

**SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MARCH 22, 2012**

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The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, March 22, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers, Southington Town Hall, 75 Main Street, Southington, Connecticut.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

An Executive Session meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson, Mr. Brian Goralski. Board members present were Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mr. Zaya Oshana and Mrs. Patricia Queen. Absent was Mrs. Patricia Johnson.

Present from the administration were Dr. Joseph Erardi, Superintendent of Schools and Mrs. Karen Smith, Assistant Superintendent.

**2. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF AVAILABLE PROPERTY, AFSCME UPDATE AND SEA CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Derynoski, seconded by Mrs. Notar-Francesco:

**“Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing available property, AFSCME Update and SEA Contract Negotiations, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Derynoski, seconded by Mrs. Clark:

**“Move to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene into public session.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

*Executive Session ended at 7:24 p.m.*

**3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION**

The Regular Session was reconvened at 7:35 p.m. by Chairperson, Mr. Brian Goralski. Board members present were Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski,

Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mr. Zaya Oshana and Mrs. Patricia Queen. Absent was Mrs. Patricia Johnson.

Present from the administration were Dr. Joseph Erardi, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Karen Smith, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Frederick Cox, Director of Operations; Dr. Perri Murdica, Senior Coordinator of Pupil Personnel Services.

Student representatives present were Whitney DiMeo and Leon Peschel.

There were approximately 50 people in the audience.

#### 4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The student representatives led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Goralski called for a moment of silence in memory of Len Zapatka, a former teacher at Plantsville Elementary School from 1965 through 1986 who passed away on March 14, 2012.

#### 5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ March 8, 2012**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Notar-Francesco, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

**“Move to approve the minutes of March 8, 2012.”**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Queen, Mr. Goralski. ABSTAIN – Mr. Oshana. **Motion carried with seven in favor and one abstention.**

#### 6. **COMMUNICATIONS**

##### a. **Communications from Audience**

**Mary Marcuccio, Parents 4 A Change (P4AC).** Mrs. Marcuccio distributed a handout to the Board members (*Attachment #1*). She is the founder of Parents 4 A Change based in Southington for teen opiate addiction. They just celebrated their fifth anniversary. It saddens her that there has to be a support group for teen opiate addiction. She explained that she is contacted weekly by new parents in crisis and very desperate to find a way to help their child. A large portion of her day, outside of her real job, is taking telephone calls and emails from parents in crisis; she sets up meetings and interventions. To date, she has been contacted by 512 families nationally; she maintains communication and offers support to over 200 families nationally, plus 35 families whose children have died. Her average e-mail notice goes out to 800 people nationally, which includes families as well as a variety of local, state, and federal authorities, substance abuse professionals and youth in recovery. Her monthly meetings, held in town, are attended by 40 to 80 people who come from Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York. There are a number of young people in recovery and some were in attendance at the Board meeting. Mrs. Marcuccio felt that what made Parents 4 A Change unique was that they were at ground level. She designed her group to be hands-on with real life answers in real time. They have personal experience with opiate addiction and they share that experience with new families

regularly. Mrs. Marcuccio is very proud that this is done at no cost to any participant. The group works entirely on donations. She believes that awareness of the issue, as well as education of parents, is the key to making a difference in this fight. It dismays her that some people succumb to a notion that there is some way to ensure their child's good choices. She was sorry to say that there was no amount of family dinners, or no magic numbers of participation in different events that would assure that their child was not going to try drugs when it was offered. She explained that the parents in her group have done everything that they needed to do as parents and raised their children right. She pointed out that any "good" kid could make a bad decision. She wished that she had been educated as to what to watch for and the signs and markers that her child was using drugs. She did not know that middle school children were having "pharm" (pharmaceutical) parties and they were getting hooked on pills. She did not know that heroin was the most accessible and cheapest drug that her high school child had access to in Southington. She knew how to be a good parent, but what she did not know was how to prepare for her good, smart, very capable child making a very bad decision and that is where Parents 4 A Change originated. Mrs. Marcuccio provided two pamphlets to the Board on Teen Opiate Abuse and asked the Board to share one pamphlet with their immediate family and to share the second pamphlet with a friend, colleague, or associate. She asked the Board to review the P4AC website at [www.parents4achange.net](http://www.parents4achange.net). She noted that all her work is confidential and that she was available to anyone who needs help.

#### **b. Communications from Board Members and Administration**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mrs. Notar-Francesco:

**"Move Agenda Item 8.d (Southington High School Exchange Program) to Agenda Item 6.d and Agenda Item 8.e (Turf Presentation by Turf Advisory Committee) to Agenda Item 6.e."**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

#### **Communication from the Board Members:**

Mrs. Notar-Francesco reported that CREC held a meeting on Wednesday, March 21, in which they discussed a modified Governor's Senate Bill #24 that would be put to vote at the level of the Education Committee on Monday. She noted that everyone on the committee was tight-lipped about what the modifications would be. Mrs. Notar-Francesco also noted that Patrice McCarthy from CAFE expressed appreciation to all the Board members who had participated in the "Day on the Hill." Mrs. Notar-Francesco noted that Mrs. Queen was the Board member who represented the Southington Board of Education at the Capitol during CAFE's Day on the Hill.

Mrs. Lombardi stated that recently it was released that there was a revision to the increase of what Southington would be receiving in state monies. She asked if that was a 'done deal' or were they still awaiting more information. Dr. Erardi replied that the Governor's proposal was not a 'done deal' and was still in legislation; it addressed an increase of the Education Cost Sharing Grant of \$372,000. It is static and still in place, but not done. He added that he just shared that information with the Board of Finance tonight. Mrs. Lombardi noted that there was a

revision from the original information. Dr. Erardi responded that, to the best of his knowledge, it did not affect Southington.

Mrs. Queen reported that she attended the CABA Day on the Hill and she would e-mail the information from the event to the Board. She noted that she had a preview of the Young Author winners for the middle schools and read some of their stories. She pointed out that the new April 23 date for Young Authors was also the date for the Town Council Public Hearing. Dr. Erardi replied that administration realized that after the first round of dates had been sent out. He would get a new date to the Board members.

Mr. Goralski announced that the town wide Spelling Bee would be held at Thalberg Elementary School on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The Southington Education Foundation's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Adult Spelling Bee will be held on April 19 at 7:00 p.m. at the high school. He noted that the Board's team was comprised of himself, Mrs. Queen and Mrs. Lombardi. Mr. Goralski reminded the Board that the CABA paperless training for Board members would be held on May 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 p.m. Mr. Goralski announced that the Medication Return Program sponsored by the Southington Water Department will be held on April 28<sup>th</sup>. He noted that it was a great way to get expired or unused pharmaceuticals away from children's access.

Mrs. Queen congratulated two students, Emily Maciejewski and Laura Koba, who won three prizes at the State Science Fair at Quinnipiac University. She explained that there were hundreds of students who participate at the middle school and high school level and that it was very hard to get first place prizes. She stated that Emily and Laura won First Place in Physical Science for a middle school team, First Place in Applied Technology for a middle school team, and an award for Excellence in Engineering.

### **Communication from Administration:**

Dr. Erardi acknowledged that the Board would recognize the middle school Science Fair winners during the Celebration of Excellence in April. He commented that he tries to attend Mary Marcuccio's monthly meetings and attended the meeting on Monday. He noted that the audience of 75 parents shared their stories. The common denominator was that the parents were frozen with fright and they called Parents 4 A Change and found a way to cope and remediate the issue that led them to that meeting. He thought that it was a wonderful service in Southington and in Connecticut that outreached to New York and Massachusetts. He believed that this service was undervalued and gave a personal thank you to Mary Marcuccio and her organization. He acknowledged that they save lives.

Dr. Erardi distributed a packet for his Administration Report to the Board (*Attachment #2*).

1. Paperless Update: CABA Training: Dr. Erardi noted that on May 10 they will not have a full Board and wanted to reassure the Board that he received a commitment from Lisa Stierner and CABA that all Board members would be brought up to speed for the paperless initiative.
2. Substance Abuse Action Council – CMHA: Dr. Erardi reported that this was a celebration of Mr. Jeff Duquette and Mr. Steve Nyerick who received commendation from the Substance Abuse Action Council last week as

Community Intervention Award winners. He was pleased to attend as part of their celebration.

3. Michael's Cup Recognition: Dr. Erardi noted that the Board worked hard to make sure there were means to support Unified Sports program. The Unified Sports program at the high school will be celebrated as one of the exemplars in the state of Connecticut at the Michael's Cup Recognition at the Aqua Turf. Southington is one of the top 10 programs with involvement and commitment for Unified Sports at a high school level. He was proud of the program and those people who made that happen.
4. Harvard Institute: Dr. Erardi reported that in April he would be attending the Harvard Institute with a cohort of approximately 12 superintendents.
5. Celebration of Cultures: Dr. Erardi reminded the Board this event will be held on Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. at Southington High School.

Mr. Goralski asked Dr. Erardi to share the Michael's Cup Recognition with UNICO because they have been a strong sponsor of Unified Sports.

**c. Communication from Student Representatives:**

Miss DiMeo noted that, when she saw the Spanish exchange on the agenda, she was excited to see the program prosper and expanded into other languages. She reported that during April vacation this year some Latin students would be traveling to Rome, Italy and Greece, which is the first time that this is being done. She also reported that the Talent Show at Southington High School will be on March 29 at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Peschel reported the following:

- Senior Class President Ryan Fischer won the Mr. Southington Pageant. Mr. Peschel noted there were comedy acts, singing and dancing.
- The Robotics Team had success this past weekend. On Saturday, they were competing and there was a malfunction in the field and the robot did not function properly resulting in the team's placement of 54 out of 66. After fixing the problem on Sunday morning of the competition, the team finished in second place. They set a record for the greatest comeback in the regional's history. They will be competing next weekend at the Hartford Regional. They also won an Industrial Design Award that is given by General Motors.
- The Drama Club production of Guys and Dolls will be on Friday at 7:00 p.m., Saturday at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. He encouraged the Board members to attend.
- On April 3, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., the National Honor Society inductions will be held. Inducted juniors and seniors not only need a 98% overall GPA, they also have to show commitment to the school and local communities through service hours.

**d. Southington High School Exchange Program ~ 2012-2013 (formerly Agenda Item 8.d)**

Mrs. Smith announced that they are planning two foreign exchange trips in April 2013. The proposal is that one trip would go to France and the other trip would go to Spain. Prior to the Board meeting, the Personnel and Policy Committee met and had consensus and agreement that this plan should go forward. She asked Dave Smith, a World Language teacher at Southington High School, to answer questions and explain this proposal in more detail. Mr. Smith stated that they were asking to go to Spain and France next year, and he entertained questions from the Board.

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Lombardi, seconded by Mrs. Notar-Francesco:

**“Move that the Board of Education approves the attached Southington High School Exchange Programs as recommended for April 11-22, 2013 to Muret, France and Madrid, Spain.”**

Mr. Derynoski asked that the motion also reflect their normal wording regarding international events and warnings from the State Department of Homeland Security. Mrs. Smith acknowledged that it should be at no liability for the Board of Education and, should the trip need to be cancelled, the staff members associated with the trip would return to work.

**AMENDED MOTION:** by Mrs. Lombardi, seconded by Mrs. Notar-Francesco:

**“Move that the Board of Education approves the attached Southington High School Exchange Programs as recommended for April 11-22, 2013 to Muret, France and Madrid, Spain and that the Board has the right to withdraw approval up to the day of the trip with no cost incurred by the Southington Board of Education.”**

Mrs. Carmody noted the thorough job in completing the application and explaining the trip. Mr. Smith stated that they hope to repeat the success of the trip to Spain.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked if the students would be asked to buy trip insurance. Mr. Smith replied that it was optional and up to the parents. Mrs. Notar-Francesco suggested that it be highly recommended.

Mr. Goralski noted that the trip was the opposite from the exchange trip that took place this year. They would be visiting abroad first and then hosting the students here. He asked if there was any concern that there were more students that came versus students that went. He noted that was an issue in Southington’s case. Mr. Goralski added that, if more students come here, there are families in our community who will welcome the students and he encouraged that.

Mr. Derynoski strongly recommended that they get trip insurance especially after his experience in France the year when the volcano erupted in Europe resulting in cancelled air flights. He thought that the trip would be a great experience for the students. He had traveled from Toulouse to Paris by train and noted that it was a long trip for the students to depart Toulouse on a Friday and visit The Louvre and Eiffel Tower on Saturday. He thought that was aggressive. He asked if the itinerary was set on what was expected to happen during the course of the day. Mr. Smith replied that the present schedule was a rough draft and that nothing has been finalized.

Mrs. Queen asked if the Spain trip would be with the same school as this year and if they were creating a sister relationship. She noted that this would be the first exchange with France. Mr. Smith replied that was correct. Mrs. Queen felt that these trips were great and that she supported them. She asked if the VoiceThread software was associated with the new language lab. Mr. Smith replied that they could do it with the language lab. They were hoping to do some mobile video too, so the students in France and Spain could record conversations with native speakers. Mrs. Queen thought that this trip would tie into the new language lab in a great way.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Queen, Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mr. Goralski. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**e. Turf Presentation by Turf Advisory Committee – Dr. Al Natelli** *(formerly Agenda Item 8.e.)*

Dr. Natelli presented a PowerPoint presentation in the absence of Mr. Mike DeFeo who chaired the Turf Advisory Committee and was out of state. Mr. Goralski noted that Mr. DeFeo has been in constant contact with committee members and answering questions from the Board of Education, even though he has been out of state. The presentation to the Board of Education was the Turf Field Committee's presentation and recommendation to the Southington Town Council on Monday, March 12, 2012.

Dr. Natelli, 145 Meriden Avenue, explained that he serves on the Town Council and is also a member of the Turf Committee. He pointed out that the committee was comprised of members from the Town Council (Dawn Miceli, John Barry and himself), Board of Education (Brian Goralski and David Derynoski), Planning and Zoning (Jim Macchio), and Board of Finance (Joe Labieniec), along with Mr. Eric Swallow (Athletic Director) and Mr. John Fontana (Parks Department) who collaboratively worked hard to come up with the best solution for Southington regarding a turf field. They were charged by the Town Council to gather information regarding a synthetic turf field in the town of Southington. The committee was instructed to do its due diligence in finding all the facts about turf versus grass and then make a recommendation back to the Town Council in March 2012. Dr. Natelli stated that charge occurred and the recommendation to the Town Council was to continue to explore a turf field. In doing so, there are two parts to that. The first part was to obtain estimates of what a field would cost. The second part was to come before the Board of Education to ask them to partner with the town in this endeavor. He was at the meeting tonight to present the facts and ask the Board to partner with them in two ways: 1) by supporting the turf field and 2) to support an Advisory Committee that will help to oversee the functions of the turf field.

Dr. Natelli spoke to the PowerPoint presentation (*Attachment #3*) and addressed the current condition of the Southington High School Football Field, the yearly maintenance cost of the current football field, the current condition of the high school track, why a turf field, synthetic turf versus natural grass, cost per use by participant hour, the benefits of a turf field, the source of the information that they gathered, a turf field cost analysis and installation, a turf field warranty and replacement, a safety study, environmental effects, who would use the field, scheduling of the field, and potential generated revenue.

Dr. Natelli pointed out that the current high school football field has to be maintained and serviced on a weekly basis with restricted use of the field due to wear and tear, which decreases

field use and may cause safety concerns. There is flooding of the field and the drainage is poor, which limits usage. He noted that the yearly cost to maintain the current grass field was approximately \$43,000, which includes labor/layout, paint material, irrigation, water, lawn mowing, fertilization, seed and sod.

Dr. Natelli addressed the current condition of the high school track and noted that it was 12 years old with drainage issues, thinned surface coating, and patching on lanes that is failing. The conditions suggest the wear is reaching a critical point and the need for resurfacing is imminent.

Dr. Natelli noted that one of the reasons for a turf field is that it could be used multiple times. He stated that the grass field at the high school is used approximately 50 times a year. He explained that an event would include football practice, band practice, a football game, Music of the Knight, graduation, Relay for Life, etc. When totaling all events, there were just under 50 events a year. A turf field would allow 200 to 300 events a year, which is significantly more than a grass field. Dr. Natelli stated that the town has a Blue Ribbon Parks Committee looking at field space in the town. He stated that a turf field is not the solution for the entire town park space, but it becomes part of a solution, which is important.

Dr. Natelli addressed re-sodding and noted the cost would be in the range of \$450,000, which is an estimate from a landscaper in town. He pointed out that it would cost \$143 per use to use a grass field and about \$23 per use to use a synthetic field and reminded the Board about the 50 uses for a grass field versus 200-300 uses for a turf field. He noted that synthetic fields are widely used throughout the United States. In-fill synthetic turf fields are made of synthetic grass blades attached to a mesh backing and covered with either ground rubber particles or rubber and silica sand, which provides for cushioning, traction, playability, durability, superior drainage and will not freeze like natural grass. It requires very little maintenance, has very little down time, and is cost efficient.

Dr. Natelli stated that it was important to note that the turf field would be a community field and, when events are not taking place at the high school level, the community would be using this field. There is a need for more field space in town and this would be part of that solution. He noted that the turf field would allow our athletes to properly train and prepare for the playing surfaces they encounter at other competition venues because more and more communities are going to turf.

Dr. Natelli explained that the committee brought in three companies to give presentations regarding synthetic turf. It was not a bidding process; the committee looked at how the company made turf because there are several different ways and blends. The committee also took field trips to towns in Connecticut and other states.

Dr. Natelli stated the turf field cost analysis and installation would be approximately \$800,000-\$900,000 and could be done in 60-90 days, depending on the weather and workforce. Most companies offer an eight-year warranty and after 10 to 12 years it would need replacement; that cost in today's dollars is approximately \$300,000. Monies from the maintenance expenses for the current football field will pay for the replacement. He pointed out that \$43,000 per year to maintain the current football field multiplied by 10 years equaled \$430,000.



Dr. Natelli explained that the environmental effect is important in Southington; they are currently working with DEEP and DEP regarding phosphate levels in our sewer system and that has become an issue. They could save water, eliminate chemicals and fertilizers, and this would become a very green effort.

Dr. Natelli pointed out that the turf field will also be available for special events and Parks and Recreation Department activities besides sports. He felt that it would be an opportunity for the town to do something similar to Simsbury. They have a venue where they held an outdoor concert with the band Earth, Wind & Fire. He felt that would be something that the town could look into as well. The committee discussed with Eric Swallow and David LePreay (Director of Recreation) how they would work together and they created a mock schedule for the committee to see how the town and the high school fit together. In addition, Mr. Swallow has created a website ([southingtonsports.com](http://southingtonsports.com)) to monitor usage and schedule of events.

Dr. Natelli stated that the committee talked about revenue potential to offset the replacement costs down the road. There could be rental charges to outside groups and yearly fundraisers, such as college games and band competitions, among other things. The committee discussed possible fees that could be charged, such as \$1.00 per ticket for high school events, implementing a \$5.00 registration fee for youth league programs, or admission charges for big yearly fundraisers and town-wide events. He stated that, when the committee added up the potential revenue generating events over a 10-year period, the potential revenue could add up to a total of \$502,000. He stated that, if you add the \$502,000 to the \$430,000 previously mentioned, there would be over \$900,000 in savings and revenues.

Dr. Natelli summarized that the committee's recommendation to the Town Council was to move forward with turf and the Town Council is moving forward slowly. First, they want to know what the costs are through an estimate process before it goes out to bid; this is being done now. Second, they want the Board of Education's consideration to partner with the town on this by specifically recommending a seven-person advisory board to monitor field use, control costs, and help generate revenue.

Mr. Goralski stated that, following the Town Council's presentation on this, the Board members tried to do their homework before they began discussing the turf this evening. The bottom line is that the town is looking for a partnership to move this forward. Although the Board of Education oversees the school properties, they are town properties. He hoped that the Board of Education would consider an action to allow them to move forward with this process.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Derynoski, seconded by Mrs. Clark:

**“Move to approve the recommendation of the Turf Advisory Committee as it relates to the installation of synthetic grass on the Southington High School Fontana Field and the resurfacing of the track. This approval is also based upon the provisions that the project will be funded outside of the Operational Plan of the Southington Board of Education and that the field would benefit both the school and the community.”**

Mrs. Carmody thanked the Turf Committee for all of their hard work in putting together their presentation. She, personally, wanted to thank Mike DeFeo who took the time to come to her home to answer her many questions. She added that Mr. Fontana told her that geese do not

do their thing on turf fields. She was glad to hear in Mr. Derynoski's motion that it did not have the word "partnership" because that word bothers her and that the "partnership" would not in any way impact the Board of Education Operating Budget. If this was the case, she had no reason not to approve it.

Mrs. Carmody stated that she checked with other communities that had a turf field and found that they did not realize the revenue that was presented in the PowerPoint presentation tonight. As for colleges, they usually have their own turf fields to play on; therefore, she wanted to know why the committee expected them to come to Southington. Mr. Fontana replied that, while on the committee, he inquired around the country of 40 towns similar to Southington and asked them what they did. That was how the committee came up with the concept of the Advisory Committee. It was something that came out of the Southington turf committee; nobody else does it. Their hope is that the Advisory Board would go to the Board of Education and the Town Council when somebody comes up with a project or an idea for approval before they go forward. To answer Mrs. Carmody's question, they try to run a major event each year. For example, when New Canaan opened up they brought the United States Military Academy and Air Force in for a lacrosse game. They took care of the bill, they put all the tickets out in the community to the youth leagues, they sold the tickets, and they could not put the people in the place for the amount that were sold. The money was all going back and, after the bills were paid, thousands of dollars from that event were put back into the kitty to keep it going. They will come because of the public relations and the significance of wanting people to see what they have to offer so our kids will go to those schools. He noted that this is happening more and more. Mrs. Carmody imagined that Mr. Fontana had quite a few connections in the state with all the things that he was on and all the years that he has been around. She asked if he would assure her and the Board that perhaps he could be bringing in some revenue through his connections. Mr. Fontana replied that, as long as the Good Lord has him here, he would help them.

Mrs. Carmody had a concern about holding graduation on the turf field. She noted that Mr. DeFeo had answered her questions, but she has since found out information from other communities that have a turf field. She was told that they would have to rent chairs with U-shaped bottoms rather than the regular chairs that they currently use, and that girls could not wear high heels. She commented that she has received two different answers regarding this. Mr. Goralski replied that the committee did a great deal of research on that and Mr. DeFeo had responded to that. Mr. Goralski added that the Board will go by Mr. DeFeo's research and move forward with Mr. DeFeo's answer to that question, which is *"Graduation ceremonies will still occur on a multi-sport field. Graduation platforms can be purchased, but are often not necessary. The chairs that are rented either have a soft covering or a U-shaped bottom as recommended. The band platform typically needs to be put on plywood to further distribute the weight and handle the musical instruments and other necessary equipment. Our committee did learn that single-prong chairs are acceptable as long as there is a rubber covering on the bottom of the metal piece. The displacement that occurs from those stands does require a grooming of the field beyond the typical program that is scheduled based on hours. The use of high heels, although not encouraged, is no different than walking on mud. The high heels, although not worn on grass, will protrude through the grass; the turf is very durable and will hold up to any such shoe."* The three companies that came before the committee told them that the turf of the past is not the turf of the present, and the turf fields that were installed as recently as two years ago are not what they will potentially see installed this summer.

Mr. Goralski asked Mr. Cox for any other input he had in addition to Mr. DeFeo's. Mr. Cox replied that they have been renting the chairs for graduation since 2006 and they have the glide-type bottoms, which are the preferred ones. Dr. Natelli added that the science of synthetic fiber and the science of synthetic fields have improved dramatically since seven years ago and even five years ago. The issues that Mrs. Carmody brought up are good issues, but have been addressed through the science of fiber technology. Mrs. Carmody appreciated the answers that all the committee members have given her to all her questions.

Mrs. Lombardi noted that the Board had some questions regarding some of the words that have been used. It was her understanding that what they were here to do tonight was to support two things. The Town Council has asked them to "partner" and what "partner" means is to: 1) support the turf, and 2) to support the formation of an Advisory Committee. Dr. Natelli replied that those were the two things. Mrs. Lombardi commented that she supports those two things and thought that it was long overdue. As a new Board member, she has heard that this has been on the table for the past seven years. She asked why it has not been a part of any Capital Plan. Mr. Goralski replied that this was a philosophical question. He noted that Mr. Fontana has been working on it for seven years and, as long as Mr. Goralski has served on this Board of Education, he has had conversations with Mr. Fontana about it. Mr. Goralski noted that when Mr. Derynoski was Board Chair he wrote letters to the Town Council that the Board of Education would support the movement in that direction at that time. Dr. Natelli replied that he could not tell them what previous Town Councils did or did not do; he could only refer to what the Town Council he sits on is doing.

Mrs. Lombardi stated that it was new to her that the track was not in good condition. The field is not in good condition and they have been putting money into these fields. They have great infrastructure and formation of committees that she hoped things like this would come before a planning process more often for the good of the whole community. She cannot stress enough the notion of the community field. She thought that the message of a community field is a strong message that makes Southington as a town a lot stronger.

Mrs. Lombardi noted that in the recently combined Board of Education and Town Capital Plan this was not one of the top 10 items. Dr. Erardi replied that it was not part of the consideration or conversation between the Town Manager and himself. They had worked on the prioritized list from September through November and, by design, put that out in the parking lot because of the Advisory Committee work, which at that time was still ongoing. They felt that the integrity of the Advisory Committee needed to weigh-in with the Town Council and Board of Education, and it was not part of their discussion.

Mrs. Lombardi asked if they had past data on safety and thought it would be good for the Board to see. Mrs. Carmody replied that they have. Mr. Goralski replied that the Board has much safety information that they have accumulated over the past seven years, plus one of the PowerPoint slides references a specific website. He noted that they could try to get that all together. Mrs. Lombardi supported the turf field moving forward.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco questioned the labor costs. She asked if Dr. Erardi and Mr. Cox were in agreement with the figures presented on the PowerPoint slide for the cost savings. Dr. Erardi replied that Mr. DeFeo allowed him the executive privilege to look at the PowerPoint presentation prior to release to make sure the slide Mrs. Notar-Francesco was referring to was in

concert with the belief of all of the constituents involved. Mr. Swallow did the heavy lifting on that slide, but prior to a final release of the information, Mr. Cox, Mr. Beliveau, Mr. Lombardo along with Mr. DeFeo and Mr. Fontana all agreed to those numbers. Mr. Cox stated that they went through the numbers provided by the maintenance department as to what they do in an average season. It varies considerably depending on weather conditions and how many times it has to be re-done. They took into consideration the savings on laying out and painting the associated other sport fields that would be used when they are not having events on the lacrosse field or the soccer field and they are already pre-painted as part of the turf. They might do the field once a week rather than two or three times a week, depending on conditions. They had two meetings on this and everyone walked out very comfortable with that number. Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked if the \$25,000 for labor constitutes overtime. Mr. Cox replied, "No." Mrs. Notar-Francesco stated that they would not necessarily realize the \$25,000 savings because they are still employing the same number of maintenance people. Dr. Erardi replied that the Board would have a conversation on that. The administration would present to the Board the present level of work that is still pending and the decision the Board would make would be to reduce labor staffing by a half-time maintainer or to allow them to be more proactive and preventive.

Mrs. Carmody asked if the maintenance department would still have to do the lines, or would it be done once and it is forever. Dr. Erardi replied that was correct. Mr. Goralski replied that the lines for football, soccer, lacrosse and field hockey would be part of the original design.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco stated that she was very impressed with what the committee put together and it brought her opinion of the need for this full circle from where she was a couple of years ago. It seems to her that they are spending quite a bit of money and time to currently maintain a field that has very limited use and that still continues to be problematic.

Mrs. Clark noted that, when this proposal first came to the Board of Education, she stated publicly that she would favor a turf field as long as 1) the safety considerations were addressed, and 2) that the field could be installed and maintained in perpetuity without additional expense to the Board of Education budget. She thanked the committee who has put together all the facts and figures noting that it could be done without incurring an additional expense to the Board of Education's budget. As a parent of a football player who played in the mud bowl, the snow bowl and all types of weather conditions last year, she noted that the staff does an amazing job of maintaining that field. What hit her in the presentation was the cost of use for those games and how wonderful it would be if they could allow other town teams to use that field 364 days a year (skipping Christmas Day). The bottom line is that the high school should be the jewel of our educational system and the turf field would bring them that much closer. She thanked the committee for their work.

Mr. Derynoski stated that he supported the turf field seven years ago. He was glad that they did not move on it back then because technology is now far superior. He thought that it would be amazing if this does prevail and they end up with a turf field. He noted that to walk on a turf field is like walking on real grass, it is not a carpet.

Mr. Oshana noted that Dr. Natelli presented facts on other events that would take place, such as the colleges coming and playing lacrosse. He asked how other communities were doing attracting other events. Mr. Swallow replied that he has been in consult with many other athletic directors throughout the state and with Steve Trifone, Cheshire Athletic Director. Recently, they

held a town-wide concert. Cheshire's turf field is a community-based field. Mr. Oshana asked what other kind of events they have held. Mr. Swallow noted that colleges like to utilize facilities for recruiting purposes and they will come into an area where they can showcase their program. In the school district where he used to work, Fairfield University and SUNY-Purchase came to play a lacrosse game. Mr. Oshana questioned if other communities increased the costs for community events by adding registration fees to offset the costs. Mr. Swallow replied that the community that he lives in does that as well as other communities.

Mr. Oshana asked if the motion says to 1) support putting in turf, and 2) to support the Advisory Committee. Mr. Derynoski reread the motion: **"Move to approve the recommendation of the Turf Advisory Committee as it relates to the installation of synthetic grass on Southington High School Fontana Field and the resurfacing of the track. This approval is also based on the provision that the project be funded outside of the Operational Plan of the Southington Board of Education and that the field would benefit both the school and the community."**

Mr. Derynoski stated that the Advisory Committee would be something that would have to take place after the fact. He noted that the Board of Education could have an Advisory Committee of their own. Mr. Goralski stated that the committee had the opportunity to talk about the make-up of that Advisory Committee. He hoped that the Town Council would appoint a Board of Education member to it. He stated that ultimately those seven people should represent a diverse spectrum of the community and seek to oversee the managing of the field, the fundraising and the expenditure of revenue for that field. At the end of the day, he would expect them to come up with new ideas. He noted that the Advisory Committee would weigh back to the Board of Education with suggestions and recommendations moving forward.

Mr. Oshana asked where the \$800,000-\$900,000 would come from. Dr. Natelli replied, if they look at the \$43,000 year-end savings on the maintenance side of the grass field and added that \$430,000 to the potential revenue of \$502,000 that could be generated, they would get \$900,000. He emphasized that those are estimates and not exact numbers. If they look at the dollar fee increase for ticketed high school events, that is a real number. If they look at the increased \$5.00 fee for youth sports, that is a real number. Dr. Natelli used the Simsbury example of the band concert with Earth, Wind & Fire. If they bring in a band like that maybe they would charge two or three different fees: a fee to sit up in the stands, a fee to sit on the ground and a children's fee. The bottom line is that they have people thinking outside the box to make this work.

Mr. Goralski stated that he was at the Town Council presentation and there was a discussion by Mr. DeFeo and members of the Council. There were three ways to fund a field such as this and that is the magic question. You can bond an item and use some of the revenue generation ideas to pay the bond back, you can be fortunate enough to receive a gift, and the other is a one-time cash purchase. The Town Council is the ultimate authority in Southington and at some point the public is going to have their say. Mr. Oshana pointed out that this was what he was struggling with. He thought that it was a great idea to have this field and it could be a tremendous asset to the town. However, when they just passed a budget that eliminated teachers for the first time in a long time, it is a conflict right now.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco pointed out that their discussion was not about funding, but about the concept of turf. Mr. Oshana agreed that the concept of turf was an excellent idea, but it has to be funded. Mrs. Carmody felt that Mr. Derynoski's motion removes the Board from any fiscal responsibility for the field. Mr. Oshana pointed out that the taxes in town all come from the same pocket, and that is the hard part. If it is the Board of Education's budget or the Town budget, it is still coming from the taxpayers.

Mrs. Queen thought that it was not a question of teachers versus turf. She thought that the desire to see a turf field in Southington has been a seven-year community grassroots movement and that it was outside of the Board of Education Operational Plan. She did not think that it was a question of one or the other because she knows it is all coming out of the same pot of money. She believed that there was a community movement that was saying that the will was there to spend the money on this. She was sure that, as they move forward, they will hear more if that is true or not. To her, the concept of the turf cost benefit analysis puts her in favor of supporting it. As a parent who has been on all sorts of turf fields in more than one state, she has supported a turf field for a while. What jumps out, as one of the reasons she thought that it would add such value to the community, is that when she goes by Southington High School she is always struck by how full the parking lots are. The facility is used to the maximum and both parking lots are full all the time with all sorts of events happening with students, the community, and all age groups. When she goes by the football field, however, she is struck by how empty it is most of the time. She now knows that they only use it 50 times a year, which she did not know before tonight. She liked the idea that this will now be space that can be used by our athletes in all field sports, by the physical education program, youth athletics and the community as a whole. She thought that it made sense that the community-wide push for a turf field is going to result in a community space. She suggested an out-of-the-box idea for the Advisory Committee. She thought that there were a lot of young musicians in our town who would love to have an event where they could play their music resulting in students coming to listen to their peers play. Within the STEPS program, they need safe, supervised facilities for teenagers to gather. She calls it a "place for them to be." They could sponsor many events for our teenagers using the new turf field.

Mr. Derynoski stated that this agenda item was a request of the Turf Committee via the Town Council to come before the Board of Education to ask for the Board's participation and approval to utilize the high school field for turf; it is not our request to put turf on our field. This is not this Board's request; it is their request and all the Board is doing is acknowledging that fact and approving the request.

Mr. Goralski asked Mr. Derynoski to read the motion one more time. **"Move to approve the recommendation of the Turf Advisory Committee as it relates to the installation of synthetic grass on the Southington High School Fontana Field and the resurfacing of the track. This approval is also based on the provision that the project will be funded outside of the Operational Plan of the Southington Board of Education and that the field will benefit both the school and the community."**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Queen, Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mr. Goralski. NO – Mr. Oshana. **Motion carried with seven in favor and one opposed.**

## **7. OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. Town Government Communications**

Mr. Goralski noted that the Board should have received electronically the appropriation request that was just sent forward to the town. The Board of Finance should have that at their next meeting. He stated that Mrs. DiNello did an excellent job putting together a 10-page document regarding any questions or concerns they had about VOAG.

Mr. Goralski reminded everyone that the Town Council Public Hearing is on April 23, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at DePaolo Middle School.

### **b. Construction Update**

Mr. Cox reported that he continues to look forward to the Building Committee formally closing out the South End Elementary School and Plantsville Elementary School projects during the month of April.

Mr. Cox reported that the work continues on the North Center facility. By this time next week, all the interior framing will be completed and the electrical wiring has been started in some of the administrative office walls. He noted that data and phone wires would be coming next and the maintenance department will be pulling those wires during the vacation week.

Mr. Cox reported that the Construction Manager proposals were received in the Town Manager's office last Friday for the Middle School Projects. He noted that there were 16 Construction Manager companies that put in their proposals. Those are being reviewed with the intent to narrow them down to five for interviews. Architectural RFQs are due next Friday on March 30, 2012.

Mr. Derynoski asked how many architectural firms have come forward. Mr. Cox replied that he has walked five firms through the buildings. Mr. Derynoski anticipated more because of the downturn in the economy. Mr. Cox replied that in the advertisement there was no offer to tour them. However, these companies took it upon themselves to call Attorney Mark Sciota, who directed them to Mr. Cox. Mr. Cox noted that he has put the current Feasibility Study and Educational Specifications back on our website because many companies are looking for those to prepare their documents.

Mrs. Lombardi asked when the Kelley School parking lot was projected to be repaved. Mr. Cox replied that it was in the Town Capital Plan, prioritized as item six. He drove through there and counted the potholes for patching. They are patching the patches. Dr. Erardi replied that they met with Dr. Urillo, Chair of the Capital Bonding Committee, and her next meeting is to discuss, reprioritize or endorse the work of management of the Capital Plan and explore a funding stream for it. They will continue to patch, unless they are told differently that it would be work that will be funded this summer. Mr. Cox stated that he has walked the paved playground, which is much safer than the parking lot and the driveway. Mrs. Lombardi asked for an update on that after the meeting with Dr. Urillo. Mr. Goralski explained that there are Board representatives, Mrs. Notar-Francesco and Mr. Derynoski, who serve on that committee and will give a Board report after those meetings. Mrs. Notar-Francesco and Mr. Derynoski

stated that they have not had a meeting yet. Mrs. Lombardi replied that until they have a meeting she would like Mr. Cox or Dr. Erardi to follow-up on that. Mr. Goralski explained that the funding was in the budget and it really depends on the process.

Mr. Goralski apologized because Mrs. Johnson had sent a letter regarding the turf and he neglected to read it into the record on her behalf and she had asked him to do so. He gave the letter to Mrs. Blanchard to enter into the record on Mrs. Johnson's behalf (*Attachment #4*). He explained that Mrs. Johnson was not able to attend the meeting because she was out-of-state. He noted that she thanked the committee for their time and efforts to enhance the football field at the high school and followed their work closely. Her concerns relating to the turf field were revenue, field damage, and cost, which were all addressed.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Adoption of 2013 Board Meeting Dates**

Mr. Goralski shared a note that he received from Mrs. Johnson that she does like the meeting dates, but her only concern was why there was only one meeting in April. Mr. Goralski explained that he responded directly to her and, as the Board can see in the item before them, the meeting in April would fall during April vacation and that is the reason. In prior years that was the reason. Next year, there is one meeting in February simply because we have several meetings from the first of the year through February. Unless someone changes that tonight, that is why there is only one meeting next year in February.

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mrs. Clark:

**“Move to accept the proposed schedule of regular Board of Education meeting dates for 2013.”**

Mrs. Notar-Francesco pointed out that the one Board meeting in February happens to be February 14, Valentine's Day. It was her belief that this was a family night and she would prefer that they moved the meeting date to either February 7 or February 21. Mr. Derynoski could not remember the last time he was home on Valentine's Day with his travel schedule. He did not have any problem accepting the schedule as is because their policy dictates when and how. He noted that the Board Chairman has the ability to reschedule the meeting and it is something that they have done in the past. He recommended that the Chair reschedule that meeting either the day before or the day after, or week before or week after. He recommended that they accept the schedule as is, so they adhere to their policy, and the Chair will remember to reschedule it at the appropriate time.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco also thought that the middle of August was more favorable for reviewing class size. She asked why the August meeting was shifted to August 8. Dr. Erardi replied that two years ago the School Board got caught with a very late August date and they scurried on a Thursday hiring four teachers to start teaching on Monday. Last year, they moved the meeting to the middle of August. He was equally comfortable with August 15, but by August 8 they have a good tally of where they are and where they are going.



Mr. Goralski noted that policy does clearly state what Mr. Derynoski said. However, he would entertain a modification of the original motion.

**AMENDED MOTION:** by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mrs. Clark:

**“Move to amend the proposed schedule of regular Board of Education meeting dates for 2013, changing February 14 to February 21 and August 8 to August 15.”**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Queen, Mrs. Carmody, Mr. Goralski. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**b. Non-Renewal of Interim Teacher**

Mr. Goralski stated that the motion has to be read into the record as written on the form. He clarified that this action does not reflect the work performance of any individual and that it is simply what they have to do under law relating to interim positions.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Derynoski, seconded by Mrs. Notar-Francesco:

**“Move that the contract of Elizabeth Rimke be non-renewed for the 2012-2013 school year.”**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Queen, Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Goralski. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**c. Administrative Aspirant Cohort Presentation**

Dr. Erardi explained that Tina Riccio, Amy Perry and Suzanne Hodges, who will be giving a PowerPoint presentation (*Attachment #5*), represent a cohort of 14 Administrative Aspirants who will receive their Administrator Certificates in May 2012. What the Board is going to see is a sampling of 7,000 volunteer intern hours in this district. The 14 educators have all given 500 hours to make us a better place. The work that they have done has probably been one of the most gratifying things that he is involved with every month along with Mrs. Smith. He is proud of what they have done and how they have done it. The PowerPoint presentation is on the work that has taken place at the elementary, middle school and high school levels.

Mrs. Tina Riccio addressed the cohort experiences at the elementary level. The PowerPoint slide was a summary of the highlights of the administrative interns' work at the elementary level. Over this past week she was able to talk to some aspirants and learned about Lucky Listeners and ALOT, which is getting teachers and students together to solve problems and improve the schools. She noted that the overwhelming response was that this was a very positive experience. They all mentioned that the administrative team in Southington was very welcoming, encouraging, supportive and patient. They had a variety of different experiences. She is at the high school and was able to work with Dr. Semmel and some of the other assistant principals. She was very fortunate to work with Mrs. Karen Smith as her mentor and go into Kelley School and work with Mrs. Betty Lutz, Principal at Kelley, to teach Spanish in the third grade classes. She noted that early education in world languages is a huge goal of hers for the town. She also does a program on the weekends for Italian, but this is the first time that they

went into an elementary school and included everybody in the entire grade, all four classes. It was a very positive experience.

Ms. Amy Perry addressed the cohort experiences at the middle school level. She is a math teacher and team leader at Kennedy Middle School. She stated that there were five Aspirants in the program at the middle school level, two at Kennedy and three at DePaolo. Collectively, they put in over 2,500 hours of service to their school and community. They won three grants, two from the Southington Education Foundation, and partnered with the American Legion and created yellow ribbon signs. With the money they made, they were able to supply our soldiers serving overseas with over 300 laptops and webcams, so they could remain in contact with their families. They partnered with the Southington Police Department and created a cyber-bullying presentation for our kids. They also partnered with the Chamber of Commerce and created a mentorship program for our students. They created professional development for the teachers. They are also very involved with the STEPS initiative, building developmental assets for our youth. She was very proud to present all of their accomplishments and thanked the Board on behalf of herself and the whole cohort for their support over these past three years.

Ms. Suzanne Hodges addressed the cohort experiences at the high school level. She is a science teacher at the high school. She thanked the Board members, Dr. Erardi and Mrs. Smith for the opportunity to highlight the high school experiences of Administrative Aspirants and the cohort members. She stated that the list on the PowerPoint slide was a very small sampling of the variety of experiences in which the individuals at the high school had participated. Many of the experiences went beyond the daily activities, such as administering student discipline for low-level offenses. She concurred that this has been a great experience. The administrators at the high school were patient and welcoming. They really have embraced this program and have made it a very fulfilling experience that really has enabled all of them to look at and see if this was really the correct next step for them. This year, she had the opportunity to work with Mr. David Germano, Assistant Principal at the high school, as her mentor. She met with him on a weekly basis during lunch. She had the opportunity to follow some students through PPT processes, through discipline, and, last week, trying to get a student who was interested in going into a mainstream classroom who was hesitant about it. She explained that watching Mr. Germano and the patience and wisdom that he has in counseling the students was a very good experience. She got to see exactly what good qualities an administrator must have. She thanked Mr. Germano and all of the other administrators at the high school for this experience.

Dr. Erardi stated that this past Wednesday they had 29 teachers looking to form the second Administrative Aspirant Cohort with Central Connecticut State University. The partnership with CCSU remains strong. Dr. Erardi was very proud of the work that has been done by the Administrative Aspirants. He thought that it was important for the Board to realize that there is a trade off in a couple of places. Not only are they involved in classwork and internship, they give up their free time and prep time to be further involved in the life of an administrator, and it is balanced with family. He was extremely excited about our administrators of tomorrow.

Mr. Derynoski was very impressed about the amount of involvement that each of these teachers has had over the last few years to get to where they are today. He thought that was a compliment, not only to their dedication to Southington school system, but the administration in supporting all of their activities. He thanked the Administrative Aspirants for all their efforts.

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Goralski thanked all the Administrative Aspirants for their work. As a spouse of a new administrator, he knows that their work for their own betterment and education occurs aside from the work they do every day with our students. Although there is never going to be enough positions in the town of Southington, he sadly wished them all nothing but the best in success in finding that future career.

- d. Southington High School Exchange Program ~ 2012-2013** *(moved to Agenda Item 6.d.)*
- e. Turf Presentation by Turf Advisory Committee – Dr. Natelli** *(moved to Agenda Item 6.e.)*

**MOTION:** by Mr. Derynoski, seconded by Mrs. Notar-Francesco:

**“Move to adjourn.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Blanchard*

Recording Secretary

**SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION  
MARCH 22, 2012**

Mr. Brian Goralski, Board Chairperson, called the Executive Session meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Patricia Queen, Mr. Zaya Oshana, and Mr. Brian Goralski.

**Members Absent:** Mrs. Patricia Johnson.

**Administration Present:** Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, and Mrs. Karen Smith, Assistant Superintendent.

**1. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF AVAILABLE PROPERTY,  
AFSCME UPDATE AND SEA CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Derynoski, seconded by Mrs. Notar-Francesco:

**“Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing available property, AFSCME Update and SEA Contract Negotiations, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Derynoski, seconded by Mrs. Clark:

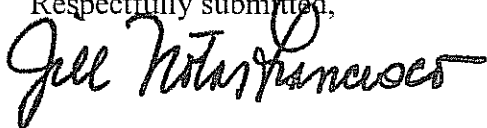
**“Move to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene into public session.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

*Executive Session ended at 7:24 p.m.*

*The board reconvened public session at 7:24 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Jill Notar-Francesco, Secretary  
Southington Board of Education

## Parents 4 A Change

HOPE IS *NOT* A STRATEGY TO DRUG PREVENTION!

MAKE YOUR HOME AND COMMUNITY  
AN *UNFRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT*  
TO DRUG USE AND DRUG ACTIVITY

**Parents 4 A Change** was founded to raise awareness about the life threatening issue of TEEN OPIATE ABUSE. We provide a support system for families in crisis, all over the country, who have a child abusing opiates (i.e., prescription pain pills, heroin, etc.). We are *parents helping parents*, sharing our experiences, ideas and resources with others in need, at no cost. We strongly advocate FOR and support parents IN "proactive parenting."

**AN EDUCATED PARENT IS AN EMPOWERED PARENT!**

### **GOALS:**

- \* Raise awareness about *teen opiate abuse*

*Did you know that HEROIN has become the drug of choice for many suburban teens??*

- \* Provide support to parents and families:  
**REAL ANSWERS, RIGHT NOW!**

*Are you or someone you know suffering in silence?  
Feel alone, isolated? We want to be a support for you!*

- \* Create deterrents to drug use/activity in our  
**homes & communities**

*We would welcome anyone who would like to work with us  
in making changes!*

## PARENTS 4 A CHANGE

*"Make YOUR home and community an unfriendly environment  
to drug use and drug activity"*

***Parents 4 A Change, Inc.*** (also known as ***P4AC***) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation (as determined by the IRS) that is dedicated to raising awareness about ***teen opiate abuse***, while providing information, education, experiences and resources to families in crisis. We also work with local and state authorities to make our communities ***unfriendly environments*** to drug use and drug activity.

***P4AC*** is based in Southington, CT, and is able to provide support to Connecticut families, as well as families living anywhere in the U.S. All participants are volunteers, many of whom have personal experience with opiate abuse with their own child, and as such are happy to share some of their knowledge and resources with other parents in crisis. We provide ***"Real answers, Right now!"***

We appreciate any financial support that you would like to give to ***P4AC***. As we are a charitable, non-profit corporation, your donation is tax deductible. Any donations should be made payable to:

***Parents 4 A Change, Inc.***  
c/o Mary Marcuccio (President)  
45 Woodruff St., Southington CT 06489

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND CONSIDERATION.

MARY MARCUCCIO, Founder & Spokesperson  
***Parents 4 A Change***  
860-621-1682

[parents4achange@yahoo.com](mailto:parents4achange@yahoo.com)

[www.parents4achange.net](http://www.parents4achange.net)



## ***Backgrounder***

August 2010

# **DEA and Diversion: What You Should Know**

### *What is the DEA Diversion Control Program?*

#### **The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Office of Diversion Control:**

- Has a specialized workforce focused exclusively on diversion and the laws and regulations of prescription drugs established through the Controlled Substances Act (CSA).
- Enforces the laws and regulations relating to the CSA, and regulates those who are registered to handle prescription drugs.
- Maintains an in-depth knowledge of the entire supply chain from importation, through production, to distribution of prescription drugs in the legitimate pharmaceutical market.

### *What is the Problem?*

The diversion of pharmaceuticals is a growing problem in the United States, and the DEA is doing its part to respond to this threat, which includes the national takeback program scheduled to take place across America on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

#### **Quick Facts:**

- Unintentional overdose deaths involving prescription opioids increased 175 percent between 2001 (3,944) and 2006 (11,001), the most recent year data is available.
- In 2008, there were 6.2 million Americans aged 12 years and older who abused prescription drugs\* for non-medical purposes within the past month – more than the number of people who are abusing cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens, and inhalants, *combined*.
- The economic costs of diversion and abuse of prescription drugs is steep. For example, the estimated cost to public and private medical insurers is \$72.5 billion a year.
- Prescription drug diversion often involves individuals who doctor-shop or forge prescriptions and unscrupulous physicians and pharmacists. It also has traditionally flourished over the Internet. However, it is estimated that up to 62 percent of teens get prescription medicines for non-medical use from family and friends homes and medicine cabinets.

"My kid doesn't use drugs."  
 "She knows better than that."  
 "He's an honor student... on the football team."

## HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU SAID THESE WORDS?

**P4AC** was founded to raise awareness about the life threatening issue of **TEEN OPIATE ABUSE**. We provide a support system for families in crisis, parents *helping* parents, each with the personal experience of a child abusing drugs. We share our experiences, ideas, resources with others in need (at no cost), and strongly advocate FCR and support parents IN "proactive parenting" — **GET BETWEEN YOUR KID AND DRUGS ANY WAY YOU CAN! AN EDUCATED PARENT IS AN EMPOWERED PARENT!!**

—MARY MARCUCCIO, *Parents 4 A Change*

**P4AC** helps families fight the battle against teen opiate abuse. Mary has personally helped many families that we know in dealing with their child's opiate addiction. **Most importantly, she has helped save the life of our daughter, Barbara.** We stand next to her as parent volunteers of **P4AC**, in trying to make a difference in our communities, and to be available to other families in need — providing guidance and support.

—ADAM & JOANNE HOFFMAN, NORTH HAVEN CT

**P4AC** is an icon in the field of support for children who are fighting opiate addiction. Mary is highly regarded by parents, colleagues, and my office. As Superintendent, I respect Mary's insight and foresight, and her proactive approach to at-risk youngsters is an integral component to the district's overall safety success plan. **P4AC Saves Lives!** I've personally met some of the young people whose lives have been changed, virtually saved, by the work of this organization. **P4AC is a remarkable, professional and life saving organization.**

—DR. JOSEPH ERARDI, SOUTHTON SCHOOLS

## DID YOU KNOW...?

- Drug deaths have surpassed car accidents as the #1 cause of accidental deaths in the US!!!
- The MAIN USERS of HEROIN in the Northeast: White Males, 18-25, living in suburban/rural areas\*
- HEROIN has equaled crack cocaine as the greatest drug threat to CT, and is the main drug of concern for the DEA in the Northeast\*

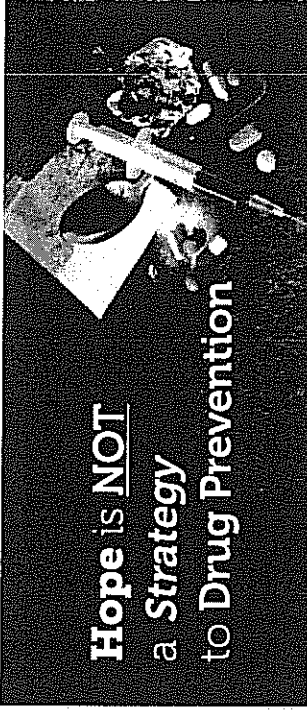
- CT is in the "New England Pipeline" — distribution route for drugs, including 191 & 195 in New Haven\*

**Demand for HEROIN is increasing dramatically in Connecticut due to:**

- Low price (\$5+/-/bag) — High purity (70-90%)
- Increased demand is seen primarily among teens/young adults, partly due to increased availability of the drug\*

\*(per U.S.D.E.A.)

**Hope is NOT a Strategy to Drug Prevention**



## P4AC

*Parents 4 A Change*

**Make YOUR home and community an UNFRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT to drug use and activity**

**Email: [parents4achange@yahoo.com](mailto:parents4achange@yahoo.com)**  
**Website: [www.parents4achange.net](http://www.parents4achange.net)**

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# TEEN OPIATE ABUSE

*Parents 4 A Change*

**DO YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHAT SIGNS TO LOOK FOR??**

Is your "Good Kid" ...  
**USING DRUGS?**

Is your star athlete...  
**SNORTING PILLS??**

Is your honor student...  
**USING HEROIN???**

**Don't say, "Not MY Kid" ...**

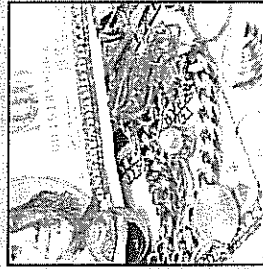




# RED FLAGS

## For Opiate Abuse

- Money missing and seems unaccounted for: "Mom thinks I thought I had \$10 left in my wallet, didn't I have \$10? Well, maybe I spent it." **YOU, THE PARENT, BEGIN TO QUESTION YOURSELF. YOUR MEMORY OF MONEY AND CIRCUMSTANCES**



- Change (coins) missing from home - purse, change jar, etc.
- Small items missing and unaccounted for - jewelry, valuables, household items of resale quality

- Spoons may be missing from the kitchen; or appear blackened/burnt on the underside
- The user may steal your credit/debit card or checks (from the middle of the pack/out of sequence) - use fraudulently, and run up debt under your name; scrutinize your bank/card statements often for irregularities or unauthorized purchases
- Opiates are sedatives, "downers," therefore they make the user very tired. User will begin to seem very dozey, fatigued, sleep much more than usual, sometimes to the point of being unable to wake; watch for episodes of "nodding off" while sitting, talking, eating, driving
- Opiate side effects: Eyes will reflect opiate usage - pupils are pinpoint and fixed - unresponsive to changes of light
- Opiate side effects: itchy skin, having the feeling and appearance of "skin crawling"; "cotton mouth" - speech is impaired and/or slurred, user constantly licks his lips and lips appear dysfunctional

- Be watchful of your child making FREQUENT and apparently unnecessary trips out of the house with all kinds of excuses: "get gas, cigarettes" "go grab a quick bite" "to drop something off/pick something up." **THESE ARE DRUG-PICK-UPS/DROP OFFS**

- Be watchful of your child having people stopping over FREQUENTLY or UNEXPECTEDLY and for only moments/short times; be watchful for a lot of people traffic on your property or in your home
- Opiate users will often wear sunglasses inappropriately - inside, nighttime, days which obviously do not warrant their wearing
- Appetite and weight will usually decrease drastically as opiate use becomes all consuming; the user progressively loses all interest in eating and drinking. Watch for: multiple bottles and glasses of water, often partially full

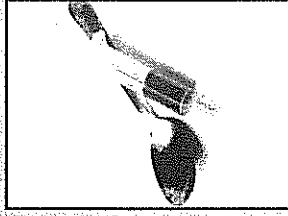
- User loses all interest in any recreational activity, including the opposite sex
- Personal hygiene suffers; user loses interest in showering, clean clothes, etc.
- Watch for evidence of constipation (opiate side effect) - laxatives, enemas, etc.
- Volatile, violent, angry behavior begins and escalates, especially if cornered, questioned, or disciplined; breaks house rules
- LYING!! ABOUT EVERYTHING; secretive behavior
- Most likely begins encounters with police, arrests
- Watch for time missed from school/work because of NOT being able to function - lethargic, always sleepy/dozey: this is user's active use symptoms
- Watch for signs of "dope sick" - this is the user's attempt at getting clean/off opiates: symptoms are exactly like the flu, in varying degrees and can last for a day to a week. Be aware of time being missed from school/work because of these repeated "sick days"

## Regarding SNORTING OPIATES:

- Watch for snorting paraphernalia, i.e. empty/disassembled pens, straws, rolled/folded dollar bills or pieces of paper
- Watch for: sinus congestion, sniffing, stuffy nose

## Regarding I.V. Use:

- Users will have "track marks" - injection sites - on arms or other body parts; these will often be explained away as an "injury" - i.e., with a bandaid; or user will write over the site with pen/ink and say "it's just a pen mark," or get a tattoo over sites in effort to hide them. **LADIES** - watch for coverup makeup missing-----may be taken by user to cover I.V. injection sites



- Users will usually wear long-sleeved clothing, to cover arms/track marks, even in the hottest weather/conditions
- Watch for burn holes in EVERYTHING!! shirts, pants, in bedroom, on furniture, in car, etc.
- Look for pinprick holes and blood stains on clothing: on shirt sleeves, cuffs, pants, inside of pants pockets
- Watch for blood spots/droplets anywhere in the house or in the car
- • • • •
- **DO** search the room, bags, cars, clothes for paraphernalia: needles/needle caps; tiny black elastic bands; hollowed-out or disassembled pens; straws; small empty baggies (clear or colored; wax, plastic or paper); alcohol prep pads or wrappers; cotton balls; small pieces of cotton fiber - like from a cigarette filter

Teen opiate abuse generally includes: prescription pills (Percocet, Vicodin, OxyContin) or heroin

Contact us at: [parents4achange@yahoo.com](mailto:parents4achange@yahoo.com)

## **Administration: Board of Education Update March 22, 2012**

1. **Paperless Update: CABA Training**
  - a. May 10<sup>th</sup> – 6:45 p.m. (Before BOE Meeting)
2. **Substance Abuse Action Council – CMHA (Attach #1)**
  - a. Community Intervention Award – Jeff Duquette / Steve Nyerick
3. **Michael's Cup Recognition**
  - a. Unified Sports – State Recognition – Program of Distinction
4. **Harvard Institute - (Attach #2)**
5. **Celebration of Cultures - Wednesday, March, 28th 2012: 5:30 p.m. – SHS**

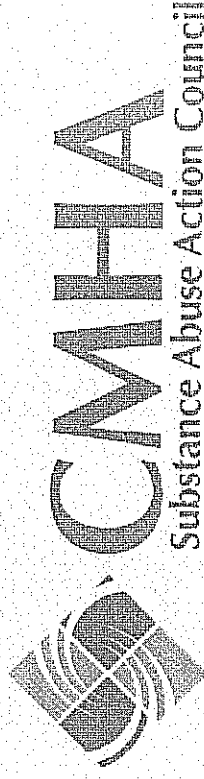
*Joe Grand*  
7/22/12

## SAAC Accomplishments

- SAAC Director Aisha Hamid and State Representative Michelle Cook spoke at the State Capitol on the dangers of the drugs salvia and K2.
- SAAC's full council finalized the 3-year strategic work plan in September.
- Through a grant from the Department of Public Health and with assistance from the National Guard, SAAC implemented a statewide Tobacco Education Program (STEP) at summer camps.
- SAAC conducted a Family Norms survey to identify regional levels of substance use awareness and to boost program participation.
- SAAC launched a Facebook page and a newsletter to keep constituents informed and engaged.
- More than 50 people attended "Celebrating Recovery," SAAC's annual forum in New Britain in September.
- After grant funding doubled this year, SAAC increased work in the area of problem gambling. CMHA is now integrating the Disordered Gambling Integration (DiGin) project into client protocols.
- SAAC hosted two Lunch and Learns at CMHA offices on the topics of substance abuse treatment and problem gambling.
- Continuing to foster our relationship with Northwestern Regional School District 7, SAAC coordinated a bullying prevention presentation for staff and a parent workshop on teen behavior.
- SAAC conducted two drug take backs in Winsted: at the Winchester Senior Center and at Northwestern Regional High School #7.
- SAAC conducted a training on prescription drug abuse at Terryville High School for 32 coaches from our region.
- SAAC and the Southington STEPS co-sponsored a PSA on the state's new marijuana decriminalization law, which aired on CBS radio and on a variety of cable channels throughout the state.
- SAAC provided funding support in Plainville to the Local Prevention Council to conduct the town's first school survey on substance use among youth in grades 7,9 and 11.
- More than 75 members of police departments and community representatives from across the state attended SAAC's informational session on the Prescription Drug Drop box initiative.
- SAAC provided 6 responsible alcohol server trainings at CCSU and in Torrington, Southington, Plainville, Plymouth, and Bristol.

*Advocacy*      *Treatment*

*Education*      *Prevention*



## *Annual Full Council Meeting*

**March 14, 2012**  
**9:00—10:30 am**

*"Working together to prevent substance abuse and to promote a substance-free, safe and healthy environment within our communities."*

## Speakers

### Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Jr. Southington Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Erardi has more than 30 years of experience serving Connecticut's children in our state's educational system. During his four-year tenure as Southington's Superintendent, he helped implement the successful School Improvement Plan, resulting in one of the strongest public report cards ever achieved by the district in 2010-11.

Dr. Erardi previously served as Superintendent of School in Watertown and Bolton, and as principal at Rockville High School and Killingly High School, and as an educator and administrator at Manchester Public Schools.

Dr. Erardi is a member of the Board of Directors of the CT Education Foundation. He was recognized as Southington Citizen of the Year by the YMCA and the Elks in 2011.

### Dr. Anthony W. Distasio Plymouth Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Distasio served as a teacher in Meriden and as a Principal in Torrington and in Bristol before becoming Plymouth's Superintendent of Schools in 2001. While in Plymouth, he was involved with the program development and building of the new Terryville High School and the renovation projects at the former high and middle schools.

In 2009, Dr. Distasio co-authored and procured the Federal Drug Free Communities Grant to support Plymouth's efforts to curtail youth drug, alcohol, and tobacco use.

Dr. Distasio served as President of the Litchfield County Superintendents' Association and as a member of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents' Board of Directors from 2007 to 2009.

## Agenda

Call to Order.....	Aisha Hamid <i>S-LAC Director</i>
Welcome.....	Ray Gorman <i>CMHA President &amp; CEO</i>
SAAC Report.....	Aisha Hamid
<i>The Making of a Successful Mentor</i> .....	Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Jr. <i>Southington Superintendent of Schools</i>
<i>Everything is Local—The Role and Importance of the Local Prevention Council</i> .....	Dr. Anthony Distasio <i>Plymouth Superintendent of Schools</i>
Award Presentations.....	Aisha Hamid

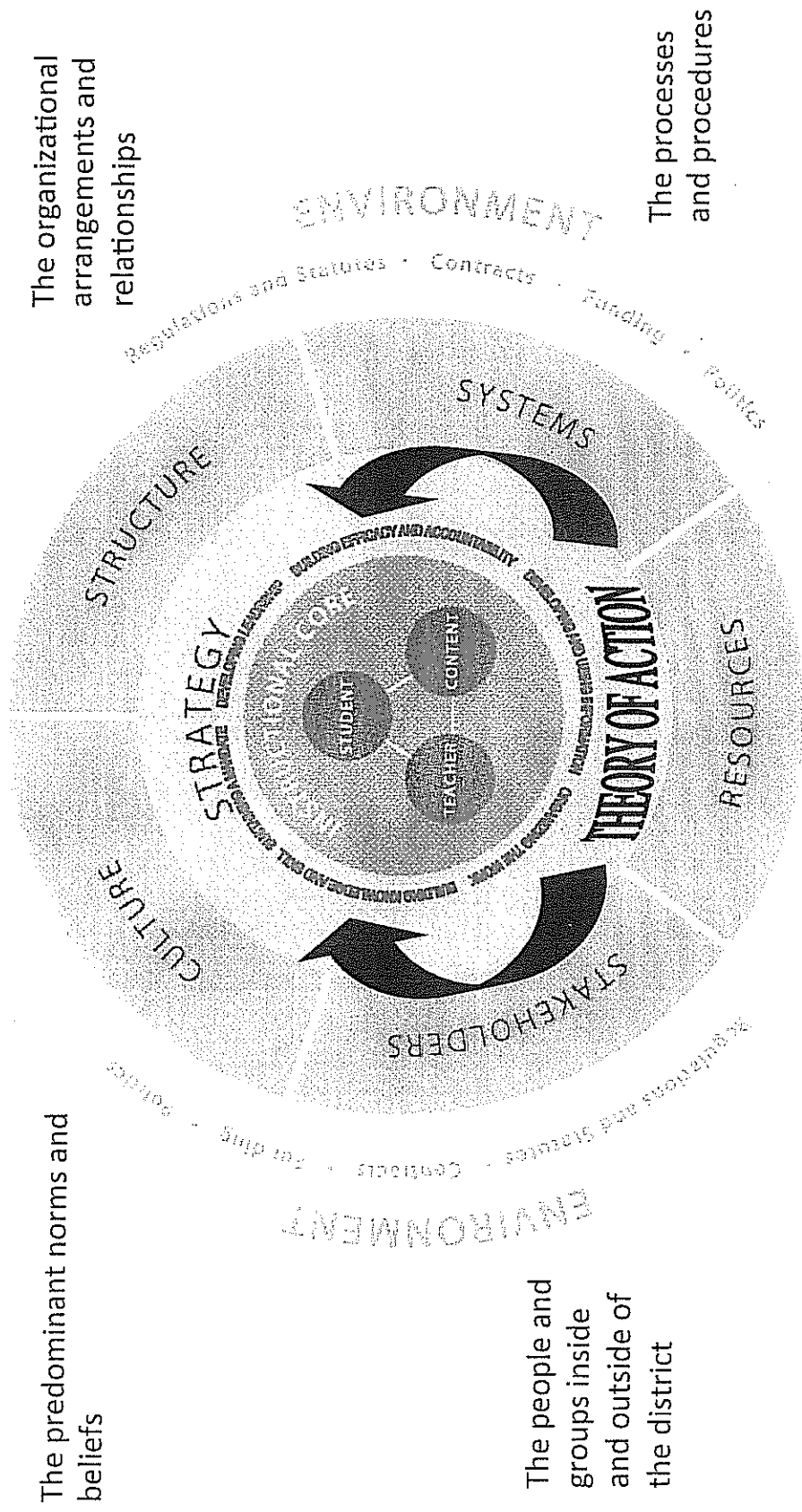
## Award Winners

Community Engagement Award.....	Alan Beitman <i>Regional School District #10 Superintendent of Schools</i>
Community Intervention Award.....	Steve Nyerick <i>Guidance Counselor, DePaulo Middle School, Southington</i>
	Jeff Duquette <i>School Psychologist, Kelley and Hartsville Elementary Schools, Southington</i>
Community Intervention Award.....	Paul McLaughlin <i>Executive Director, Hartford Dispensary</i>
Outstanding LPC of the Year Award.....	Plymouth Local Prevention Council
Legislative Advocacy Award.....	Rep. Michelle Cook <i>CT State Representative</i>
Special Award.....	Dr. Anthony Distasio <i>Plymouth Superintendent of Schools</i>
Special Award.....	Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Jr. <i>Southington Superintendent of Schools</i>

Domains	Indicators
<b>Systems Thinking</b>	
	District leaders articulate and implement a Theory of Action that impacts the instructional core and promotes student achievement
	All district staff understand and align efforts in support of the Theory of Action
	District develops and implements a coherent plan for large-scale instructional improvement
	District adopts a coherent organizational structure that supports the Theory of Action and the plan for large-scale instructional improvement.
	District leaders understand and lead change processes
	Budget and human resources are aligned to district goals for large-scale instructional improvement
	District distributes resources equitably.
<b>Instructional Improvement</b>	
	District sets high standards for teaching and learning
	District designs and implements curriculum that supports high standards for teaching and learning
	District provides interventions for students at all levels of achievement
	District recruits, hires and supports high quality teachers
	District develops a shared understanding of high quality instruction
	Administrators and teachers use assessment data and collaboratively review student work to improve teaching and learning
	District provides professional development for teachers and administrators that is job-embedded and focused on student achievement and school improvement goals
<b>Organizational Learning</b>	
	District uses data for organizational decisions
	District practices continuous improvement to increase effectiveness and efficiency
	District monitors implementation of improvement efforts
<b>Accountability</b>	
	District designs and implements internal and external accountability structures that measure improvement in student achievement and organizational effectiveness.
	District designs and implements supervisory and evaluation processes that are focused on instructional goals and improved student achievement
	District leaders practice reciprocal accountability by holding staff accountable for high performance and continually building their capacity.
<b>Leadership Development</b>	
	District recruits, hires, and supports high quality administrators and teacher leaders
	District distributes leadership to support the improvement of teaching and learning
	District develops and implements ongoing leadership professional development
<b>Stakeholder Engagement</b>	
	Superintendent engages board of education in instructional improvement efforts
	District communicates with and involves multiple stakeholders (i.e. parents, businesses, community agencies, local government)
	District partners with community agencies
	District builds inside and outside constituencies for school improvement
<b>Sustainability</b>	
	District adopts/embeds policies and practices that secure systemic improvements
	District maintains a culture of continuous improvement and shared, reflective practice focused on student achievement.
	District plans and implements successful leadership transitions
	Systemic changes outlast district leadership transitions
	District student achievement continues to improve

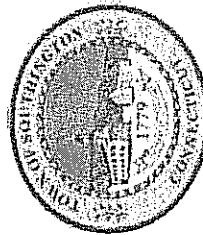
cross many career steps

# PELP Coherence Framework



The resources required to implement key action steps and execute strategy (Capacity)

# The Turf Field Committee's presentation and recommendation to Southington Town Council



March 12, 2012

## Agenda

- Overview
- Current condition of SHS football field/track
- Yearly maintenance cost of SHS Football Field
- Why Turf Field?
- Turf vs. Grass
- Benefits of Turf field
- Source of Information for Turf fields
- Turf estimated cost analysis & installation
- Who will use the field?
- Mock schedule
- Generated revenue
- Recommendation



## Overview

❖ The Turf Field Committee was formed by the Southington Town Council to gather information regarding a synthetic turf field in the Town of Southington. The Committee will do its due diligence in finding all the facts about turf vs. grass and then make a recommendation back to the Town Council in the month of March 2012.

## Current Condition of SHS Football Field

- ❖ Football field has been maintained & serviced on a weekly basis.
- ❖ Have to restrict the use of the field due to wear & tear factors which decreases field use & may cause safety concerns.  
(limited usage of only 5 football games, 2 lacrosse practices, Relay for Life, graduation ceremony, Powder Puff, Music of the Knights & no physical education classes)
- ❖ Flooding of field after weather related storms can be disastrous.
- ❖ Drainage is poor & continues to limit usage.





### Yearly Maintenance Cost of Current Football Field

✧ Layout/Labor	\$25,000
✧ Paint Material	\$9,075
✧ Irrigation repair	\$500
✧ Water	\$1,330
✧ Lawn mowing	\$2,400
✧ Fertilization/seed /soil	<u>\$4,000</u>

Total \$43,113

### Current Condition of SHS Track

- ✧ Suffering from significant deterioration in many key spots.
- ✧ Drainage concerns continue to be an issue.
- ✧ Surface coating has thinned where the base layer can be seen.
- ✧ Certain lanes need patching & key lanes are thinning.
- ✧ Conditions suggest the wear is reaching a critical point & the need for resurfacing is imminent.
- ✧ The last time the track was resurfaced was in 2000, which was 12 years ago.

## Why Turf Field?

- ❖ Due to use of the main field, it is difficult to maintain & sustain a quality surface for all events limited to grass.
- ❖ Limited number of events due to poor current conditions.
- ❖ Would enhance the high school facility & be used as a community based field by giving teams & organizations an improved & consistent surface to play on.
- ❖ Town-wide need for more fields.
- ❖ Capability to be used for 250/300 events per year.



## Turf vs. Grass

- ❖ Some have asked- Why not resod the current field?
- ❖ Would limit the use of events & limited to just football.
- ❖ Would need to be heavily maintained by continual mowing, fertilizing, watering, painting of lines & patching of worn out areas.
- ❖ Not cost effective to resod as it would need to install proper drainage, remove irrigation, install drain stone & concrete sand. The need to install Geo textile fabric on top of concrete sand. Add new topsoil and then layout 60,000 square feet of premium athletic sod.
- ❖ Would need to replace the current 6" PVC piping with a 12" PVC piping for drainage.
- ❖ Cost would be in the range of \$450,000



# Synthetic vs. Natural Grass Comparison

Expense	Grass Field	Synthetic Turf
Initial Install	\$450,000	\$500,000
Maintenance labor	25,000	2,000
Mowing	2,400	
Fertilizers / Seed	4,000	
Water	1,200	
Sprinkler repair	500	
Paint material	9,000	
Deep cleaning (every 4 years)		\$4,000
Total Maintenance	\$51,100	\$2,000
X 10 years	\$511,100	\$20,000
Total Cost after 10 years	\$961,100	\$520,000
Total Savings		\$173,100
Savings per year		17,310
Savings per month		1,442
Average use: X 10 years	600 hours 6,000 hours	3,000 hours 30,000 hours
Cost per use	\$165.05	\$22.60

(Cost based on actual study of comparative costs & benefits of a synthetic turf system)

# Cost per use by Participant Hour

	Grass Field	Synthetic Turf
Average use: X 30 participants X 10 years	600 hours 18,000 part. Hours 180,000 part. Hours	3,000 hours 90,000 part. Hours 900,000 part. Hours
Total Cost/ Participant hours	\$881,130 180,000	\$708,000 900,000
COST PER USE BY PARTICIPANT HOUR	\$4.89	\$0.79

(The above example assumes average hourly participation is 15 people per team or 30 participants per hour use.)

## Benefits of Turf Field

- ❖ Synthetic turf fields are in wide-spread use throughout Connecticut & U.S.
- ❖ In-fill synthetic turf fields are made up of synthetic grass blades attached to a mesh backing & covered with either ground rubber particles or rubber & silica sand.
- ❖ In-fill not only provides the cushioning, traction & playability of natural grass but goes beyond by providing durability, superior drainage & will not freeze like natural grass.
- ❖ Synthetic turf requires very little maintenance & has virtually no down time.
- ❖ The durability vastly improves the volume of activities that a field can support.
- ❖ Synthetic turf has proven to be the most cost efficient way of providing maximum number of users an opportunity to play on a high quality field that remains constant, regardless of the weather.



## Benefits of Turf Field (cont.)

- ❖ Due to dramatic increase in player participation & a greater availability of town-wide youth programs with higher participation, there are more students playing high school & youth sports programs than ever before.
- ❖ Need for more field space in town.
- ❖ Synthetic turf fields will accommodate a great amount of usage without wearing out.
- ❖ Weather does not limit the use of synthetic turf fields, not rain nor snow.
- ❖ Synthetic turf fields are made to be played on without damage.
- ❖ Allows our athletes to properly train & prepare for the playing surfaces they encounter at other competition venues.



## Source of Information

- ❖ Shaw Sportex — a synthetic turf company
- ❖ Pro Grass — a synthetic turf company
- ❖ Field Turf — a synthetic turf company
- ❖ Field trips to Cheshire, Newington, Durham, Newtown, Glastonbury, Springfield, Mass., New Hampshire & New York.



## Turf Field Cost Analysis & Installation

- ❖ The committee has had no formal quotes from any one company.
- ❖ Based on our fact finding inquires, the estimated installation of a synthetic field & resurfacing of the current track would be approximately \$800,000-\$900,000.
- ❖ Installation depending on weather conditions will take approximately 60-90 days.



## Turf Field Warranty & Replacement

- ❖ Most turf field company's offer a standard 8 year warranty.
- ❖ In 10 to 12 years or so, the synthetic turf would need replacement.
- ❖ The replacement cost is estimated to be about to \$300,000 in today's dollars.
- ❖ The monies from the maintenance expenses for the current football field will pay for the replacement.
- ❖ \$43,113 per year x 10 years = \$431,113



## Safety Study

- ❖ 55% Fewer Neural Injuries
- ❖ 47% Fewer Cranial / Cervical Injuries
- ❖ 45% Less time lost to Injury
- ❖ 38% Fewer 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Injuries



Source: A 5 year injury-incidence study  
Bill S. Barnhill-MD; Michael Myers, PhD, FASCAM

## Environmental Effects

- ❖ Save millions of gallons of water each year
- ❖ Eliminates dangerous chemicals, fertilizers and pesticides
- ❖ Rubber infill keeps millions of tires out of landfills
- ❖ Eliminates the need for pollution producing mowing equipment
- ❖ Synthetic turf can be reused or recycled at the end of its life cycle



## Who will use the field?

- ❖ It is the intent for the following teams & events to have usage of the turf field.
- ❖ All SHS teams such as football, boys & girls soccer, boys & girls track, boy's & girls lacrosse, girls field hockey, marching band, physical education classes, Unified Sports & graduation ceremonies. All town recreation teams such as midget football, boys & girls youth soccer, boys & girls youth lacrosse. Community events like Relay for Life.
- ❖ The field will also be available for special events & parks and recreation activities.



## Schedule of Turf Field

- ❖ Eric Swallow (SHS Athletic Director) & Dave LePreay (Director of Recreation) will work together to schedule all events.
- ❖ A web site has been created to monitor usage & schedule of events.
- ❖ Schedule will have multiple events per day, games & practices.

Website-Southingtonsports.com

Southington High School Turf Field Notice

Page 1 of 2

**ESSENTIAL INFORMATION**  
Southington's Home for Sports

**2014-2015 SEASON Turf Field Schedule and Notice**

**2014-2015 SEASON**

**Head Coach:** [Name]  
**Assistant Coach:** [Name]  
**Facility Manager:** [Name]

Date	Time	Event	Notes
8/28/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
8/29/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
8/30/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
8/31/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
9/1/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
9/2/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
9/3/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
9/4/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
9/5/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
9/6/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
9/7/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
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12/3/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
12/4/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
12/5/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
12/6/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
12/7/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
12/8/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
12/9/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
12/10/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
12/11/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
12/12/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
12/13/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
12/14/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
12/15/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
12/16/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
12/17/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
12/18/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
12/19/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
12/20/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
12/21/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
12/22/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
12/23/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
12/24/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
12/25/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
12/26/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
12/27/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
12/28/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
12/29/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
12/30/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	
12/31/14	4:00 PM	Varsity Football Practice	

Southington High School Turf Field Notice

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<http://southingtonsports.com/SouthingtonSports/TurfFieldNotice.html>



## Potential Generated Revenue

- ❖ Rental charges for usage by outside groups.
- ❖ Place a \$1.00 fee up charge on game tickets to all events.
- ❖ Implement a \$5.00 registration fee for youth league programs.
- ❖ % of concessions from the booster clubs.
- ❖ Big yearly fundraisers such as a college Lacrosse, football or soccer game & Band competitions.
- ❖ Town-wide events such as concerts.

## Up charge \$1.00 per ticket for High School events

❖ 5 Home Football games	5 x 1500 (spectators) =	\$7,500
❖ 8 Home Soccer games (boy's/girls)	8 x 350 (spectators) =	\$2,800
❖ 8 Home Lacrosse games (boy's/girls)	8 x 350 (spectators) =	\$2,800
❖ 4 Home Field Hockey games	4 x 150 (spectators) =	\$600

Total

\$13,700 per year

\$13,700 x 10 years = \$137,000

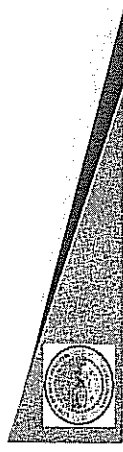
## Implement a \$5.00 Registration fee

### ❖ Youth League Programs

❖ 2,000 estimated total number of participants

❖ 2,000 participants x \$5.00 = \$10,000 per year

❖ \$10,000 x 10 years = \$100,000



## Big Yearly Fundraiser

❖ College level Football, Lacrosse & Soccer Game

❖ Potential attendance 2,000 to 4,000 spectators

❖ Admission per spectator - \$10.00 (adult) \$6.00 (student)

❖ \$8.00 (ave. ticket) x 2,000 (spectators) = \$16,000

❖ \$16,000 x 10 years = \$160,000



## Town Wide Events

- ❖ Sponsor a concert
- ❖ Charge \$7.00 per ticket
- ❖ Estimated attendance — 1,500
- ❖  $1,500 \times \$7.00 = \$10,500$  per year
- ❖  $\$10,500 \times 10 \text{ years} = \$105,000$



## Revenue Generating Roll Up

- ❖ \$1.00 per ticket up charge \$13,700 per year
- ❖ \$5.00 Registration fee \$10,000 per year
- ❖ College Level Sporting Event \$16,000 per year
- ❖ Town Wide Event \$10,500 per year
- Total \$50,200 per year

10 year roll up total of potential revenue

\$502,000



## Recommendation

✧ It is the intent of this committee after months of fact finding and due diligence that we strongly recommend installing a multi-purpose synthetic turf field and track at Southington High School.

✧ It is also the intent of this committee to recommend a seven (7) person advisory board to monitor field usage, control costs & potential generated revenue.

## Questions/Concerns &

## Next steps



To the Turf Committee:

Thank you for your time and efforts to enhance the football field at Southington High School.

While I am not able to attend this evening's presentation on artificial turf, I have been following the Committee's work closely, and will certainly be watching the video of the BOE meeting online.

There are several concerns that I have regarding the installation of Artificial Turf on the football field:

**1. Revenue:**

**Is there documentation from other school systems that have artificial turf to support the idea of increased revenue? Can this information be supplied to the BOE? Who would be the anticipated and appropriate revenue producers, and who will make those decisions? Who will make the decisions when school is not in session?**

Yes. I can document use of Dunning Stadium on a daily basis. The utilization by the high school athletic programs, youth soccer programs (premier and travel), adult recreational leagues, CIAC tournaments, CCC tournaments, college lacrosse and soccer exhibitions/games, community events, i.e. Relay for Life, MS Walk, Unified Sports, Special Olympics. Please go to the website for New Canaan High School to see current use of Dunning Turf Stadium.

<http://www.ncrams.com/Page.asp?n=46896&snid=jBFFZ6I4%5F&org=ncrams.com>

There are 2-3 activities listed on a daily basis 7 days a week which will show the increased use and revenue capabilities. The Director of Athletics will be the point of all scheduling and logistics for the use of the synthetic turf field year round.

Along with the above information, there will be an advisory board that will consist of 7 individuals who will monitor the field use and be involved with potential generating revenue activities.

**2. Field damage:**

**Who is responsible for maintenance of the artificial field, and who is responsible for damage? What precautions will have to be taken to prevent damage and how will it be controlled? Is there extra cost involved? (I am especially concerned with damage by outside groups.)**

**Many young women wear shoes with sharp heels to Graduation. This has the potential to damage the field. Will we still be able to hold Graduation ceremonies on the football field?**

If an outside group rents out the field, a security deposit would be required to cover cost in the event that the field is damaged. There will be precautions taken place to prevent damage.

There will be ample instructions and signage in place prior to anyone using the field.

In regards to the women's high heel shoes, in my opinion, it is not practical to wear high heel shoes on regular grass, as the heel will protrude through the grass. The turf field is very durable and will hold up while walking with any such shoe.

Yes, graduation ceremonies will still be held on the multi-sport field. There is a graduation platform that can be purchased but not necessary. If chairs are rented, need to have soft covering or U-shaped bottom. The band platform might need some plywood for the stage to handle the weight of the musical instruments and other necessary equipment.

3. Cost:

Valuable programs and staff have been eliminated from the Southington schools due to lack of funding. I believe that the cost of replacing the football field at SHS with artificial turf should not come from the BOE budget. How, then, will the artificial turf field be funded? If others pay for the initial installation of the new field, will the BOE bear the responsibility for its replacement? (It is my understanding that once the BOE accepts a donation, it alone is then responsible for it.)

Although I am very concerned of any staff being eliminated due to lack of funding, I don't believe that the additional monies will come out of the BOE budget. In the committee's presentation, to maintain the current football field costs \$43,113 per year. It was the committee's recommendation for that budgeted money to pay for the replacement of the turf field 10-12 years from now.

Thank you in advance for your responses to my questions,  
Patricia Johnson, Member  
Southington Board of Education

## Cohort Experiences ~ Elementary



- Developed and implemented parent workshops and seminars on Reader's Workshop, CMTs and the book "How to Talk So Kids Will Listen and How to Listen So Kids Will Talk"



- Participated in organizing the Community Conversation on School Readiness
- Created "Lucky Listeners", a literacy program for struggling emergent readers in first grade

- Facilitated PD to staff [Small Strategy Groups/SMART Board]
- Created and implemented a Cultural Awareness Program for 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Derynoski
- Developed and implemented a FLES Spanish program for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at Kelley Elementary School
- Collaborated with staff, students, and parents on the ABC Committee
- Directed ALOT (Aspiring Leaders of Tomorrow)
- Researched 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills and created a website for staff



## Cohort Experiences ~ Middle School



- Designed and implemented professional development
- Created a Community Mentor Program
- Planned and participated in the 8th - 9th grade transition committee meetings
- Developed and implemented three literacy intervention programs
- Partnered with Southington Police on cyber-bullying
- Raised money along with AFL to buy web cams for troops
- Teacher leaders for EIP Core Team
- Coordinated schedules for special education teachers, student, and paraprofessionals
- Secured three separate grants, 2 from the SEF
- Helped develop new curriculum and intervention programs

## **Colton Experiences ~ High School**

- **Piloting a transition program for 18-21 year olds with intellectual disabilities**
- **Preparing the CAPT proctoring and teacher duty schedule**
- **Organizing SHS areas for WFSB's "Cool Schools"**
- **Participating in the 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade transition team**
- **Participating in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade EIP team**
- **Administering student discipline for low level offenses**
- **Participating in SHS walkthroughs**
- **Analyzing efficiency of student discipline procedures and recommending changes**
- **Attending PPTs**

