

SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT

REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 25, 2010

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, March 25, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers, Southington Town Hall, 75 Main Street, Southington, Connecticut.

At 7:10 p.m., Dr. Erardi introduced the president of the Unico Club, Carmine Votino, who introduced club members who were in attendance. Mr. Goralski presented a Certificate of Excellence to the Unico Club for their generous donation and sponsorship of the Southington High School Unified Sports Program. Mr. Eric Swallow, Athletic Director, recognized two faculty members at the high school, Marguerite Maddalena and Carrie Marando, who put the Unified Sports Program together. Refreshments were served.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by Chairperson, Mr. Brian Goralski. Board members present were Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Rosemarie Fischer, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Kathleen Rickard and Ms. Michelle Schroeder.

Present from the administration were Dr. Joseph Erardi, Jr., Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Howard Thiery, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance; Mr. Frederick Cox, Director of Operations; and Ms. Frances Haag, Senior Special Education Coordinator.

Student Representative, Christopher Amnott, was present.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Christopher Amnott led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ MARCH 11, 2010

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

“Move to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 11, 2010.”

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Fischer, Ms. Schroeder, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Rickard, Mr. Goralski. ABSTAIN: Mrs. Johnson.

Motion carried with eight votes in favor and one abstention.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience

There was no communication from the audience.

b. Communications from Board Members and Administration

Communication from the Board Members:

Mrs. Notar-Francesco reported that she attended the CREC Council meeting on March 17, 2010 and distributed a packet of information (*Attachment #1*) to the Board members. She stated that much of the meeting was devoted to issues of State legislation and bills working their way through committees. She noted that an East Hartford representative who was a member of the House and of the MORE Commission attended to give an overview of the work of the newly formed MORE Commission that is exploring regional efficiencies and shared services. Mrs. Notar-Francesco pointed out that Attachment #1 in the packet that she gave the Board gives a sense of what the Commission considers to be their findings, focus and direction going forward. Attachment #2 contains several items. The first item is a list comprised by CABA [Connecticut Association of Boards of Education] of important legislative bills concerning education and listed by identified topic. She noted that the next item in the packet is CABA's testimony presented on March 15 to the Education Committee. The testimony provides good information on CABA's stance on some of the pending bills. Mrs. Notar-Francesco pointed out that CABA's General Counsel, Patrice McCarthy, believes that the special education burden of proof mandate relief will be pushed off another year. Race to the Top is driving some of these bills, in an effort to strengthen Connecticut's application, with an emphasis on charter school funding. The concern on many of these issues is that consensus will be achieved quickly, and, not necessarily, on what is the best reform.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco continued that she also included, within Attachment #2, CREC Executive Director Bruce Douglas' testimony to the Education Committee that supports SB-438, An Act Concerning Open Choice Funding. Also, there is a page from the bill that defines a possible funding formula for districts that seat Open Choice students. Although Dr. Douglas would have liked a higher funding level for districts that seat a smaller population of Hartford students in its classrooms, he is pleased with the overall funding formula presented in this bill.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco noted that Attachment #3 is a document that reflects comparisons of superintendent and Board of Education budget increases for districts across the State. Dr. Douglas reminded the Council at the CREC meeting that large budget increase requests by some districts this year may be the result of having received a very small increase last year.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco stated that the final discussion at the CREC Council meeting centered on the need to be in touch with local representatives and reminding them that, as these weeks go by, the budgets are being set and they must not pull funding and leave the Boards of Education scrambling last minute. She announced that Dr. Douglas offered to meet with any School Board and community for the purpose of answering questions or discussing CREC magnet schools.

Mr. Goralski thought that Dr. Erardi, Mr. Thiery, and Mrs. DiNello could give the School Board some feedback on the bills that were referenced in the CREC packet because, at the Legislative Breakfast, the legislators asked the Board to weigh-in with thoughts and concerns.

Dr. Erardi stated that he was privileged to sit on the Legislative Action Committee for Connecticut Superintendents and he was pleased that CREC, CABA and CAPSS look very similar in their support regarding the bills. He commented on the potential funding formula for Project Choice students coming to Southington. He stated that, for Southington to potentially receive \$6,000-\$9,000 per student, greater than three percent of Southington's 7,000 students would mean approximately 200-plus students from Project Choice. He noted that would be an additional 185-190 students.

Mr. Derynoski reported that he participated in the Walter Derynoski Day Celebration on March 19. He felt that Mrs. Karen Smith [Principal of Derynoski School], Mrs. Jan Verderame [Assistant Principal] and their staff did a phenomenal job. He stated that it was a wonderful day.

Mrs. Clark reported that Monday, March 22 was a wonderful opening day for the students at South End School. The parents went into the classrooms at the old school, everything was packed up, pictures were taken, and then the fifth grade band played "When the Saint's Go Marching In" as all the children and parents proceeded into the new building. She thanked Mrs. Sally Kamerbeek [Principal of South End School] and her staff for making the move as painless as possible. She was proud of the South End School community, the teachers, and the staff for doing a wonderful job.

Mrs. Carmody reported that Guest Reader Day at Derynoski School was wonderful. She was paired with Mr. Derynoski and they went to her grandson's first grade classroom to read. She thought that it was wonderful that so many townspeople volunteered to read.

Ms. Schroeder stated that she was also a guest reader and thought that it was a wonderful event. She thanked Mrs. Verderame for doing an excellent job. She reported that Derynoski School had their Book Fair and their "Grand" Day where they invited all of the "Grand" people in the students' lives to shop with them in the morning. The PTO raised \$16,000 worth of books to give back to Derynoski School. She noted that the PTO put on some great events including the Ice Cream Social on Wednesday, and on Thursday was the Guest Reader Day, and Friday was Derynoski Day. She announced that Wednesday, March 31 is the Mike Casale Faculty Basketball Game at Derynoski School at 3:30 p.m. She noted that Dr. Erardi and Mr. Thiery would be playing on opposite teams. Mr. Derynoski noted that Ms. Schroeder broke her finger in practice and she still planned on playing.

Mrs. Johnson thought that they would be remiss if they did not mention the lovely music that greeted everyone at Derynoski School on Guest Reader Day. She stated that Mrs. West and her students did a fine job and that her grandson was a trumpet player.

MOTION: by Mrs. Fischer, seconded by Mrs. Notar-Francesco:

"Move to add a School Safety Item to Executive Session."

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Ms. Schroeder, Mrs. Rickard, Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Fischer, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Goralski. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION: by Mrs. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Notar-Francesco:

“Move agenda item 7.e to the first agenda item under New Business.”

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Ms. Schroeder, Mrs. Rickard, Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Fischer, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Goralski. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Communication from Administration:

Dr. Erardi reported on the following (*Attachment #2*):

1. SHS National Honor Society Induction: Dr. Erardi reported that Wednesday, April 7, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. is the high school National Honor Society Induction. He apologized to the honorees because he will be out-of-state at a conference and would be unable to attend.
2. Family Literacy Night: Dr. Erardi reported that a flyer was enclosed regarding the Family Literacy Night at Flanders Elementary School. Dr. Erardi gave a sense of the depth of what was taking place with the Early Childhood Collaborative and the Family Resource Center that is housed at Derynoski School. He distributed the Spring Newsletter from the Southington Family Resource Center. He felt that the School Board would be incredibly impressed with the energy that Krista Pringle [Director] has brought to the district.
3. Commencement 2010: Dr. Erardi reported that last year the School Board had a lengthy discussion around the 180th day of school being on a Friday and the 181st day of school being on a Monday. He told the Board to prepare for that conversation at the next Board meeting, unless they have another snowstorm. Presently, the 180th day is June 18. The last day of school for all students would be Monday, June 21. By statute, they are allowed to graduate the Senior Class on the 180th day, which is a Friday-Monday conversation again. This would be an action item at the first Board meeting in April.
4. ECC Informational Booklet: Dr. Erardi reported that an extensive booklet was put together by the Collaborative. He will make sure that the Board has copies when it goes to print.
5. Breakfast Program: Dr. Erardi reported that at Thalberg, Derynoski and Flanders the daily combined attendance was over 80 students. He thanked the community members who are supporting this program, building administrators, Food Service Director and the School Board, particularly Mrs. Johnson, who has offered terrific guidance in moving this from conversation to practice. An in-depth report will be given to the School Board at the end of the school year.

6. School / Police Partnership: Dr. Erardi distributed a booklet to the Board that would be available to Grade 7 next year. He reported that this is a partnership program with the Southington Police Department at no expense to the School Board. It is a program about citizenship. This would be under the direction of Mr. Thiery.

7. New Teacher – TEAM: Dr. Erardi stated that the Board was familiar with the BEST Program, a support program from the State Department of Education for beginning teachers. He reported that the TEAM Program would look like, feel like, but would be much different from the BEST Program regarding the new teachers. By statute, the infrastructure for support has been put together and they would be rolling out this information to the present new teachers in the next two weeks.

Mr. Derynoski stated that, with the recent Connecticut Supreme Court ruling on the funding calculation, he knows that nothing has been done yet in response to that. He asked if the superintendents' organization or other educational organizations were going to stay on top of that to assist in how that new formula is going to be put together. Dr. Erardi replied that it was a tremendous celebration for those who have waited 18 months for that information. There was a meeting and a brief that came out of Hartford from municipalities that was navigated by law students at Yale University. He did not have anything formal yet from the superintendents' organization. He noted that this has the ability to impact on the way we fund public schools. Mr. Derynoski stated that he talked to someone yesterday and the person mentioned that the State might be on the hook for an additional \$2 billion in municipal educational grants to the communities. He thought that, with the situation that the State was in with their budget, it would be a major issue as to where the money was going to come from. Dr. Erardi stated that, as soon as he receives something formal, he would send it to the Board.

Ms. Schroeder asked if the Family Literacy Night was open to all incoming kindergarteners. Dr. Erardi replied that the information has gone out to the Flanders School community and only for Flanders as part of the Foundation grant-funded programming. He pointed out that there would be similar programs in all of the schools.

Mr. Thiery stated that the elementary principals, Dale Riedinger and Betsy Chester have been working over the last month looking at six years of kindergarten data. They are currently designing a variety of programs for opportunity at all elementary schools across the springtime aimed at parents of incoming kindergarteners as far as teaching them what the school system's expectations are, how to help, as well as direct opportunities offered at the schools. There would be more detail on this forthcoming. Ms. Schroeder asked if Flanders School was considered the kick-off. Mr. Thiery stated that they invented some new things and they harnessed some existing resources. He noted that the Family Resource Center was one of the existing resources that they are looking to harness. They are one of the partners that they need to capitalize on.

Communication from Student Representative

Christopher Amnott reported that the Southington High School Drama Club was presenting "Beauty and the Beast" on March 26, 27 and 28 in the auditorium. Tickets are on sale at the high school and Southington Music Shop. He reported that the Key Club would be asking for donations for "Pennies for Patients" in the cafeteria. All these donations would benefit child patients who have leukemia. He reported that the registration deadline for juniors for the

Saturday, May 1 SAT has been extended to Wednesday, March 31. Juniors can register at www.collegeboard.com and there is a special code when registering. Mr. Amnott reported that the Coffeehouse Variety Show planning committee has a meeting on March 29 in the library. The National Honor Society Inductions are April 7, 2010. Mr. Amnott congratulated Michael Smigelski, a sophomore, who qualified for the State Open in swimming. He reported that spring sports started on March 22, 2010. The Southington High School girls' and boys' basketball teams were both eliminated in the State Tournament.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Policy & Personnel Committee Meeting ~ March 11, 2010

Mrs. Fischer reported that the committee met on March 11 and discussed a number of items. The job description for the Technology Director is on the agenda for action this evening. She stated that they also spoke on the Wellness Policy and that Mr. Thiery was getting some information for the committee. They also looked at a draft of the Restraint and Seclusion Policy, which is required by new statutes, and is on the agenda this evening. She reported that they reviewed the 1000 Series again.

b. Finance Committee Meeting ~ March 18, 2010

MOTION: by Mrs. Clark, seconded by Mrs. Notar-Francesco:

“Move to award Bid #S-027, Lawn Mowing Services for Plantsville and South End Elementary Schools, as submitted.”

Ms. Schroeder noted that the contract states that it is for one year, April 12, 2010 through November 15, 2010. She thought that they had a demolition going on during that time at South End School. Mrs. DiNello replied that the award was to Schmidt Lawn Care for Plantsville School for three years because they do not expect any other changes to that site. For South End School, they did the bid for one year based on the landscaping the way it is for this summer. There will not be any grass in the existing, old South End School building, which will be under demolition. They are awarding a one-year bid to get through this summer and next year they will bid again because next summer there would be landscaping and more turf that needs to be mowed. Ms. Schroeder was concerned with how any lawn maintenance would be done if they were having trucks and bulldozers driving all over it. Mrs. DiNello understood that the plot plan, which was reviewed by Mr. Cox and Mr. Goodwin, had a small area that would still need to be maintained and mowed on a regular basis throughout the summer. Mrs. Clark replied that there was access that was not through the demolition site. There is a lane where the public parking is that goes to the back of the building.

Mrs. Carmody asked if Schmidt Lawn Care mowed any other schools. Mrs. DiNello replied that they have other schools and they have been happy with their services. Mrs. Carmody asked if Schmidt also does the snow removal. Mrs. DiNello replied that Schmidt has been doing the high school.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Fischer, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Johnson, Ms. Schroeder, Mrs. Rickard, Mrs. Carmody, Mr. Goralski. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION: by Mrs. Clark, seconded by Mrs. Notar-Francesco:

“Move to approve the YMCA Rental Rates, as submitted.”

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Fischer, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Johnson, Ms. Schroeder, Mrs. Rickard, Mrs. Carmody, Mr. Derynoski, Mr. Goralski. ABSTAIN: Mrs. Clark. **Motion carried with eight in favor and one abstention.**

Mr. Goralski asked if there was another bid approval. Mrs. DiNello explained that the committee discussed the bid on Athletic Trainer Services and currently recommends that they wait to receive a proposal back from Select Physical Therapy before making a determination if they would bidding that service for the 2010-2011 school year. The Finance Committee would be revisiting that item at their next meeting.

MOTION: by Mrs. Clark, seconded by Mrs. Rickard:

“Move that the Board endorses the Apple Equity Leasing Program, as presented.”

Mrs. Notar-Francesco questioned the warranties on the computers. Mrs. Veilleux [Technology Director] replied that they purchase the three-year warranty with the computers. Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked if the computers would be configured the same as the computers at Plantsville and South End Elementary Schools. Mrs. Veilleux replied that it would be whatever is available when they purchase them. The specs would be upgraded from what is currently in place.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Johnson, Ms. Schroeder, Mrs. Rickard, Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Goralski. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Mrs. DiNello reported that she would be re-negotiating the lease with Oak Hill School, which would come before the Board once it is finalized. She explained that the committee discussed the Financial Update and she updated the committee on where the budget is projected as of February 17, 2010. A couple of items had major changes since the projections that were given to the Board in December. Regarding the gas account, which the Board was aware of during the budget discussion in January, they were able to make a large reduction in the budget for 2010-2011 that was due to the corresponding savings in the current year budget. The funding is still uncertain regarding the Excess Cost Grant and what that cap looks like. In the fall, they had anticipated that the State was paying 77 cents on the dollar. They receive the payments in two checks, with 75% of the money in February and 25% of the money in May. The first payment they received in February was actually paid out at an 84% reimbursement level versus 77%, which was a nice surprise. They budgeted to get 90% so, when they went from 90% to 77%, that was a big hit in the budget. The major difference from December through February is that the first payment came in at 84%; however, she was not confident that the second payment would also be at the 84%. In doing the calculation, they used 80% and that allowed them to

reduce the projected deficit down to \$32,000, which is a major decrease from the original \$350,000-\$400,000 that they were projecting in December.

Mrs. DiNello explained that the Board implemented a freeze with the schools still holding back 25% of their money and only purchasing items they needed to continue instruction for the current programming. The recommendation of the Finance Committee is to continue holding back 25%, but to lift the freeze and allow the schools to spend up to that 25% level based on the current projections. Mrs. DiNello explained that the deficit does not take into account the money saved with the 25% that they are holding, which would put them in the positive within the budget for the ending year projection. She asked for a consensus from the Board that they approve lifting the freeze and continue to hold back the 25%.

Mr. Derynoski asked the value of the 25%. Mrs. DiNello replied that it would be in the \$180,000-\$200,000 range.

Mr. Goralski stated that they forwarded a letter to the Town making them aware of the potential budget shortfall. He asked if the committee and administration was comfortable with a follow-up letter to the Town letting them know where the Board budget is now. Dr. Erardi replied that was exactly how the letter that came from the School Board read. The Town would be kept up-to-date if there were any changes. He stated that, if the Board reached a consensus this evening, he would follow with a letter on Monday.

Mr. Derynoski stated that he was in favor of lifting the freeze, but he would like to have it watched very closely to make sure they were buying what they really needed. All the Board members agreed to lift the freeze. Mr. Goralski wanted the community to realize that holding back \$180,000 in supplies does jeopardize the schools because they are making do with less paper and material that makes education as productive as it could be. There is not a stockpile of supplies in the buildings.

c. Facility Committee Meeting ~ March 23, 2010

Dr. Erardi asked the Board to reflect back to the November meeting where they were deliberate in putting this committee together. He was pleased that, from November through the middle of the March, the committee was high yielding regarding commitment to the mission of the work. They have endorsed, for the Board's review in Executive Session this evening, the contract issue for the proposal for North Center. They are looking forward to the large body of work that will be brought back to the School Board in the next month or two pertaining to the middle school work. There is an agreement by the committee that is represented by Town Council, Board of Finance and Town Hall that it is very important and will look at the big picture for middle schools.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Council / Board of Finance Communications

Mr. Goralski did not have any communication.

b. Construction Update

Mr. Cox stated that the move at South End School took place on March 22, followed by an assembly at 10:00 a.m. Since that time, the Maintenance Department has been in the old building removing all usable equipment that could be used elsewhere in the district. As of this morning, the building is empty, rooms cleaned, and the building has been handed over to the Building Committee. The abatement contractor surveyed the area this morning, fencing has gone up to contain the area, and they anticipate a four-week window for all the abatement to be completed.

Mr. Goralski stated that he spoke to Mr. Charlie Beliveau [Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds] and Jim Lombardo [Maintenance Foreman] after the Facility Committee meeting. They spoke about what the Maintenance Department was doing stripping the building down for anything that could be used throughout the district. Mr. Goralski could not believe that it was done already because the building was just emptied on Monday. He felt that the Maintenance Department often goes unnoticed in the district because they are a small group of gentlemen who do an amazing amount of work. He asked Mr. Cox to extend the Board's thanks to the Maintenance Department for their great work in this process.

Dr. Erardi thought that it was important for the community to know that there were four lead administrators who made South End School a seamless opening. He acknowledged Karen Veilleux, Howard Thiery, Sally Kamerbeek and Fred Cox who met weekly and had oversight for a number of other staff members who all deserve a 'thank you.' He stated that the four lead administrators made sure that what took place at Plantsville School would be replicated at South End. He was very pleased with Monday's opening at South End.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked Mr. Cox to bring the Board up-to-date on what was going on with the high school promenade. Mr. Cox replied that the heated areas of the sidewalk have been functioning for the most part. With the recent thaw, some of the sidewalk has gone back into place. His last inspection took place on Tuesday morning and there was still some lifting. This spring, they may have to do some grinding down to level off and smooth some of the areas. Mrs. Notar-Francesco noted that there was an article in The Emblem about it. Mr. Cox stated that this past winter they had some concerns at Plantsville School, too, with similar problems of sidewalks moving. They are going to do some repairs there. The winters have been so moist and, when they freeze, there is a lot of moisture in the ground.

7. NEW BUSINESS

e. Redistricting Proposal ~ 2010-2011

Dr. Erardi explained that Mr. Alan DeBisschop [Redistricting Facilitator] would give the Board a brief overview of the redistricting proposal. He thanked Mr. DeBisschop for undertaking this task and for the many hours that were involved.

Dr. Erardi stated that there were two parts to tonight's presentation. For the first part, if there were no issues, they would like to go forward with the redistricting proposal tomorrow. When they looked at the K-8 matrix for next year, the gap between the numbers of students at Kennedy compared to DePaolo Middle School could be more than 100 students for the first time in a very long time. If the numbers hold as they go through the elementary school grades, that

number will stay consistent. Administration wanted to do a simple approach to try to balance the schools. They are prepared to send out a letter to Grade 5 parents at Derynoski and Kelley Elementary Schools. They are the only two schools that send students to both DePaolo and Kennedy Middle Schools. The letter would be intended for parents that are scheduled to send their child to Kennedy. The intent of the letter would read that, if the parent were willing to transport their child, administration would assure the child a three-year stay at the middle school. It is a no cost proposal. It is an opportunity for parents who have after-school day care issues for their 11-year old, sixth grade student. He noted that those requests are handled through Mr. Thiery's office. He felt that this was the easiest solution. If they balance 25 to 30 students, they are close to where they need to be.

Dr. Erardi stated that the second part is the scope of the work that took place. The charge was to look at redistricting. This was pushed forward by the 300-student Plantsville and South End Elementary School initiatives with Plantsville School opening on January 4, 2010 and South End School on March 22, 2010. The work started with an overview of space availability at all the schools in Grades K-8. They looked closely at numbers and space. They found the primary grade numbers were tight. The numbers that they were holding were becoming fewer as grade levels progressed through the elementary school grades. They also found that, in many cases where class size was high, it was not about space, but about available funds and the number of teachers. Dr Erardi noted that Mr. DeBisschop and Mr. Thiery started the redistricting process by checking school to school for space availability before starting the committee work.

Dr. Erardi pointed out that this morning he had a conference call with Mr. David Wedge, Director of the State Facilities Unit at the State Department of Education, and Mr. Cox. He explained that Mr. Wedge stated that they needed to show a good faith effort of having 300 students in each of those schools, unless something dramatic happened in this community, i.e., Pratt & Whitney moves out of East Hartford, and suddenly there are hundreds of homes that are now empty and the projection changes. Dr. Erardi stated that Southington's Grand List shows growth in this community with jobs and businesses. He and Mr. Cox left that conversation with Mr. Wedge believing that the work that had taken place with this proposal, and the number projection that is in place for tonight's discussion, is a number that would work for the State Facilities Unit. If the Board decided that they cannot do this and they come in with 220 or 230 students, the funding level that they expect would be changing to a dollar that would be much less than what they presently expect. In essence, the State Facility Unit repays the district in different segments; if their repayment supersedes what the district is able to produce for students, then the district would have to return money. The bottom line, with the number projection going forward with this proposal, would meet the State Facilities Unit requirement for the funding level that the Board expects. If the Board chooses to lower that number, he suggested that it go back to committee. He did not want to take that chance of going any lower than what they have going forward.

Mr. DeBisschop thanked the Redistricting Committee for five months of dedication and hard work. They met the first and third Thursday of each month with approximately 10 meetings. He and Mr. Thiery met in September and October and went to all the elementary schools to look at the facilities and room availability. He noted that the majority of Board of Education members attended the public hearings and heard his presentation, but he thought that it was important to talk about how the committee approached the situation and handled the public hearings and some of the parent comments.

Mr. DeBisschop reported that the committee looked at all enrollment figures in the elementary schools and concentrated on the fact that South End School was opening a new building and that Plantsville Elementary School was being renovated. He stated that class sizes were discussed; however, that is something that is done over the summer by Mr. Thiery's office. The students would be moved based on enrollments, location of the streets that they chose, and transportation. He noted that Mr. Dean Barnes from New Britain Transportation was on the committee, and there would be no additional transportation costs to the Board of Education for any changes that are made. They tried to keep neighborhoods intact as best they could. Mr. DeBisschop pointed out that staffing would be handled by administration and there would be no additional cost. The Grade 5 students next school year, which are presently Grade 4 students, are given the option of remaining at their original school. He stated that Mr. Barnes indicated that there would be no additional expense to move those fifth graders into their schools. Mr. DeBisschop reported that the committee started out with the assumption that students who are presently at South End School and/or Plantsville School would not be moved out of the buildings. The committee felt that the plan was the best plan to accommodate the needs of the district. They had eight different scenarios, which were rejected for a variety of reasons. The streets that they have on the Redistricting Plan appear to be the best possible solution. Once the committee reached a consensus, they held four public hearings and letters were sent to the parents with the proposal. He noted that they started at Plantsville and South End Schools because they wanted to give the parents the opportunity to get into the new schools. The hearings were also held at Derynoski and Strong Schools. The committee received verbal comments during the public hearings and written comments through e-mails. All of the parent suggestions were discussed at the committee level.

Mr. DeBisschop pointed out that redistricting is an emotional subject because things are going along smoothly and then someone knocks on your door and tells you that your child(ren) would be attending a new school the following year. Parents have an emotional attachment to their schools. He pointed out that parents expressed this at the public hearings. The parents have invested years into their school; they may attend PTO meetings, be PTO officers, or volunteer in their schools and they know the staff and how the school operates. He thought that it was natural to become sensitive to the subject when redistricting is discussed. He noted that some parents were concerned about continuation of services if their child was moved. He stated that the school district has K-12 Curriculum Committees and no matter what the school, the same objectives and standards are being taught and the textbooks are the same. He commented that the Curriculum Committees work very hard to provide the same education throughout the district, so if a child moves from one school to another in the district, services are maintained. This applies to the area of Special Education as well. Mr. DeBisschop explained that the committee received one request to pick up a particular area that they had not chosen in their proposal. They are presently attending Derynoski School and they wanted to attend South End School. It ended up that there were an additional seven students involved. It came down to the numbers: how many students could they move and still maintain adequate class sizes. Another request was to keep all students in their present school and only redistrict incoming students. He pointed out that this would result in a five-year plan. They had to reject this because the State would not accept this proposal over a five-year period.

Mr. DeBisschop stated that the citizens of Southington voted to build two schools with a 300-pupil capacity and they are trying to show the State that they are working towards increasing

those numbers to satisfy reimbursement from the State. He noted that numbers are so fluid, but right now Plantsville School has approximately 218 students and South End School has 220. There is the need to move students to approach 300.

Mr. DeBisschop reported that the committee looked at schools bordering Plantsville and South End Schools. At the time, Strong School had 471 students and that needed to be reduced. They are using a Community Room as a classroom and the art teacher is using a room that was designed as a staff room. With this plan, they were able to reduce two classes at Strong School and at the same time increase the number of classrooms at Plantsville School by two. He pointed out that Derynoski School has streets where students pass South End School. Strong School has streets that pass Plantsville School, so it made sense to look at those particular areas. He spent quite a lot of time driving those areas. He stated that the amount of time children would be on a school bus would be reduced with the proposal. Mr. DeBisschop stated that the lower numbers coming out of Derynoski School were also a concern of the parents. They had 14 students in the proposal along with additional kindergarten students since they held pre-registration. It is early in the year and they are up now three additional kindergarteners; this brings them to 17 students. Between now and September, they know that those numbers would continue to increase.

Mr. DeBisschop recognized that another big issue was the building that was happening in town. He spent some time at the Town Planner's office and there are two large approved housing developments being planned, with one on West Center Street Extension. He met with Eileen Lovely from Lovely Corporation and they are in the process of building 42 homes on West Center Street Extension, which is in the Plantsville School district. There would be five homes that would be ready for occupancy by the time school starts in September 2010. The other area of planned construction is at the top of Meriden-Waterbury Road where Doran's Orchard used to be. There has been approval of 214 townhouses. There has been no building yet because it was an orchard and there is contamination in the soil, and there will be an expense to remove that soil. The construction is on hold at this point; however, if the owner chooses to sell to another developer, those approved certificates go with the land. He noted that it was hard to predict when building would begin; however, in time, there would be building in that area.

Mr. DeBisschop explained why they chose the streets for redistricting that they did. The streets proposed that would go from Strong School to Plantsville School were Crescent Street, Buckland Street 0-153, South Main Street, Maple Street, Hillside Avenue, Grove Street, Mark Drive, Marboy Drive, Cornerstone Court and Atwater Street 406-up. He noted that right now the bus goes right by Plantsville School on its way to Strong School. The addition of these students would add two classrooms, which are available. They are moving approximately 45 students into Plantsville School bringing the population up to 264 students, which would allow for that additional growth off West Center Street Extension. Since those 45 students have been identified, they had an additional six students through kindergarten registration, which brings the number to 51 students moving out of Strong School into Plantsville School.

Mr. DeBisschop explained that they are proposing redistricting the following streets from Strong School to South End School: Barr Street, Cummings Street, Franklin Street, Wilbur Street, Milldale Avenue and Mulberry Street 0-263. He stated that it was an unusual situation for those particular streets. He noted that Kennedy Middle School was to the left of those streets and, in the previous redistricting, Werking Street, which is to the left of Kennedy, and Buckland Street, which is behind Kennedy are already South End School areas. Therefore, it made sense

when the committee looked to the right of Kennedy Middle School that those streets be moved over to South End School. He drove around those streets and noted that they are closer to South End School than they are to Strong School where they are presently going. They would have an entire neighborhood now that would be attending South End School. Mr. DeBisschop stated that, by moving those students to South End School, they still needed additional students.

The committee looked at the south end side of Meriden-Waterbury Road. They wanted to take a larger section, all of the streets south of Meriden-Waterbury Road; however, the numbers did not work. Through the construction of South End School, they only have one additional classroom. It became very difficult to find a neighborhood that would satisfy that one classroom and also not overload the remaining classrooms.

Mr. DeBisschop explained that the committee was proposing moving 27 students into South End School with 14 from the area of the south part of Meriden-Waterbury Road and 13 out of Strong School. However, they have already picked up from the Derynoski School area additional kindergarten students through registration. Actually, they are moving approximately 32 students. The proposed streets redistricted from Derynoski School to South End School were South End Road 764-above, Brownstone Drive, South Borough Road, Winterwood Road, Southshire Drive and East Johnson Avenue.

Mr. DeBisschop stated that class sizes concerned parents and that is something that is fluid between now and the beginning of school. He explained that the class sizes are addressed by Mr. Thiery's office in the summertime. Mr. DeBisschop stated that the proposal supports the Board of Education policy of the numbers at the primary and intermediate level.

Mr. DeBisschop explained that one topic that he has been mentioning throughout the presentation was the idea of the fluidity of numbers. When they started, they looked at the October 1, 2009 numbers and, when they came to January 1, 2010, they found a lot of movement. He pointed out that Derynoski School had gained 17 students from October to January. The committee looked at all of the schools to see what was happening throughout the school year. The committee also looked at the first grade numbers because they could not base first grade on the present kindergarten students. Many parents choose to send their children to the parochial schools for the full-day kindergarten; there is a significant jump of several students coming from the kindergarten level into the first grade when the parents send the children to public schools.

Mr. DeBisschop summarized that the beauty of the proposal was that children were going into brand new schools. They have the latest technology, Smartboards, document cameras, and large screen televisions in the two new classrooms. There is no increase in transportation costs. Fifth grade students are allowed to remain for the 2010-2011 school year and transportation would be provided. If this proposal were approved, tours would be created so children and families could visit the schools before the end of the school year. He felt that he explained to the Board the process of the committee and why they selected the streets that they did. Mr. DeBisschop thanked the Board of Education members who attended the public hearings to hear the concerns of the parents.

Mr. Goralski thanked Mr. DeBisschop for his work. He also thanked Board members Mrs. Johnson and Ms. Schroeder who sat on that committee. He thanked the parents who were

part of the committee especially Patricia Maciejewski who did not miss a meeting, as well as Doreen Napoli and Christine Turci. Mr. Goralski thanked the principals and the entire committee for all the work that they did.

Ms. Schroeder thanked Mr. DeBisschop for his lead on this very long and hard process. She felt that the committee has done the best that they could and everything was looked over carefully. They read every e-mail, every parent concern and discussed the parent recommendations and came up with the best solution for redistricting.

Mrs. Johnson wanted to assure people that the committee was very sensitive to the emotional aspect of this situation because no one likes change. She stated that the children's well-being was paramount in all of their discussions. She wanted the parents who communicated to the committee to know that they took all of their comments and ideas into consideration. They tried to be very sensitive to people's ideas and feelings. She noted that there was so much passion from the parents who communicated with the committee and that parents like to be a part of their schools. She stated that the job of the schools is only as good as the parent support that the children receive. She acknowledged that the committee did not discount the passion of the parents in any way. She felt that this proposal was going to be the best for the students.

Mr. Goralski asked Dr. Erardi that, when the Board makes their motion, if they should amend the motion to include the proposal for DePaolo and Kennedy Middle Schools. Dr. Erardi stated that he would like a consensus on the middle school initiative.

Dr. Erardi remarked that they had about six parents who were not on the committee that have watched and worked hard with this process. He told the Board that the process administration has in place for the summer was that, if a parent wants to stay where they are, or to go to any other school other than their neighborhood school, they have a right to petition that through Mr. Thiery's office. He noted that they have parents who were concerned with the change and they also have parents who are not included in the redistricting proposal that want to move. He stated that it might be a balancing act that takes place this summer.

Mr. Derynoski stated that he supported the proposal as it was presented. He was disappointed that in the southeast corner of the district they still have students who will be traveling a great distance to Derynoski School rather than South End School. He wished something could have been done to fix that issue, which was established when he was on a redistricting committee a long time ago. However, he understood that there were commitments made that they would not be moving children from the existing South End or Plantsville School districts, which hamstrung the committee in making that move. He hoped this could be addressed some time in the future. He thanked the committee, the parents, staff members and especially Mr. DeBisschop for the effort that they put into this. Mr. DeBisschop acknowledged that the committee did look at Pratt Street, Budding Ridge, Johnson Avenue and Jeffrey Lane, all the streets south of Meriden-Waterbury Road and also on Meriden-Waterbury Road where there is Masthay Court, Blatchley Avenue and Rye Lane. He explained that it was the number situation with South End School only adding one new classroom and the numbers did not support bringing all of those students into South End School at this time.

MOTION: by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Ms. Schroeder:

“Move to approve the Redistricting Plan as presented.”

Mrs. Notar-Francesco thanked Dr. Erardi for explaining the procedure about students being able to ask to go elsewhere because that was one of her concerns. She thanked Mr. DeBisschop for giving a thorough presentation.

Mr. Goralski stated that he went to all of the workshops and shared that he has lived through what these parents are going through. He noted that some of the parents are incredibly emotional as he was years ago. He pointed out that it was never going to be simple or easy, but the students will persevere and they will do well. He was confident that everything would work out, and that Mrs. Kamerbeek [Principal of South End School] and Mrs. Corvello [Principal of Plantsville School] were going to make this transition work well for the students.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Johnson, Ms. Schroeder, Mrs. Rickard, Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Fischer, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mr. Goralski. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Goralski asked for a consensus regarding the letter that Dr. Erardi spoke to this evening. Mrs. Johnson wanted to make sure that everyone understood that the move was from Kennedy Middle School to DePaolo Middle School. Mr. Goralski noted that they do not typically allow middle school movement, but this was an exception. With this exception in place, should other parents make the request of an incoming sixth grader, and they have achieved the number through this methodology, he assumed administration would consider that. Dr. Erardi stated that was the second phase because they have a deadline in the letter that is being sent. If there were still a wide gap, they would then offer it to the other six elementary schools. Mr. Goralski hoped that Mr. Thiery’s office would share with parents that this is a fluke and something that is not typically done at the middle school level. Mrs. Fischer thought that there is a policy that states middle school transfers do not occur. Mr. Goralski asked if they would need a motion to wave Board policy to allow this letter to take place. Mr. Thiery could not say without having the policy in front of him. Mr. Goralski stated that they would take a consensus on this philosophy right now and revisit it if they need to wave a policy. Dr. Erardi thought that it was a guideline, not a policy. He stated that it would not prohibit this from going forward because there would be two meetings before they take any action. The consensus of the Board was to send the letter.

Mrs. Rickard asked if there was any thought given to allowing seventh or eighth grade students to move. Dr. Erardi replied that they have not at this time. They are looking right now at just the incoming grade six students. Mr. Goralski thought what Mrs. Rickard mentioned could be part of round two. Dr. Erardi thought that it was a very good suggestion.

a. Adoption of 2011 Board Meeting Dates

MOTION: by Mr. Derynoski, seconded by Ms. Schroeder:

“Move that the Board meetings are approved as submitted.”

Mr. Goralski pointed out that there is one meeting in February 2011 because the second meeting falls during school vacation week. This year, they canceled the second meeting in

February because the agenda was light. He noted that they have dropped the second meeting in February in years past and it is something that the Board should look at in the future. Mr. Derynoski pointed out that the Board chair has the ability to call for a meeting. Mrs. Johnson noted that there is a policy that any Board member could petition for a meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Johnson, Ms. Schroeder, Mrs. Rickard, Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Fischer, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mr. Goralski. **Motion carried unanimously.**

b. Job Description – Technology Director

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

“Move that the job description be approved as submitted.”

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Johnson, Ms. Schroeder, Mrs. Rickard, Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Fischer, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mr. Goralski. **Motion carried unanimously.**

c. Restraint and Seclusion Policy ~ First Reading

Mr. Thiery stated that this policy was special education driven by State statute and asked Ms. Haag to join in. He stated that the Policy and Personnel Committee worked off a model of this that was given to them by legal counsel because it was statutorily driven. The committee just cleaned it up for clarity and language purposes. Mrs. Fischer asked if this policy was sent to the Board’s attorney after the committee struck out language. Mr. Thiery replied that it was not because they did not strike anything out of substance.

Mr. Goralski stated that he is an instructor in this particular area in his current employment and had some general questions. He asked why this policy was only geared to special education students. Mr. Thiery replied that the policy does not apply outside of the special education student because it was a statutory requirement. It could be problematic to write policy beyond that which is required. He stated that it did not mean they are not doing beyond what is required; however, there is liability for carrying out elements of this policy across all situations versus the very specific situations, with very specific guidelines, about the special education student.

Mr. Goralski asked if enough staff were trained to have the number of people that they need for crisis situations. Ms. Haag replied that they have ongoing PMT training. They start with an initial group with six-hour initial training. Annually, they have refresher training. A few years ago when they were looking for people to become PMT trained, there was some fear in what it was and what it meant. People thought that it was there to teach people how to restrain and it is about teaching people how to de-escalate a situation and keep everyone safe. Ms. Haag stated that this week they just finished professional development for elementary school paraprofessionals and they asked when they could have more PMT training. Mr. Goralski asked how many years Southington has used PMT for crisis intervention. Ms. Haag replied that Southington has used PMT for four years, which is Physical and Psychological Management Training. It is a company from Middletown that many districts use for training for de-escalation.

Mr. Goralski noted that it is used by the Department of Social Services and Department of Mental Health.

Mr. Goralski thought that on the first page of the policy, under "Student at risk," it states, "*a person receiving care, education or supervision in an institution or facility operating under contract with the Southington Board of Education,*" which he thought was repetitive with the first part of the paragraph. Mr. Thiery replied that, if they were talking about every child, that would be true; however, the first part of that paragraph narrows it down to the scope of the statutory language with special education.

Mr. Goralski noted item #2 on page three states, "*School staff will attempt to notify parents of a student at risk by telephone within 24 hours after the use of physical restraint*". He realized that the 24-hour guideline is what State statute requires, but he liked it to be as immediate as possible. Mr. Thiery replied that was exactly the practicing standard in the schools, which was faster than 24 hours. However, it was statutory language and they did not want to hold themselves to more restrictive language than the State.

d. RFP Facility Studies

Mr. Goralski stated that this agenda item would follow Executive Session because of a contractual matter.

8. Executive Session for a Personnel Matter, Student Matters, Contractual Negotiations and School Safety Matters

MOTION: by Ms. Schroeder, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

"Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing a Personnel Matter, Student Matters, Contractual Negotiations, and School Safety Matters, and upon conclusion reconvene to open session to complete the agenda."

Motion carried by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Blanchard
Recording Secretary

**SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION
MARCH 25, 2010**

Mr. Brian Goralski, Board Chairperson, called the Executive Session to order at 9:20 p.m.

Members Present:

Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Rosemarie Fischer, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Kathleen Rickard, Ms. Michelle Schroeder, Mr. Brian Goralski.

Administration Present:

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

MOTION: by Ms. Schroeder, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

“Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing a Personnel Matter, Student Matters, Contractual Negotiations, and School Safety Matters, and upon conclusion reconvene to open session to complete the agenda.”

Motion carried by voice vote.

MOTION: by Mr. Derynoski, seconded by Ms. Schroeder:

“Move that the Board reconvene into public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The board reconvened public session at 9:55 p.m.

MOTION: by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Ms. Schroeder:

“Move to add a student matter to the agenda.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

MOTION: by Mr. Derynoski, seconded by Ms. Schroeder:

“Move to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation for expulsion of student 2009-2010-13.”

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Ms. Schroeder, Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Rickard, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Goralski. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION: by Mr. Derynoski, seconded by Ms. Schroeder:

“Move to award the Request for Proposal contract for the North Center School Feasibility Study to Kaestle Boos Associates for the sum of \$5,000 with the proviso of Brian Solywoda as lead on the project.”

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Fischer, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Ms. Schroeder, Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Rickard, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mr. Goralski. **Motion carried unanimously.**

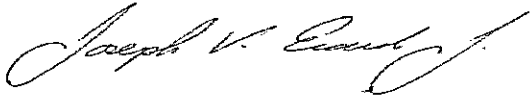
MOTION: by Mr. Derynoski, seconded by Mrs. Carmody:

“Move to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Executive Session adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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

CREC Council Meeting March 17, 2010

- **Attachment #1** contains an overview of information on the MORE Commission's findings, direction and focus on regional efficiencies and shared services. Jason Rojas, the East Hartford House representative, was in attendance and provided this overview of the work of the newly formed MORE Commission.

- **Attachment #2:**

1. CUBE list of legislative bills concerning education;
2. CUBE's March 15th testimony submitted to the Education Committee;
3. CREC Executive Director Bruce Douglas's testimony submitted to the Education Committee on SB 438, An Act Concerning Charter Schools and Open Choice Program Funding; and
4. The portion of SB 438 that highlights the proposed funding formula for the Open Choice program.

All bills can be viewed at www.cga.ct.gov

- **Attachment #3:** This document reflects comparisons of superintendent and BOE budget increases for districts across the State. (Source: CAPSS)

Attachment #1

Doing
M.O.R.E

MUNICIPAL OPPORTUNITIES
& REGIONAL EFFICIENCIES

www.housedems.ct.gov/more

Doing **M.O.R.E** MUNICIPAL OPPORTUNITIES
& REGIONAL EFFICIENCIES

Chair, Rep. Brendan Sharkey, Hamden
Vice-Chair, Rep. Betty Boukus, Plainville

Membership:

Rep. Joe Aresimowicz, Southington
Rep. Andres Avala, Bridgeport
Rep. David Baram, Bloomfield
Rep. Beth Bye, West Hartford
Rep. Don Clemons, Bridgeport
Rep. Kim Fawcett, Fairfield
Rep. Mary Fritz, Wallingford
Rep. Henry Genga, East Hartford
Rep. Linda Gentile, Ansonia/Derby
Rep. Bob Godfrey, Danbury
Rep. Auden Grobins, Bridgeport
Rep. Deb Heinrich, Madison
Rep. Jack Hennessy, Bridgeport
Rep. Emie Hewell, New London

Rep. Gary Holder-Winfeld, New Haven
Rep. Claire Janowski, Vernon
Rep. Karen Jarmoc, Enfield
Rep. Susan Johnson, Windham
Rep. Tom Kehoe, Glastonbury
Rep. Marie Kirkley-Bey, Hartford
Rep. Tim Larson, East Hartford
Rep. Matthew Lesser, Durham
Rep. Joan Lewis, Coventry
Rep. David McCluskey, West Hartford
Rep. Doug McCrory, Hartford
Rep. Russ Morin, Wethersfield
Rep. Bruce Morris, Norwalk
Rep. Sandy Natlis, Newington
Rep. Frank Nicastro, Bristol

Rep. Tim O'Brien, New Britain
Rep. Chris Parone, Norwalk
Rep. Lonnie Reed, Branford
Rep. Tom Reynolds, Preston
Rep. Betsy Ritter, Waterford
Rep. Hector Robles, Hartford
Rep. Jason Rojas, East Hartford
Rep. Kevin Roldan, Hartford
Rep. Peggy Savers, Windsor Lock
Rep. Cam Staples, New Haven
Rep. Kathleen Tallarita, Enfield
Rep. Jack Thompson, Manchester
Rep. Diana Urban, Stonington
Rep. Toni Walker, New Haven
Rep. Elissa Wright, Groton

Key Findings from Phase I

Regionalism is Common Sense

- Towns and Boards already get it – and they're already doing it
- Best Practices for regionalizing services are already developing
- One-Size-Fits-All solutions are not the norm
- State government needs to promote innovation financially, and otherwise get out of the way

Key Findings from Phase I

Revenue Streams are Essential

- The greatest obstacle to initiating regionalized services is the up-front expense
- State government must empower existing regional entities to carry out initiatives
- The State must also provide revenue streams for regional entities
- Permanent revenue streams for towns must be developed

Key Findings from Phase I

Relief From Unfunded State Mandates Will Assist our Towns and Boards

- Where policies and statutes cost towns money, the State needs to reevaluate, modify and/or rescind
- Data is critical to evaluating costs and policies

Key Findings from Phase I

Restructuring State and Local Government is Key to Solving Budget Crisis

- State grants to towns and boards need to incent efficiencies
- Economic Development must occur at the regional level
- Existing regional entities are central to creating efficiencies, and
- Consolidation of some regional entities must be evaluated
- Barriers to health care and purchasing cooperatives must be removed

Relief for Municipalities

- ✓ Repeal of Web Site Posting Requirements
- ✓ Relief from Responsibility for Evicted Tenant Possessions
- ✓ 3-year Delay for In-School Suspensions
- ✓ Changes to property tax laws governing telecom towers
- ✓ Establishing a floor for depreciation of personal property

Revenue Streams for Municipalities

- ✓ 3% Increase in Hotel Lodging Tax
 - 1/3 to host towns
 - 1/3 to all towns in host region
 - 1/3 dedicated to launching regionalism initiatives
- ✓ Allowing Towns to Charge Fees Based on Cost of Services
- ✓ Extending the Real Estate Conveyance Tax

Regional Efficiencies

- ✓ Provide Performance Incentive Grants through Hotel Tax
- ✓ Re-formulate State Grants for School Transportation to Promote Regional Contracting
- ✓ Promote Regional Economic Development Strategies Through Federal Grants
- ✓ Eliminate Statutory Barriers to Multi-town Cooperation and Between Towns and BoE's
- ✓ Allow Prescription Pooling Among BoE's
- ✓ Promote Health Care Pooling for Towns and BoE's
- ✓ Allow RESC's to Perform Construction Management Services

Reorganizing Government

- ✓ Allow Prescription Pooling Among BoE's
- ✓ Promote Health Care Pooling for Towns and BoE's
- ✓ Create a "MERF-B" Retirement Plan for New Municipal Hires
- ✓ Establish a Single Arbitrator System for Binding Arbitration
- ✓ New Disclosure Requirements for Health Care Brokers
- ✓ Promote Regional Economic Development Strategies Through Federal Grants
- ✓ Expanding Purchasing Cooperatives to BoE's

Phase II – Action for 2011 Legislative Session

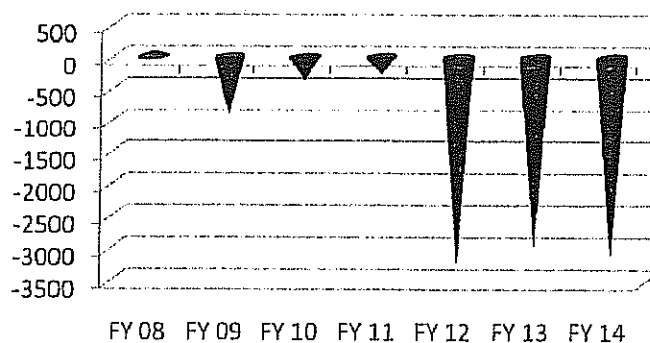
- Committees to continue meeting through 2010 to further develop longer term initiatives
- Full Commission to reconvene quarterly to consider committee reports
- Full package of consensus initiatives to be developed for public comment by September 30, 2010
- Final package of legislative initiatives to be completed by December 1, 2010 in time for 2011 Legislative Session.

Phase II Studies and Recommendations

- Regional Collective Bargaining
- Prevailing Wage Requirements
- Special Education Mandates
- Evaluating Capacities and Consolidation of Existing Regional Entities
- 3-year Moratorium on Unfunded Mandates w/out 2/3 Vote
- Consolidated School Calendars
- Restructured State Grant Formulas to Promote Regional Efficiencies
- Additional Revenue Streams to Reduce Reliance on Property Tax
- “Reversing” PILOT for Colleges and Hospitals
- “Raise the Age” Requirements
- Minimum Budgeting Requirements
- Standardizing Job Descriptions and Budget Reporting
- School Construction Prototyping

The Budget Reality

General Fund Deficits
(\$\$ Millions)





Attachment #2

Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc.

81 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield, CT 06109-1242 • (860) 571-7446 • Fax 571-7452 • E-Mail admin@cabe.org

**2010 Session
Major Education Bills**

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Bill</u>	<u>Hearings</u>
Funding	Governor's budget level funds ECS. Caps special education, transportation and many other grants	HB 5018	Appropriations 2/16
	Increase Open Choice Funding	SB 438 HB 5487	Education 3/15
	Money follows the child for charter schools	HB 5493	Education 3/15
Mandate Relief	Special Education burden of proof	HB 5425	Education 3/8
Purchasing	Expand reverse auction authority to purchase of services	HB 5327	GAE 3/1
Regionalism	Allow two or more boards of education or municipalities to jointly purchase health insurance	HB 5337 HB 5424	Planning & Development 3/10 Education 3/8
	Seat Belts	HB 5033	Transportation 2/17 JFS – new buses in 2012
New Mandates	2 years or Foreign Language	SB 279	Education 3/1
	Restrict RESC provision of transportation	SB 280	Education 3/1
	Mandated regionalization	HB 5515	GAE
	Increase high school graduation Requirements	HB 5165 HB 5489, 5492	Program Review 3/1 Education 3/15
	Student growth as factor in teacher evaluation; parent trigger	HB 5491	Education 3/15

Committee Deadlines

March 17 – Transportation	March 24 – Planning & Development
March 24 – Education	April 1 - Appropriations



Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc.

81 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield, CT 06109-1242 - (860) 571-7446 - Fax (860) 571-7452 - Email admin@cabe.org

**Testimony
Submitted to the
Education Committee**

March 15, 2010

**SB 438 AN ACT CONCERNING CHARTER SCHOOLS AND OPEN CHOICE PROGRAM FUNDING
SB 440 AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND TEACHER PERFORMANCE
SB 442 AN ACT CONCERNING BOARDS OF EDUCATION
HB 5487 AN ACT CONCERNING THE OPEN CHOICE PROGRAM
HB 5489 AN ACT CONCERNING SECONDARY SCHOOL REFORM
HB 5491 AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT REFORMS TO REDUCE THE
ACHIEVEMENT GAP IN CONNECTICUT
HB 5493 AN ACT CONCERNING STRATEGIC PLANNING IN STATE EDUCATION POLICY AND
CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDING**

The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) strongly supports the provisions of SB 438, An Act Concerning Charter Schools and Open Choice Program Funding, which would increase the per pupil grant to districts receiving a significant number of open choice students. These resources are critical to supporting the costs of providing an appropriate educational experience. In these times of extremely difficult local budget constraints, it is appropriate for the state to support the long standing integration program that is a key component of the Sheff settlement agreement.

We are concerned about the provisions in this bill which remove the "within available appropriations" limitation on the number of charter schools and their enrollment at a time when districts face caps on many of the state reimbursement grants, putting them in a precarious fiscal situation. It is inequitable to allow unrestricted growth in the charter school grants.

CABE has significant concerns about the implementation of SB 440, An Act Concerning School Districts and Teacher Performance. It is unclear from the proposed bill how the determination of effective or highly effective teachers or principals would be made, and how "acceptable rates of student growth" and "high rates of student growth" would be determined. It is also unclear of what the purpose of the department making such information available would be, as there is no tie to teacher and principal evaluation or compensation.

The language in SB 442, An Act Concerning Boards of Education, needs further clarification and definition to ensure that the reconstitution of a board of education in a district identified as in need of improvement would only occur after other measures have been taken to provide support and professional development to that board of education. It is also important to include a process for return to a board elected by the community.

CABE supports HB 5487, An Act Concerning the Open Choice Program, which increases the grant from \$2,500 to \$3,000 for each out of district student participating in the Open Choice Program for the reasons indicated in our support of SB 438.

HB 5489, An Act Concerning Secondary School Reform incorporates the recommendations of the secondary school reform task force, which we support. This bill appropriately acknowledges the necessity of funding in order to successfully implement this significant increase in high school graduation requirements. We are concerned that as written the bill would put these requirements in place for classes graduating in 2019 regardless of whether there are resources available at the time. In addition to the resources needed for the State Department of Education to develop the appropriate curriculum, it is critical that resources be in place to provide the student support systems. Without such student support systems, which were identified as a critical component of these changes by the task force, it will not be possible for all students to successfully meet these requirements. We urge you to take this into consideration when you debate this bill.

CABE supports several of the provisions in HB 5491, An Act Concerning Certain School District Reforms to Reduce the Achievement Gap in Connecticut, and has concerns about others. CABE supports the provisions in Section 3 which provide for the use of data and indicators of student academic growth as a significant factor in evaluating teacher performance. With respect to Section 4, it is important that the proposed Performance Evaluation Advisory Council specifically include principals, superintendents and board of education members.

CABE is concerned that some of the provisions in this bill will not support the goal of reducing the achievement gap. Section 1 of the bill requires that upon receipt of a petition from 51% of the parents a board of education hold a public hearing and "immediately after such public hearing" hold a public meeting to vote concerning implementation of the recommendations. Boards of education actively seek to increase parent involvement in the education of their own children as well as the overall direction of the school district. Parents and other community members already have the opportunity to express their views at each public meeting of a board of education, during budget hearings, and at the school or classroom level. The process laid out in this section could have a destabilizing impact on the efforts of a school district to implement educational reform throughout the district. In addition, the time lines required in this section allow no opportunity for thoughtful deliberation, by requiring an immediate decision to implement significant structural changes.

The requirement in Section 7 that beginning July 1, 2010 each district must conduct two parent teacher conferences, would require many districts to reopen collective bargaining agreements and likely result in additional compensation.

Section 10 is overly restrictive in requiring all boards of education to provide an advanced placement course program. Some school districts use the International Baccalaureate program to provide advanced level courses, and this should remain an option. It is also unclear why it would be necessary for the State Board of Education to approve advanced placement course programs offered by each board of education.

CABE urges you to reject HB 5493, An Act Concerning Strategic Planning in State Education Policy and Charter School Funding, which would place the funding responsibility for charter schools on school districts. This proposal would have a detrimental impact on the programs and services offered to those students who make the choice to remain in their traditional school. The original intent of charter schools was to create better educational programs for all children, not to divide limited public resources. Costs, unfortunately, are not reduced when a small number of students choose to attend a charter school. This proposal would add another unfunded mandate, at a time when school districts are facing extreme financial burdens and are unable to raise additional funds through local property taxes.

In addition, CABE urges you to develop a funding formula that addresses Open Choice, magnet schools, and charter schools, whether or not Sheff related or interdistrict, local or state funded as part of a single comprehensive program. It is the lack of a comprehensive funding formula that creates uncertainty about the future of these schools and programs.

Testimony
Submitted to the Education Committee

March 15, 2010

SB 438 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CHARTER SCHOOLS
AND OPEN CHOICE PROGRAM FUNDING

Good afternoon Senator Gaffey, Representative Fleischmann, and members of the Education Committee.

My name is Bruce Douglas. I represent the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC), and the 35 school districts in the Capitol Region. I am also speaking on behalf of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS).

I am testifying today in favor of SB 438, An Act Concerning Open Choice Program Funding. Because it recognizes the legitimate cost of education, SB 438 provides a strong incentive for districts to accept significant numbers of Open Choice applicants. SB 438 is the first legitimate funding formula that would enable the Open Choice option to meet Sheff requirements and to provide the same opportunities for students and school districts statewide.

Because it has never been properly funded, the Open Choice program, since its inception in 1997, has been an inadequate Sheff remedy, consistently failing to meet the targeted enrollment projections set by the State of Connecticut. From 1997 through 2007, the Open Choice subsidy for districts receiving students was \$2,000 per student. In 2008, the subsidy was adjusted to \$2,500 per student, and today, it remains woefully inadequate. Per State Department of Education calculations, the average cost of educating a student in the Capitol Region in 2007 was \$12,745 and \$13,118 statewide.

Approximately 1,851 children currently attend public schools in urban and suburban districts throughout the Capitol Region and statewide through Open Choice. Since the program began in 1997, there has been an increase of only 700 students enrolled in the Capitol Region Open Choice program (please reference the attached SDE Capitol Region Enrollment data and Statewide Participation data). The program's slow growth cannot be attributed to a lack of parent interest or willingness on the part of receiving school districts. Each year, the number of applications for Open Choice consistently exceeds the

number of available suburban seats. This year, there were close to 4,000 applications for 200 seats. Since 1997, the number of applications has exceeded the number of available seats by at least 20 times. This abhorrent statistic represents a generation of children that has been shamefully denied the constitutional right and opportunities promised in the Sheff court order and the Constitution of the State of Connecticut.

To increase the number of Open Choice seats, SB 438 will address districts' legitimate concerns regarding essential costs and limited class sizes. Given the current recession and projected deficits through 2014, SB 438 will allow districts to meet or exceed the Sheff settlement enrollment projections for 2013 and to hire additional teachers in order to maintain class sizes. Moreover, it will provide the critical support necessary to train teachers and assist children as they adjust to new cultural and social environs and close the achievement disparity.

Education is an emergency. It is obvious we have denied a generation of children their just entitlement to educational equity and excellence. This lost opportunity has a life-long and next generation impact. Adequate funding for Open Choice would have allowed the state to meet and exceed its enrollment benchmark for this year. As the state looks ahead to meeting the Sheff stipulated goal for 2013, Open Choice is our best strategy along with the existing magnet schools for providing diverse, quality education opportunities that are the constitutionally guaranteed rights of all of Connecticut's children.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

SB438

the state pursuant to this subsection may request forgiveness of such refund if the building is redirected for public use.

Sec. 3. Subsection (g) of section 10-266aa of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2010*):

(g) [The] For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Department of Education shall provide, within available appropriations, an annual grant to the local or regional board of education for each receiving district in an amount not to exceed (1) two thousand five hundred dollars for each out-of-district student who attends school in the receiving district under the program if the number of such out-of-district students are less than or equal to three per cent of the total student population of such receiving district, (2) six thousand dollars for each out-of-district student who attends school in the receiving district under the program if the number of such out-of-district students are greater than three per cent but less than or equal to five per cent of the total student population of such receiving district, and (3) nine thousand dollars for each out-of-district student who attends school in the receiving district under the program if the number of such out-of-district students are greater than five per cent of the total student population of such receiving district. Each town which receives funds pursuant to this subsection shall make such funds available to its local or regional board of education in supplement to any other local appropriation, other state or federal grant or other revenue to which the local or regional board of education is entitled.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	10-66bb
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	10-66hh
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	10-266aa(g)

Statement of Purpose:

To remove fiscal restrictions that limit the State Board of Education's ability to grant charters to local and state charter schools; to eliminate the enrollment cap of eighty-five students per grade for state charter schools that have demonstrated a record of achievement; to extend the Commissioner of Education's authority to provide grants to state charter schools for capital expenses; and to increase the per pupil grant to districts receiving open choice program students.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

- \$2500 less than or equal to 3%
- \$6000 greater than 3%, but less than or equal to 5%
- \$9000 greater than 5%

District	Final 2009-10 Budget Increase	Supt's 2010-11 Budget	BOE's 2010-11 Budget	Final 2010-11 Budget	Number of Teaching Positions Eliminated in Final 2010-11 Budget
Andover	1.92	1.91	1.91		
Ansonia	0	4.9	4.9		
Ashford	-0.18	5.7	1.56		
Avon	2.15	6.79	6.91		
Barkhamsted	0	5.67			
Beilin	2	2.26	1.91		
Bethany	0	3.25			
Bethel	0	2.65	2.56		
Bloomfield	1.7	0	0		
Bolton	0.76	3	3		1
Bozrah	2.8	3.67	3.67		
Branford	1.96	3.99	3.42		
Bridgeport	0				
Bristol	1.39	1.74	1.74		
Brookfield	-0.26	5.62	5.62		
Brooklyn	0.82				
Canterbury	0	1.3			
Canton	1.19	1.94			
Cheshire	1.72	3.86			
Chester	0.61	1.63		5.62	0
Clinton	2	5.62	5.62		10.35
Colchester	1.55	4.75			
Colebrook	2.2	9.4	10.2		6
Columbia	-0.97	2.82			6
Coventry	1.69	2.95	3.74		6
Cromwell	0.19		3		
Danbury	0	3.81	3.81		11.4
Darien	3.5	5.82	4.49		
Deep River	2.68	2.46			
Derby					
Eastford	-0.83	0	0		0
East Granby	2.06				
East Haddam					
East Hampton	2.1	3.88	3.88		
East Hartford	-4.24	0.36	0.36		0
East Haven	0	8.64	6.75		
East Lyme	-0.45	1.97	1.97		
Easton	-0.36	5.67			
East Windsor	-1.17	7.02			
Ellington	-0.2	4	4		
Enfield	0	3.64	1.24		
Essex	4.34	2.98			
Fairfield	-0.04	3.75	3.59		
Farmington	1.94	5.25			
Franklin					
Glastonbury	3.69	3.29	2.82		21
Granby	1.7	0	0		1
Greenwich	0.8	4.4	4.4		
Griswold	0	4.28	2.91		
Groton	1.5	2.44	1.9		0
Gulford	1.2	2.8	2.8		
Hamden	0.06	3.43	2.8		

Hartford							
Hebron	1.96		4.38		3.99		
Killingly	1.92						
Lebanon							
Ledyard	0		5.36		5.36		
Lisbon	3.43		0				
Litchfield	0						
Madison			2.86				
Manchester	3.61		3.49		3.49		
Mansfield	0.78		3.7		3.98		
Mansfield	-1.6		-0.04		-0.04		
Marlborough	-3.06		3.32		-0.08		
Meriden	1.5		6.5		3		
Middletown	0.29		1.28		1.28		
Milford	1.35						
Monroe	2.59						
Montville	1		1.98		1.98		
Naugatuck	0						
New Britain	-8.93		22.53				
New Canaan	2.2		1.39		1.42		
New Fairfield	1.1		4.16		4.16		
New Hartford							
New Haven	0		1.7				
New London	0		3.36				
Newington	3		3.74		3.61		4
New Milford							
Newtown	0.43		4.8				
North Branford	1		3.59		3.59		
North Haven	3.1		3.9		2.9		
North Stonington	1.5		0				
Norfolk							
Norwalk	1.99		3.39		3.39		
Norwich	0						
Old Saybrook							
Orange	0.8		1.7		1.7		
Oxford	0.83		5.37				
Plainfield			3.54				
Plainville	0.54		4.77				
Plymouth	0.8		2.6		2.3		4
Pomfret	0		5.98		4.82		
Portland	0		2.97		2.97		
Preston	0		0		0		
Pulnam	1.97		1.95		1.95		
Redding	1.94		6.2				
Ridgefield	1		2.87				
Rocky Hill	3.86		4.28		4.28		
Scotland	3.3		4.04				
Shelton	0		5.6		5.6		2
Salem							28
Seymour	0		5.7		5.7		
Simsbury	1.25		3.65		2		
Somers	0		3		3		8.33
Southington	2.36		4.69				0
South Windsor	2.32		6.19				
Sprague	-0.2		1.25		1.25		

Stafford	0	0.7	2.1		
Stamford	0.37	1.96	1.81		
Sterling	0				
Stonington	2.81	2.23	1.37		
Stratford					
Suffield	2				
Torrington	0.37				
Thomaslon	0				
Thompson					
Tolland	0.71	5.9	6.46		
Trumbull	3.57	3.53	2.54		
Vernon	0.3	5.35	4.195		8
Voluntown	0.51	0.98			1
Wallingford	1.17	4.16			
Waterbury	0	2.76	2.76		
Waterford	1.82	3.38			
Watertown	0	4.3	3.9		2
Westbrook	0	5.57			
West Hartford	0	4.37			17
West Haven	9	9			
Weston	0	1.57	1.64		
Westport	0.5	2.51	2.17		
Wethersfield	1.495	0.5			
Willington	0	0.53	0.53		2.6
Wilton	1.19	2.85	2.85		
Winchester					
Windham	0				
Windsor	2.47	0	0		
Windsor Locks	0.75	1.74			
Wolcott	0.61	0	0		10.6
Woodbridge	1.4	2.9	2.47		
Woodstock	-0.5	2.42			
Region #4	0.04	1.88			
Region #5	0.76	2.19			
Region #6	-0.05	-0.05	-0.05		0
Region #7	0				
Region #8					
Region #9	1.94	4	3.5		
Region #10	1.15	1.39			0.26
Region #11	0	0			
Region #12	0	0.7			
Region #13	0.58	2.88			
Region #14	0.87	0.47			10
Region #15	1.11				
Region #16	0.48				
Region #17	1.63	1.58			
Region #18	1.7	2.88	1.52		
Region #19	0.6	2.24			
Norwich Free Acad.					
AVERAGE	0.90	3.39	2.88	5.62	

Administration: Board of Education Report March 25, 2010

- 1. SHS NHS Induction – Wednesday, April 7 – 7:00 p.m. (Attach #1)**
- 2. Family Literacy Night - Wednesday, March 31 (Attach #2)**
 - Flanders Elementary School 5-7 p.m.**
- 3. Commencement 2010**
- 4. ECC Informational Booklet (Attach #3)**
- 5. SPS Breakfast Program**
- 6. School – Police Partnership (Attach #4)**
- 7. New Teacher - TEAM – (Attach #5)**



Southington High School Chapter
National Honor Society

Principal
Ms. K. McGrath

Advisors
Ms. L. Kowalschik

"Noblesse Oblige"

Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Character

March 15, 2010

Dear Dr. Erardi:

As an officer and member of the National Honor Society, I have the pleasure to inform you that our Induction Ceremony for new members will be held on Wednesday, April 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the Southington High School auditorium. As you know, this ceremony is designed to recognize the academic, personal character, service, and leadership accomplishments of the new members.

My fellow members and I would be honored if you would share in this recognition by attending and also speaking at the ceremony. We thank you for your continued support of our organization. Kindly R.S.V.P by March 31, 2010 to the e-mail address listed below.

Sincerely,

Michael Dolan

Michael Dolan
Secretary, National Honor Society
Southington High School
mikedolan92@sbcglobal.net



**Come discover how to
help your child with
reading at home...**

- Pizza and refreshments will be provided
- Free book and book raffle
- RSVP by: March 24, 2010
- Your child in Kindergarten is encouraged to attend
- This workshop has been sponsored by the:

**Southington Education
Foundation**

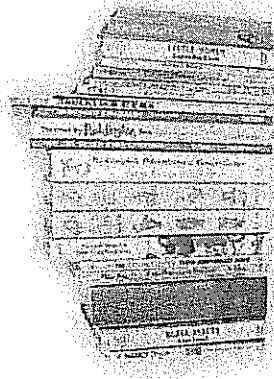


**Flanders Elementary
School**

Family Literacy

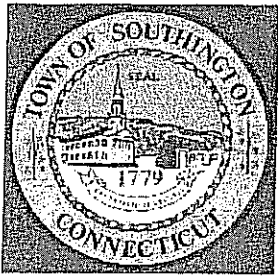
**Night:
Kindergarten**

**March 31, 2010
5-7 PM**



**FLANDERS ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

**100 VICTORIA LANE
SOUTHINGTON, CT 06489
860-628-3372**



SOUTHTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Community Members:

This community guide comes to your home through the hard work and unyielding dedication of the Southington *Early Childhood Collaborative*. I am pleased to be a small part of this grassroots committee who cares so deeply about their community and the youngsters who will be tomorrow's leaders. The design of the booklet is to offer all residents an easy-reference digest of resources and contacts throughout the town.

I am hoping that you feel the booklet is informational, timely, and one that allows you to better understand the wealth of opportunity that is available in Southington.

Finally, if you would like to learn more about the work of the *Collaboration* or if you have any suggestions or recommendations for future readiness initiatives, I would look forward to your conversation.

Respectfully,

Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Jr.
Member – Early Childhood Collaborative
Superintendent of Southington Public Schools

JOSEPH V. ERARDI, JR., Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

HOWARD J. THIERY
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
FOR INSTRUCTION & LEARNING

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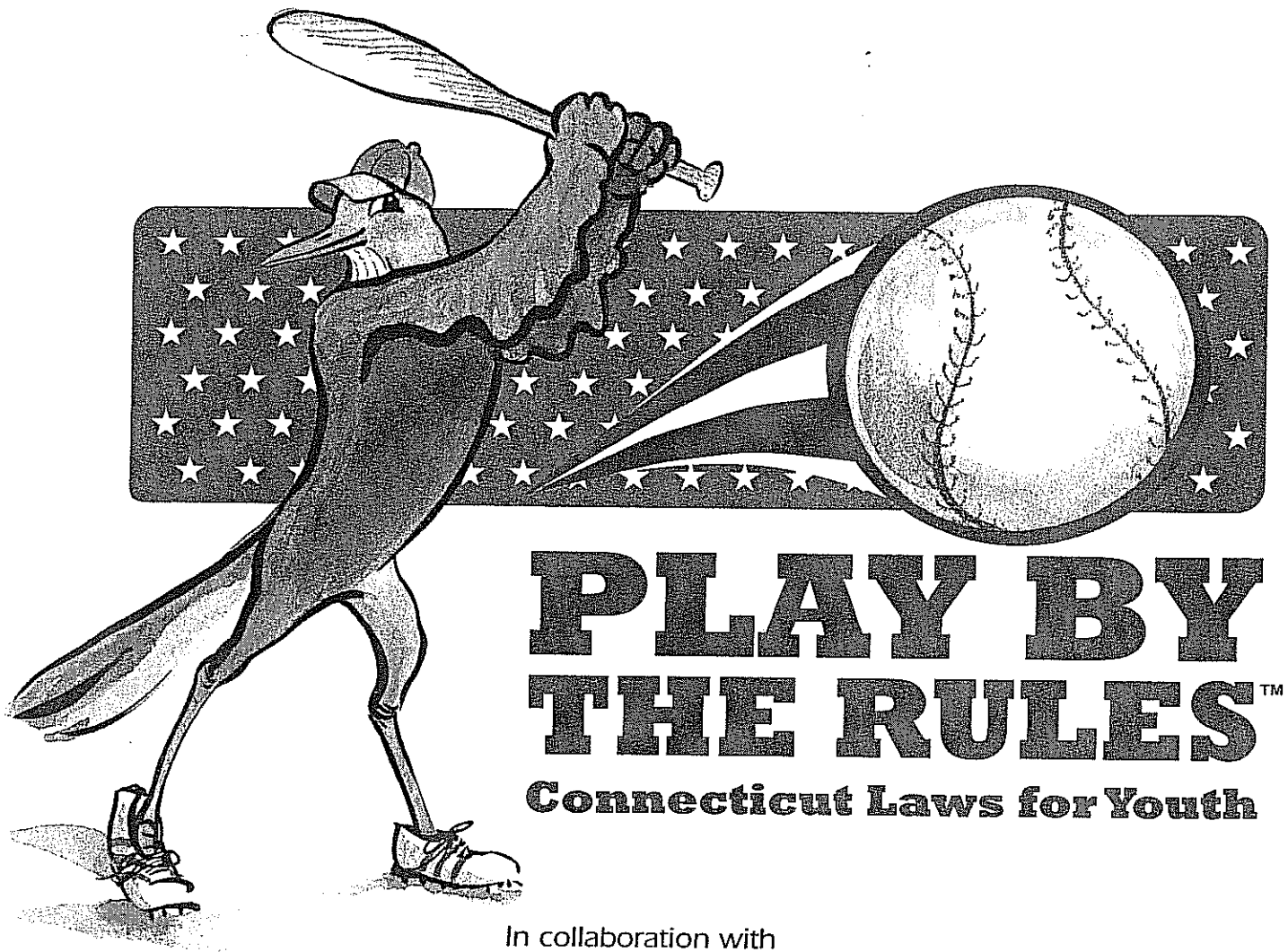
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This Book Belongs To: _____

Connecticut Consortium for Law & Citizenship Education

PRESENTS



PLAY BY THE RULES™

Connecticut Laws for Youth

In collaboration with

Alabama Center for Law & Civic Education

Connecticut Secretary of State

Connecticut Chief State's Attorney Office

This project was supported by Award No. 2007-DG-BX-K003 awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, to the Alabama Center for Law & Civic Education, and other funding provided by the U.S. Department of Justice and the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management.

**CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
BUREAU OF EDUCATOR STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION**

TO: All Beginning Teachers Working Under Initial Educator or Interim Educator
Certificates and TEAM District Facilitators

FROM: Nancy Pugliese, Chief
Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification

DATE: October 23, 2009

SUBJECT: Passage of Legislation Establishing the Teacher Education And Mentoring
(TEAM) Program

On October 2, 2009, the General Assembly passed Public Act No. 09-6, which included a provision establishing the Teacher Education And Mentoring (TEAM) Program. Pursuant to the Public Act, full implementation of the program will begin with the school year **commencing July 1, 2010**. Due to the late passage of this bill authorizing the new program, and in order to facilitate a smooth transition from BEST to TEAM, the 2009-10 school year will be dedicated as a development year for TEAM. Districts are encouraged to mentor all new teachers during this school year, but beginning teacher participation in TEAM will not officially begin until the **2010-2011 school year**.

The following will provide some answers to your questions:

How will beginning teachers who began in the BEST Program transition into TEAM?

All teachers who began a beginning teacher program in BEST and did not complete that program as of July 1, 2009 (year two and three this year), and who continue to teach during the 2009-10 school year, will be required to complete **two** of the five modules in 2010-2011. Upon successful completion of these two modules, they will be eligible for the provisional educator certificate at the end of the 2010-2011 school year.

When will beginning teachers who are first hired this year (year one) and those who will be hired next year begin TEAM and what will their requirements be?

All new teachers who began teaching during the 2009-2010 school year, and those who will begin teaching in the 2010-2011 school year, who have had no previous BEST participation record, will be required to successfully complete the first two modules during the 2010-2011 school year, and the remaining three modules during the 2011-2012 school year, to fulfill eligibility for the provisional educator certificate.

What is the framework for the TEAM Program?

TEAM is being designed around five professional growth modules in order to provide a framework for support of new teachers. These five modules are focused on the following domains of the Common Core of Teaching (CCT): classroom environment, planning, instruction, assessment and professional responsibility. The modules are being designed collaboratively by a group consisting of RESC staff, CSDE staff, union representatives and higher education representatives.

How will the modules provide a framework for support?

Mentors and beginning teachers will work together to establish the focus of each module. The development of professional growth plans for the beginning teacher will be based on an individualized needs assessment completed by each beginning teacher. As part of each module, mentors and beginning teachers will focus on classroom practice – within the context of the teacher's own students, teaching subject, grade level, curriculum requirements and school and district goals. At the culmination of each module, a written reflection paper will be submitted by the beginning teacher to a district or regional review committee to determine if the beginning teacher has successfully completed the module.

How will beginning teachers continue to teach if their initial educator certificates are lapsing in the near future?

All beginning teachers, whose initial educator certificates have a lapse date prior to or during their scheduled timeline for TEAM participation, will be eligible for an extension of their certificates as needed. Teachers are responsible for keeping their certifications current and should apply to extend their initial educator certificates prior the certificate's expiration date using form ED 183. Applicants can apply online via the new CT Educator Certification system at www.ct.gov/sde/cert or may print off the paper form and submit it.

Updated information will be provided as available as the year progresses. Meanwhile, if you have any questions, you may call the TEAM Program Office at 860-713-6820.

TEAM (Teacher Education and Mentoring Program)
Coordinating Committee Members

Howard Thiery, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Pat Corvello, Principal, Plantsville School, District Facilitator

Betsy Chester, Coordinator: Literacy

Dale Riedinger, Coordinator: Math and Science

Amy Stino, Thalberg teacher

Rick Terino, DePaolo teacher

Roberta McAloon, Principal, Hatton School, Trainer of Trainers

Alicia DesSureault, Hatton teacher

Lenore Butler, Strong teacher

Jessica Bruenn, Strong teacher

Amy Perry, Kennedy teacher

Heather Allenback, Southington High School teacher

Carmen Ludorf, Southington High School teacher

Southington Family Resource Center
Derynoski School* 240 Main Street* Room 120* Southington, CT 06489

860*628*3286 x 380

southingtonfrc@yahoo.com

Spring 2010

What a cold, cold winter it was! We are really looking forward to enjoying the spring months and beautiful CT weather with some fantastic new programs designed to get families out, moving and enjoying all of the things Southington has to offer! Check out our new "Healthy Family, Happy Family" programs and join us!

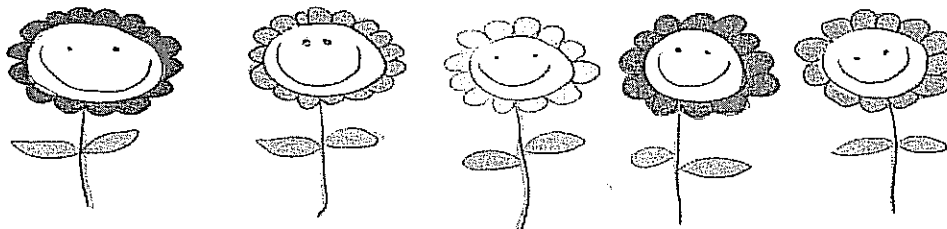
Our "Super Science" and "Connecting with Computers" programs that we began this winter for our older friends have been a HUGE success. We are opening up additional sessions and times to accommodate those who still haven't had the chance! Call or email Jen today to join the fun!

I hope to see you all soon!

Best,

Krista Pringle

Director, Southington Family Resource Center



PLAYGROUP:

Playgroups are a great opportunity for parents/caregivers with children ages birth to 5 years to come together with others to talk, share their experiences and meet other families in the community. It is also a time for children to develop and strengthen their social skills. This program is free for all Southington residents, so call or email today to find out more or to register. When reaching our answering machine, please leave a message with: your name, children's names and ages, phone number and which group you are interested in and someone will call you to confirm. Because of the limited number of families we can accommodate please register for **one** of the following groups: **(please note- you must REREGISTER even if you have been attending a playgroup)**

Playgroup Schedule:

<u>School</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
Kelley School	Mondays	9:30-10:30am	29	5, 19, 26	3, 10, 17, 24	
Derynoski Session 1	Tuesdays	9:15-10:30		27	4, 11, 18, 25	1, 8, 15
Derynoski Session 2	Tuesdays	10:45-12:00 pm		27	4, 11, 18, 25	1, 8, 15

BABY SIGN:

Signing with babies ... is it the new fad? Something only power moms who want superbabies do? A sure-fire way to form a speech delay? You may already know that the answer to all of the above questions is a resounding NO. People have been signing with their babies for years. The most common reason for doing so is an intense desire on the part of a parent or caregiver to find out exactly what is going on in a baby's mind – what does she need? What does she want? What does she observe? What does she think about and remember? It is a fact that infants develop the fine muscles in their hands before they develop those required for speech, so they're equipped to communicate with you before they can speak. Come learn some basic sign language, meet parents with other babies and have some FUN!

Tuesdays mornings: March 30, April 6 and April 20 10:00-11:00 FRCS Office at Derynoski School



HEALTHY FAMILY, HAPPY FAMILY:

It's Spring- time to get outside and enjoy some fresh air and exercise! We invite you to join us on some family friendly adventures through town designed to get you out, get you moving and enjoying some healthy living with your kids!

Rails to Trails Walk- Bring your wagons, strollers, bikes, etc and join us for a walk on the Southington Rails to Trails. We will meet at the Mill Street parking lot entrance at 10:30am on Thursdays on April 8, 15, 22 and 29. Rain cancels. Please call 860*628*3286 x380 to register.

"Letterboxing Signature Stamp Making"- Thursday, May 6, 10:30am at the FRCS office

Letterboxing combines elements of a scavenger hunt, hiking & puzzle solving into one activity. Once you've found a letterbox, record your discovery in its log using your personal stamp, and stamp the letterbox's stamp in your personal journal. Join us to learn more and make your own signature stamp. Letterboxing destinations will be discussed at the first meeting. Please call 860*628*3286 x380 to register.

"Yoga For Kids:"- Thursdays June 3, 10 and 17, 10:30am at the FRCS Office

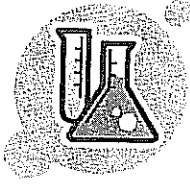
Yoga helps kids improve concentration and focus, stimulate their imagination and help to release energy in a fun, safe environment. Using interactive games and animated postures, kids learn about animals, nature and basic anatomy through yoga. Please bring a towel to class. Call 860*628*3286 x 380 to register.

Healthy Eating for Families: Tuesday, June 1, 6:30pm , Flanders School

Co-Sponsored by the Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington

\$5.00 per participant

Wellness and Fitness Coach Michelle Marin presents this workshop for parents and providers. Learn the basics of good nutrition, tips for making small changes in your life that will lead to a healthier lifestyle and have the opportunity to share with others. Call 860*628*3286 X 380 to register.



SUPER SCIENCE:

Children ages 4 and 5

Preschoolers are curious by nature. Using hands-on science we will encourage that natural curiosity and introduce the scientific method: observe, predict & check. Each week we will explore a child friendly science concept and let the children's natural problem-solver lead the way! This class is open to a limited number of children ages 4 & 5. Parent/caregiver must remain on premises during the class.

Session 1 -Tuesdays 1-1:45 pm 4/13- 5/17 at Plantsville School

Session 2- Tuesdays 2-2:45 pm 4/13 -5/17 at Plantsville School

Please call 860*628*3286 x 380 to register.

PARENT BOOK CLUB:

Join a monthly discussion about current parenting books! Sign up for one, all or something in between by calling our office and letting us know what books you will be reading. All of the books are available for borrowing from the FRC's lending library.

Refreshments will be served and there will be raffle prizes- we will have lots of fun while learning something new! Please note that these are adult only evenings.

All meetings will be at Strong School, 820 Marion Avenue, Plantsville in the Media Center

March: Kid Cooperation: How to Stop Yelling, Nagging and Pleading and Get Kids to Cooperate by Elizabeth Pantley

Meeting: Thursday, March 25 6:30-7:30

Please note: this is a change from the original book picked for March.

April: Common Sense Parenting of Toddlers and Preschoolers by Bridget A. Barnes

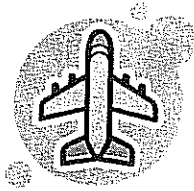
Meeting: Thursday, April 22 6:30-7:30

APRIL VACATION FIELD TRIPS:

Meriden- Markham Municipal Airport 213 Evansville Avenue, Meriden

Tuesday, April 13 10 am

Come join us for a free tour of this small airport and learn all about how airplanes work! See different types of small planes, get the chance to sit in one and maybe see some takeoff and land from close up!

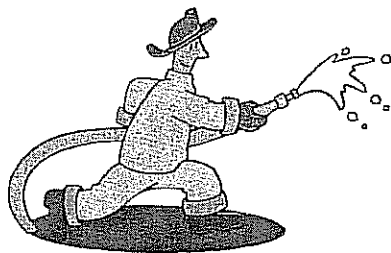


Southington Fire Department Headquarters 310 North Main Street, Southington

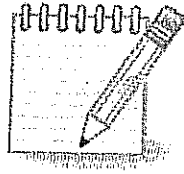
Thursday, April 15 10am

Join the fun at the Fire Department Headquarters! See the fire trucks, meet some firefighters, learn all about the important work that they do!

Call 860*628*3286 x380 or email frcs09@yahoo.com to register.



WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS AND PROVIDERS:



PARENTING FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS:

Sponsored by Literacy Volunteers of Central CT, Inc.

Learn English and help your children succeed in school. You will also receive free books and school supplies.

9:30-11:00 am at Plantsville School

Wednesdays 4/21, 4/28, 5/5, 5/12, 5/19 and 5/26

Register with Kathleen McLean 860*229*7323 or famlit@literacycentral.org

PREVENTING SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME: Monday, April 26 7:00 pm at Plantsville School

Co-sponsored by the Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington

\$5.00 per person

The Children's Trust Fund offers this presentation on how to prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome. The presentation consists of an 11 minute video "Portrait of Promise", handouts, hands on demonstrations, and time for questions and answers. The presentation is geared to providers and/ or parents.

Register by calling or emailing Jen LeRoy 860*628*3286 x380 or frcs09@yahoo.com

PLAYING AWAY STRESS: Thursday, May 6, 6:30 pm at Strong School

Co-sponsored by the Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington

Please note there is an eight dollar charge per person for this workshop. There is a "make and take" portion of this workshop and you will leave with something that can be used in your classroom or home immediately!

Jeanine Fitzgerald will lead this workshop on the importance of play for both adults and children. Learn some tips for incorporating more fun and play into your life.

Register by calling or emailing Jen LeRoy 860*628*3286 x380 or frcs09@yahoo.com

EARLY CHILDHOOD COLLABORATIVE OF SOUTHLINGTON (ECCS):

We are a group of concerned educators, early childcare providers, parents, teachers and citizens working to ensure that "all Southington children enter school ready to learn." We are always looking for new members. We meet at 6:00pm every fourth Tuesday of the month at Plantsville Elementary School. Child Care and dinner is provided. Come with your energy and ideas!

The ECCS is the group that started the FRCS. Now be a part of the conversation around what next steps should be for Southington's children!

Next meeting:

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Do You Facebook?

FRCS now has a Facebook Page! Just search for "Family Resource Center of Southington" and become a fan! Keep up to date on all FRCS happenings online!

FAMILY FUN ANYTIME:

Jumpzone:

855 Lakewood Road ~ Waterbury, CT 06704 ~ Phone: (203) 437-6779

www.jumpzoneparty.com

Jumpzone is the largest indoor inflatable arena in CT. There are 10 inflatables for daily use at jumpzone and it is clean and safe.

Jumpzone is only open for birthday parties on the weekend but has daily open play hours in both the morning and afternoons. Check their website for hours, costs and to sign up for a pass that will get you 2 for 1 during open play.

Flamig Farm:

7 Shingle Mill Road~ West Simsbury, CT~ Phone: (860) 658-5070

www.flamigfarm.com

At the Farm Animal Zoo at Flamig Farm there is a cast of characters to entertain everyone, from young to old! From bunnies to draft horses, piglets, llamas, peacocks and egg laying chickens, there is plenty to see and learn about.

Open April until November 9:00 am until 5:00pm

SPRING CLEANING WITH KIDS- CLEVER TIPS:

As **Spring** starts knocking at our doors soon, you may want to enroll your kids into your **Spring cleaning** chores through clever cleaning assignments. Children love to help and feel useful to parents! Although it may take longer to get a chore done or require more creativity and some child psychology, the more they help you, the more they will always help you as they grow up.



So, here are some tips that you could use to engage your kids in **Spring cleaning** in the weeks to come.:

1. **Keep cleaning sessions short.** A 5- or 10-minute clean-up session, accompanied by upbeat music, is something the whole family can get into.
2. **Find chores for *all* ages.** Preschoolers enjoy helping with clean up, and can easily dust. Elementary-age children are experts at polishing. Teens can wipe car interiors clean, etc.
3. **Assign animal attributes.** Make a joke about each person's cleaning style, likening it to the behavior of a particular animal: turtle (slow and steady), etc.
4. **Play Dust Ball Derby.** Whoever finds the biggest dust bunny gets to choose a movie for family film night — or play DJ for your next 10-minute tidying session.
5. **Be gone books.** Have each family member gather three or four books she doesn't need anymore and designate a box in the car as a collection point.
6. **Gather old clothes, toys, and DVDs the same way.** Give kids "credits" every time they donate something to the box.
7. **Repaint your child's bedroom.** There's a clean-up factor built right in and your child can work alongside you every step of the way.

Happy Spring cleaning!



MAILING LIST:

If you would like to be on the Southington FRC mailing list so that you can receive future newsletters and information about our programs, please call or email us today!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB:

We will be participating in Scholastic Book Clubs. This is a great opportunity for you to purchase books for your family at a large discount! Your purchases also help the Family Resource Center earn free books.

PARENT RESOURCE LIBRARY:

We are currently building our inventory of books and other materials. If you have a favorite book about any parenting topics, let us know! Also, if you need a resource on a particular topic, let us know that, too. We can use those ideas to stock our library or plan future workshops.

WE NEED YOU!

If you know of any Southington families that have young children and who might be interested in our programs PLEASE help us spread the word!

PERSONAL VISIT PROGRAM:

The FRC staff is certified parent educators who would be happy to meet with you to discuss your child's development or any concerns or questions you may have. We also have the Ages and Stages Questionnaires available to help you see how your child is growing and developing. Please give us a call to learn more.

FRCS CLOSURES:

FRC programs will follow the Southington Public Schools Calendar and will be closed on the following days:

April 2: Good Friday

April 12- 16: April Recess

May 31: Memorial Day