

Southington Board of Education

Southington, Connecticut

Regular Meeting

April 8, 2010

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, April 8, 2010 at 7:30 pm at South End Elementary School, Maxwell Noble Drive, Plantsville, Connecticut.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by Chairperson, Mr. Brian Goralski. The Board members present were: Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Rosemarie Fischer, Mr. Brian Goralski, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, and Ms. Michelle Schroeder. Absent were Mrs. Terri Carmody and Mrs. Kathleen Rickard.

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Goralski asked the Southington High School Student Representative, Christopher Amnott, to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Goralski publicly thanked South End Elementary School for hosting the meeting. Mr. Goralski shared that, while visiting South End Elementary School that afternoon, the students shared with him that it was a special day at South End because it was Mrs. Kamerbeek's birthday. He extended his and the Board's wishes to her for a happy birthday. Dr. Erardi also pointed out that Mrs. Kamerbeek celebrated her birthday the year before at a Board meeting as her school hosted that meeting as well. Mr. Goralski stated that he would look into the plan for the next year to ensure that it doesn't happen a third year in a row.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ March 25, 2010

MOTION: by Mrs. Notar-Francesco, seconded by Ms. Schroeder:

"Move to approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting of March 25, 2010."

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES: Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Fischer, Ms. Schroeder, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, and Mr. Goralski. **Motion passed unanimously.**

4. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from the Audience

Pat Maciejewski, Co-President of the South End PTO

Mrs. Maciejewski welcomed the Board to the new school. She shared that the students and staff are settled in and enjoying the new amenities. She thanked the Building Committee for their tireless efforts in creating the beautiful building; the faculty and staff for packing and moving to the new building without disrupting the education of the students; the Board of Education and the town for supporting their referendum efforts and for not forgetting about their school. She knew that it happened due to Mrs. Clark's support. Lastly, Mrs. Maciejewski wanted to say thank you to their wonderful, fantastic, and awesome principal, Sally Kamerbeek. She orchestrated a virtually seamless transition from old to new and the PTO knew that was far from easy. The PTO realizes she hasn't had the easiest of years, but hopes that they helped make things a little bit easier and will continue doing whatever they can to support her. As stated by Mr. Goralski, it was Mrs. Kamerbeek's birthday and they hope that the staff, children, and PTO made it a happy day. Mrs. Maciejewski thanked the Board and hopes everyone enjoys the new school.

Sandra VanValkenburg, DePaolo Middle School Teacher

Ms. VanValkenburg shared that, on March 26, 2010, DePaolo celebrated Read Across America Day. On that day, students wore the traditional *Cat In The Hat* hats; language arts teachers and students were reading Dr. Seuss books; in the literacy center, there were 24 Dr. Seuss books available and the students were doing pair-share reading; and a science teacher was sharing the Dr. Seuss book about the planets and solar system.

In addition, the sixth grade students had the opportunity to participate in a tradition at DePaolo, which is a surprise visit from Tigger. Tigger visits during the Grade 6 lunch wave. He walks with eighth grade students and watches for students who have their independent reading books. Those who do are allowed to help themselves to a treat that he has in his basket. At DePaolo, they call these treats 'edible remunerations.' Upon her arrival, she took many wonderful pictures of a variety of students. Most of those pictures are displayed in the literacy center. To her amazement, while taking a picture of the students with Tigger, a 'big kid' asked that she take his picture with Tigger, and she did. Ms. VanValkenburg then presented that picture to the 'big kid,' Mr. Goralski.

Mr. Goralski thanked Ms. VanValkenburg and stated that Tigger was incredibly entertaining and that he has always been fond of Tigger.

b. Communications from Board Members and Administration

Communications from the Board Members:

Mrs. Notar-Francesco began by sharing that she and Mrs. Carmody attended the district Spelling Bee on March 31, 2010 at Thalberg Elementary School. Mr. Thiery was the Beemaster

and he did a fine job. The winner of the Bee was Benjamin Russman from Kelley Elementary School who spelled the word *information* correctly. The second runner up was Shrenik Agrawal from Thalberg. All the students did a great job representing their schools and they should be very proud of themselves.

The second item Mrs. Notar-Francesco mentioned came from Mrs. Carmody who was not able to attend the meeting. Mrs. Carmody was a judge for the FBLA Chapter of the Annual State Leadership Conference where sixteen members of the Southington High School Chapter were recognized and received awards of excellence. The winners were as follows:

- Receiving fifth place awards were Zach Niles for Accounting II and Stephanie LaFollette for Business Communication.
- Receiving fourth place awards were Allyson Frazier for FBLA Principles and Procedures, Jonathan LaFollette for Business Math, Christopher Amnott for Job Interview, and Emily Durocher for Public Speaking I.
- Receiving second place awards were Jayna Dorau for Word Processing II, Katie Lainas for Public Speaking II, and Andrea Pascariello for the FBLA Principles and Procedures Event.
- First place trophies were awarded to Kelley Hwang for her Community Service project, Daniel Arndt for Business Communication, James DiNello in Impromptu Speaking, Emily Jepson and Molly Meehan in Website Development, and Jeff Lipinski and Alisha Washer for their Desktop Publishing entry.

The most exciting part of this event was that the Southington Chapter received a Gold Chapter Award for Outstanding Service and Leadership in the Connecticut FBLA State Projects. Katie Lainas was named outstanding FBLA Leader for her service as President of the Southington High School FBLA Chapter. She was also elected to the position of State FBLA Vice President and Kelley Hwang was elected to the position of State Treasurer. Finally, the Southington High School FBLA Chapter received a first place award for The Most Outstanding Chapter in Connecticut.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco stated that the Business Department deserves a round of applause for that recognition.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco shared that she attended *Grease* on Wednesday evening and it was terrific. The students were wonderful and Mr. Palmieri did an outstanding job once again. Mrs. Clark shared that she also attended the performance and she was amazed at how Mr. Palmieri can get that number of students on such a small stage. She was astounded that they weren't tripping over one another. The students were so well-rehearsed and it was amazing.

Mrs. Clark also shared that, the week before, she had the pleasure of attending one of the performances of *Beauty and The Beast* at the high school and believes that Southington has some truly talented, outstanding students that she had the pleasure of witnessing on stage. Both performances dazzled her and she was amazed at the professionalism of those performances.

Ms. Schroeder wanted to mention that she attended the Derynoski Michael Casale Basketball Game last week. Mr. Goralski was the referee, and Dr. Erardi and Mr. Thiery were "shooting it out." Mrs. Johnson's grandson opened the ceremony playing his trumpet. Ms.

Schroeder didn't have the exact amount of money that they raised because donations are still coming in. It was a fun afternoon for both faculty and students. Mrs. Johnson added that the game was so exciting and the stands were packed. The energy was so great and the students were very interested in the game. They held up plaques and signs, and each time someone scored, from either team, they all cheered. Mr. Goralski continued that he believed the greatest part of the event was at the last minute when the female teaching staff at Derynoski went on the court and ushered the men off the court. In that last minute, there were 12 points scored. Six points were scored by each team and there wasn't a shot missed. Mr. Goralski stated that the noise in the gymnasium was the loudest he's ever witnessed at any event in the district. The female athletes taught the men how to score some baskets and the final score was a tie at 39-39. Mr. Goralski stated that the funds collected are approaching over \$2,000.00. This is for a one-day event and it's a fantastic tribute to what was a great teacher in the district.

Mr. Goralski then shared that most of the group had the privilege of attending the Mr. Garry dedication. It was a phenomenal tribute to a great teacher. For Mr. Goralski, it was an honor for him to be able to speak at that ceremony. He publicly mentioned that the people who deserved the credit for that day were those who served on the committee. The Garry family was incredibly touched. Of all the dedications he has had the privilege of attending, he has never been to one with that many people. There had to be over 300 people in the parking lot and it was a great event. Mr. Goralski thanked Terri Carmody and Colleen Clark for representing the Board of Education; the full Board for their support; Kathy McGrath for her role in making the event successful; Philip Goodwin for procuring the plaque and his involvement; Ed Kalat, Rich Marietta, Eric Swallow, and Stephen Victor, all who spent countless hours organizing this event; the Agricultural Science students that made the area around the rock look phenomenal. Mr. Goralski pointed out that they neglected to mention those students the day of the event. The committee put together an event that the Garry family and the community will be proud of for many years. They certainly set the bar high for any future dedication ceremonies.

Mr. Goralski stated that Mrs. Carmody was unable to attend the National Honor Society Induction on April 7, 2010, which is an event that means a great deal to her; however, Mr. Goralski attended the event in her absence. He shared that Ms. McGrath, her staff, and the current members of the Honor Society had a wonderful ceremony where they welcomed in the new members for their academic achievement. They explained what a great achievement it is, not only for the academics, but also for the example they set for the community and the school. It was a phenomenal celebration for the school and to see those types of achievements is what the Board of Education is there for.

Mr. Goralski shared that the Record Journal had an incredibly exciting article; however he wasn't quoted appropriately and wanted to clarify what he stated. Southington achieved a perfect rating in efficiency and in how our students achieve. It wasn't Richie [Rathsack] who wrote the article, but another reporter who shortened Mr. Goralski's quote. Mr. Goralski said that the administration should be credited with the success. He continued that he also told the reporter that the administration, the staff, the teachers, the parents, everyone in this community should also be credited because we, as a community, have never funded what our DRG and other communities do. We make do with less, and yet our students achieve. Mr. Goralski believed that this is an article that supports us during our budget. If anything should tell this community to support schools, an article like that, that says we don't give anything extra, but we get the best available. He stated that's the best way to demonstrate why they should support what we request

for the school system. He is hopeful that the other Boards read that article and see it the same way.”

The final item for Mr. Goralski was that, when he was at South End earlier that day, he noticed that the lights on the stage were hanging rather low. He stated that he was incredibly concerned about the height of those lights and, considering this building is still a construction project, he asked that Mr. Derynoski and Mr. Cox see that the committee looks into the height of those lights. He further stated that the lights give off a great deal of heat; he would appreciate it if the building committee could determine a way of getting those up higher. Mr. Cox stated that he will look into that concern.

A letter was addressed to Mr. Goralski and the Board stating that, on April 29, 2010, Southington High School is having their Manufacturing and Construction Career Expo. Last year was the first year and it was a phenomenal event. Dr. Erardi will start off the event, along with several others, with a speech and there are several area businesses there to promote opportunities for the Southington students. It's a great event for all to attend and support.

Communications from the Administration:

Dr. Erardi reported on the following information that was included in the Board packet (Attachment A):

1. Funding – Choice Programs – SPS Representation:

This item is well overdue and greatly in need because it is broken. There is a committee that will consist of approximately fourteen state leaders. On page 5 of the document, there is a listing of those who will represent the State of Connecticut as they sort through a better way to fund the Choice Program. Dr. Erardi is pleased to inform the School Board that Southington will be represented on this committee and Sherri DiNello will represent all school business officials, and will keep everyone up to date on the progress that is made in regard to Choice Funding.

2. Proposed Bills – CT Legislature:

This is a composite for Board members because he knows that the Board is very interested in what is happening in Hartford. It's a couple pages with executive summaries of all the proposed bills that are still alive in the general session.

3. National Oratorical Competition – SHS Participation:

Dr. Erardi wanted to be sure that the School Board and the community were aware that Tim LaChapelle, who stood in front of the Board of Education for an Award of Excellence, will compete this weekend in Indianapolis at the National Competition on April 9-11. Dr. Erardi sent a 'good luck' from the Board and the superintendent to Tim and stated that they wish him well.

4. SPS Leadership Program:

This is an update that Dr. Erardi has shared with the Board a couple of times. This is the partnership program with Central Connecticut State University. He was pleased to share that it is now in place and they will have 16 staff members from the Southington district involved in a cohort opportunity for leadership. This will lead to their administrative certificate over the next two years and the class work will begin in May 2010.

5. National Platform – SPS Professional Development:

Dr. Erardi is very pleased and excited about this item. The administrative team's monthly professional development model, Administrative Rounds, was submitted for recognition and for demonstration on the national level. They found out this week that Mr. Thierry, Laura Boutilier and at least one additional staff member, will be heading to Atlanta, Georgia on a national platform to share how Southington does professional development. Dr. Erardi deferred to Mr. Thierry for details on this item.

Mr. Thierry stated that the National Staff Development Council contacted Southington this week that their proposal to present their Administrative Rounds model was one of 50 selected from the 1,000+ received. The administrative rounds are a model of administrative professional development based on medical rounds. The administration in Southington has been doing this for three years. The theme this year is Accountability and the group visits and looks at schools. Southington was chosen to do a three-hour presentation next December in Atlanta. It's a nice honor for their model. Rounds, as a model, have gotten a lot of attention this year and Southington is three years ahead of the trend.

This concluded the Administration Report.

c. Communication from Student Representative:

Chris Amnott shared that the History Club will be having a West Street School clean up on Saturday, April 10, 2010 at 10:30 am. The Youth Services of Southington is beginning to recruit participants for the spring. They are looking for willing and interested people, ages 14-16, to do odd jobs like yard work, babysitting, and housecleaning for area residents. Students can pick up the application in the guidance offices or call Youth Services at (860) 276-6281.

FBLA and DECA second annual volleyball tournament was April 9th from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm in the West Gym. The tickets were sold for \$3.00.

There is a summer enrichment program for juniors and seniors sponsored by a CREC program at St. Joseph's College in West Hartford and Eastern Connecticut State University. Students will live on campus from Sunday night through Friday afternoon. This is for students interested in biotechnology, health, medical science, or education.

Rugby Club is also starting and there was a mandatory meeting at the high school at 2:30 pm on April 9, 2010.

Sporting updates included that the boys' baseball team defeated Glastonbury yesterday by a score of 9-0. Volleyball opens on the evening of April 10th at home.

Dr. Erardi mentioned that he believed that Mr. Amnott is on the tennis team and would like him to give an update on the tennis results. Mr. Amnott shared that on April 8th, the team lost 4-3 and during the match on April 9th, they defeated East Hartford 7-0.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting ~ March 25, 2010

Mrs. Notar-Francesco reported to the Board in the absence of the Committee Chairperson, Mrs. Carmody. The committee discussed a variety of items on March 25th.

Greater Hartford Academy of Arts

Mrs. Notar-Francesco stated that, in October, the committee began discussion on whether or not to weight the courses offered at the Academy for students who attend from Southington High School. The committee asked that someone from the Greater Hartford Academy of Arts attend a meeting to speak to the group, and Dr. Herbert Sheppard attended the March meeting. He discussed the caliber of teachers at the Academy, along with the rigor of the program and the level of commitment from the students. There was much discussion at the committee level surrounding this and trying to determine what level they would assign these classes if they did move forward with course weighting. Dr. Sheppard gave the committee a list of school districts that weight the courses. Mrs. Notar-Francesco reported that the committee decided at the end of the discussion that they would wait until NEASC wraps up; they will do a comprehensive review of similar courses at Southington High School to ensure consistency with practice in their courses.

Center for Creating Youth

This is a summer extension and residential program held at Wesleyan College by CREC and many school districts grant high school credit for this program. Mrs. Notar-Francesco reported that the committee decided that they needed further study on the issue to move forward and it will be revisited at another point.

Handwriting and Grade 8-9 Transition

Mrs. Notar-Francesco stated that the committee is expecting a full report at the next curriculum meeting at the end of April.

Gifted and Talented

Brief discussion took place surrounding Gifted and Talented. A parent focus group met on Wednesday, April 7th at Plantsville Elementary School. That group was going to examine the changes in the elementary program.

Race to the Top

Brief discussion took place on this topic, as the State of Connecticut's application was not a finalist.

Mrs. Johnson added that the meeting was very rich and there was important, in-depth discussion as to weighting for the high school courses. She was very impressed with the depth of discussion and there are many important things going on in this committee and there will be a lot of things happening.

Mr. Goralski took a minute to share that a great deal of work goes into that committee and he believes that a great deal of credit should be given to Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Johnson, and Mrs. Notar-Francesco. They are being presented with information and they do quite a bit of research on their own. He and the full Board appreciate the work they do. They are going above and beyond.

Mrs. Johnson asked Mr. Thiery to share with the Board the outcome of the parent focus group from the April 7th meeting. Mr. Thiery stated that he was only there to start the meeting, but had to leave to represent administration at the National Honor Society. Mrs. Karen Smith, Principal at Derynoski Elementary School, was the facilitator. She had already sent him the minutes and he was going to meet with her to go through them. He spontaneously spoke with three to four parents that day and they were very pleased with the rich conversation. Four focus questions were explored. Two focused on the experience this year for the independent study project in fifth grade and the other two were forward looking - what an enriched education for all children should look like. The feedback that he's had so far was very point-driven, very rich, and a worthwhile part of their process as they move forward. Mrs. Johnson is very interested in reading the minutes and hearing more about the focus group. Mr. Thiery will be bringing that to the Curriculum and Instruction Committee at the next meeting.

b. Policy and Personnel Committee Meeting ~ March 25, 2010

Mrs. Fischer stated that the committee reviewed a number of policies. The first was the Tuition Paying Students policy. All committee members received it electronically to review and it will come before the Board at the next agenda. Following that, they returned to the review of the 1000 Series.

c. Facility Committee Meeting ~ April 6, 2010

Dr. Erardi shared that they divided the hour into two focus areas. The first half hour was attended by Brian Solywoda and the committee had a better understanding of the timeline of the work with the Gura Building, Beecher Street, and North Center School.

The second half hour was a detailed discussion of the committee looking to reach consensus on the next level of work in regard to the middle school study. On April 27, 2010, they will reconvene at 5:30 pm. There was a time change due to the Young Author's Celebration. The committee will meet at 5:30 pm and will have further details from Mr. Solywoda and will look to better define the question for the proposal for their middle school study.

Mr. Goralski stated that the minutes reflect the date as being May 27, 2010 and asked that a revision be made to reflect the appropriate date of April 27, 2010. Dr. Erardi stated that they would make the necessary revision.

6. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

a. Personnel Report

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

“Move to approve the Personnel Report as submitted.”

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

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Council / Board of Finance Communications

Mr. Derynoski stated that there was a Charter Revision Commission meeting on Wednesday, April 7, 2010 to discuss the questions that the Council had. The Commission reviewed, acted on, and sent back items to the Council for review and action. He believed that the Charter Revision Commission is now finished. Mr. Goralski asked that if there would be another action by the Council following that work going back to them. Mr. Derynoski believed that was part of the process. There will be a public hearing and discussion moving forward.

Mrs. Johnson asked if the capital funding has been reinstituted. Mr. Goralski stated that they unanimously endorsed putting the Property / Facility Maintenance item back on the agenda so it's something they can review officially.

Mr. Goralski stated it was a positive evening. He liked the succinct nature of that meeting and shared that, as usual, he was incredibly appreciative of the support of the parents, faculty, and staff in the community. Instead of having seven people share the same story, one parent came to the podium and the others from that school stood while that parent spoke. It was respectful to the process and got the message to the Board of Finance. We will now let them do their work and hope that they support the work of the Board of Education.

Mrs. Fischer stated that the tenor of the conversation at the end of the meeting troubled her when low percentage increases of other towns were shared. Dr. Erardi sent an email to the Board of Education with updated numbers from across the state that somewhat leveled the playing field. She asked if that was something they would be presenting to the Board of Finance. She felt that they won't know that information unless it's presented to them from the Board of Education.

Dr. Erardi shared that the information Mrs. Fischer was referring to was sent to the Board the day after the Board of Finance meeting. He thought that it was important for the School Board to know that there clearly is a balance with percentage increases in the state of Connecticut where there are districts well beyond the Southington School Board request of 4.1%.

He stated that, through the Board Chair, he would share the information with the Board of Finance and Town Council and would prepare that on Friday. The Board agreed.

In addition, Mrs. Johnson thought that the article in today's Record Journal about the efficiency rating that Southington attained should also be included. Only 21 districts attained that rating out of 119, and she believes it speaks well of Southington and the Board of Finance should have that information.

Dr. Erardi will package both together for the Board of Finance and Town Council with a copy back to the full Board.

b. Construction Update

Mr. Cox stated that next week is vacation week and they will be charging up the air conditioning systems at both Plantsville and South End Elementary Schools. Minor punch list items are being addressed and they are on schedule with the abatement process of the asbestos and tile at the old South End Elementary School building. They anticipate lowering the side walls of the old South End Elementary School building during the first week in May. The Agricultural Science building project continues to be addressing different issues. One of the problems early in the school year was with the greenhouse and those repairs will also begin next week.

c. Continued Discussion of Proposed 2010-2011 Operational Plan

Dr. Erardi included this as a placeholder for this meeting not knowing if there was a need for further discussion in regard to the meeting on Monday night. His only comment was that, on Wednesday, April 14, 2010, the Board of Finance will look to finalize their thoughts in an action item moving forward to the Town Council. Dr. Erardi plans to attend that meeting.

The Board of Finance meeting is being held on April 14, 2010 at 7:00 pm in Town Council Chambers.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked if there was any updated information from the Hartford RSCO office regarding the number of students who have applied to the magnet schools at this point. Dr. Erardi did not have an update and deferred to Mr. Thiery. Mr. Thiery stated that the last contact he had with them was a few weeks ago when they extended their application deadlines. They were asking us to wait for final numbers. He will call them again on Friday. Mrs. Notar-Francesco stated that it's good information to have and would certainly be interested in getting the numbers.

Dr. Erardi shared that he was aware that parents are beginning to be notified that their child(ren) have been accepted because he's had conversations with a couple of parents. He stated that they might have some better information for the Board and will get it to them. Mr. Thiery then shared that he also received three calls this week from parents who had been accepted and their deadline for responding for acceptance has not come yet. They had questions for him that would affect whether they say 'yes' or 'no.' He further stated that they frequently call with questions about magnet schools as they ponder their decisions.

Mrs. Johnson asked if the schools notify his office as to who is going to their schools and he stated that some do, but there are many more of them that do not. We count on the RSCO office for the information with regard to the whole picture.

Mrs. Johnson asked if he plans to cross-reference their information with the parents. He stated that last year his office did call parents.

Mr. Goralski mentioned that this is a hot-button item that the Board doesn't have control over and that they appreciate the work administration does to be as accurate as possible.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Restraint and Seclusion Policy ~ Second Reading

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

“Move to approve Policy #5144.1, Restraint and Seclusion.”

Mrs. Notar-Francesco wondered how extensive the training was and how much training the staff goes through for this. She stated that she would like to get a better feel for the training.

Ms. Haag replied that the PMT training is focused on de-escalation training. The initial training is six hours and every year there is a three-hour refresher. The six-hour initial training is about how to safely escort children, whether it is to guide without touch, escort with light touch, or escorting to another location with hand over arms. They discuss different levels of specific ways to safely move students from one place to another. They also advise that any staff member not go into the middle of an altercation where there's an increase in risk of injury. There is judgment that goes along with this.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked if staff meets to talk about and evaluate different events that take place and Mrs. Haag stated that, any time there's a situation that requires a restraint or seclusion, there are steps that they need to take to be in alignment with what the state says they need to do. There's a debriefing, documentation is taken, and the state would take reports. The Southington level of what actually consists of the legal definition of seclude and restraint is zero to very limited; Southington has a policy in place that, if there's an emergency, the staff have the ability to use a physical restraint to intervene in that altercation. This is above and beyond that and was mandated primarily around students with disabilities. The level of usage that would come under the actual definition of this in Southington is very limited, but all districts are mandated to have this policy.

Mrs. Johnson asked how many staff members are trained and if that training includes one person from each school. Ms. Haag stated that she has the data and would get it to Dr. Erardi to forward to the Board. Mrs. Johnson asked if it would be safe to say that there is at least one person trained in every school and Ms. Haag confirmed. She further stated that they started with training all guidance staff, social workers, and psychologists, along with special education teachers, paraprofessionals, physical education and health teachers, and administrators.

Mrs. Johnson then asked if it would be Ms. Haag's expectation that all these people received the initial six-hour training and then the three-hour annual training. Ms. Haag stated that they do the training in cycles. They will review their spreadsheet and schedule training accordingly. Those who haven't had a refresher will be scheduled. There are three additional staff members who are trained to be trainers so they don't have to send staff out for training.

Mrs. Johnson stated that was all the information she needed and thanked Ms. Haag.

Mr. Goralski thought that, in following this policy and some of the things Ms. Haag described, those could be the type of things that are in a regulation so that there is clarification regarding the training. He suggested that they could possibly identify some of the training details (who, when, and how much) in a regulation because, as state mandates and best practices change, the Board can adjust a regulation faster than a policy.

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

b. NEASC Update

Mr. Goralski invited Kathy McGrath, Principal of Southington High School, to update the Board of Education on NEASC.

Ms. McGrath said that they were able to complete all of their reports and get them sent to NEASC within the timeline. The bulk of the work that they've been involved with for the past two years is completed. The Chairperson of the visitation committee is Linda VanWagenen, the Director of Curriculum in Plainville. She has chaired many committees and she believes that Southington High School is in a good place. They are involved now in the logistics that need to be done as far as accommodations. They will need to have a workroom in the high school. They will use the DECA room because that's a large room and there are computers available in that room. There are a variety of materials that need to be available to the visiting committee. They also have a workroom at the Residence Inn where they are staying. They will have use of that room from Sunday, May 2nd through their departure on Wednesday, May 5th. There has to be access to samples of student work and laptops need to be given to each team. A technology staff member will be on site on Sunday to ensure everything is up and running. This is the final planning stage. The hard work has been done. They gathered data, followed guidelines, and did what needed to be done. The staff at the high school took this very seriously and responded most admirably. Ms. McGrath stated that they were very fortunate to have students and parents on many of the standards committees. They had people, other than certified teachers, working on some committees so they got a very good representation. There were specific indicators that needed to be addressed. Those indicators are used to assess how well the school is meeting the standards and then you apply their rubric. Ms. McGrath feels that they have met every one of the accreditation standards. There is room for improvement and there will be recommendations that come from the visitation committee that will form their next two-year School Improvement Plan. She believes that it was very comprehensive and an interesting process. They found out what they do well and what they can do better, and will move forward.

A final schedule of the visiting committee will be forwarded to the Board of Education from Deborah Albaitis. An overview was given by Ms. McGrath:

Sunday, May 2nd

10:00 am – 10:45 am ~ The visiting Committee will arrive in Southington between 10:00-10:45 am. Ms. McGrath will be at the hotel with the Hospitality Committee to greet them. They will then go to the high school.

10:45 am – 1:30 pm ~ The team will meet and review the agenda for the next three days.

1:45 pm – 2:55 pm ~ There will be a Panel Presentation in the Southington High School Auditorium. A variety of school members will share the school mission, profile, and how they gather the samples of student work. There will also be a video.

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm ~ All committee members will conduct two interviews with teachers (1/2 hour each). Teachers have already been identified and are willing to come in on Sunday. A variety of topics will be reviewed and they encouraged teachers to bring samples of student work.

4:10 pm ~ The Visiting Committee requested that Board of Education members go to the high school and meet with someone from each of the committees. This is not an intense type of interview. They are simply looking for input from Board of Education members. Also during this time, parents will be interviewed by another group from the visiting committee.

A welcome reception will follow in the Corner Café.

Monday, May 3rd

The next two days will include tours of the facility and Ms. McGrath has already asked Mr. Beliveau to be at the high school on Monday morning because the visiting committee will be going into the mechanical rooms. They want to know everything about the building. Following that process, they will meet with some small groups of Central Office staff, students, and teachers. They will shadow students for the remainder of the day from periods 3-7. They trust that Ms. McGrath will provide them with a random selection of students at all levels, regular and special education.

After school on Monday they will meet with the Standards Committees.

Tuesday, May 4th

The committee will visit Alta, Agricultural Science program, and they will visit classrooms. It's an ambitious process for 18 people to get into the classrooms of 175 teachers, but they are going to make the attempt to accomplish that goal.

Wednesday, May 5th

They will return to visit any classes they haven't had the chance to visit. However, their report must be completed by 1:00 pm. At 2:20 pm, the Chairperson will address the staff to share a preliminary finding on the process.

The high school's student ambassadors will be in front of Room #260 so, if a visiting member wants to go to a classroom and doesn't know where to go, the student will be available to direct them. If there are any issues or needs, the student will find Ms. McGrath who was advised to stay in her office from the time they get there until the time they leave.

Mr. Derynoski shared that the process is very interesting and a learning experience for all Board members. He hopes that all Board members can attend, as it's a very eye-opening experience. He stated that he has all the confidence in the world that the high school is doing an outstanding job. He believes that the outcome will be very good.

Mrs. Fischer asked Ms. McGrath to share again when the Board presence would be requested. Ms. McGrath stated on Sunday, May 2nd around 4:00 pm. Board members are welcome to be there at the beginning, but it's not necessary. The kick-off will be school personnel sharing information about the school and its mission.

The full itinerary will be forwarded to the Board of Education.

Mr. Goralski asked that Ms. McGrath extend their thanks and appreciation to her staff and other administrators for preparing Southington for this process. This is the standard on which they're going to hold the school for the next ten years. The Board appreciates the work she's done, and is looking forward to the celebration with Ms. McGrath and her staff when the process ends.

c. Establishment of the 2010 Graduation Date

Dr. Erardi stated that the School Board had a lengthy discussion last year and they again fall into the same situation this year on whether it's a Friday or Monday graduation. Last year, the Board supported a Friday graduation. This year, Dr. Erardi and school administration endorse commencement on Friday, June 18, 2010.

Mr. Derynoski shared that he was contemplating making a motion to have the graduation on the last day of school on June 21, 2010, but that would not be a very popular decision, so with that in mind, he made a motion.

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

"Move to set the graduation date as Friday, June 18, 2010."

Mrs. Johnson asked for clarification that every grade, except Grade 12, would return to school on Monday, June 21, 2010. Mr. Goralski also asked if the last day is a make-up day for finals or if finals are scheduled. Ms. McGrath shared that this year, based on lengthy conversation with staff and the importance of exams, they changed the format so the midterm exams were two-hour exams, with more writing and rigor on those exams, and they went to two

exams each day. Because of that, she thinks that they had the luxury to have the afternoons to do some make-up work and there were some problems with that logistically. If they do graduate on Friday, it would be the make-up exams for anyone, including seniors and then they also have Monday to make up exams. An advantage to this is that teachers are then available on the last day. If a student or parent has a question about a grade or exam, they can go back and see the teachers. In prior years, the exams were given the last day, the seniors graduated, teachers left, and if there were questions or concerns by parents, there wasn't an opportunity to meet with teachers.

Mr. Goralski wanted to clarify that the exam schedule at the high school will not have anything but make-up exams on that Monday.

Dr. Erardi followed up to address Mrs. Johnson's question and stated that kindergarten through Grade 8 students will be in school on Monday, June 21, 2010. He also stated that it's most important to realize that where you never want to err is to have a graduating senior thinking that they're marching and they're not. By the calendar and the schedule that Ms. McGrath speaks to, they can just about assure the School Board that there won't be a parent or child that does or doesn't know the status of their student on that Friday.

Dr. Erardi also wanted to speak to Mr. Derynoski's comment because he was also feeling the date should be on June 21, 2010; however, the conversation that swayed the Board last year was Project Graduation. They felt that they could not put together the resources on that Monday which is why he's endorsing the Friday graduation.

Mrs. Fischer then asked what will happen the following year and Dr. Erardi shared that much of that depends on the number of snow days and there is not a predication.

Mrs. Fischer asked Ms. McGrath if the schedule being what it is, which allows parents and students to meet with teachers, is that only because of this circumstance or is that something that is always available at the high school. Ms. McGrath replied that it's only available at the high school for the midterm exams, but not for finals with the exception of last year because graduation was held on Friday. She further stated that it's difficult to predict the graduation schedules in the future. Monday is a problem. She spoke with many parents who have been calling since January about the date, as well as the PTO for the All Night Graduation Party. The biggest obstacle is, if the graduation is held on Monday, the Party gets a lot of food donations and many establishments aren't available on Monday.

Mrs. Fischer stated that she's looking at the academic side of this and that, because they have this Friday graduation, it gives the opportunity for teachers to speak with parents on the Monday. She asked if many people take advantage of that opportunity. Ms. McGrath stated that, since the first time they did it was last year, not many did, but she believes that it might grow. Mrs. Fischer then stated that it seems like a good idea, but it only seems that this is available if the calendar falls on a certain day and, if the last day is a Wednesday and it's the last day of school, then parents aren't afforded this opportunity to be heard. Ms. McGrath confirmed this was correct.

Dr. Erardi explained to Mrs. Fischer that parents will now have the Parent Portal which will prompt parents. They will have information and the final grades as soon as they are entered.

This will give them the opportunity to make that connection to the teacher on that following Monday.

In clarifying the schedule, Mr. Goralski stated that the last day for seniors is on Friday, June 18, 2010 and the last day of school for everyone else is on Monday, June 21, 2010. However, the high school exam schedule will be designed in such a way, that the majority of the high school students will not be in school on Monday. Monday will be a make-up day. Mr. Derynoski asked if that would be an unexcused absence and Mr. Goralski stated that, if they don't have an exam scheduled, they have no reason to be there. Mr. Goralski shared that he asked all these questions last year and that is what troubled him last year; he is contemplating a pass on this change for this year. The other thing he shared is that he believes that 14 school districts lost two days, not one day, because of flooding last week and he thinks it's a problematic move on the part of the Board of Education; if they cancel a day of school for a flood or any other reason, this troubles him. It also troubles him that most of the high school will not be in school on Monday anyway and he thinks they are setting a horrible precedent for the future. He understands that it's beneficial to parents and they have a precedent of doing it in the past and he's sure they will do it again. Mrs. Carmody previously shared with Mr. Goralski that, if she were in attendance, she strongly supports the Friday graduation. Mr. Goralski then stated that they need to be careful as a Board and Boards after them that if they make it a practice, every time Friday comes to be, some day, there will be a problem.

Dr. Erardi commented that he doesn't disagree, but would like to go back to Mrs. Fischer's question about next year. Because Southington goes to school 181 days, they will always have an option not to have the All Night Graduation Party on that Monday. They are there with this topic due to the number of calls being fielded by Ms. McGrath and Central Office and it's all about the graduating senior, the relatives coming from out of state, and travel arrangements. The Board can delay this for another couple weeks or a month, but there's a great unrest with the senior parent wondering 'when.' He agrees with everything that was said, but the trump card for his recommendation is the after-party safety and he believed that the All Night Graduation Chair was very clear that she felt they could not arrange a party that would attract students on a Monday because of the vendors' inability to produce. That was the telling factor as to why they were there with a Friday recommendation.

Mrs. Clark reminded everyone of the three elementary schools that had to go an extra half day of school, from all the others, due to electrical issues at the schools. She stated she's more concerned about the All Night Graduation Party and having it on Friday night. They had been known to extend school when necessary.

Mrs. Fischer stated that she doesn't have a major objection, but the rationale to her is not strong because she wonders what this All Night Graduation Party is going to look like when it does fall on a Tuesday or Wednesday. She doesn't *not* support the Friday.

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

d. Leonard Joll Scholarship Award

Mr. Goralski apologized that the naming of that committee was not done at a previous meeting and it was an oversight on many peoples' part, but he takes full responsibility for the meetings. One of his few jobs is that he has to make the agenda and he missed it. Those on the committee were Mrs. Rickard, Mrs. Carmody, and Mrs. Notar-Francesco, and Mr. Goralski thanked them for being on the committee.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco stated that the committee had a recommendation for the Board for a recipient of the Leonard Joll Scholarship. She reminded the Board that last year they kept the name secretive until the actual night of the award as an element of surprise, and would expect that they are doing the same this year.

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

"Move that the Board approves the recipient as recommended by the Leonard Joll Scholarship subcommittee."

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

e. Approval for Contracted Custodial Services ~ JAD, JFK, DES

Ms. Schroeder questioned the size of the buildings for DePaolo and Kennedy compared to Derynoski and she stated that there were questions from others regarding the same thing and asked if Mrs. DiNello would explain to the full Board what was explained to her earlier. Mrs. DiNello explained that all three locations went out to bid approximately two years ago and Capital Cleaning won the award at that time for all three sites. The building principals and Mr. Cox are happy with the quality of service and the company is willing to hold their price. They are now looking to continue the existing contract for all three locations. She cannot speak specifically as to how they developed their base bid and why Derynoski has come in for fewer dollars than the middle schools, but she believes that the full-time equivalent custodians at Derynoski are slightly higher than at the middle schools. They have a full-time day and evening custodian at both middle schools and they have the same at Derynoski, along with another custodian who splits his time between other schools. That is the only reason she can give as to why the contract price might be lower.

Mr. Derynoski stated that the scope of work at Derynoski is slightly less than at the middle schools and he thinks it's tied to the fact that there is some extra help. Mr. Derynoski believed that some of the areas don't need to be cleaned by the cleaning company and is covered by the staff.

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

"Move the Board approve the extension of the custodial contracts with Capitol Cleaning Contractors, Inc. for the 2010-2011 year at JAD, JFK, and DES."

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

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

“Move the Board go into Executive Session, excluding the public and press, for the purpose of discussing personnel matters and a safety matter, and upon conclusion, reconvene to public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Passamano

Michelle Passamano
Recording Secretary

**SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION
APRIL 8, 2010**

Mr. Brian Goralski, Board Chairperson, called the Executive Session to order at 8:53 pm.

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Mrs. Terri Carmody and Mrs. Kathleen Rickard

Administration Present:

Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Superintendent of Schools

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

“Move the Board go into Executive Session, excluding the public and press, for the purpose of discussing personnel matters and a safety matter, and upon conclusion, reconvene to public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move that the Board reconvene into public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The board reconvened public session at 9:10 pm.

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

“Move to adjourn the meeting.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Executive Session adjourned at 9:10 pm.



Respectfully submitted,

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

Attachment A

Administration: Board of Education Report April 8, 2010

1. **Funding - Choice Programs – SPS Representation** (Attach #1)
2. **Proposed Bills – CT Legislature** (Attach #2)
3. **National Oratorical Competition – SHS Participation** (Attach #3)
4. **SPS Leadership Program**
5. **National Platform – SPS Professional Development**

 
4/8/2010



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



March 19, 2010

Ms. Sharon S. Bruce
Executive Director
Connecticut Association of School Business Officials
11 High Gate Lane
West Hartford, CT 06107

Dear Ms. Bruce:

On March 3, 2010, the State Board of Education approved the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to Study Funding for Public School Choice Programs. I am writing to ask you to participate on the 16-member advisory committee, whose work is scheduled to take place between April and December 2010. In the event that you are unable to make this commitment, I would ask that you appoint a designee to represent the Connecticut Association of School Business Officials.

The aim of the Ad Hoc Committee is to consider alternative, more equitable ways to fund the education of students in Connecticut's public school choice programs, including charter schools, magnet schools, regional vocational-agriculture schools, OPEN Choice program, and technical high schools. The committee's recommendations will be considered in developing legislative proposals that will support a balanced, coherent system for funding public schools statewide.

Attached please find a copy of the resolution adopted by the Board, as well as a detailed overview of the objectives, timeline, composition and authority of the committee.

I am hopeful that your schedule will allow you to participate on the committee. Your participation and perspective would certainly contribute to finding a comprehensive, fair and systematic way to fund Connecticut's public school choice programs.

Please contact Pamela V. Bergin, Assistant to the Commissioner, at 860-713-6510 or Pamela.bergin@ct.gov, to confirm your membership.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark K. McQuillan
Commissioner of Education

V.A.

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

TO BE PROPOSED:
March 3, 2010

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education approves the proposal to form an Ad Hoc Committee to Study Funding for Public School Choice Programs, including the charge and appointments to said committee, as described in the Commissioner's March 3, 2010, memorandum, as amended, titled, "Proposal to Form Ad Hoc Committee to Study Funding for Public School Choice Programs," and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved, as amended, by a vote of 9:0 this third day of March, Two Thousand Ten.

Signed



Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Mark K. McQuillan, Commissioner of Education

DATE: February 22, 2010

SUBJECT: Ad Hoc Committee to Study Magnet School and Charter School Funding

The Legislation and Bylaws Committee recommends the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to study and recommend changes to current models used to fund students in Connecticut public education, whether at state charter schools, magnet schools, regional vocational-agriculture schools, district schools including through the OPEN Choice program, and technical high schools. The aim of this study shall be to consider alternative, more equitable ways to fund these students and to propose legislation that will remedy the weaknesses now identified in the State's public school financing system for choice.

Statement of the Problem and Charge to the Committee

The variety, complexity, and sheer number of statutes governing charter and magnet schools are a growing concern for municipal leaders everywhere in Connecticut, particularly those in the State's urban centers. The allocation formulas used to fund choice schools are not only difficult to understand, but they also fail to work as *system* based on a coherent philosophy or set of organizing principles. In times of economic crisis, critics argue, laws that have been in place since 1995 and amended almost every year thereafter are no longer serving the public good. By common agreement, the system professing to support public school choice is broken, unfair, and inadequately funded.

The list of perceived grievances is long. The City of Hartford, critics complain, receives more money than other cities because of the 2008 *Sheff v. O'Neill* stipulated agreement--even cities like Bridgeport and New Haven whose level of poverty approaches Hartford's. Superintendents in the Hartford region argue that, in the past three years, the State has abruptly changed the rules for implementing *Sheff* without providing adequate funding for transportation and tuition reimbursements to implement the agreement. Policy analysts and legislators further contend that magnet school construction in the Hartford region has run its course and is now dramatically undercutting whatever funding could be used to promote inter-district Choice, the least costly of all programs aimed at reducing racial isolation. And in the midst of this debate, charter leaders claim that their issues have been crowded out and that the opportunity to expand state charter schools in Connecticut will happen only when charter funding law is changed to allow local tax dollars to "follow" students whose parents choose to enroll them in a charter school outside their own district. Students in the technical high school system depend on annual appropriations in the state budget that are far less influenced by the concerns of students and parents using the schools and, unlike municipal appropriations to boards of education, are subject to line item control both before and after appropriation under the state budget process.

Each of these concerns connects to the other, and, as a whole, all speak to the larger problem of finding a comprehensive solution that is based on common principles and assumptions. The prevailing belief is that until these basic principles can be at least identified and captured in new legislation, Connecticut will stand little chance of finding a better way to fund these important public school choices. It is to this end that the Ad Hoc Committee will be convened and charged with researching and recommending new funding models all of Connecticut's public school choice programs.

Objectives

The objectives of the Ad Hoc Committee shall be to:

1. Identify and hire one or more national experts to study Connecticut's public financing laws for public school choice and to compare these laws with others in states where magnets and charter schools have shown strong evidence of successfully boosting student achievement
2. Examine the strengths and limitations of national funding models based on weighted student financing formulas (i.e., "the money follows the child.");
3. Investigate and analyze the impacts of systems that are less dependent on local property taxes as a major source of revenue for supporting choice;
4. Review and discuss these studies with an eye toward developing a new legislative and policy framework for funding public school choice.
5. Identify common principles and assumptions to guide the creation of this framework
6. Propose recommendations leading to legislation that will provide a balanced, coherent system for funding public schools statewide founded on choice.

Deliverables

The Ad Hoc Committee shall submit the following products to State Board of Education:

1. A comparative analysis of Connecticut's magnet and charter statutes as compared to 3-5 other states, preferably in the New England Region
2. A summary of what the current research says about the effects of laws supporting weighted student financing in boosting student achievement and providing equal access to students living in poverty
3. A comparative analysis of Connecticut and other states relative to the state's total contribution to public school funding, compared to the contributions of local municipalities
4. A declaration of the common principles and assumptions that will guide the recommendations for legislative reform
5. A report to the Board of Education recommending proposals and/or funding models that achieve the stated purposes of Goal 6; and a timeline for achieving those recommendations over the next five years.

Timeline

1. The Committee shall hold its first organizational meeting on or before April 15, 2010, and establish a schedule of monthly meetings to complete its work before December 1, 2010.
2. The Committee shall engage the consultant services of a scholar or outside expert on or before May 1, 2010.

3. The Committee shall present deliverables 1-3 to the State Board of Education at its regular meeting in July, 2010.
4. The Committee shall complete its statement of principles and assumptions by July 30, 2010.
5. With the assistance of its consultant, the Committee shall complete by November 15, 2010 a report for the State Board of Education, outlining its recommendations for legislative reform in the areas identified.
6. The Committee shall present its report to the State Board of Education at its regularly scheduled meeting in December 2010.

Committee Composition

The Ad Hoc Committee shall consist of 16 members, listed below. These members, and the Co-Chairs of the Committee, shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the State Board of Education.

1. Chairperson of the State Board of Education;
2. Chairperson of the Legislation and Bylaws Committee of the State Board of Education;
3. One member of the Legislation and Bylaws Committee of the State Board of Education;
4. Commissioner of Education;
5. Three members of the General Assembly;
6. The President of the Connecticut Business and Industry Association or designee;
7. The Executive Director of Connecticut Association of School Business Officials or designee;
8. Executive Director of Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents or designee;
9. Executive Director of Connecticut Association of Boards of Education or designee;
10. Executive Director of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities or designee;
11. Executive Director of the Connecticut Education Association or designee;
12. Executive Director of the American Federation of Teachers or designee;
13. Executive Director of ConnCAN; and
14. Secretary, Office of Policy and Management or his designee.

Authority

The Ad Hoc Committee shall serve in an advisory capacity to the State Board of Education, and shall be granted an operating budget of up to \$25,000 for the purposes of conducting research and preparing reports. At the discretion of the chairperson, committee members may be divided into work groups to complete the tasks identified above and report back to the committee of the whole, following deadlines established by the chair.

2010 Bills in the Education Committee of CT's State Legislature

Below are some of the bills being discussed/considered by the Education Committee of CT's State Legislature. The committee is scheduled to meet Tuesday, March 23, at 2:00 p.m. Room 1 E of LOB. You can watch the committee live via CT-N's website or on your local CT-N television station. Items with an asterisk will be brought forward today.

RSB275 *An Act Concerning (AAC) Staff Qualifications for School Readiness Programs for 2015-* requires that at least 50% of teachers in a program accepting school readiness funds have either a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education from an accredited institution of higher education or a teaching certificate with an early childhood education endorsement.

RSB380 *AAC Early Childhood Credentialing-* directs Commissioner of Education to use unexpended funds for providing PD to school readiness staff.

RSB279 *AAC Foreign Language Taught in Public Schools-* to require high school students to complete a minimum of two years of world language study prior to graduation

RSB378 *AAC Teacher Education and Mentoring Program-* to provide a renewal fee waiver to those teachers holding an initial educator certificate, but who cannot apply for a provisional educator certificate because they have not completed the requisite beginning educator program; to provide a fee adjustment to those teachers who already renewed their initial educator certificate because they could not apply for a provisional educator certificate because they have not completed the requisite beginning educator program; and to include health teachers as among the list of teachers who shall complete the teacher educator and mentoring program in full.

RSB440-AAC School Districts and Teacher Performance Programs-* to expand statewide public school information system to collect and analyze measures of student growth for purposes of monitoring teacher effectiveness.

RSB441- *AAC Study of Educational Issues*- to require a study of issues involving education in CT

RSB442-*AAC Boards of Education*- to amend the accountability statute to allow the Commissioner of Education to reconstitute local or regional boards of education for school districts designated and listed as a low achieving school district

RHB5316-*AAC Enrollment in Adult Education- to prevent boards of education from assigning low-performing students, students with behavioral problems and students who are over age for their grades in public high schools to adult education programs

RHB5421-*AAC Education and Administrators- to establish an alternate route to certification program for administrators and superintendents; to allow teaching experience in a nonpublic school as counting towards eligibility requirements for the issuance of a professional educator certificate; to permit student teaching experience in a nonpublic school to count towards the eligibility requirements for an initial educator certificate; and to include scientifically-based reading research models as part of the in-service training for certified personnel

RHB5489-*AAC Secondary School Reform*- to implement the recommendations of the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee concerning alignment of post-secondary education and employment

RHB5491- *AAC Certain School District Reforms to Reduce the Achievement Gap in CT – to allow parents to restructure a school that has been identified as in need of improvement pursuant the NCLB Act- to establish an income tax reimbursement pilot competitive grant program for teachers in priority school districts; to include student academic growth as a factor in educational performance evaluations; to create an online credit recovery program with dropout rates of 8% or greater; to require school districts to conduct two parent-teacher conferences per school year; to establish a task force responsible for examining the achievement gap in CT; to change the date of counting students for purposes of ESC from Oct 1 to March 1 and to require school districts to implement an advanced placement course program

RHB5493- *AAC Strategic Planning in State Education Policy and Charter School Funding*- to amend the statutes concerning the funding mechanism for state charter schools by allowing state charter schools to be eligible for state funding to the same extent as local and regional boards of education

JOSEPH ERARDI

From: Tim Lachapelle [tim@lachape.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2010 9:21 PM
To: JOSEPH ERARDI
Subject: National Oratorical Contest Schedule
Attachments: 2010 Department Winner Forms and Information Packet.pdf

Dr. Erardi

Attached is an information packet for the National Oratorical Contest that is taking place on April 9th, 10th, and 11th. The Contest is beginning Saturday at 9:45, and concluding Sunday Morning. If there is any further information that you might need please let me know and I will try to get that to you. Thank you very much for your support and interest in this program.

Sincerely,

Tim Lachapelle

4/7/2010

**73rd Annual American Legion High School Oratorical
Scholarship Program
“A Constitutional Speech Contest”
NATIONAL FINALS
CONTESTANT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Friday, April 9, 2010

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (times approximate)

- ⇒ Contestants & chaperones arrive at the University Place Conference Center & Hotel;
contest registration, completion of expense report and hotel check-in.
Judy Mosley, Contest Secretary

7:30 p.m.

Room 118 University Place Conference Center

- ⇒ Contestant & chaperone welcome and greetings.
Joseph Caouette, Jr., Chairman, National Americanism Commission
- ⇒ Contestant orientation and briefing.
Mike Buss, Assistant Director, A/C&Y
- ⇒ Contest site familiarization (walk through of respective contest facility; allow each
contestant five minutes to check acoustics, etc. of room).
Contest Moderators

Quarter Final	Contest Room	Assigned Topic Preparation Room
1	Room 222	218
2	Room 226	223
3	Room 232	224A
4	Room 102	219
5	Room 206	204
6	Room 236	224B
7	Room 208	210
8	Room 216	212
9	Room 231	138

Saturday, April 10, 2010

7:00 a.m.

Room 234 University Place Conference Center

- ⇒ Contest office opens.
Mike Buss, Assistant Director, A/C&Y
Judy Mosley, Contest Secretary