

SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT

REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 28, 2011

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, April 28, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. at Plantsville Elementary School, 70 Church Street, Plantsville, Connecticut.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Chairperson, Mr. Brian Goralski. Board members present were Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Patricia Queen and Mrs. Kathleen Rickard. Absent was Mrs. Rosemarie Fischer.

Present from the administration were Dr. Joseph Erardi, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance, and Mr. Frederick Cox, Director of Operations.

Student representative, Christopher Amnott, was present.

There were 24 people in the audience.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Amnott led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ April 14, 2011

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

“Move to approve the minutes of April 14, 2011.”

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

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

“Move that the Board move Agenda Item 7.d [Assistant Superintendent of Schools – Hiring Update] to Agenda Item 3.a.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**a. Assistant Superintendent of Schools – Hiring Update
(Formerly Agenda Item 7.d)**

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

“Move to recommend that the Southington Board of Education appoint Karen Smith, effective July 1, 2011, to the position of Assistant Superintendent of Schools. This recommendation is made with excitement and confidence that Mrs. Smith will continue her exceptional work throughout our district with curriculum and instruction. I am pleased to make this recommendation and fully confident that we are promoting an extraordinary instructional leader, an extraordinary person, and an extraordinary role model for all to emulate.”

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

Mrs. Smith came to the podium. She remarked that after 25 years in Southington, in many different capacities, she never dreamed that this evening would arrive. She felt honored and blessed to be working with an educational team that is forward thinking, works as a unit, puts politics aside, and puts children first. She was delighted to have had an opportunity to work with teams at Derynoski School...teams of paraprofessionals, teachers, assistant principals, colleagues and support staff. She felt that they have made her a better person and a continuous learner. She pointed out that several of those people were in attendance and that she wanted to recognize them and thank them publicly for the partnerships that they have formed and the growth that she has had as a result of them. Mrs. Smith introduced two paraprofessionals at Derynoski School who were in attendance, Jill Sohon and Marilyn Smith. She also recognized the outstanding administrators with whom she has had the privilege of working, learning and growing from. She introduced Jan Verderame [Derynoski Assistant Principal], Sally Kamerbeek [South End School Principal], Betty Lutz [Kelley School Principal], Patricia Mazarella [Flanders School Principal], and Betsy Chester [Languages Arts Coordinator]. She stated that they were an extraordinary administrative team and that she hoped to continue working as a team in every way and with every possible definition there is of the word “team.” Mrs. Smith recognized and thanked her husband, Don Smith, who was in the audience. She stated that he was the quiet force behind her and that it was with his support that she has been encouraged to participate in every professional activity and growth opportunity that has come her way over her 28 year career.

Mrs. Smith noted the cohesiveness of the Board of Education and the direction and public vision that they have shared and articulated so clearly over the years. She has known some of the Board members for the length of her tenure in Southington and felt that the “sticking power” has been phenomenal. Mrs. Smith acknowledged Dr. Erardi and stated that she would not want to ascend to her new position without knowing very clearly that the top leader was one who encouraged growth and partnership. At the staff meeting that afternoon, she commented that there was no Superintendent in the State of Connecticut that she would rather work with than Joe Erardi. Mrs. Smith remarked that she has had a simple philosophy over her 28 year career and that was to be the type of tutor, substitute teacher, math teacher, elementary teacher, assistant principal, and principal that she would want her children, and now her grandchildren, to have. Mrs. Smith pointed out that at every “Welcome Back to School” staff meeting her message has been the same, “Be the kind of paraprofessional that you want your child to encounter every

day.” “Be the kind of custodian that you want your children to interact with every day.” “Be the kind of school secretary who warmly greets the children as they come into the office in the morning to borrow lunch money.” “Be the kind of teacher who never gives up on a child, especially the strugglers.” She pledged that she would continue that philosophy and try to be the best Assistant Superintendent that she could be, always remembering that children come first.

At 7:45 p.m., Mr. Goralski called for a short recess to congratulate Mrs. Smith on her appointment as the new Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

The regular meeting reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience

Mr. Art Cyr, 103 Berlin Avenue, had two things that he wanted to bring to the Board’s attention. First, he acknowledged that Fred Cox was doing a real good job. A couple of weeks ago, he and his son drove by every school at night to see how many lights were on. After the fifth school, his son started to laugh and said, “*I guarantee you that Mr. Cox has probably called every principal and every custodian and said, ‘I don’t want to get a Saturday morning e-mail from Art Cyr that the hallway lights or back door lights were on.’*” Mr. Cyr found that incredible because three or four years ago Mr. Zoni surveyed the schools and they were lit up like a Christmas tree. Mr. Cyr pointed out that Mr. Cox saved the town a lot of money by instituting programs. He stated that too often someone sees a problem, it gets solved, and then everyone slacks off. He praised Mr. Cox for keeping on top of the situation. He also noted that Southington did not have any schools with leaky roofs or collapsed roofs during the winter because Mr. Cox put people up on the roofs to clear the snow. Mr. Cyr pointed out that people do not realize that Southington did not have schools closed and did not have to pay a large amount of money for repair jobs because Mr. Cox thought ahead this winter.

Mr. Cyr stated that another reason that he was speaking before the Board was that he stumbled across something this week that he called “free money.” He stated that as a Southington resident he was not in the loop regarding the school district because he no longer has children in the school system and does not get the flyers that are sent home. He said that he checks the Town website but not the school districts. He does his grocery shopping at Price Chopper and noted that their website has a “Tools for Schools” program where a shopper can go to the Price Chopper website, enter their preferred customer card number, pick a school, and then that school receives money. He felt that many Southington residents are not aware of this program. He thought it would be a good idea if the school system found a way to inform people who do not have children in the school district about this program. Mr. Cyr explained that Price Chopper was going to give away \$500,000 based on how many people select a school. He noted that he has been shopping at Price Chopper for many years and did not know about this program; consequently, the school district was not able to accumulate points off him.

b. Communications from Board Members and Administration

Communication from the Board Members:

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

“Move to add Contract Negotiations to the Executive Session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco distributed a flyer (*Attachment #1*) to the Board for “Anything Goes,” which is the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts production that is taking place in May. The Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts is a CREC magnet school that some Southington students attend. She was proud to announce that Sophomore Jessie Davidson has a female lead in the show and plays Reno Sweeney. Another Southington student, Domenic Pellegrini, who is a full day Junior at the Academy, is also a member of the ensemble and plays an FBI Agent. She wanted to make everyone aware of this in case they were interested in attending.

Mrs. Carmody reported that the Young Authors Program that was held on Tuesday was a wonderful night for the Board to meet with the students and have them read their stories. One of the highlights of the evening was when one of the students thought that Dr. Erardi was the President of the United States. She thanked Betsy Chester [Language Arts Coordinator] and Sandra VanValkenburgh [Literacy Specialist], the teachers, and the students for a job well done.

Mr. Derynoski had the pleasure of participating in the Manufacturing and Construction Career Expo at the high school before the Board of Education meeting this evening. He stated that he would go into more detail at the next Board meeting once he gets all the facts. He noted that the participation was amazing and complimented the staff for putting together this wonderful opportunity for students. Mr. Goralski pointed out that Mr. Derynoski was an active participant at the Manufacturing Career Expo.

Mr. Goralski reported that he received a letter from a group named “Southington Remembers 9/11.” They are holding a non-denominational event to remember the Tenth Anniversary of the tragedy of September 11, 2001 in 2011. Mr. Goralski noted that the groups that are participating were groups with which the Board has partnerships. He asked Dr. Erardi to distribute the letter to all the Board members and to look into what the school system could do to become involved. The group’s goal is to have participants throughout the community fill out a banner and do an act of kindness or something in the memory of someone who perished on that day. The group wants every person who died on that day remembered on a banner. Mr. Goralski thought this was a good way to grow their partnerships with community organizations.

Mr. Goralski noted that on April 27 many of the Board members had the opportunity to again celebrate Mrs. Genevieve Thalberg and the Thalberg Trust Foundation members. He stated that to walk through Reuben E. Thalberg School with her and sit next to her was one of the greatest privileges that he has had as a member of the Board of Education. He noted that Mrs. Rickard gave him and Dr. Erardi one of the nicest compliments that he has received when she stated that their mother’s would be proud of the way they took care of and doted on Mrs. Thalberg. He remarked that Mrs. Thalberg was very wise because she talked about the value of technology. He noted that Mrs. Thalberg’s primary focus was on how to make the people of Southington realize the value of technology and how acts of kindness, such as her trusts, should be a catalyst for the community to support the cause of technology and enrich education. He appreciated the media for covering the opportunity to recognize Mrs. Thalberg. Mr. Goralski

stated that people like Mrs. Thalberg are rare and remarkable. He felt it was amazing for her to have the opportunity to see firsthand what her generosity brought to the school system.

Communication from Administration:

Dr. Erardi distributed a packet of the Administrative Report to the Board (*Attachment #2*).

1. Readiness Data: Dr. Erardi reported that the Readiness Data was introduced to the Board on April 14, 2011 with concerns. He stated that the elementary school administrative staff, along with his office, spent over one hour discussing where they are with readiness and how to move forward. Part of their plan is to share all of the data with the preschools and home day care providers. He stated that there was an analysis done by Sally Kamerbeek that was in his Administrative Report. He noted that they would continue to look at the State Board of Education readiness benchmark and report back to the Board with a plan moving forward.
2. Medication Return Program: Dr. Erardi reported that he shared information regarding the Medication Return Program with 7,000 homes this afternoon via a broadcast message. He hoped that the community would participate in this program that takes place on Saturday, April 30 from 10:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m. He felt that it was another way to keep students safe.
3. Scholar's Luncheon: Dr. Erardi reported that the Top 10 Scholars Luncheon would be held on Tuesday, June 14 and that it was one of the highlights of the academic school year. It is an opportunity for the Top 10 Scholars to invite a very important person who made a difference in their success formula to lunch in the Corner Café at Southington High School.
4. Activate Southington: Dr. Erardi reported that he was pleased that the school system has partnered with Activate Southington and recently received grants this week to promote wellness and healthy lifestyles.
5. SEF / Community Y / STEM Center Update: Dr. Erardi updated the School Board on the emerging partnership with the Southington Education Foundation (SEF), the YMCA and the STEM Center. The Southington Education Foundation has dedicated \$25,000 next year for all fourth graders to have three opportunities (fall, winter and spring) to be at Camp Sloper. Dr. Erardi attended a meeting this past week hosted by Dr. David Monti. He was certain that the pilot will be the precursor to the STEM Center that will be constructed in the next couple of years. The Southington Education Foundation will have a campaign and a kick-off with all of that information. Dr. Erardi felt it was important to bring the Board up-to-date that the pilot is in place, it is fully funded, and Dale Riedinger (Math/Science Coordinator) has been closely involved and connected to the instructional piece of this. Yesterday, they brought fourth grade teachers out to the site. He felt that it would be a wonderful opportunity for students next year in fourth grade.
6. National Publication: Dr. Erardi shared the April 2011 edition of the School Business Affairs national publication with the Board. The publication featured

Sherri DiNello's article "Finding Funding: Community Partnership and Public Education." Dr. Erardi felt that it was a tribute to the district and to Mrs. DiNello. He noted that this has been an ongoing initiative with his Cabinet to share some of the things Southington does with others. He was very pleased and proud of that.

7. Staff Appreciation Day: Dr. Erardi stated that rather than celebrate individual days of Secretary Day, Nurse Day, and Teacher Day, the school system is calling it "Staff Appreciation Day" and celebrating the day on Tuesday, May 3, 2011 in the elementary schools. He noted that all the elementary schools will recognize all staff. He will update the Board on the dates for the middle schools and high school for their Staff Appreciation Day.

Communication from Student Representative:

Mr. Amnott reported on the following:

- The Jazz and Chorale Concerts will be held at Southington High School on May 3 and May 5, 2011.
- A Staff Appreciation Breakfast to thank the high school teachers, administrators, and secretaries will be held on Friday, April 29 at 7:00 a.m.
- Two Scholar-Athletes at the high school, Kevin Twerago and Kristy Solomon, will be honored at the Aqua Turf on Sunday, May 1, as the Scholar-Athletes for the 2010-2011 school year. He noted that they are number one and number two in the Class of 2011, respectively. Mr. Amnott stated that Kevin played basketball and golf and Kristy played soccer.
- The Academic Awards Night will be held on May 11, 2011. This is not the Scholarship Night; it is for specific awards for students at the high school.
- The winners of the Class 2013 election were posted today outside room 346.
- Tunxis Community College is accepting applications for their High School Partnership Program for the fall of 2011. Eligible Junior and Senior high school students can experience and earn college credit while they are still in high school. The applicants must have an overall "B" average, a recommendation from a school counselor, and receive appropriate scores on their College Placement Test.
- Tonight was the Manufacturing and Construction Career Expo for students who were interested in that field.
- The third quarter Honor Roll lists were posted outside the Main Office and Nurses' Office. If any students suspect an error, they can see their Guidance Counselor.
- A meeting will be held after school on April 29 for all girls' interested in playing field hockey in the fall.
- The Coffeehouse auditions were postponed until next week.
- The Polish Club is conducting a toy drive and a baseball/softball drive this week. If anyone would like to donate items, they can bring them to room C240.
- Many of the students went to China and England over April vacation. He noted that some students have told him that it was a life changing experience that they enjoyed.

- Friday evening, April 29, there will be a Boys' Volleyball game against Staples. He noted that Staples is a team that Southington has battled the past few years and won last year's State Championship.
- The Boy's Tennis team has a home match next Friday at 3:45 p.m. Mr. Amnott invited the Board to attend to see him and his teammates play.

Mr. Derynoski asked if the search to replace Mr. Amnott has started. Mr. Amnott replied that he met with Dr. Semmel and gave him some names of students whom he thought would be good representatives. They will come up with names of five juniors this year who will be seniors next year and five sophomores who will be juniors next year. There will be two representatives next year for an easy turnover. On May 26, they will be conducting interviews of these students. Mr. Goralski thought that for the first meeting in June Mr. Amnott would have the opportunity to mentor them and formerly introduce the representatives to the Board. Mrs. Queen asked if this search would be open to anyone who was interested. Mr. Amnott replied that it was.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Policy and Personnel Committee Meeting ~ April 13, 2011

Dr. Erardi reported that the work of the Policy and Personnel Committee would be addressed later in the agenda with two proposals coming forward to the School Board regarding computer use.

b. Finance Committee Meeting ~ April 25, 2011

Mrs. Clark reported that the committee met on April 25, 2011 and that she had some motions to make.

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

"Move to approve the three-year agreement with Achieve Financial Credit Union."

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

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

"Move to approve the agreement with Top Driver for 2011-2012."

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

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

"Move to extend the current custodial services for 2011-2012 with Capital Cleaning and Performance Environmental as presented."

Mr. Goralski asked if there was a need to list the schools for those contracts. Mrs. DiNello replied that “as presented” should be fine and would cover it.

Mr. Derynoski stated that before the Manufacturing and Construction Expo started he had the opportunity to walk the halls and stairwells and he was quite pleased. With all the activities at the high school this time of year, he was impressed that the school was quite clean. There has been some drastic improvements.

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

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

“Move to waive the rental fees charged for the middle school wrestling program under the Southington Youth Wrestling League.”

Mrs. Johnson asked for this motion to be explained. Mrs. DiNello replied that Dr. Erardi received a letter from Mr. David Kanute requesting that the Board of Education waive the rental fees that were charged to the Southington Youth Wrestling League when they hosted tournaments at Southington High School. The rationale behind his request was the fact that the wrestling program has donated at least three mats to the wrestling room at the high school that are used by the physical education classes, special education students, and the high school wrestling team. In addition, the Youth Wrestling League was instrumental in outfitting that room for the school system’s use. Mr. Kanute felt that with the partnership that has been established between the wrestling program and the school system, he would bring to Dr. Erardi the request to waive the rental fees that they were charged. They are willing to continue paying any fees associated with the use of the facility such as any custodial overtime charges or supervisors who are hired for the program. They have, in fact, paid those portions of the invoices that they have received; however, they are asking for the Board to waive the rental charges that they received.

Mrs. Johnson asked if this was establishing a precedent. Mrs. DiNello replied that the way they have worked rental fees in the past is that only the Board of Education has the ability to waive fees. There is a Use of Facility form and there are procedures in place for the different types of organizations who use our facilities that have corresponding rental rates. Those forms go through the Director of Operations’ office. For the administration, if the group falls within a category that needs to be charged a fee, the administration historically bills them. In the past, this Board has determined that only the Board can waive that fee.

Mrs. Johnson asked if this particular group was an organization that had a not-for-profit status. She questioned how the not-for-profit status is determined. Mrs. DiNello could not speak specifically to their not-for-profit status; however, she could share that they had a meeting held on Monday, April 25, 2011 between some Town officials, Mr. Bill Masci (Director of Parks), Mr. John Fontana from the Park Board, Garry Brumback (Town Manager) and Town Attorney/Deputy Town Manager Mark Sciota. In addition, from the school administration she, Dr. Erardi, Mr. Cox, and Eric Swallow [Athletic Director] were present. They discussed strategies for use of fields moving forward. The determination that they believe will come back is that future requests for use of fields or facilities that have anything to do with a not-for-profit status, or organizations who are seeking that designation, will be going before the Recreation

Director or the Park Board to make that determination. They are looking to get their input for making the determination for charging fees in the future. Mrs. Johnson asked if this was still a fluid conversation and has not yet been written in stone and this waiver for the wrestling league happens to be on this specific request. Mrs. DiNello replied that was correct. She stated that this request would be waiving the fees that had been previously charged. Moving forward, if they proceed as recommended at the meeting on April 25, that type of organization would first go to the Park Board to get a determination letter which would then be mailed to Mr. Cox so he would know how to proceed in the future on the appropriate charges. She noted that Mr. Swallow would be getting back to Dr. Erardi with a recommendation.

Mrs. Rickard thought it was important to point out that they are only waiving the rental fee that is above and beyond the wrestling program covering all of the Board of Education costs associated with it. She felt this was a good way to establish community partnerships and to maintain an existing community partnership that has helped the Board for a long time.

In the event their status changes, Mr. Derynoski felt that there needed to be a mechanism in place to monitor it. He did not feel that they had a good handle on all the activities that take place. He felt that programs change, visions change and costs change over time. The Board has to make sure that they are not going to be blindsided when all of a sudden the not-for-profit status changes.

Mr. Goralski stated that he appreciated Mr. Kanute's dedication over the years to this particular program. Attending wrestling matches, he has seen firsthand the amount of mats required. The Board of Education has not purchased very many of the mats, which are a very costly item. He appreciated the partnership that was in place and looked forward to the ongoing improvement and the collaboration on how these groups will come to the Board with Parks and Recreation's approval.

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

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

“Move to waive the rental fees charged to the Ultimate Baseball Sports Academy (UBSA) in the fall of 2010.”

Mr. Goralski looked forward to the partnership that the Finance Committee talked about on Monday. The Board always talks about fields, space, utilization, and the lack of fields. He noted that Lacrosse was using the field at Derynoski because they had outgrown Panthorn Park. He stated that baseball in Southington is such a hot commodity and that teams are practicing on any piece of grass they can find on public land that their insurance allows. He looked forward to the partnership established on Monday addressing fields in Southington. Mr. Goralski emphasized that Southington High School needs to be looked at on a different level and standard than the other fields. He felt that there should be very strict guidelines for people who are using the high school baseball field. He looked forward to what the Finance Committee discussed on Monday regarding the other fields at the high school. He noted that a great deal of money has been put into the varsity field by the Booster Club, the Maintenance Department, and the Vocational-Agriculture students. It worried him to have outside groups on that field. He noted

that there was a JV field and that they should work through the partnership that they are building with the JV field to be used and not the marquee stadium with the lights.

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

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

“Move to approve the long-term rental use hourly charge schedule, as presented.”

Mr. Goralski asked if the field cost would be added. Mrs. DiNello replied that would be coming forward at the next meeting. Mr. Goralski asked if the Board would need to make a motion at their next meeting to set that charge. Mrs. DiNello replied that was correct. The long-term rental use, as well as, the standard fee structure will both be coming before the Board with fields specified on the form. This would allow administration to keep moving forward if they get any interim requests.

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

Mrs. DiNello reported that on the Finance Committee agenda under Miscellaneous, the committee reviewed the current operating budget and asked questions regarding the report. There are still quite a few dollars left in the supply account because they continue to hold back a 25% threshold for supplies. Based on the information through February 28, 2011, the projection was a balance of somewhere between \$50,000-\$60,000; however, what they do with the total finances moving forward will be determined at the next Finance Committee meeting once they have the opportunity to see what the budget is for 2011-2012 and whether there is some unfunded items in next year's budget that they could move forward with appropriately this year.

Mr. Goralski noted that the Board of Finance and Mr. D'Angelo, who specifically requested this information, have this information along with the other Town Councilors and are up-to-date with where the Board of Education currently stands with the operating budget. Mrs. DiNello noted that one of the last unknowns for the Board of Education right now is the second payment of the Special Education Excess Costs. The Board of Education received the first payment that traditionally represents 75% of the payment; however, she was not sure where the funding level would be with the second payment. Mr. Goralski added that the Special Education Excess Cost unknown is the reason that the Board freezes the supply account every year.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

Mr. Goralski reported that there has been a great deal of talk during the budget season regarding the capital items within the Board of Education budget and the Capital Budget. He stated that there was a request to improve the Board's practice moving forward. In response to that request, so next year they are not in the same situation where they were with the Facility/Maintenance line account this year, he was proposing that Tuesday, May 10, 2011 (the day after Town Council completes the budget), they have a joint meeting with the Board of Finance, Town Council and Board of Education to collaborate and get the vision that they all

have. Each year, the Board does their best to act in the way that they have been directed to and, as the Town Council and Board of Finance change, sometimes that understanding changes. Although there is another election this fall that could impact next year's budget, he felt that it is best that they are all on a level playing field. Unless anyone on the School Board objects, he will have Mrs. Albaitis send this invitation to the other Boards (*Attachment #3*).

Mr. Goralski noted that the Public Hearing that was held on Monday, April 25 was not as well attended as years ago. It was noticeable that the communication that has happened from the Board of Education with the other boards is why he thought they were having such a smooth budget process this year while the rest of Connecticut struggles. He felt that the adversarial nature with the other Boards has subsided because the Board of Education works as a unit and believes in their work.

Mr. Goralski announced that the final action on the budget is May 9, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in Town Council Chambers.

b. Construction Update

Mr. Cox reported that with the Plantsville School building project they are still working with the manufacturer regarding a few small issues such as the breakdowns on the boilers, which is a design flaw or some type of fine tuning that needs to be done. At South End School during the vacation week, there was a lot of work that took place working on the air conditioning, ductwork and sound baffling.

Mr. Cox shared some information and photographs of a recent project that was completed at Southington High School with the tennis court bleachers. He noted that the bleacher had a 40 person capacity seat unit and that it took a number of people to get this done. He pointed out that this was an idea brought forward by Mr. Ed Kalat and the Center Court Booster Club. Mr. Cox stated that financial support in the amount of \$1,600 came from the Kenny Hill Foundation and by the Booster Club. He remarked that there was concrete work, retaining blocks, and parking lot bumpers involved. Mr. Cox reported that F & F Concrete donated the concrete, Washington Concrete donated the retaining blocks, and Marion Stannard's Vocational-Agriculture class did the excavation and the construction of the retaining wall. The Maintenance Department put together the Erector set and put it in place. He noted that it was really a team effort.

Mr. Derynoski reported that the punch list items are slowly coming to an end and he thought that they should be closing out these projects in mid-summer.

Mrs. Rickard noted that there was an incident with the lights at South End School after the Young Authors' Program. Mr. Cox replied that on Monday evening they had some difficulty with some electrical work that was done. One of the contactors was defective and they had some issues with it. They bypassed some of the controls that evening for the meeting on Tuesday night; however, they were not able to put on all the outside lighting. He stated that parts were on order. Mr. Goralski thought that it provided a fantastic ambiance with the flashing lights.

Mrs. Rickard stated that she was talking about the fire. Mr. Cox replied that was it. The fire consisted of a short in the electrical box which was a new installation. He stated that some contactors failed that were for the new ice melt system this winter on the north side of the building. Unfortunately, the new equipment was defective in the box so the smoke "fire" took

place on Monday night. On Tuesday, that was another result of them bypassing some of the lighting because the equipment that was on fire controlled all the outside lighting. Mrs. Rickard asked whose responsibility it was to fix it. Mr. Cox replied that the electrical contractor was responsible because it was defective parts.

c. Middle School Feasibility Study Update ~ Fletcher Thompson Presentation

Dr. Erardi remarked that the cooperation from the firm of Fletcher Thompson has been extraordinary. They have been consistently available when their expertise is needed and they have prioritized this project. He also thanked the administrative team and those that are on the Educational Specifications Committee, which is a large job that they are truncating in time. The final draft of the Educational Specifications (Ed Specs) will be in the Board packet next Friday for the Board members. He noted that the work that has taken place through Mr. Cox's oversight will be brought before the Board on May 12 with a full presentation of what the first draft of the proposed renovate-to-new project will look like. Dr. Erardi noted that on May 12 he would also have work from the elementary school administrators regarding "What if the present Grade 3 stayed in their building for Grade 6?" The Board will have a sense for the renovate-to-new and if they wanted to look at reducing the population of the middle schools, how that will impact all eight elementary schools. He thought that would be important information for the Board to have on May 12. Mr. Goralski thought that was great foresight.

Mr. Joe Costa and Mr. Curt Krushinsky from Fletcher Thompson distributed to the Board a Draft Program for District Review of DePaolo and Kennedy Middle Schools. Mr. Costa stated that this was a draft and that there could be some errors but felt that it was 99% correct. He stated that this document lays out what the school is going to be about, how it is going to be organized, and the kinds of spaces that are going to be designed within the building. He pointed out that it was a very important document. The document has a tremendous amount of information on it. It is projected for an enrollment of 811 students. There are three basic columns with the first column labeled "Space Component," which includes the actual names and functions of those spaces. The column that is labeled "Existing" is actually the spaces that are in the buildings right now including the number and the sizes of the spaces. The column named "Proposed" is actually the proposed spaces that will be designed within the building renovation/addition project. In addition, they have created a "Remarks" column and they used a lot of shorthand nomenclature. For example, NSF is actually Net Square Footage, which is the square footage of the room like the carpet area from inside a wall to outside a wall and is an important consideration because that is the space that is actually used for teaching. The GSF is Gross Square Footage, which is the square footage of the outside to outside, the footprint.

Mr. Costa noted that they tabulated the document and what the Board sees on the document is 12 major divisions designated by the horizontal bars. Some of them are named Administration, Health Services, Guidance, Pupil Support and Instructional Areas. Mr. Costa directed the Board's attention to Instructional Areas and that within this grouping is really the core of the school. It is where the classrooms are and where the majority of the teaching activities occur. Those are divided into three major categories, which are Grade 6, Grade 7 and Grade 8. Under Grade 6 there are two teams per grade and under Grade 7 there are three teams per grade and under Grade 8 there are three teams per grade. They are looking at the school in terms of smaller blocks made up of teams of classrooms and teams of students.

Mr. Krushinsky noted that there was quite a bit of discussion in the last week with the school administrators about how those teams are comprised and they spent a lot of time on the number of core classrooms that will be required to support each one of the schools. He stated that there was a major meeting on Monday with administrators to talk about this to make sure that these schools will meet the needs of the district moving forward for a true middle school format instead of a junior high school.

Mr. Costa pointed out the two teams per grade in the sixth grade and what they are calculating is approximately 15 classrooms that will serve the sixth grade for the core curriculum. Under Grade 7, it is 12 classrooms and under Grade 8 there are 17 classrooms. In total, currently, the building has about 30 core classrooms and that number will actually jump up to about 44 classrooms. Each of the basic core curriculums such as language arts, mathematics, science, social studies and special education make up a team. There are different classrooms for each of those spaces.

Mr. Costa stated that the column marked "Remarks and Net Square Foot Delta" shows an accounting of what is there now versus what will be there later in terms of net square footage. Under the instructional area right now there are 25,740 square feet with that total actually going to 43,000 square feet with a delta of 17,290 square feet of core classroom spaces. He noted that they do that calculation for each of the 12 categories that he mentioned before with some of them up a little bit and some of them actually staying the same.

Mr. Costa continued that there were some additional teaching spaces. Under Grade 8, there are additional instructional spaces made up of a series of different specialized spaces such as literacy specialists and math tutors, community rooms and also a health classroom and a pair of family consumer science classrooms. Mr. Krushinsky pointed out that those exist now and it was just being carried across to show that those programs would continue in the proposed building.

Mr. Costa noted that under the special education category they actually had one room that is called a Self-contained Special Education classroom that currently does not exist. The rest of special education is actually incorporated within the team teaching areas. It is part of inclusion into the main body of the students.

Mr. Costa pointed out the capacity of the school is very important and is what Boards' focus on. In the right-hand column it is named "Utilization." They have assigned numbers of students to the teaching spaces so the core, standard classrooms, they are calculating at 22 students per space and the special education classrooms are six students plus a staff member. They created an accounting of each of the classrooms. For example, under Grade 6, in language arts there are four of those classrooms at 22 students that represent 88 students. He felt that it was a good placeholder number for a reasonable sized classroom in Southington.

Mr. Costa noted that they tallied up, under each of those categories, the number of students that could potentially be held in each of those teams. Year by year, the number of students in each grade will vary so within the design that he will be showing the Board it will show flexibility about a classroom or two being assigned or reassigned, depending on the size of the room, to give them flexibility so that they could properly plan the building and the curriculum on a year by year basis. Mr. Costa stated that was really the core of the space program.

Mrs. Queen had a conceptual question. She asked if sixth grade was two teams per grade. Mr. Krushinsky told her that it was three teams. Mr. Goralski thought that there should be three teams in each grade. Mr. Krushinsky replied that there was one split team.

Mr. Christopher Palmieri [Assistant Principal at DePaolo Middle School] and Mrs. Pamela Aldi [Assistant Principal at Kennedy Middle School] came to the podium. Mr. Palmieri explained that as far as the teams, there were three teams represented in sixth grade and that in both buildings they are keeping three teams. In seventh grade, they changed to only two teams because both buildings have the split team and they are represented in the eighth grade numbers. In the eighth grade, they still have three teams represented per grade and to avoid duplication they are not going to say three teams in seventh grade. There are three teams in eighth grade because they are the same teachers that represent the team in both buildings. He pointed out that was a change from the document that the Board has. Mr. Costa reiterated that the document was a draft. Mrs. Aldi added that they did not want to make it look like they needed more space but they were trying to be true to the process. Mr. Palmieri noted that the other major change was that World Language was incorporated into the seventh and eighth grade curriculum, not the sixth grade. There are two World Language classrooms in the seventh grade, one for each team, and three are represented in the eighth grade which is the split team that takes up the third spot. Mrs. Aldi added that sixth grade has a double Language Arts block so there are two Language Arts teachers, which is why it pretty much looks the same in each grade level. Mr. Goralski added that if they balance out the half teams, the 12 and the 17 makes more sense because it really does flow.

Mr. Palmieri explained that with the sixth grade there are only four Language Arts classrooms needed even though there are three teams. For the third team in both buildings, the split team, Language Arts is taught through multiple teachers. They do not need additional Language Arts rooms if there are only two rooms per full team in sixth grade. Mrs. Aldi added that currently, at DePaolo, they have a team program and at Kennedy next year there will be a Self-Contained Classroom Program so both buildings will have Self-Contained Programs inside their building, which is the one that is not included in the 44.

Mrs. Johnson questioned classroom square footage and asked if these are approximately the same size or larger than what they currently have. Mr. Krushinsky replied that the existing spaces are approximately 640 square feet each and that they had the discussion on how the buildings will be renovated. For new classrooms, they were making every effort to make them 800 square feet because that really is the appropriate size for a classroom in a middle school environment. As they move forward in planning the building, they will have to determine how they address the 640 square feet as far as how the buildings will be renovated. Right now, that 640 square feet is just being carried across from existing to new but all new classrooms will be sized up at the 800 square feet. Mrs. Johnson noted that was not what was indicated for the seventh grade class. Mr. Krushinsky replied that it was where they have identified where the new classrooms would be indicated on this matrix. The new classrooms up at the top of the sixth grade matrix have been indicated at 800 square feet. Mr. Goralski noted that the ones shaded in gray were the new classrooms. Mrs. Johnson asked Mr. Krushinsky to assure the Board that the ones that are not shaded in gray would increase in size. Mr. Krushinsky replied that was not necessarily the case.

Mr. Costa explained that in a like new renovation, where possible, they will strive for an 800 square foot classroom, structurally. Where it becomes infeasible, they may have to reuse the smaller classroom. The designers will try to fit smaller programs within those rooms. The program is an ideal snapshot but then the practicality of the building will dictate how rooms are actually used and how they are sized.

Mr. Krushinsky stated that if they were to increase the size of existing classrooms, technically, they would have to take three existing classrooms, remove interior partitions, and convert three to two classrooms. They would need to have discussions on what that means for construction duration and the potential budgets for these projects.

Mr. Costa explained that, in essence, this is their program and they will correct it with some of the new information that they have received. He emphasized that it was a fluid document and that was why they have the word "draft" on it. He pointed out the last sheet, which was the bottom line sheet, and noted that these numbers would also change. Mr. Costa explained the bottom of the sheet where it states the number of students. Under the "Existing" column it shows the gross building area of 106,970 square feet, which is an existing area of the building, the outside walls. Where it states "Net Square Feet" of 68,205, which is actually a summation of all the rooms, that is the inside walls. Mr. Krushinsky added that it was also the program spaces and did not include bathrooms, corridors, and thickness of walls. Mr. Costa continued that what was interesting about it was the GSF factor (Gross Square Foot Factor) and what the 1.57 represents is the net to gross ratio. It is actually a measure of the buildings efficiency. The lower the number, the higher the efficiency is. The existing building has an efficiency of 1.57, which is normal. The new program shows a NSF of about 95,650 square feet, which is net square feet and is a total difference of about 27,445 from what the Board has in the building currently. Mr. Costa noted that as a rule of thumb they use a 1.5 multiplier. If they were to have a program of one's, they know that they would add approximately 50% for stairs, toilets, room thickness, unused space within the building. When they do the math, they end up with a building target of approximately 143,475 square feet, which is a difference of about 36,500 square feet from what they currently have now. He noted that this tells his designers that the addition should be about 36,000 square feet based on the program, if they are true to the program and the building geometry allows them to be efficient. He noted that would be proven to the Board when they come back in a couple of weeks.

Mr. Costa stated that the other important information on the document was the State Standards. The State Standard is 163 square feet per student, which is the eligible square footage that the State of Connecticut will participate in the grants program. He noted that there was a typo where the documents states "ineligible" and that it should actually read "eligible" square feet. He explained that the mathematical calculation where they take the number of students, which is 811, and multiply by 163, it gives the allowable area for a building like this of 132,193 square feet. If they compare that with the gross building area, the current building for 811 students is 25,000 feet deficient (short) using the State Standard. Mr. Costa pointed out that they have to remember that the State Standards are about 25-30 years old and they are not necessarily applicable to a modern school or a renovated school. If they do the same calculation under the "Proposed" program and compare 143,475 with 132,193, they are about 11,282 square feet above State Standards, which is about 8.53%. He noted that what is significant about that is that the State will not participate in that 8.53% overage unless they go back and ask for special legislation.

Mr. Goralski asked Mr. Krushinsky to explain the "Utilization" number in the last column of the spreadsheet. Mr. Krushinsky replied that what they have done is taken all the capacity that is noted in that column throughout all the spaces, assign students in core instructional spaces, and brought it down to 966 students. The 85% utilization is a rule of thumb that at any given time they don't have 100% utilization within a building, and 85% of the spaces will be occupied at any given time, they come up with 821 students on this spreadsheet.

Mrs. Johnson asked if the 8.53% was a penalty. Mr. Krushinsky replied that it was basically a proration of the district's reimbursement rate from the State. If they are approximately 55% reimbursement right now, they will participate in approximately 92% of that 55%. This base program is approximately 2,000 square feet larger than where they were when they last talked about this to the Board. It is based on continuing conversation with the administration and the whole issue of core classrooms. He thought that they were close to a number as far as the target size of the building.

Mrs. Johnson pointed out that the arts in the middle schools were alive and well. On page two, she noted the auditorium shows no change at all. Mr. Krushinsky replied that typically what will happen in an existing building of this vintage, and one of the key things that will have to happen, is handicap accessibility, which does not exist now. He stated that seating would be reconfigured to provide handicap stations in the rear of the auditorium and in the front of the auditorium. He noted that accessibility to the stage will also be a key issue as these projects move forward. Mrs. Johnson questioned additional seating. Mr. Krushinsky replied that the capacity now is just over 400. Mrs. Johnson noted that was not quite half the student body. Mr. Krushinsky replied that it was roughly 50% and that also has a State reimbursement implication because the State will only participate in an auditorium that seats 50% of the enrollment. They are right around there with the seating at approximately 400. Anything above that would be shifted to local funding (costs). Mrs. Johnson stated that it was her understanding that it is quite a hardship on the part of the middle school programming that half of the student body cannot get into the auditorium at one time. When there are programs at the middle school, they have to schedule three programs, instead of just two because of the seating capacity. Mr. Krushinsky replied that would be something that should be stated in the Educational Specifications as they move forward and every effort should be made to seat half of the enrollment within the auditorium. He noted that many districts make that request.

Mrs. Queen asked for clarification on the State reimbursement piece. She noted that the last time they had presented to the Board they spoke about choosing the correct enrollment number, the maximum projected number over eight years. She pointed out that they settled on 811 students. The other piece is that there is also the standard square footage per student at 163 square feet. The two numbers combined gives them their maximum amount of allowable area. She questioned if the 163 square feet is an outdated number and that current, modern and renovated buildings actually allow for more. Mr. Krushinsky replied that it was a document that districts have to use when they are calculating the size of the building for reimbursement. They have had discussion on the many school projects that they have done and it does not address special education requirements, accessibility, and things that really grow the size of the buildings. He did not believe the State is eager to update those standards and they are really 25-30 years old. However, those are the guidelines that they use when they are calculating reimbursement to districts. Mrs. Queen thought that they had themselves covered with the 811 students in terms of being a reduction in a possible reimbursement because that is the eight year high so it is just the square footage that would affect the reimbursement rate. Mr. Krushinsky

replied that was correct. As they move forward, they would be tracking the 1.5 multiplier and the next step is to actually convert this to a graphic representation to take the existing floor plans, and come up with a conceptual scheme. He stated that they would check the net to gross multiplier to make sure that it stays within that efficiency and that target.

Mrs. Johnson asked if square footage was saved in some areas, could they then be allowed to increase other areas. Mr. Costa replied that the State looks at the total building size and that they are not going to differentiate between a room and a space. They are looking at the total building size as a measure of the cost of the building. Mrs. Johnson noted that kitchen and serving area was going from 950 square feet to 1,200 square feet. She pointed out that Southington has had a few issues with overbuilt kitchens in the schools. She wanted some assurance that this is not the case here. Mrs. Johnson noted that she would trade a smaller kitchen for some larger instructional space. Mr. Costa responded that kitchen renovations now are subject to a lot of code requirements; for example, multiple sinks, accessibility, and space requirements. Typically, those kinds of increases are a result of their experience designing many modern kitchens. Mr. Costa pointed out that there is a freezer in the basement at both of the middle schools and the freezer now has to be moved to the main level. Mr. Krushinsky remarked that he understood Mrs. Johnson's concerns about making sure that these spaces are as efficient as possible. He noted that just this week one of the previous versions of this space program had included teaming spaces. When they were working with administrators, and found out that additional classrooms were needed for the teaming approach for sixth, seventh and eighth grades, they made a group decision to eliminate those teaming spaces and use movable partitions between adjacent classrooms to get larger spaces and to really use that square footage to give the district and administration those spaces that they were asking for. He acknowledged that they were trying to be as efficient as possible at every step of the way.

Mr. Goralski noted that the typical existing room was 640 square feet but there are some that are slightly bigger. Mr. Krushinsky replied the existing computer rooms and science labs are 965 square feet. Mr. Costa stated that the target for a new science room is 1,000 square feet so there will be some give and take.

Mrs. Clark thought that the difference in square footage in sixth grade and eighth grade seemed comparable; yet, looking at the seventh grade it was about 3,000 square feet less. She asked if that was due to programming. Mr. Costa replied that it was two teams and a teaming issue. Mrs. Clark was concerned with the flexibility. She did not want to build a building that was going to be obsolete when programming changes in five to ten years. Mr. Costa replied that at the beginning of the presentation they talked about flexibility and how year by year the number of students in each grade changes. The designers will try to provide flexibility to where those team lines are. Much of that is going to be a result of the geometries that pre-exist in the building. They are not designing a new building with fingers that have finite numbers of classrooms that can only hold a certain number of children. This particular building will be a series of loop corridors that can be configured and shifted as the enrollment and the curriculum changes over a number of years. There is also some flexibility in the number of students.

Mrs. Rickard asked if the interior walls between the classrooms were going to be partitions rather than walls. Mr. Krushinsky replied that in some of the newer classrooms they would be able to put in a folding partition so that between social studies and English, if there is a desire to get a larger group of students together, they could open that folding partition and allow for that type of teaming.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco requested confirmation that the plan is to build the building from 143,475 square feet. Mr. Costa agreed that was their target gross square footage based on this program. The actual square footage will be different when they come before the Board in two weeks. They don't know if it will be less or more square feet until they design it. Mrs. Notar-Francesco continued that it would put them at an 8.53% reduction in reimbursement. She asked if it was Fletcher Thompson's intention to go to the Commissioner and ask for the waiver of that. Mr. Costa replied that it would be with Dr. Erardi's permission and cooperation.

Dr. Erardi asked if the renovate-to-new would include retrofitting lighting in both auditoriums. Mr. Krushinsky replied that was correct. Mr. Costa explained that they have not started to talk about systems, doors, finishes or lights, ceilings, or carpet because they are not quite there yet. He added that lighting, acoustics, technology, finishes, and equipment will all be part of the project.

Dr. Erardi stated that it was administration's belief that the Library/Media Center needed to be the hub of every great school. The present thought is to take the Library off the second floor, use that space in a different way, and part of the new construction will have the Library in a central focus area of each school when you walk into both middle schools.

Mr. Derynoski had a programming question. He pointed out that they currently have an eight-period day in the middle schools and they had to go that route in order to accommodate the higher enrollment. He asked if there was any thought to going back to a seven-period day for programming. Dr. Erardi replied that he would respond to that question in the two weeks between Board meetings. He will talk to the administrative team on that. Mr. Derynoski asked if that would throw a "monkey wrench" in everything that the architects have done thus far. Dr. Erardi replied that they would discuss that in the next few days.

Mr. Goralski summarized that in two weeks the Board would be looking at an interpretation of the space program. Mr. Costa commented that if the Board was comfortable with the list of spaces and their discussion tonight, the architects would then issue this to their designers and let them loose on the floor plans. Mr. Krushinsky stated that in addition to the space program, there are the Educational Specifications that are being worked on with the administration that go hand-in-hand with this space program.

Dr. Erardi pointed out that the document was just finalized that afternoon. Mr. Goralski stated that he liked the cooperation that was evident. He pointed out that on the Schedule to Referendum it stated that May 12, 2011 would be the presentation and approval of the Fletcher Thompson package. Dr. Erardi pointed out that the May 12 presentation would be to move this project into conceptual design. He also acknowledged that the Board would have the numbers associated with the project in advance of the May 12 meeting.

d. Kindergarten Extended Day Program

Dr. Erardi reported that on June 9 the administration would bring to the Board a proposal for criteria, selections, and the cost of transportation for the program.

e. North Center School Project Update

Dr. Erardi reported that Mr. Cox continues to represent administration and the School Board on this project. He noted that Borghesi [Building and Engineering Company] is ready to move forward with manpower on the site.

f. Leonard & Gladys Joll Scholarship Award Recipient

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

“Move to approve the recipient recommended by the Joll Scholarship Subcommittee.”

Mrs. Rickard stated that the recipient will be announced on Scholarship Night at Southington High School on May 19, 2011.

Mr. Goralski explained that a few years ago the Board erred and revealed the name of the recipient at the Board meeting and that was why they were endorsing the selection of the committee.

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

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. End-of-the-Year Program Dates

Dr. Erardi explained that because the Board had such a busy calendar, he was providing the Board with the important end-of-the year dates.

b. Acceptable Use Policy (Personnel) – First Reading

c. Acceptable Use Policy (Student) – First Reading

Dr. Erardi reported that Karen Veilleux [Technology Director] presented to the Personnel and Policy Committee a thorough update from legal counsel of two of the policies that are being presented to the Board for a first reading. An update with grammar and editing corrections was given to Board members. Mrs. Veilleux came to the podium to answer any questions.

Mr. Goralski asked if the Board had any questions so that Mrs. Veilleux does not have to attend the next Board meeting. Mrs. Rickard commented that she was very impressed with the thoroughness of the policy and that outside counsel was consulted. Mr. Goralski asked Mrs. Veilleux if she and her group were comfortable with the wording in the policy. Mrs. Veilleux stated that the reason why they instituted the policy was because it was very labor intensive to collect all the forms back from every student and get them updated every year. They initially went to legal counsel to see if it was something that could be signed just when students moved from school to school. She stated that the Board Attorney, Rich Mills, asked why it was being signed at all. He recommended that it not be signed because they were making it more important than any other policy that they have in place. He told her that they hold students accountable for every policy and they are not being made to sign-off on them. If a parent and a student do not sign it, they cannot have a teacher create a different educational plan for that student who refuses to sign it. What could also occur is that the student or employee who they try to go after is the

one who has not signed and returned the form. Attorney Mills gave them some sample policies. She pointed out that technology is also constantly evolving and that they tried to make it generic to cover things that do not exist yet.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco and Mr. Goralski thought the policy was very well done.

d. **Assistant Superintendent of Schools – Hiring Update** (*Moved to Agenda Item 3.a)*

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PERSONNEL MATTERS, SCHOOL SAFETY, AND CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

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

“Move that the Board of Education go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press for the purpose of discussing Personnel Matters, School Safety and Contract Negotiations, to also include Dr. Martin Semmel and Mr. Brian Stranieri, and upon conclusion, reconvene to public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Blanchard

Recording Secretary

**SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION
APRIL 28, 2011**

Mr. Brian Goralski, Board Chairperson, called the Executive Session to order at 9:55 p.m.

Members Present: Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Patricia Queen, Mrs. Kathleen Rickard and Mr. Brian Goralski.

Members Absent: Mrs. Rosemarie Fischer

Administration Present: Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Jr., Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Martin Semmel, Southington High School Principal; and Mr. Brian Stranieri, Southington High School Assistant Principal.

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

“Move that the Board of Education go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press for the purpose of discussing Personnel Matters, School Safety and Contract Negotiations, to also include Dr. Martin Semmel and Mr. Brian Stranieri, and upon conclusion, reconvene to public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Dr. Semmel and Mr. Stranieri left the Executive Session at 10:20 p.m.

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

“Move that the Board return to public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Board reconvened public session at 10:42 p.m.

MOTION: by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mrs. Johnson:

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Board adjourned at 10:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jill Notar-Francesco, Secretary
Southington Board of Education

ANYTHING GOES

MAY 6, 7, 12, 13, 14

7:30 PM

Music and Lyrics
Cole Porter

Original Book by
Guy Bolton, P.G. Woodhouse,
Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse

New Book by
Timothy Crouse and John Weidman

GREATER HARTFORD
ACADEMY OF THE ARTS
359 WASHINGTON STREET
HARTFORD, CT 06106



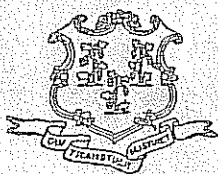
TICKETS 860-757-6388

www.crec.org/theater

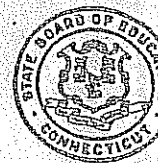
Administrative Report – April 28, 2011

1. **Readiness Data** (Attachment #1)
2. **Medication Return Program** (Attachment #2)
3. **Scholar's Luncheon – Tuesday, June 14**
4. **Activate Southington / SBOE Partnership** (Attachment #3)
5. **SEF / Community Y / STEM Center Update** (Attachment #4)
6. **National Publication -** (Attachment #5)
7. **Staff Appreciation Day – Tuesday, May 3rd**

Joseph V. Quaintance
4/28/11



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools
FROM: *George A. Coleman*
George A. Coleman
Acting Commissioner of Education

DATE: April 8, 2011

SUBJECT: District Results from the Fall 2010 Kindergarten Inventory

The attached report summarizes your district's results on the fall 2010 Kindergarten Entrance Inventory. This inventory was developed by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) to comply with Public Act 05-245, and to provide kindergarten teachers and other educators with information about the level of skills and behaviors that students in your schools demonstrate at the beginning of kindergarten.

The percentage of students falling into each of the three performance levels is presented for each of the six domains (Language skills, Literacy skills, Numeracy skills, Physical/Motor skills, Creative/Aesthetic skills and Personal/Social skills). Results are provided for your district, as well as for the state overall.

Thank you for your participation in the fall administration of the Kindergarten Inventory. Due to the hard work of the district contacts, kindergarten teachers and others, data was collected on 96 percent of kindergarten students enrolled in Connecticut public schools as of October 1, 2010.

The CSDE is currently working on the design for the spring 2011 Kindergarten Exit Inventory. This inventory will be administered to gather data on the competencies that kindergarten students can demonstrate by the end of the year, based on the state's kindergarten curriculum frameworks. As soon as the plans for the administration are finalized, we will provide you with additional information.

If you have any questions about the fall results or the upcoming spring administration, please contact Karen Addesso at 860-713-6827 or via e-mail at karen.addesso@ct.gov.

GAC:ka

Attachment

Fall 2010 Kindergarten Entrance Inventory Results

		Performance Level 1 (%)	Performance Level 2 (%)	Performance Level 3 (%)
Language Skills	Southington	20.5	62.0	17.5
	State	21.8	39.3	38.9
Literacy Skills	Southington	20.4	58.9	20.7
	State	22.7	38.7	38.6
Numeracy Skills	Southington	13.4	68.9	17.7
	State	19.1	40.1	40.8
Physical/Motor Skills	Southington	5.8	73.7	20.5
	State	10.8	38.7	50.5
Creative/Aesthetic Skills	Southington	5.2	71.8	23.0
	State	10.7	38.5	50.8
Personal/Social Skills	Southington	10.2	73.3	16.5
	State	15.8	40.4	43.8

Performance Level 1 – Generally, students at this level demonstrate emerging skills in the specified domain and require a large degree of additional instructional support.

Performance Level 2 – Generally, students at this level inconsistently demonstrate the skills in the specified domain and require some additional instructional support.

Performance Level 3 – Generally, students at this level consistently demonstrate the skills in the specified domain and require minimal additional instructional support.

Fall Kindergarten Entrance Inventory

The following Performance Level (PL) Literals describe the characteristics of a typical student at each performance level. These will be used to rate each student on each of the six domains.

Performance Level 1: *Students at this level demonstrate emerging skills in the specified domain and require a large degree of instructional support.*

Performance Level 2: *Students at this level inconsistently demonstrate the skills in the specified domain and require some instructional support.*

Performance Level 3: *Students at this level consistently demonstrate the skills in the specified domain and require minimal instructional support.*

Directions: The indicators listed below each domain are examples of the skills a student should be able to demonstrate at the beginning of the kindergarten year; however, these are not the only skills to be considered. Rate each student in your class on each of the six domains. Use the Performance Levels (PL) above and all available and pertinent information when rating a student.

Language Skills

PL Rating

☐

At what level does the student:

- Participate in conversations
- Retell information from a story read to him/her
- Follow simple two-step verbal directions
- Speak using sentences of at least 5 words
- Communicate feelings and needs
- Listen attentively to a speaker

Literacy Skills

PL Rating

☐

At what level does the student:

- Hold a book and turn pages from the front to the back
- Understand that print conveys meaning
- Explore books independently
- Recognize printed letters, especially in their name and familiar printed words
- Match/connect letters and sounds
- Identify some initial sounds
- Demonstrate emergent writing

Numeracy Skills

PL Rating

☐

At what level does the student:

- Count to 10
 - Demonstrate one-to-one correspondence while counting (e.g., touches objects as he/she counts)
 - Measure objects using a variety of everyday items
 - Identify simple shapes such as circles, squares, rectangles, and triangles
 - Identify patterns
 - Sort and group objects by size, shape, function (use), or other attributes
 - Understand sequence of events (e.g., before, after, yesterday, today, or tomorrow)
-

Physical/Motor Skills

PL Rating

☐

At what level does the student:

- Run, jump, or balance
 - Kick or throw a ball, climb stairs or dance
 - Write or draw using writing instruments (e.g., markers, chalk, pencils, etc.)
 - Perform tasks, such as completing puzzles, stringing beads, or cutting with scissors
-

Creative/Aesthetic Skills

PL Rating

☐

At what level does the student:

- Draw, paint, sculpt, or build to represent experiences
 - Participate in pretend play
 - Enjoy or participate in musical experiences (e.g., singing, clapping, drumming, or dancing)
-

Personal/Social Skills

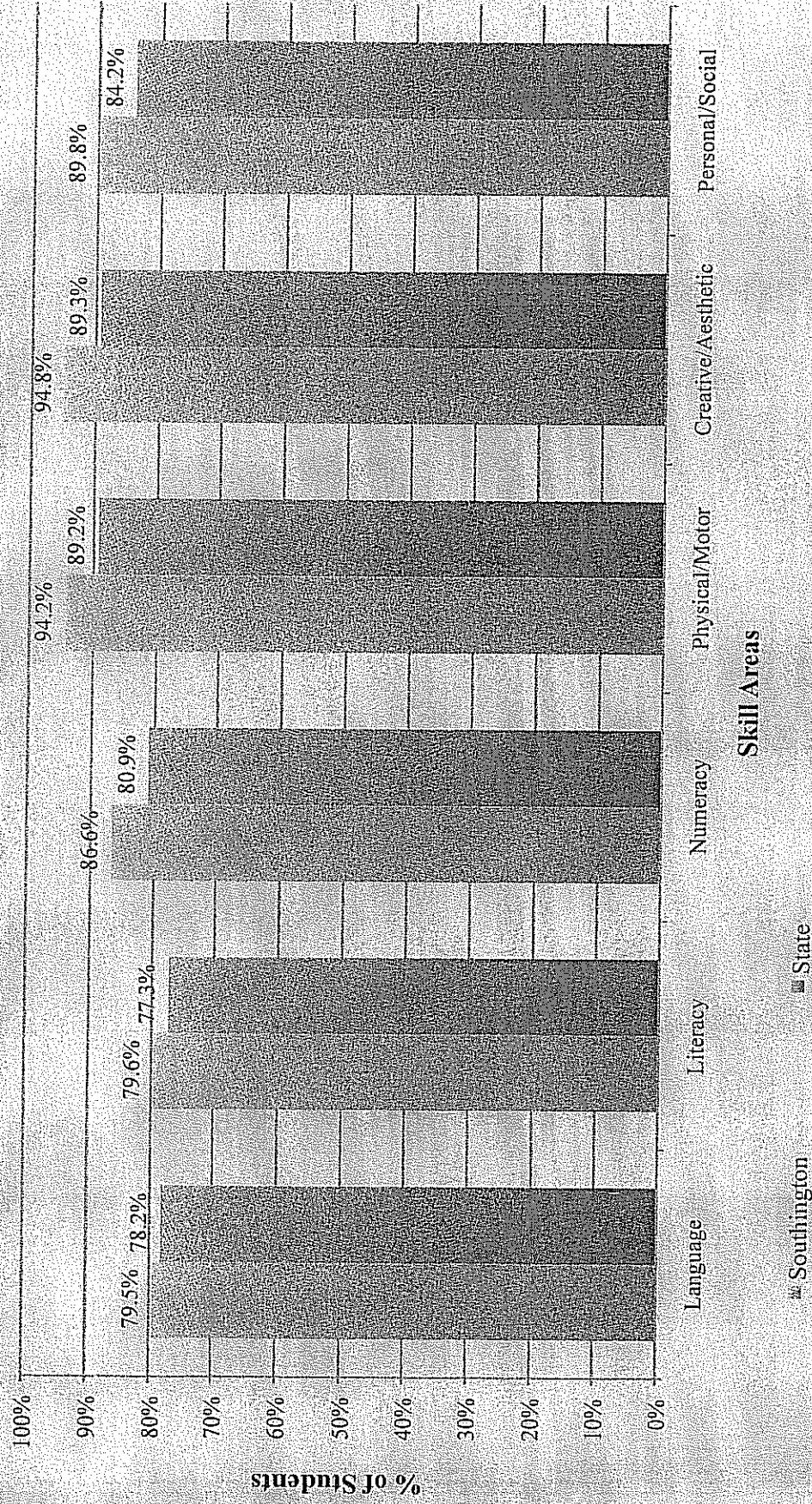
PL Rating

☐

At what level does the student:

- Engage in self-selected activities
- Interact with peers to play or work cooperatively
- Use words to express own feelings or to identify conflicts
- Seek peer or adult help to resolve a conflict
- Follow classroom routines

Fall 2010 - Kindergarten Entrance Inventory Students Meeting Performance Level 2 or Above



JOSEPH ERARDI

To: JOSEPH ERARDI
Subject: Voicemail Broadcast - April 28

Board members, Parents, and Staff

The following broadcast message will reach all homes this evening at 4:00 p.m.

Phone Notification -

This is Superintendent of Schools, Joe Erardi. On Saturday, April 30, Southington is running the 3rd annual Medication Return Program at the Southington Water Department facility on West Queen Street. This program was developed to give us all a way to properly dispose our unused medications, which will keep dangerous drugs out of our water supply, and more importantly, out of the hands of our children. Please go through your medicine cabinets and collect all of your unused meds, and join us on April 30th. The program will run from 10am to 2pm. I hope to see you there.

Informational

JE



PRESS STATEMENT
For Immediate Release

Contact: Jan Verderame
Phone: 860-620-4714
Date: April 27, 2011
www.activatesouthington.org

Activate Southington Awards Grants to Local Projects

Southington, CT – April 26, 2011 – Activate Southington, a public-private initiative to improve the overall health and wellness of Southington residents, presented seven (7) grants totaling \$2,000 to local groups to promote a healthy lifestyle in the community.

Individuals and groups were invited to apply for financial assistance for projects/programs that nurture and expand the understanding of healthy living, increase opportunities for physical activity, and support healthy food choices. Grants ranged from \$250 to \$500 each. The recipients were:

Southington Community Garden ~ This grant will support community gardens using raised beds and will benefit the community with donations to either social services or Bread for Life.
Awarded to: David Lavallee

Accessible Gardening ~ This grant will promote the expansion of a school garden at Thalberg Elementary School incorporating raised beds for access to handicapped participants.
Awarded to: Linda Reilly, Nicola O'Rourke, Kate Wakefield

Southington Daycare Providers ~ This grant will provide supplies for structured physical activities for children at home daycare facilities in Southington. A fitness instructor from "Activate Southington" will consult with the daycare providers to facilitate use of the purchased equipment.
Awarded to: Angela Griffis, President, Southington Daycare Providers

Employee Wellness at Mulberry Gardens of Southington ~ This grant will support the implementation of an employee wellness program to promote health and wellness with a program entitled "Eight Weeks to a Better You."
Awarded to: Robert Keith, Exercise Physiologist

Strong School...Running is Fun ~ This grant is awarded for students at Strong School to promote physical activity on a non-competitive level.
Awarded to: Gina Breen

The Wayton Open ~ This grant was awarded to support a tennis tournament in Southington for residents.
Awarded to: Matthew Wayton and Joanna Rabiej

Healthy Family, Happy Family ~ This grant was awarded to support a "walking club" for families with young children.
Awarded to: Family Resource Center –Krista Pringle

The mission of Activate Southington is to improve the overall health and wellness of Southington residents by providing opportunities for active living, healthy eating and physical activity. A primary objective of Activate Southington is to provide resources and support for community programs and initiatives.

“We were extremely impressed with the quality and variety of the grant applications we received,” stated Jan Verderame, Activate Southington’s Grant Committee Chair and Assistant Principal at Derynoski Elementary School. “We are so pleased to be able to support these exciting programs that serve residents of all ages.”

Activate Southington is a collaboration between town, business and community leaders to identify opportunities to improve the community and take positive steps toward a healthy lifestyle. The committee includes Gina Breen, Barry DePaolo, Karen DiGirolamo, William Masci, William McDougall, Diane McNicholas-Bostacos, Jolene Miceli, John Myers, Greg Parzych, Michael Riccio, and Jan Verderame.

//



NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Contact: Michelle Passamano
Phone: 860-628-3204
Date: April 18, 2011
www.activatesouthington.com

Activate Southington Awards Grants to Southington Initiatives
Presentation scheduled for April 26, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.

Southington, CT – April 18, 2011 – Activate Southington, a public-private initiative to improve the overall health and wellness of Southington residents, will award seven (7) local grants to promote a healthy lifestyle in the community. The grants will be awarded in a formal ceremony scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, 2011. The ceremony will be held at Strong Elementary School in the Library at 4:30 p.m.

“We were extremely impressed with the quality and variety of the grant applications we received,” stated Jan Verderame, Activate Southington’s Grant Committee Chair and Assistant Principal at Derynoski Elementary School. “We are so pleased to be able to support these exciting programs that serve residents of all ages.”

Individuals and groups were invited to apply for financial assistance for projects/programs that nurture and expand the understanding of healthy living, increase opportunities for physical activity, and support healthy food choices. Activate Southington will present grants totaling \$2,000, ranging from \$250 to \$500 each.

The mission of Activate Southington is to improve the overall health and wellness of Southington residents by providing opportunities for active living, healthy eating and physical activity. A primary objective of Activate Southington is to provide resources and support for community programs and initiatives.

“This process confirmed our belief that Southington residents are interested in and committed to improving our health and lifestyle,” according to Jolene Miceli, Activate Southington member and local nutritionist.

Activate Southington is a collaboration between town, business and community leaders to identify opportunities to improve the community and take positive steps toward a healthy lifestyle. The committee includes Gina Breen, Barry DePaolo, Karen DiGirolamo, William Masci, William McDougall, Diane McNicholas-Bostacos, Jolene Miceli, John Myers, Greg Parzych, Michael Riccio, and Jan Verderame.



SOUTHINGTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC.
Instilling a love of learning.

BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME

The Southington Education Foundation, Inc. is committed to instilling a love of learning in our children through innovative and creative initiatives that expand existing educational opportunities. Since its inception the foundation has funded unique and creative grants submitted by classroom teachers. At this time the Foundation would like to expand our funding beyond the grants and develop a different experience for the children of Southington.

The Foundation has entered into an agreement with the YMCA to utilize property at their summer camp to enhance this endeavor.

STEM EDUCATION:

“Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education often has been called a meta-discipline, the “creation of a discipline based on the integration of other disciplinary knowledge into a new ‘whole’. This interdisciplinary bridging among discrete disciplines is now treated as an entity,

known as STEM (Morrison, 2006).” “STEM education offers students one of the best opportunities to make sense of the world holistically, rather than in bits and pieces. STEM education removes the traditional barriers erected between the four disciplines, by integrating them into one cohesive teaching and learning paradigm. Morrison and others have referred to STEM as being an interdisciplinary approach. “STEM education is an interdisciplinary approach to learning where rigorous academic concepts are coupled with real world lessons as students apply science, technology, engineering and mathematics in contexts that make connections between school, community, work, and the global enterprise enabling the development of STEM literacy and with it the ability to compete in the new economy (Tsupros, 2009).”

Hays Blaine Lantz, Jr. Ed.D., 2009

www.currtechintegrations.com/pdf/STEMEducationArticle.pdf

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK:

80% of new jobs in the next decade will require some form of math and science.
(National Science Foundation, 2004)

All students benefit from the STEM program because it teaches independent innovation and allows students to explore greater depths of all of the subjects by utilizing the skills learned; these skills are going to be required in order for today's students to be tomorrow's global leaders. All jobs are requiring workers to have a greater ability to think critically, work as a member of a team and independently, and close the performance gap between our American students and those being produced in other countries.

<http://drpfconsults.com/understanding-the-basics-of-stem-education>.

"Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education is of the utmost importance to all students and is critical to U.S. competitiveness." (President Obama, Facebook's Palo Alto, CA campus, April 20, 2011).

PROPOSAL:

The Southington Education Foundation(www.southingtoneducationfoundation.org) has begun to investigate the development of a STEM center on land of the local YMCA's summer camp (Camp Sloper). This would allow children in Southington the opportunity to utilize the outside environment and a variety of indoor activities to

support the STEM concept. Curriculum would be developed utilizing a variety of science, technology, engineering and mathematics experts to create a model to be duplicated throughout the region. Materials would be purchased allowing for the curriculum to be implemented.

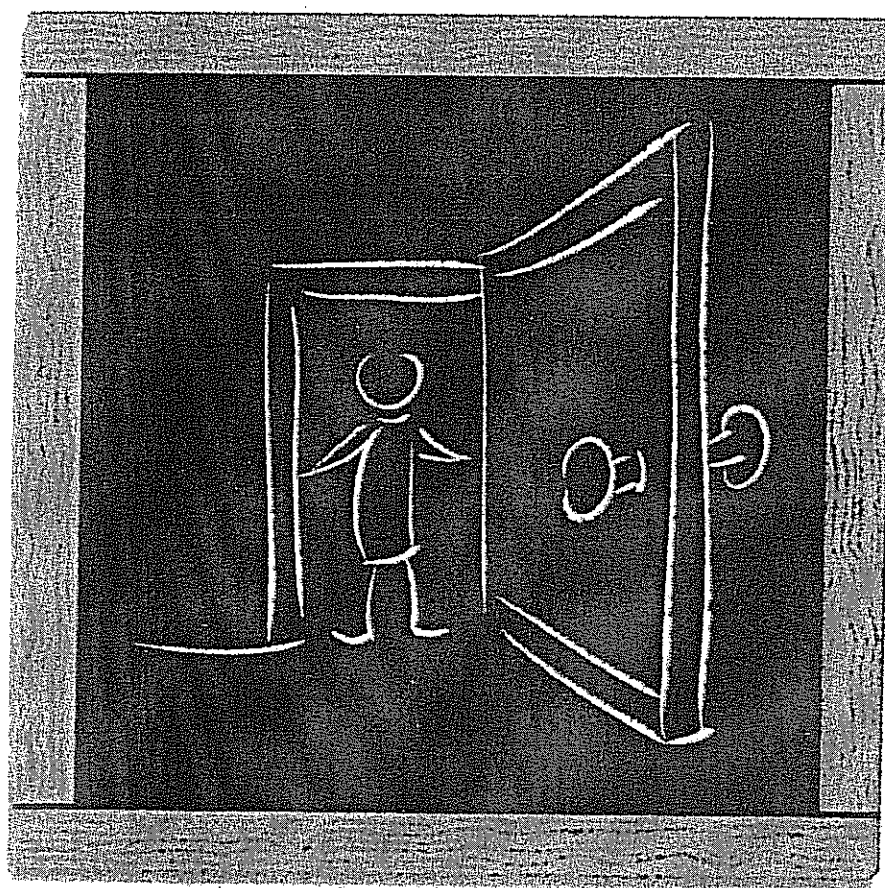
PILOT PROGRAM:

During the academic year (November to April, 2011-2012) a program of environmental studies will be implemented using an existing building on the grounds of Camp Sloper. The cost of this will be absorbed by the Southington Education Foundation.

Finding Funding: Community Partnerships and Public Education

The Southington School District's efforts to reach out to the community resulted in a variety of new partnerships and revenue streams.

By Sherri-Lin P. DiNello, CPA



“Of course, I have money in the budget for that. How much do you need?” That’s probably not the way most school business officials are responding to requests for funding these days. They are more likely to say, “No, maybe next year” or “Sorry, but we just don’t have the money.”

The Southington Board of Education in Connecticut has committed itself to asking school administrators to look for funding alternatives so the board doesn’t have to continuously say no.

The Southington School District serves 6,900 students with an operating budget of \$79.5 million, but that amount simply doesn’t fund all its

needs. The district made it a priority to reach out into the community to build partnerships. We are fortunate that the Southington community enthusiastically stepped up to the challenge; the result has been a variety of partnerships and revenue streams that bring additional funds into our classrooms. Our community exemplifies the expression, “It takes a village to raise a child.”

New Funding, New Programs

The newly established partnerships and additional revenues developed in several ways. The first was the establishment of the Southington Education Foundation. Education foundations are certainly not a new concept; however, this foundation was unique with regard to the speed with which it moved from idea to action. One year from the day of the first organizational meeting, the Southington Education Foundation was providing grants to our teachers to fund classroom innovation. In year two, at the Southington Education Foundation annual gala event, the foundation announced its long-term plan to fund an outdoor science center in the amount of \$600,000.

Breakfast in our elementary schools was the next program funded by new community partnerships. District personnel met with individuals from several local nonprofit agencies to share with them the con-

cern that, although our district has a relatively small free and reduced-price lunch population (6%), children were coming to school hungry. These agencies contributed funds to establish a pilot breakfast program at our three Title I schools during the second half of the 2009–2010 school year. Then, one agency stepped up to provide funds to roll out the program in all eight elementary schools this school year.

This foundation was unique with regard to the speed with which it moved from idea to action.

We offer the program as a “grab-n-go” at most schools; consequently, students don’t need early transportation and can pick up their breakfast on the way into the building and then proceed to their classrooms. In the school with the most students who receive free and reduced-price meals, our local school bus company offered to provide an additional run to one neighborhood to pick up students earlier than usual. These students could arrive early to eat breakfast and receive homework assistance before school.

High school students played the largest role in our third alternate funding stream. The Southington Board of Education changed its advertising policy to allow the display of banners on the high school athletic fields. This change opened the door for students to formulate a plan to sell advertising space to local businesses.

We worked with our business teachers and their accounting and marketing students to develop a business model called “Knightvertising” (the Blue Knight is the Southington High School mascot). The students formulated a variety of ways to market the space to businesses and set up the necessary spreadsheets to account for the income and expenses associated with the sales.

In the first year, the students raised more than \$13,000 for the student activity account. Student organizations and athletic teams now have an opportunity each year to apply for minigrants to help fund their programs or new initiatives. In addition to funding, this project provides unique hands-on business experience for students in the areas of public speaking, marketing, and accounting.

Tackling Technology

The district received the most outside funding from three separate cash donations to promote technology use in our schools.

Our administrative team works hard alongside the board of education to ensure that all our students have similar learning experiences and that there is equity among schools. Achieving this objective was becoming increasingly difficult because, through building renovations and new construction, some schools had state-of-

the-art technology while others had minimal technology in their classrooms. We were not afraid to discuss this issue publicly and share our concerns during board of education meetings or in smaller meetings with parents.

A member of the board of trustees of a nonprofit foundation that planned to liquidate all its assets contacted the district, offering to contribute money toward district technology purchases. We gladly gave the trustees a tour of one of our recently renovated elementary schools so they could observe the students and teachers using interactive whiteboards, projectors, and document cameras. After the visit, the trustees said they wanted to donate funds so that all our fourth- and fifth-grade classrooms had the same modern technology.

Asking for Support

As school business officials continue to stretch their budget dollars and figure out how to balance their budget without American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, we will all have to look at alternative funding streams. These examples are just the beginning of community involvement in education for our district.

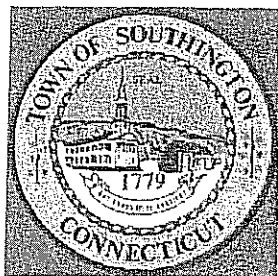
We were not afraid to discuss this issue publicly and share our concerns

If you are looking to establish partnerships with businesses and nonprofit groups within your district, consider these three important yet basic steps:

1. Openly communicate the positives and negatives about your district so people will know your strengths and weaknesses.
2. Open your school buildings and invite the community to visit. Let people see firsthand the programs you want to showcase and the areas that have needs.
3. Ask for the necessary support. If you don’t take the time to invite community members, businesses, and nonprofit agencies to a meeting, or into your schools, you will never know if they would like the opportunity to partner with your district.

We are proud of the partnerships we have developed, and our students are clearly the beneficiaries of these efforts. In two years, our partnerships generated more than \$400,000 for our students. Our residents can stand tall knowing that in addition to their tax dollars’ supporting public education, members of our community are willing to contribute in a variety of ways to increase the opportunities for our children. Remember, it really does take a village.

Sherri-Lin P. DiNello, CPA, is director of business and finance for Southington Public Schools in Southington, Connecticut. Email: sdinello@southingtonschools.org



SOUTHINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION

BRIAN S. GORALSKI
BOARD CHAIRPERSON

TERRI C. CARMODY
VICE CHAIRPERSON

JILL NOTAR-FRANCESCO
SECRETARY

COLLEEN W. CLARK

DAVID J. DERYNOSKI

ROSEMARIE MICACCI FISCHER

PATRICIA P. JOHNSON

PATRICIA A. QUEEN

KATHLEEN C. RICKARD

To: Board of Finance Members
Town Council Members
Garry Brumback, Town Manager
Mark Sciota, Town Attorney /Deputy Town Manager

Date: April 28, 2011

Re: **Joint Meeting with the Board of Education**

On behalf of the Southington Board of Education, I would like to invite you to a joint meeting with the board to discuss:

- Property Facility Maintenance ~ Budget Line Item
- Capital Plan ~ Board of Education/Town Government

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2011 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the library at William H. Hatton Elementary School, 50 Spring Lake Road, Southington.

Please confirm your attendance by Friday, May 6, 2011 to Dr. Erardi's executive assistant, Debi Albaitis via her e-mail at dalbaitis@southingtonschoools.org or by phone at 860-628-3202.

We look forward to our upcoming collaboration on May 10, 2011.

Respectfully,

Brian S. Goralski, Chair
Southington Board of Education

C: Board of Education members
Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Jr., Superintendent of Schools
Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance
[da/c/boardchair/townmtg5611.wd](#)

49 BEECHER STREET
SOUTHINGTON, CT
06489

WWW.SOUTHINGTONSCHOOLS.ORG

OFFICE TELEPHONE
(860) 628-3202

FAX
(860) 628-3205