get the budget that was submitted.

With this in mind, I will be voting no for the position being voted on. I strongly feel that this expenditure is not the right time to approve the appointment. I want to be assured of the exact amount of monies our board will be allocated before I vote.

I would further state that if this position took place following our final budget appropriation, then I would definitely support my fellow board members. I have every confidence in the leadership abilities and excellent credentials of the candidate proposed but we, as board members, must be fiscally responsible and can be held personally liable. It is our duty to be
certain we have the appropriate funding without having to “cut the meat and bone from our structure” as stated by our BOE chairman in the April 18th issue of the Herald and also appearing on line and in the CT Post.

We cannot afford to have larger class sizes and reductions in personnel and services and if there must be cuts, everyone must take a share in doing more with less.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts about this vote. I do not want cuts, I do not want to see our system struggle and I do not want to see dollars spent if they are not going to be there.

Kathy Yolish

Darlisa Ritter stated she agrees with everything Kathy has said. It’s not against the person or the position, but I cannot condone the second largest individual expenditure for our school system at this time. It doesn’t make sense. We don’t know how much we’re going to have; and, as Mark Holden published on Facebook, we are in a lawsuit for this kind of money. And, I’m concerned about that because we are personally liable, so that’s why I voted no.

Thomas Minotti moved to approve continuing participation in Connecticut’s Healthy Food Certification for the school year 2019-2020, subject to the exceptions and exclusions in the agreement:

- **Healthy Food Certification**: Pursuant to Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Shelton Board of Education will continue participation in the Healthy Food Certification program and certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under our jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups.

- **Food Exemptions**: The Shelton Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held, and must be the same place as the food sales.

The motion as read was seconded by Kate Kutash and passed unanimously.
Kate Kutash moved to approve the 2019-2020 amendment to the Whitsons food services management contract, as recommended by the Director of Finance; motion seconded by Kathy Yolish and passed unanimously.

Thomas Minotti moved to accept on behalf of Booth Hill School a donation of $7,250 from Booth Hill Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization to reimburse BHS faculty for upcoming expenses related to classroom needs and supplies for the 2019-2020 school year; motion seconded by Anne Gaydos and passed unanimously.

Kate Kutash moved to ratify the Shelton Educational Secretaries, AFSCME, Local 1303-059 Collective Bargaining Agreement, 7/01/18 – 6/30/21; motion seconded by Kathy Yolish. Discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Comments by the Board Chair
Chairman Holden noted the Gaelhawks won their division at the World Championships and went on to the Einstein Field for the first time ever and placed third. He stated the Unified sports award is a big deal and it’s terrific to see the kids play. Budget interview with the aldermen is tomorrow evening. He mentioned the retirement dinner for Lorraine Rossner and said he will be sorry to see her leave but happy with a terrific replacement.

Reports of Standing Committees
Teaching & Learning – Anne Gaydos said the May meeting was canceled due to lack of quorum. The next meeting will be on June 4 at 4:00 at the Sunnyside Library Learning Commons.

Finance Committee – Anne Gaydos said the committee met on May 15. Finance Director Rick Belden gave reports on revenue and expenditure. John Calhoun provided a Facilities report. John met with the architects regarding leaking roof at Sunnyside. Elizabeth Shelton window project is moving along and on schedule. SHS gymnasium has new LED lighting. A meeting was held with Dr. Clouet, Rick Belden, John Calhoun, Ben Trabka and Gary DeFilippo regarding graduation ceremony, and appropriate chairs will be available for use on the field. The next committee meeting will be June 19 at 5:00 p.m.

Policy Committee – Kate Kutash said the committee did not meet in May due to lack of quorum. The next meeting will be June 4, following Teaching and Learning, at Sunnyside School. Agenda items to be moved forward are discussion of age for kindergarten enrollment; building use fees; and preliminary discussion of mileage reimbursement protocols.

Public Relations & Outreach Committee – Mandy Kilmartin stated the committee did not meet and date will be announced for next meeting based on agenda items.

Superintendent Evaluation Revision Ad Hoc Committee – Kate Kutash said the committee met on April 30 and completed the project. She discussed a handout provided to board members for review and possible motion to approve in June. Consensus was that the committee worked well together and members were commended.

Reports of Special Committees
CES – Thomas Minotti did not give a report and said the next meeting will be June 6 at 3:00 p.m.

Unfinished Business
There was no discussion.

New Business
There was no discussion.
For Your Information
Chairman Holden noted the attachments in the packet including Vacancy Report, Staff and Stipend Actions, Enrollment Report.

Highlights
Kathy Yolish congratulated PHS fifth grade student Alexandra Calandro for being top chef at the VITAHLS Healthy Cooking Competition. Mrs. Yolish also commented on Long Hill School’s Family Night turnout of over 70 families and staff appreciation week event at Mohegan. Kate Kutash said the SIS Spring Concert was phenomenal with the students nailing Bohemian Rhapsody. Mrs. Kutash asked Gavi Ziu-Pires for an update on the Invention Convention finalists. Gavi said 6 of 13 students were finalists at the state level and were recommended to move on to the final competition. Two of those finalists will travel to compete in Michigan on May 29. Mrs. Kutash read the names of staff retirees and thanked them for their years of service: Nancy Burns, BHS; Kathleen Greene, ESS; Carolyn Ivanoff, SHS; Karen Keyes, BHS; Elizabeth Kremmel, SIS; Roberta Lengyl, PHS, Douglas Macary, SHS; Nancy Meehan, BHS; Linda Peters, SHS; Debra Petrushonis, SIS; Lorraine Rossner, Central Office; Joan Stein, PHS; Claire Troesser, SS. Mandy Kilmartin commented on the Unified Sports team; Board of Aldermen meeting that was packed with community members, including some students, who spoke on behalf of education funding; importance of Assistant Superintendent position as part of a strong leadership team needed to move this district forward. Kathy Yolish said the high school students who spoke at the BOA meeting were very well spoken, very polite, and showed a lot of class in trying to make their point.

(Note: Tape 1; Side B at 8:30 p.m.)

Adjournment
Chairman Holden adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Diane Luther
Secretary to Board of Education
May 30, 2019