

**SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MAY 10, 2012**

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The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, May 10, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at Plantsville Elementary School in the Library/Media Center, 70 Church Street, Plantsville, Connecticut.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairperson, Mr. Brian Goralski. Board members present were Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mr. Zaya Oshana and Mrs. Patricia Queen. Absent was Mrs. Terri Carmody.

Present from the administration were Dr. Joseph Erardi, Jr., Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Karen Smith, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance; Mr. Frederick Cox, Director of Operations, and Dr. Perri Murdica, Senior Special Education Coordinator.

Student Representative present was Leon Peschel.

There were approximately 60 individuals in the audience.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Leon Peschel led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Goralski called for a moment of silence in honor and memory of Mrs. Sylvia Elliott, Paraprofessional at Derynoski Elementary School for 31 years, who recently passed away.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**“Move to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 26, 2012.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

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

**“Move to approve the minutes of the special meeting of May 7, 2012.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**4. COMMUNICATIONS**

**a. Communications from Audience**

Mr. Art Cyr, 103 Berlin Avenue, addressed the Board’s comments at the last Board of Education meeting regarding West Street development that he felt needed to be corrected. He noted that it was a big deal for those who live in the area, contrary to a comment made that it was not a big deal.

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

**Communication from the Board Members:**

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

**“Move to add two items to the Board of Education Executive Session agenda: AFSCME Contractual Negotiations and Student Matters.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

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

**“Move Agenda Item 7.b “Appointment of Assistant Principal of Southington High School” to Agenda Item 4.d.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

Mrs. Johnson reported that on April 25 she was a guest reader at Derynoski School for their Guest Reader Day and was appreciative for the opportunity.

Mrs. Lombardi applauded all the Young Authors who read to the Board members on April 30 and gave kudos to all staff.

Mr. Goralski recognized Mr. Leon Peschel, Board of Education Student Representative, for making significant improvements to the Barnes Museum garden last weekend as part of his Eagle Scout project. Mr. Goralski announced that STEPS was having a big event on Tuesday, May 15 and Wednesday, May 16 (rain date May 17) from 9:15 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. by hosting Southington fifth graders in a Team Building/Asset Building Day. Mr. Goralski reported that he received a request from Southington High School for a Board of Education representative to attend the Southington High School Wall of Honor meeting on Wednesday, May 16 at 2:30 p.m. He asked Mrs. Queen to confirm with him if she would like to serve on that committee.

**Communication from Administration:**

Dr. Erardi discussed the following (*Attachment #1*):

1. Student Use Technology Advisory Committee – Update: Dr. Erardi reported that the Technology Advisory Committee will meet for the last time on Monday evening, May 14, 2012 and will bring a 2012-2013 pilot proposal to the Board of Education at their May 24 meeting.
2. Southington Education Foundation – Update: Dr. Erardi reported that the Southington Education Foundation will continue with gift giving on June 7, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. at South End Elementary School for another round of awards to teachers for classroom innovation.
3. Veterans Partnership Press Conference: Dr. Erardi pointed out that he gave all the Board members a plastic bracelet that represents the initiative for all students to participate in the Fisher House fundraiser. The Fisher House provides the opportunity for family members of a wounded Veteran to stay close to their loved one. On Monday, May 21, at 3:00 p.m. there will be a press conference of the school system's gift giving to the Veterans that will go to the Fisher House in Connecticut.
4. CECA Conference: Dr. Erardi reported that, through outstanding leadership of Karen Veilleux, Director of Technology, and Debbie Miller, Tech Analyst, they will be hosting the Connecticut Educators Computer Association Bring Your Own Device Workshop at Hawk's Landing, which is a statewide opportunity.
5. Southington High School FIRST Robotics: Dr. Erardi stated that he was proud of the FIRST Robotics Team and the volunteers and sponsors who have truly created lifelong memories and skills for the high school students. He noted that Mrs. Sandy Brino was representing the organization this evening to share their success story.

Mrs. Brino took the podium and explained that she and her husband had been mentors for FIRST Robotics Team 195 (Cyber Knights) for six years. She introduced Dale Powers, a 15-year veteran of Meriden's FIRST Robotics Team 228, who would also speak to the Board. She stated that they were presenting to the Board of Education at the suggestion of the Town Council who on April 9 generously donated \$500 to help the team get to St. Louis, Missouri for competition. Mrs. Brino explained the program to the Board members. She stated that FIRST was an acronym meaning For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology. It was founded in 1989 by Dean Kamen. It is a varsity sport of the mind and is the only sport where all participants go professional. The teams are challenged to build and program a 120-pound robot to perform prescribed tasks against a field of competitors. Students learn from engineering and business professionals who volunteer their time and talents. Mrs. Brino explained the competition and that the Southington FIRST team won the Northeast Utilities Connecticut Regional for the second year in a row. In the last two years, they have won three of the four regionals in which they have competed. This team is putting Southington High School on the map. They recently placed seventh in their division of 100 robots at the Championship in St. Louis, Missouri where they competed against the best robotics teams from all over the world. There are 2,232 robotics teams in the world, 400 of these make it to championship and they are

divided into four divisions of 100. Southington ranked seventh, which is the top one percent. FIRST graduates from the Southington team attend universities such as Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Rochester Institute of Technology, Carnegie Mellon University, Cornell, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Each FIRST team is individually managed like its own business and is challenged to find their own funding, develop an organizational structure and business plan. This team needs to raise \$30,000 annually to keep the program running through fundraising and sponsorships. Many other teams are funded 100% by their Board of Education or a large corporate sponsor. Southington's FIRST team does not have the advantage of either and has been running for 15 years outside the Board of Education budget. She asked the Board to consider the benefits of the program and how investing in the program is a win-win. She asked the Board to make the FIRST program a line item in the school budget moving forward.

Mr. Dale Powers, Vice-President of Gus Robotics, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit based out of Maloney High School in Meriden and FIRST Team 228, took the podium and explained that in 2008 they found it easier to raise their own money by becoming their own non-profit and getting their own tax code. They have worked side-by-side with the Meriden Board of Education to expand the program. The purpose of what they set out to do 15 years ago was to open up the schools to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). They currently have two elementary schools, two middle schools and all three high schools involved in their program through the Meriden Board of Education's support. He noted that at MIT 49% of the incoming freshman came from FIRST teams last year. This year, a partnership was formed between Team GUS and the Cyber Knights. They have pooled their resources. He noted that 11 out of 42 teams from across Connecticut came down to Team 195's practice field and shared resources. He encouraged the Board members to support this program.

The students gave a demonstration using last year's robot. The robot was designed, manufactured, assembled, wired and programmed in six weeks by students. Student, Nick Tosta, was the spokesperson for the team and explained the demonstration along with a student's perspective of the team. He also explained and showed a video by FOX Connecticut News who came to their practice facility to do a story on the team after they won the Connecticut Regional.

On behalf of the Board of Education and high school administration, Dr. Erardi thanked all the adults who volunteer their personal and professional time to FIRST Robotics Team 195. He noted that many of the adults are doing this without a child in the program.

Mr. Goralski and Mrs. Notar-Francesco presented the seniors on the FIRST Robotics Team with plaques. Certificates of Excellence would be sent to the school for the remaining students involved. The senior Cyber Knight Champions are Charlie Altemus, Myles DiValentino, Brandon Duffany, Kyle Graham, Marc Hermann, Angela Lawrence, Cole Leather, Anna Terrill and Nick Tosta.

### **c. Communications from Student Board Representatives**

Mr. Peschel reported the following:

- 1) The Senior Prom is Saturday, May 19.

- 2) The National Honor Society will be sponsoring a car wash fundraiser next week with a large portion of the proceeds to be donated to the Southington Cares Program.
- 3) The SHS Art Show will be held on May 14, 2012 with doors opening at 6:30 p.m.
- 4) The Academic Awards Night was held on Wednesday, May 9.
- 5) Scholarship Night will be held on Thursday, May 17.
- 6) Advance Placement Exams started on Monday, May 7. The pre-registration sessions took place in advance of the exam.
- 7) The Student Council is working on an initiative that offers new students to Southington High School, such as sophomores, juniors or seniors, the opportunity to meet each other to make sure that they are not behind and they start on the same foot as some of the other students who have more experience, time and knowledge of the school.

Mr. Goralski announced that Emily Socha was the incoming DECA North Atlantic Regional Vice President and a national representative from Southington High School.

**d. Appointment of Assistant Principal of Southington High School** *(formerly Agenda Item 7.b)*

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

**“Move to appoint Richard J. Terino to the position of Assistant Principal at Southington High School effective July 1, 2012 with a starting salary of \$117,838.”**

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

Mr. Terino took the podium and thanked the Board for their confidence and faith in him and appointing him assistant principal. He thanked Dr. Erardi, Dr. Semmel and Mrs. Smith for their support. He introduced his wife, Debbie, his brother-in-law, and sister-in-law.

*Mr. Goralski called for a recess at 8:20 p.m.*

*The regular meeting reconvened at 8:35 p.m.*

**5. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**a. Personnel Report**

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

**“Move to accept the Personnel Report, as submitted.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

## 6. OLD BUSINESS

### a. Town Government Communications

Mr. Goralski reminded the Board that the Town Council would be taking action on the 2012-2013 budget on Monday, May 14 at 7:00 p.m., with the current reallocation for the Board of Education standing at \$215,000.

### b. Construction Update

Plantsville and South End Schools: Mr. Cox reported that the closeout reviews by the State School Facilities Unit continue and that he hoped to have these projects closed out by the end of the month.

North Center Government Center: Mr. Cox reported that the vintage windows are being prepared for removal, which will be a three to four week process. The interior walls are being taped and near completion.

DePaolo and Kennedy Middle Schools: Mr. Cox reported that the construction manager contract will formally be awarded by the Town Council this coming Monday, May 14. The architect short list of six candidates will be interviewed the week of May 21.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco questioned if the target date for the North Center move was still July 1, 2012. Mr. Cox replied that the move was slated for the first half of July.

### c. Year End Report on 2011-2012 Superintendent's Goals

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

**“Move that the Board of Education accept the Superintendent's goals, as presented.”**

Mrs. Queen stated that this was once again phenomenal work and addressed three areas. 1) She thanked Mrs. Smith for all her work on the Extended Day Kindergarten program. 2) She noted Dr. Erardi's leadership on the passing of the Middle School Renovate-to-New Referendum and thanked the townspeople. 3) She addressed the ongoing high school reform work and the commitment and efforts of the teachers, department chairs and high school administration.

Mr. Goralski looked forward to using these goals as the starting point for the Board's evaluation of the Superintendent at the next Board meeting.

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

**d. 2012-2013 Operational Plan**

Dr. Erardi reported that it was tenuous because of the action yet to take place by the Town Council on Monday, May 14. Since the Board meeting on April 26, there has been an additional four retirements. This does not play into the equation of the \$215,000 potential proposed reduction. They have presently reduced those who do not have a job next year to a half-time Kindergarten instructor and a half-time Family and Consumer Science teacher. The Family and Consumer Science teacher has less to do with budget and is about enrollment.

Mrs. Lombardi stated that this was wonderful news to maintain the current force and to keep the class sizes within their ranges.

Mrs. Clark wanted everyone to keep in mind the fact that 22 positions are gone and the history with the Board is that once a position is gone, it does not come back. She did not want people to think that there were no layoffs.

Mr. Goralski asked administration to provide information that would be valuable for the Board to share showing how many teachers they have this year and the scale of where they were (with no names) and to include next year's projection with those 15 teachers gone and the same paraprofessionals gone. He stated that the community has to be grateful that through retirements, transfers, promotions and resignations the positions cut are currently not resulting in layoffs except for the two half-time positions.

Mrs. Johnson stated that the Board would be interested in the impact of the reduction of 22 positions and how this would affect the children. She suspected that it would be quite detrimental.

Dr. Erardi stated that on May 24 he would present to the Board the ongoing document to give a sense of how many additional classes are now at the Board's maximum class size level, which is what Mrs. Johnson was referring to.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Policy #6154, Instructional Arrangements, Homework ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

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

**"Move to table Agenda Item 7.a until the May 24 Board meeting."**

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

Mrs. Lombardi asked how to raise a follow-up question to an instructional item that occurred several months ago. Mr. Goralski replied that anything related to that item now that it is tabled should be directed back to the Policy and Personnel Committee for review. This agenda item will come back to the Board for the first reading at the May 24 meeting. Mrs. Lombardi stated that there was discussion on the high school leveling and one of the follow-up questions

was to get a report from Dr. Semmel in terms of the look at how that transition went from four levels to three levels. They had not received that report.

Mrs. Smith pointed out that the Curriculum and Instruction Committee was meeting on May 14 at 10:00 a.m. at South End School. The agenda includes an update on the selection process at the high school. Dr. Semmel was not prepared to give an updated report on leveling and the status of leveling until the enrollment for next year's classes is completed. It has now been completed and Dr. Semmel will be providing the report, which will be shared with the Board.

**b. Appointment of Assistant Principal of Southington High School (*Moved to Agenda Item 4.d.*)**

**c. 2012-2015 Technology Plan**

Mrs. Veilleux explained that an updated Technology Plan is required by the State of Connecticut every three years to reflect and be in compliance with State and National Technology Education Goals. She gave a PowerPoint presentation (*Attachment #2*) addressing a vision statement, needs assessment, curriculum integration, professional development, equitable use of educational technology, infrastructure and telecommunications, administrative needs, and State of Connecticut goals. She thanked the committee for the work that they had to do in a short amount of time.

Mrs. Johnson stated that on page 13 of the Technology Plan under Needs Assessment, it refers to Appendix D and there was no Appendix D attached. She asked Mrs. Veilleux to e-mail it to the Board.

Mrs. Johnson asked Mrs. Veilleux how she was going to differentiate professionals in what they are going to need for professional development according to their abilities. Mrs. Veilleux replied that the plan was to design two days that will have various levels of technology. There will be mini-workshops where the teachers, through self-assessment, can choose different tracts.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco noticed in the paperwork that for 2010-2011 the administrators received six hours of professional development (page 9) and asked if it should be six days. Mrs. Veilleux replied that she believed it was six hours. Mrs. Notar-Francesco noted that there was 19 hours for teachers. She asked with the two days being offered next year, how many hours would that equate for teachers. Mrs. Veilleux replied that it would be 12 hours. Mrs. Notar-Francesco questioned if that was enough time. She viewed the material that CREC was putting together and their professional development numbers are many more than what Southington was offering for professional development. Mrs. Veilleux replied that these were mandated days built-in to the calendar and the minimum that would be offered. She currently has training online available for teachers in which they offer CEUs and they can learn PowerSchool and get online training on the website. Afterschool workshops have been offered throughout the year regarding SmartBoards and document cameras that would be in addition to this, but would not be required for everyone. Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked what would be the right number for professional development hours. Mrs. Veilleux responded that they put in what they are requiring for all the teachers to attend.



Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked if there was a requirement by the state for professional development. Mrs. Smith responded that it was complex because the State of Connecticut requires for teacher certification to be continued in various units of study. She noted that the definition of teachers includes everyone under the category of Superintendent regarding technology. This the first time that Southington has dedicated two full days (50%) of mandated special education time to technology. This is a major undertaking for a school system that still does not have the infrastructure or the technology for everyone to have equal access. The overwhelming majority of K-12 teachers and administrators want more training on SmartBoards. The teachers asked for mini-presentations throughout those two days and then to go back to their rooms or grade-level teams to practice what they have learned. This is a beginning step for Southington. They also did not want to wait for three years to offer this kind of opportunity to the middle school teachers who in three years will have state-of-the-art everything. It will not be the perfect professional development plan, but based on survey results this is the plan they decided that they want to go forward with.

Mrs. Queen asked where Southington stands along the lines of equal access to technology across the district. Mrs. Veilleux replied that the elementary schools were in great shape with the exception of Derynoski School. Because of its size they have less technology. In 2005-2006, the high school received an infusion of dollars from the town bonding and that equipment is quite old now. They have been trying to fund the replacement plan and to go to a five-year plan instead of seven or eight years as they have been doing. They have funds in next year's budget set aside for that. She felt that it was very important going forward to keep those monies in the budget because they will start falling behind again. They need to refresh technology and five years is a long time compared to businesses that refresh every three years.

Dr. Erardi shared that the voices of the parents at Flanders, Derynoski and Kelley Schools are getting louder about the facility and technology divide created in the district. With the size of the high school, we could not play catch up and actually fell farther behind with a great majority of classes at the high school still without technology.

Mrs. Veilleux added that, through studying their BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) initiative, another focus of need is WiFi access in the buildings. With the size and layout of the high school and the amount of cinderblock, it is going to be costly. In the near future, that is another focus of the technology dollars.

Mrs. Lombardi noted that this plan was in response to a state and federal request and thanked Mrs. Veilleux for putting it together in a very short period of time. However, she did not know if this was the Board's plan and what they really want as they see the future. They have excellence in the district in many different ways, but there were some things that bring her to say that Southington was not excellent or good because they don't have access, don't have WiFi and they are going to assessments that are more and more computer-based. The age of the equipment is based on an eight-year cycle, which she thought was unheard of. She did some research on this and computers are at four years, laptops are at three years and servers are at five years. Once they go beyond this, the replacement costs are higher to replace this equipment. The school district would be paying for this in so many different ways. Potentially, a fourth grader today will be using that same PC in twelfth grade if there is an eight-year cycle. She stated that it was the Board's job to provide those resources. She asked the Board to take a look at this from

what they see as the need based on excellence. She noted that the robotics students were using high-level applications on computers that are not cheap and she was sure they were not eight-years old and these students are having a resource that other students are not having access to. She asked the Board to come together to create a plan of what they want, not what the state is asking them to do.

Dr. Erardi replied that for the second year in a row administration presented to the Board the technology piece of the Superintendent's budget of "untouchables." Despite the elimination of positions in a couple of different bargaining groups and because we are so far behind with our spending plan, if we are going to be effective with change at all, we have to look at the untouchable piece of technology with software and hardware, and we have to go forward. With that plan, we are beginning to maintain. The piece that Mrs. Lombardi is talking about is the part that is so difficult. We are \$2 million or \$3 million from where we should be. We are not in good shape, but we are in better shape than many towns in Connecticut. Dr. Erardi will bring to the Board what a three-to-four-year catch-up plan would look like. We know that we are in great shape with the middle schools, VoAg, South End and Plantsville schools due to our projects. We also know that in a number of our elementary classrooms, present middle school classrooms and too many high school classrooms our catch-up plan is antiquated before we get there. He will get back to the Board with a dollar update on how that could look in the immediate future.

Mr. Oshana asked if teachers were involved in the assessment and development plan in determining how they want to use technology. Mrs. Veilleux replied that they were. They have teachers on the committee and surveyed all certified staff to get their input. The Professional Development Committee is mostly comprised of teachers. Mr. Oshana noted that for the needs assessment 70% of teachers are less than proficient with iPads or tablets, 44% of teachers use technology daily and 66% seldom use or design their lessons with technology. When you look at those statistics as part of the assessment process was there any type of preparation for them to understand where some of the direction was going? Mrs. Veilleux replied that the assessment was twofold: 1) to see where we are in order to go forward; 2) where do they want to go and what areas would they like to incorporate, but need more instruction in. There are many teachers who felt comfortable enough to teach this to students and their peers. They will help in becoming "Train the Trainers."

Mr. Oshana questioned the BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) in terms of developing a course as students bring a laptop, iPad, or Smartphone to class. How would that happen because there are different ways of utilizing different pieces of equipment? In the same class you will have multiple devices such as an OS system, Android system, Microsoft system, etc. Mrs. Veilleux replied that the sub-committee has been studying that and watched some videos on how elementary students are using it. It does not seem to matter. Once they are on the Internet, students just go because it is intuitive to them. There would be challenges, but this will also be a great way to catch us up. For a high school classroom the students have iPods or Smartphones and they get them out in class and they are able to go to a website to research versus bringing in a cart of laptops, passing them out, with start-up time; you are losing instruction time just distributing the laptops. She pointed out that she visited a 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom to do Career Day and she asked the students how many had cell phones and three-quarters of them raised their hands. She asked how many had iPod Touches because a cell phone might not be Internet capable and three-quarters of the hands went up.

Mrs. Queen thought that the students would share with each other as they work collaboratively. Mrs. Veilleux replied that was the intent. Mrs. Queen stated that we need for our students to be able to discern good information and bad, assess their sources when they are doing their research and even though we don't have the infrastructure that we want in the schools, at home many of these students are doing research on their own. She asked if teachers systematically were incorporating the need to gather information into every lesson. Mrs. Veilleux stated that the teachers were doing that and were doing a good job, but they need to get them the tools. There is software that they subscribe to called, "Opposing View Points." There are many different online databases that we are subscribing or have access to that we want students to go to first to look for their information.

Mrs. Johnson noted that on page 16 it addresses children with special learning needs. She was concerned with the middle of the second paragraph where it states, "*At present, there are few staff members in-district who have the expertise to meet the technology needs of those students who require the use of technology as part of their education.*" She asked why the teachers were not able to do that. Dr. Murdica replied that this was the current status and she could not comment about why it is where it is. She stated that what seems to be past practice is the knowledge of even the special education staff being able to use assistive technology without having to pay for outside consultants to come in to help them understand how to use it with the child and evaluate what the child needs. The plan moving forward is to absolutely develop the skills within our own staff even within evaluation measures. When she was a teacher at Derynoski, she was on an Assistive Technology Team and used to do assistive technology evaluations when there was training in the district at that time. It does not seem to have persisted; however, that is where they are moving. Right now, they don't have it; they need to build it and the technology days that Mrs. Smith addressed are going to include some of that training using facilitation from the staff members who do have it. Mrs. Johnson was happy that this was one of Mrs. Murdica's goals to provide this.

Mrs. Johnson noted on page 18, at the top, it addresses that all schools are part of a fiber backbone WAN and the last bullet states that all schools have limited WiFi access. She asked if that was correct. Mrs. Veilleux replied that all the schools have some WiFi. Plantsville and South End Schools are the only schools that have WiFi everywhere so they could be in any room in the building and have WiFi. In other schools, they just have hotspots so they put a wireless access point in certain areas. If you are in the high school principal's office you can get WiFi, but in a few rooms down the hall, they don't have it. It is something that they are planning for in the future and they need to spend the money to get those buildings with WiFi access.

Mrs. Johnson noted that on the same page it addresses the infrastructure wiring of the buildings, and Kelley and Flanders Schools are listed as adequate. She asked how they could have adequate infrastructure when the buildings are so old. Mrs. Veilleux replied that it is actually the data wiring that this bullet was addressing, so in those buildings they have data wiring that is capable of using the latest technologies throughout the building. At Kelley and Flanders Schools, there are six data drops in each classroom. At Derynoski, the high school and middle schools, there are two. If you want to add more than two computers in those buildings, you need to have a different piece of hardware to split the signal.

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

**“Move that the Board of Education adopt the 2012-2015 Educational Technology Plan.”**

Mr. Goralski asked how PowerSchool in elementary schools worked with the Standards-based Report Card. Mrs. Veilleux replied that PowerSchool takes care of that component too so the elementary teachers will be logging in just like the high school teachers and they will have a grade book just like the high school teachers. They will fill out the standards and it will produce the report card. The report card will look as close to the same as it does right now.

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

**d. Healthy Food Certification**

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

**“Move that all food items offered for sale to students in schools will not meet state standards for the period of July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.”**

Mr. Goralski explained that it was the not food or meals that don’t meet the standards; it is the á la carte items that do not meet the standards, such as ice cream. We do encourage healthy eating and our health curriculum encourages healthy eating and this just allows our other entities to sell items.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked Mrs. DiNello how much grant money they are not getting because they are not meeting the certification. Mrs. DiNello replied that she had not done that recalculation in quite some time, but in previous years she believed it was between \$24,000-\$30,000; however, she will follow-up with the Board on Friday. Mr. Goralski asked her to include the amount of money raised in the DECA Store in her follow-up. Mrs. DiNello clarified that there has been many changes to the DECA program because of the Breakfast program now offered. One of the driving forces in not participating had a lot to do with the fundraising opportunities for the school store, but for now it is mainly the á la carte items that they need to be able to sell to help sustain the overall food service program in all of the buildings. It would impact the Corner Café and other fundraising opportunities that our students participate in.

Mrs. Clark asked if it impacted PTO fundraisers at all the schools and what they would be able to sell. Mrs. DiNello replied that, if they were to participate in this, any items that they sold at the schools in which students would transport back and forth had to meet the requirements of the Healthy Food Certification. If the PTOs were to sell tubs of cookie dough or Butter Braids, the parents would have to pick those up because students would not be able to take that home with them. Mrs. DiNello stated that, as much as they are going to market the healthy standards that are required as part of the reimbursable meal program next school year, this really has a lot to do with the á la carte items, such as pizza, bagels, ice cream, and muffin sales, that plummeted when we participated in that.

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

**8. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR UPSEU PARAPROFESSIONAL NEGOTIATIONS, COMPENSATION FOR 2012-2013 UNAFFILIATED EMPLOYEES AND SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, AND DISCUSSION OF LAND ACQUISITION FOR POTENTIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION PURCHASE.**

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

**“Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of UPSEU Paraprofessional Negotiations, Compensation for 2012-2013 Unaffiliated Employees and Superintendent of Schools, Discussion of Land Acquisition for Potential Board of Education Purchase, AFSCME Contractual Negotiations, and Student Matters, and upon conclusion reconvene to open session.”**

**Motion carried by voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Blanchard*

Recording Secretary  
Southington Board of Education

**SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION  
MAY 10, 2012**

Mr. Brian Goralski, Board Chairperson, called the Executive Session to order at 9:45 p.m.

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

**Members Absent:** Mrs. Terri Carmody.

**Administration Present:** Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Karen Smith, Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance, and Mr. Frederick Cox, Director of Operations.

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF UPSEU PARAPROFESSIONAL NEGOTIATIONS, COMPENSAATION FOR 2012-2013 UNAFFILIATED EMPLOYEEES AND SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, DISCUSSION OF LAND ACQUISITION FOR POTENTIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION PURCHASE.**

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

**“Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of UPSEU Paraprofessional Negotiations, Compensation for 2012-2013 Unaffiliated Employees and Superintendent of Schools, Discussion of Land Acquisition for Potential Board of Education Purchase, AFSCME Contractual Negotiations, and Student Matters, and upon conclusion reconvene to open session.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

*Mr. Cox left the Executive Session at 9:53 pm.*

*Mrs. Smith and Mrs. DiNello left the Executive Session at 10:15 pm.*

**MOTION:** by Mr. Derynoski, seconded by Mr. Oshana:

**“Move to reconvene into public session.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

*The board reconvened public session at 10:40 p.m.*

**MOTION:** by Mr. Derynoski, seconded by Mr. Oshana:

**“Move to add student expulsion 2011-2012-08 to the agenda.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

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

**“Move to expel student 2011-2012-08 as stipulated by the Superintendent of Schools.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**


**MOTION:** by Mr. Derynoski, seconded by Mr. Oshana:

**“Move to adjourn.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

*The Board adjourned at 10:42 p.m.*

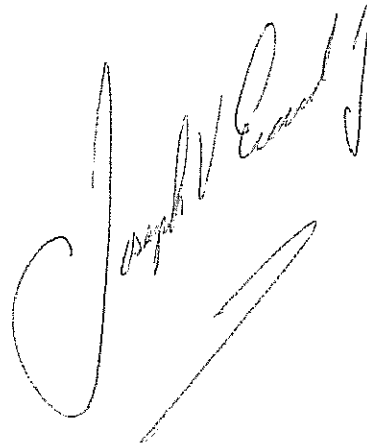
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jill Notar-Francesco". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jill Notar-Francesco, Secretary  
Southington Board of Education

## **Administration: Board of Education Update May 10, 2012**


1. **Student Use Technology Advisory Committee – Update**
2. **SEF – Update** (Attachment #1)
3. **Veterans' Partnership Press Conference**
  - a. **Monday, May 21 – 3PM**
4. **CECA Conference** (Attachment #2)
  - a. **Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**
5. **SHS First Robotics**

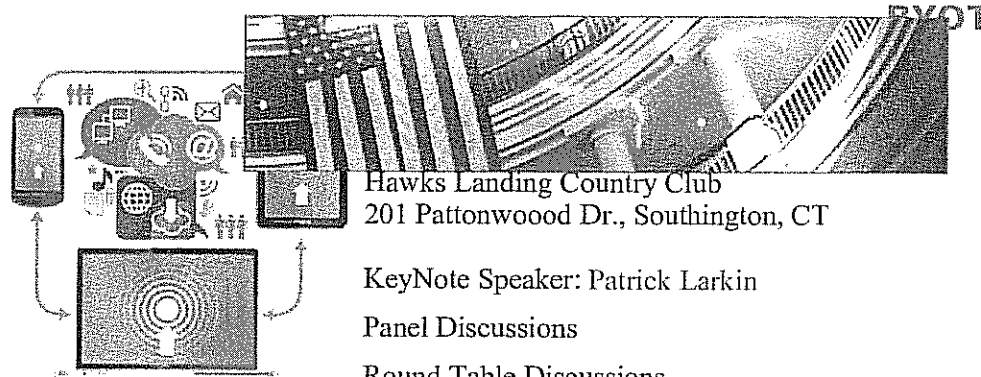
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph W. Edwards". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.



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Hawks Landing Country Club  
201 Pattonwood Dr., Southington, CT

KeyNote Speaker: Patrick Larkin

Panel Discussions

Round Table Discussions

"Digital citizenship is impossible until we help students live one life instead two. Right now they live two-a digitally unplugged life at school and digitally deluged life outside school. Having them bring their devices to school is a great first step in creating a reality-based environment for the discussion of digital citizenship." **Jason Ohler**

Registration at 11:30 - 12:00, Registration

12:00 buffet lunch

12:15 Keynote - Patrick Larkin

Panel discussion 1:15 to 2:15

Panel members:

**Patrick Larkin:** Principal Burlington High School, Burlington, MA

**Barbara Haeffner:** Supervisor of Instructional Technology, Meriden Public Schools

**Mark Ambruso,** Assistant Principal, Bacon Academy, Colechester

**Scott Clayton:** Assistant Principal, Newtown High School.

**Michael DeMattia,** Senior - New Canaan High School

Moderator: **Dr. Joseph Erardi:** Superintendent of Southington Public Schools

2:30 - 4:00 Round Table Discussions

4:00 - 5:00 Happy networking on the patio

Our target audience is Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, IT Directors, Principals and board members that are actively involved in wanting to transform their schools into 21st Century classrooms.

Limited seating: 150 participants

Cost

\$50 members

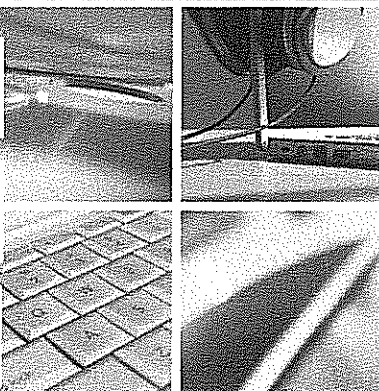
\$60 event fee

\$75 fee and CECA Membership

CEUs .3

## Southington Public Schools

### Educational Technology Plan 2012-2015



## Technology Plan



This update, required by the State Department of Education, ensures that we develop a plan that addresses:

- Professional Development
- Hardware/Software
- Infrastructure and Telecommunications
- Readiness for Online Assessments in 2013
- Aligned with National and State Technology Plan Goals

## Vision Statement



*All learners and educators within Southington Public Schools will have equal access to a current and comprehensive technological infrastructure to improve learning outcomes. Teachers will have access to data, content, resources, expertise, and learning experiences to provide more effective and relevant instruction for all learners. Technology will be used to assess learning at all levels of education utilizing data for continuous student improvement. Students will be prepared to be active, creative, knowledgeable, and ethical participants in our globally networked society through engaging and empowering experiences both inside and outside of school.*

## Needs Assessment



Through our needs assessment, we determined that teachers are proficient with Microsoft Word and Email and are able to communicate effectively using technology:

- Over ninety-four percent of teachers are proficient or on their way to proficiency with MS Word and Email
- Ninety-six percent of teachers are able to communicate relevant information and ideas effectively to students, parents, and peers using a variety of digital-age media and formats

## Needs Assessment



The district will need to continue to offer professional development in order to improve proficiency with newer technologies, and increase use of technology supported lesson plans:

- Seventy percent of teachers are less than proficient with iPad/Tablets or newer technologies
- Forty-four percent of teachers use technology daily in their instruction
- Sixty-six percent seldom or never design learning activities that require students to evaluate and select information sources and digital tools based on the appropriateness to specific tasks

## Needs Assessment



### CURRICULUM INTEGRATION

- Curriculum is continuously being revised to align with state standards.
- Teacher integration through the use of computer centers, 21<sup>st</sup> Century tools, SmartBoards/document cameras/LCD projectors, and increased use of teacher websites.
- Students use technology to access information, perform research, solve problems and create presentations. This varies by grade level and can be course based or integrated throughout the curriculum.

## Needs Assessment



### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- The Professional Development Committee meets regularly to identify future needs based on observations and feedback.
- Workshops will integrate instructional technologies into the curriculum including WebQuests, teacher websites and other Internet based resources.
- The effectiveness of professional development is monitored by reviewing principal goals, student and teacher portfolios, year-end reports and evaluations.

## Needs Assessment



### EQUITABLE USE OF EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

- The district continues to levy funds to create a more equitable distribution of technology.
- New initiatives that would better serve each student's technology needs are continually evaluated.
- Through building projects and leasing, almost all of the elementary schools have a robust infusion of technology.
- Forty-six percent of middle school teachers rated their computer access at school for professional work as "Available with Effort" or "None" versus eleven percent at the elementary level.

## Needs Assessment



### INFRASTRUCTURE AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- All schools are part of a Fiber Optic Wide Area Network (WAN) which connects each school to the high school. The high school utilizes Connecticut Educators Network (CEN) connection for Internet access.

## Needs Assessment



### ADMINISTRATIVE NEEDS

- Electronic submission of attendance and grades\* is in place with all schools using PowerSchool.
- Currently, excel spreadsheets are used to compare both external and internal student performance data. The district needs to move to an electronic database, such as Inform, for future data.
- Through the school website, parents are emailed newsletters, calendars, and important notices.
- School Messenger is used to send out phone alerts to parents.

*\*Elementary pilot in 2012*

## State of Connecticut Goals



### Goal 1 ~ Engaging and Empowering Learning Experiences

All learners will have engaging and empowering learning experiences both inside and outside of school that prepare them to be active, creative, knowledgeable, and ethical participants in our globally networked society.

### Goal 2 ~ Assessment

At all levels, our education system will leverage the power of technology to measure what matters and use assessment data for continuous improvement.

### Goal 3 ~ Connected Teaching and Learning

Professional educators will be supported individually, and in teams, by technology that connects them to data, content, resources, and expertise and learning experiences that can empower and inspire them to provide more effective teaching for all learners.

### Goal 4 ~ Infrastructure for Teaching and Learning

All students and educators will have access to a comprehensive infrastructure for learning, when and where they need it.

### Goal 5 ~ Productivity and Efficiency

At all levels, our education system will redesign processes and structures to take advantage of the power of technology to improve learning outcomes while making more efficient use of time, money, and staff.