

SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT

REGULAR MEETING

May 22, 2014

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education with Executive Session was held on Thursday, May 22, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Municipal Center Public Assembly Room, 200 North Main Street, Southington, Connecticut.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Goralski, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Board members present were: Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mr. Zaya Oshana, Mrs. Patricia Queen, and Mr. Brian Goralski.

Present from the administration was Mrs. Karen Smith, Interim Superintendent.

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

“Move that the Board go into Executive Session, excluding the public and press, for the purpose of discussing a Student Matter and Personnel Matters, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session.”

Motion carried unanimously on voice vote.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A STUDENT MATTER AND PERSONNEL MATTERS ~ 6:30 p.m.

The Board went into Executive Session at 6:34 p.m.

At 7:00 p.m., Mr. Goralski recessed Executive Session; the Board would reconvene their Executive Session discussion after the regular meeting.

3. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

At 7:12 p.m., in Celebration of Excellence, the Board of Education recognized the following Southington students:

Southington High School Seniors ~ CT Electrethon Challenge

This is the first time competing in this event and the team placed first in the novice division. Mr. Derynoski's company, EDAC Technology, is very involved with this challenge and working with these students. Congratulations to:

Anthony Califano, Nicholas Cianci, Nathan D'Angelo, Eric Mankus, Nathan Mullins, Colin Murphy, Nicholas Siarkowski and Noah Violette.

CABE (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education) Awards

Annually, CABE recognizes students across the state for student achievement. Congratulations to:

Olivia Corriveau ~ Southington High School
Evan Bender and Ashley Shafran ~ DePaolo Middle
Ananya Karanan and Jacob Alberg ~ Kennedy Middle School

31st Annual Connecticut Invention Convention ~ Elementary

For the first time this year, all fourth and fifth grade classrooms participated district wide. Congratulations to the following students for their achievement in this event:

Alexah Zaczynski, Grade 5, Derynoski
Jackson Landino, Grade 5, Hatton
Amanda McKee, Grade 4, Plantsville
Maya Ciaffaglione, Grade 5, Strong
Abigail Galvin, Grade 4, Strong
Kevin Hubert, Grade 4, Thalberg
Avery Lathan, Grade 4, Thalberg
Angelina Paulus, Grade 4, Thalberg
Kristy Palmieri, grade 5, Thalberg

Class III Grade 8 Americanism Essay Contest Winner

Tyler Peruta, DePaolo Middle School

At 7:31 p.m., Mr. Goralski called for a recess.

4. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

The regular session was reconvened at 7:38 p.m. by Chairperson, Mr. Brian Goralski. Board members present were Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mr. Zaya Oshana and Mrs. Patricia Queen.

Present from the administration were Mrs. Karen Smith, Interim Superintendent, Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance, and Dr. Perri Murdica, Director of Pupil Services.

There were approximately 31 people were in the audience.

5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by the members of the Board of Education.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ May 8, 2014

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

“Move to approve the Board of Education Regular meeting minutes of May 8, 2014, as amended.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

a. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes ~ May 12, 2014

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

“Move to approve the Board of Education Special Meeting minutes of May 12, 2014, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

b. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes ~ May 19, 2014

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

“Move to approve the Board of Education Special Meeting minutes of May 19, 2014, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move Agenda Item 10c. Appointment of Principal of Plantsville Elementary School to Agenda Item 6c.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

c. Appointment of Principal of Plantsville Elementary School (Formerly Agenda Item 10c.)

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

“Move to appoint Mr. Stephen Bergin as principal of Plantsville Elementary School effective July 1, 2014 at an annual salary of \$133,541.”

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Lombardi, Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Queen, Mrs. Notar-Francesco and Mr. Goralski.

Motion carried 9 – 0.

Mr. Goralski asked Mr. Bergin to approach the podium to say a few words. Mr. Bergin stated how deeply honored he was to be selected, and thanked the Board of Education for the process that kept him energized and focused. He introduced his family, and thanked the staff from Plantsville School for coming tonight and for welcoming him with a photo of Grade 1 students from the school. Mr. Goralski asked Mrs. Patricia Corvello to come forward and thanked her for coming this evening and wished her well in her retirement.

At 7:45 p.m. Mr. Goralski called for a recess.

Mr. Goralski reconvened the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience
None

b. Communications from Board Members and Administration

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

“Move to add Agenda Item 10e. Student Expulsion 2013-2014-08 to the agenda.”

Motion carried unanimously on voice vote.

Communication from Board Members:

Mrs. Carmody stated that she attended the Art Show at Southington High School last week and was so impressed and proud of the work of the students.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco spoke on the information she left for each Board member from the CABE Legislative Wrap-Up session she attended with Mrs. Queen. The new superintendent, Mr. Tim Connellan, was also in attendance at the CABE session. She highlighted three bills recently passed by the legislature:

1. Athletics and Concussions ~ CABE Attorney Patrice McCarthy believes that this is now a much improved bill and the State Board of Education is required to develop a concussion education plan.
2. EpiPens ~ it is now required for schools to maintain EpiPens for emergency use effective July 1, 2014. Designated staff on school grounds must be trained to administer to children who may not have shown allergic reactions previously.
3. School Calendar ~ this will be pushed out one more year to July 1, 2016.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked Board members to go through the entirety of the packet.

Mrs. Lombardi took a moment to state this coming Monday is Memorial Day, a day to honor the men and women who have served our country. She acknowledged the parade on Monday and asked all schools to take a moment to honor our military.

Mr. Goralski stated that, on May 10, he had the honor to represent the Board with Mrs. Smith at the American Legion breakfast. It was much more than they could have expected. It was an honor to have the National Commander of the American Legion there. He recognized our American Legion for the work they do in providing lap tops for soldiers. This town’s relationship with our veterans is remarkable, and it is only going to continue to grow. It is a role model for other districts in the state and nation to follow.

Communication from Administration:

Mrs. Smith read the student representatives’ update to the Board. They were unable to attend as they were enjoying Class Night activities.

- Class Day will be held tomorrow, May 23rd in East Granby.
- Senior Prom was last weekend and a great time was had by all.

- Spring sports are going impressively well, and we expect many teams to move on to the tournaments.
- Drama Club will be attending the HALO Awards on May 28th and performing “Nubia”. Gabby Baker, Paula Calandra, Steve Peccarillo, Brett Simms, Gabby Boudreau have been nominated.
- Project Lead the Way Senior Night is May 29th in the auditorium lobby where seniors will showcase their inventions.
- Top 25 Dinner is June 4 at 6:15 p.m. at the Aqua Turf.
- Top 10 Scholar Luncheon is June 5.
- Activities Night is June 2 when incoming freshmen come to visit and see all the different activities SHS has to offer.
- AP Expo will be held on June 11; projects from the classes will be on display.
- At a recent advisory meeting, seniors invited their teachers to graduation.
- New student representatives will be introduced at the June 12th Board meeting.

8. REPORT OF THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

Update of Safety Message

Mrs. Smith stated a safety call was made to all families and an email was sent to all staff, administrators and Board of Education members. A message from the Southington Police Department put us on alert. This alert continues in Southington and surrounding areas regarding a suspicious vehicle/s. We are well informed and in close communication with Officer Gallo at the SPD. Some calls from parents came to the Board of Education offices and were promptly answered by staff who were well informed.

American Psychiatric Foundation

Jennifer Discenza, Guidance Department Chairperson at Kennedy Middle School, applied for and was awarded a \$1,000 grant to implement typical or troubled mental health educational programs at both middle schools and the high school for the 2014-15 school year.

Grant Funded Counseling Program

This multi-million dollar grant is one of the most successful programs in our district and is reaching many children, teens and families. Miss Rita Stearns, Program Director, is working on the end-of-year report and, with the Board’s permission, she would like to schedule a time before the beginning of the next school year for her and her team to come before the Board and discuss the impact this grant is having on our district.

ARTS Grant ~ Partnership with Southington Education Foundation and New Britain Museum of American Art

In partnership with the Southington Education Foundation and the New Britain Museum of Art, Mrs. Christine Boulanger continues to persevere in trying to get money for our third grade art program to tie in with the art curriculum and the social studies/geography curriculum. This grant will enable us to train our six elementary art teachers and host an artist in residence. Mrs. Boulanger is fairly optimistic as we missed it last year by only a few points. Stay tuned!

Mr. Goralski thanked Mr. Connellan for being in attendance. His employment with us does not begin until August 11, but Mr. Connellan’s email is up, and he has his feet on the ground and is already running with us.

a. Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting ~ May 8, 2014

Mrs. Carmody stated that the committee met on May 8 for curriculum review. She was impressed with the level of work completed and how closely the curriculums are aligned with the Common Core State Standards. She thanked Mr. Shaw for reporting on the K-12 Music, Mrs. Hodges for 9-12 Science, and Miss Riedinger for the 9-12 Math. The committee strongly endorses the approval of the mentioned curricula. Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked for an explanation of the curriculum writing process and was told that all teachers involved in the subject areas are part of writing the curriculum for the entire subject area. Mrs. Smith stated that copies of each curricular area referenced are available for any Board member to read them. Mr. Goralski thanked the committee for the work they do.

b. Policy and Personnel Committee Meeting ~ May 15, 2014

Mrs. Clark stated that the meeting was held on May 15 at Southington High School. Three job descriptions were assessed and a few minor changes were made in the job goals. This will be discussed by the Board later in the agenda for a first read.

9. OLD BUSINESS**a. Town Government Communications**

Mr. Goralski publicly thanked the Town Council and Board of Finance for the cooperation, collaboration and team work like he has never seen before. He stated that we are all working on the same page now and is very happy where we are regarding the work we are doing together.

Mrs. DiNello stated at the next Town Council meeting on Tuesday, May 27, there will be two presentations involving the school district that Board members may want to attend:

1. Covanta ~ this involves the school district if it decides to move forward in turning food waste into energy.
2. The Energy Committee is moving forward on solar energy and is looking at three school sites where they may put solar panels.

b. Construction Update

Mr. Goralski stated that Mr. Cox is absent, but reported that the middle school projects continue to move along on schedule. A tremendous amount of planning is occurring as old classes get converted over the summer months. Punch lists on the new additions are already quite small. Communication between the Newfield site coordinator and the neighbors at Kennedy has improved and become much more direct through Mr. Palmieri. He thanked Newfield for being very responsive to the concerns of the neighbors and for making adjustments without impacting their schedule. Mr. Oshana asked how the communication has improved? Mr. Goralski stated minutes from owners meetings are now being shared with the building committee. When they know the demo schedule, that schedule is communicated to the neighbors, giving them a week's notice, as well as workers trying to end the external noise by 9:00 p.m.

c. Teacher Evaluation Plan Update

Mrs. Smith stated that the Connecticut State Department of Education requires Boards of Education to submit their Teacher Evaluation Plans by June 2. Notification was sent to all districts indicating that there were changes to the guidelines and would allow the flexibility to make revisions to our current manual. The revisions included in this plan will better serve the

Southington Public School District. A vote this evening is required to support this plan. Hard copies are available and the details are not new. A review of the changes are:

- Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) – one minimum, although most teachers are opting to keep two for measurement purposes, especially in writing.
- Observation Cycle – Tenured teachers will be on a three-year cycle, non-tenured remains the same, and the percentage of non-tenured teachers is growing due to retirements.
- Below Standard – remains the same with an intense number of informal and formal observations.
- Proficient or Above – one formal observation every three years, 3 informal observations at a minimum on years when they do not receive a formal. Administrators have learned they spend more time with more teachers on informal observations, more authentic.
- Removal of number ratings, the percentages will still be used.
- Ratings changed back to the wording by the state ~ Exemplary, Proficient, Developing, and Below Standard are now mandated.
- Minor editing changes, CMT no longer assessing ELA and Math; it is now Smarter Balanced.

The document is intensive. A core group of the committee will meet over the summer to review the rubric and show an example of what an exemplary lesson is. Mrs. Smith stated that she is very glad that the district did not go 100% BloomBoard, as other districts that did had several technical issues. There may be more changes coming from the CSDE.

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

“Move to accept the revised copy of the Teacher Evaluation Plan as presented to the Curriculum & Instruction Committee on May 20, 2014.”

Mr. Goralski thanked the teachers on the committee for their continued work on this document.

Motion carried unanimously on voice vote.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approval of Job Descriptions

Mrs. Clark stated that board members had in front of them a copy of the drafts with changes, and a clean copy along with it. The recommendations are recommended by the administration and Policy and Personnel Committee. Mr. Derynoski asked about the job description for “*Production Room Mail Courier*” being changed to “*Production Room Secretary*.” Mrs. DiNello stated that currently the position is within the secretarial bargaining unit and it is felt that it has more job responsibilities and wanted to include that in the title. Mrs. Lombardi stated the title “*Production Room*” is more like a location vs. a function. This job can be done in any room. It was agreed to take out “*Room*” and the title be “*Production Secretary*”. There were no comments or changes to Network Manager and Administrative Secretary. Mr. Goralski asked Board members to go through administration or Mrs. Clark with any questions or concerns. They will take action at the next meeting.

b. Reallocation / Adoption of 2014-2015 Operating Budget

Mrs. DiNello stated that she is very excited with the adoption of the Board of Education budget. There is one minor adjustment to DePaolo as they will convert from oil to gas over the summer and the money will be moved appropriately. In discussion with Board members and recommendations from administration, beyond making a line item change to DePaolo, their recommendation is to leave the budget intact and, as we discover areas that may need adjusting, revisit those with the Finance Committee over the summer and do it by way of transfers. Then we will have a better idea of shifting, possibly salary money or other areas of the budget to make these changes. In front of you is the one simple change. Mr. Oshana stated that he agreed 100% that the Finance Committee can work on any changes or transfers. Mrs. Notar-Francesco also agreed. Mr. Goralski stated that, if it were to be a budget transfer, there is no need to make a motion. It would come through the Finance Committee at a later date. He thanked the administration, especially Mrs. DiNello, for the hard work. He stated that they put this all together and helped the Board to understand it. He extended the Board's appreciation.

c. Appointment of Principal of Plantsville Elementary School (Moved to Agenda Item 6c.)**d. Curricula Approval ~ K-12 Music, 9-12 Science, 9-12 Math, World Language Pilot**

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

“Move to approve the revised curricula of K-12 Music, 9-12 Science, and 9-12 Math, and the World Language Pilot, as presented”

Mr. Goralski commented on the World Language pilot as being a new, unique and exciting opportunity for students in Southington. The K-12 Music, 9-12 Science and 9-12 Math are all improvements on what we are already doing well. Mrs. Johnson requested to poll the Board for the motion as it is a change in curricula, one motion for all subjects.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Lombardi, Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Queen, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, and Mr. Goralski.

Motion carried 9 – 0.

e. Student Expulsion 2013-2014-08

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

“Move to expel student 2013-2014-08, as stipulated by the Interim Superintendent of Schools with the addendum requested by the Board.”

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Lombardi, Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Queen, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, and Mr. Goralski.

Motion carried 9 – 0.

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

“Move to return to Executive Session.”

Motion carried unanimously on voice vote.

The Board returned to Executive Session at 8:36 p.m.

Board members present were: Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mr. Zaya Oshana, Mrs. Patricia Queen, and Mr. Brian Goralski.

Present from the administration was Mrs. Karen Smith, Interim Superintendent.

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

“Move to return to public session.”

Motion carried unanimously on voice vote.

The Board returned to public session at 11:00 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Fournier
Recording Secretary