

SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT

REGULAR MEETING

MAY 24, 2012

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, May 24, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the William M. Strong Elementary School Cafeteria, 820 Marion Avenue, Plantsville, Connecticut.

1. BOARD RECOGNITIONS ~ Profiles in Professionalism Honorees 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Erardi and members of his administrative team, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. DiNello, and Dr. Murdica, recognized the Fifth Annual 2012 *Profiles in Professionalism* honorees for their outstanding service and contributions to the school system. Thirteen honorees were selected from a pool of people who were nominated by employees of the school system. The Selection Committee was made up of last year's recipients. The honorees, which represent the best in the Southington schools, were presented with a plaque, engraved glass apple paperweight, and a box of chocolates. The honorees were:

Jennifer Ackerman, Parent Volunteer, South End Elementary and Kennedy Middle Schools
Wally Bailey, Volunteer, DePaolo and Kennedy Middle Schools
Nancy Chiero, Special Education Teacher, Southington High School
Lesley DeAngelo, Language Arts Secretary
David Germano, Assistant Principal, Southington High School
Jean Griglun, RN, Southington High School
Richard Hills, Paraprofessional, Kennedy Middle School
Moira Myers, Special Education Teacher, Plantsville Elementary School
Christopher Palmieri, Assistant Principal, DePaolo Middle School
Brian Palmieri, Assistant Head Custodian, Southington High School
Nathan "Bo" Perry, Custodian, Thalberg Elementary School
Donna Rossignol, Paraprofessional, Flanders Elementary School
Lori-Jo Saucier, Software Support Specialist

A brief recess was called and refreshments were served in the cafeteria.

2. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 p.m. by Chairperson, Mr. Brian Goralski. Board members present were Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mr. Zaya Oshana, and Mrs. Patricia Queen. Mr. David Derynoski was absent.

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

Student Representatives present were Whitney DiMeo and Leon Peschel.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The student representatives led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were approximately 140 individuals in the audience.

Mr. Goralski and Mrs. Lombardi took a moment to recognize and thank Maria Fournier from Strong Elementary School and the PTO. They decorated the room beautifully and provided the Board of Education, administration, and guests with a fantastic variety of refreshments for the meeting.

Mr. Goralski requested a moment of silence to honor Ms. Avis Churchill. It was noted that she was a long time teacher and head of the English Department at Southington High School for over twenty years. Sadly, she passed away.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ May 10, 2012

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

“Move to approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting of May 10, 2012.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience

There was no communication from the audience.

b. Communications from Board Members and Administration

Communication from the Board Members:

Mrs. Notar-Francesco announced that the recipient of the Leonard and Gladys Joll Scholarship was Destiny Marie Sanchez. The committee requested that Mr. Bob Brown present the award to Destiny the evening of the Scholarship Awards because he was the teacher that she noted in her essay as being responsible for her interest in moving into the profession of teaching, and the committee thought that was fitting.

Mrs. Lombardi acknowledged Ms. Debbie Miller, technology department, for the CECA's first conference on Bring Your Own Technology. Dr. Erardi was one of the moderators of the panel. It was an opportunity to see what others are doing with this topic. Ms. Miller is currently serving as president of that organization.

Mr. Goralski recognized Mrs. Notar-Francesco who will serve as the Chairperson of the CREC Council effective July 1. He is very proud that she will be representing Southington and leading that group of people.

At the next meeting, they will be meeting at the Marion Schoolhouse. This will be a living memory of history. Mr. Goralski requested that the Board Members and administration make plans to carpool to that meeting so they can save parking for those who are bringing that living history to life. This will be a living memorial of what education once was.

The June 28 Board of Education Meeting Agenda is normally very light in content. Therefore, it is Mr. Goralski's intention to cancel that meeting and to move any items that would have been part of that agenda to the June 14 or July meeting.

Mrs. Queen represents the Board of Education at CAFE. CAFE has a variety of items happening and he would like to see the Board take advantage of the Express Membership Program for a fee of \$350. This would allow the Board members to attend every workshop they sponsor. He encouraged the Board to support the payment to take advantage of the Professional Development opportunities. Mrs. Queen will keep the Board aware of everything happening at CAFE. Mrs. Queen shared that she has the member password and user name so the Board can get on their Member Resource section of the CAFE website. She will forward this information to the Board.

Communication from Administration:

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

1. AP Project Expo:
The School Board has made a conscientious effort over the past few years to expand the Advanced Placement courses and opportunities at Southington High School. Dr. Erardi encouraged the Board to attend the 2nd Annual AP Project Expo that is being held at Southington High School on Tuesday, June 12, 2012 beginning at 6:00 p.m.
2. Grant Writing – Annual Report:
Dr. Erardi asked the Board to take some time to review the annual report from Mrs. Christine Boulanger, Grant Writer. He is extremely pleased to share the report with the Board. The number of accomplishments she has made is extraordinary. If the Board would like to see her in June, they should let Dr. Erardi know so they can plan accordingly.
3. Veterans/SBOE – Fisher House Partnership:

Earlier this week, Central Office presented Rachel Wache, American Legion Women's Auxiliary, a \$4,000 check in support of the Friends of Fisher House Connecticut. This will be an ongoing support project that they will review for 2012-2013.

4. Vision 2020 – Summer 2012:

Dr. Erardi will be looking to assemble a steering committee throughout the summer with work beginning in September. This will create long-range planning for this Board of Education. It's being called, Vision 2020. It will be planning for what they have to do to make sure that in the year 2020 all students are prepared for the work-world.

5. End-of-the-Year Dates to Consider:

This is a courtesy item to the Board of Education for consideration of any activity that they feel that they might be interested in attending throughout the district in the month of June.

c. Communication from Student Board Representative

Ms. DiMeo reported the following:

1. On May 23, they had the Second Annual National Language Honors Society Induction and Award Ceremony. At the award ceremony, they honor students across the board in all languages at the high school, and they had the induction for new members.
2. On May 24, the National Honor Society was holding a Dodge Ball Tournament. Monies collected are put toward the Southington High School Cares Program.
3. June 8 and June 9 they hold their annual Relay for Life walk at the high school.
4. Finals begin on June 13.

Mr. Peschel reported the following:

1. This is a busy time for students at the high school. He congratulated all the faculty and staff who were honored that evening, especially those from Southington High School. He further shared that the teachers are fantastic, helpful, and that they are always there for their students.
2. May 19 was the senior prom and he believed that everything went very well. He didn't recall any incidents with dress code.
3. On May 23, there was a training program/breakfast at Southington High School with the Chamber of Commerce. They offered nine-week internships for students at Southington High School. The breakfast is a culmination of the internships to recognize all those who participated as well as the companies that were in attendance.
4. The Scholarship night was a wonderful evening. All seniors and underclassmen are extremely thankful to all the Southington businesses and clubs for everything they provide to the students. It was truly incredible to see how many recipients there were and the number of scholarships given out.
5. Regular season sports are coming to an end, but there are still post-season games taking place.

6. May 29 is Project Lead The Way Senior Night. This is similar to the AP night, but it's the seniors presenting their projects. Their prompt for their final project is, "Don't you hate it when..." Their projects need to solve that 'theme' on this night.
7. Today, there was a celebration at Southington High School for the school newspaper, The Emblem. This newspaper is one of the oldest running newspapers in the nation. There was a dedication ceremony to the newspaper today along with the editors of the historical society.

Mr. Goralski shared that Mr. Derynoski hoped to be in attendance, but was traveling and not able to attend.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting ~ May 14, 2012

Mrs. Johnson shared that the meeting was extremely interesting. There were a number of texts being introduced and recommended. The full committee took quite some time to review all the books and forms that were submitted. They had many questions and one of their concerns involved books that were presented in soft cover. The Board of Education Members were interested in getting additional information about obtaining hard cover texts. It was noted that most of the books would be available in eBook format. When the Board advances their decision on technology in the classroom, the Curriculum Committee will be able to revisit this option.

Mrs. Smith stated that she tried to answer all these questions as requested. In all cases where there was a request to investigate the hard cover, the publishers were not producing the hard cover option. However, they did research the use of a binding company and found that, after they purchase the books, they can send them to a binding company. Mrs. Smith found that it was not easy to obtain the hard cover texts.

Mrs. Johnson asked that, if they choose to have the textbooks bound in hardcover, what the timeframe would be. Mrs. Smith stated that she did not ask the question about the timeframe, but did ask about the cost and was told it would be an additional \$30.00 per book for binding. She shared that, originally, they were give an approximate cost of \$10.00 per book; however, that was for a used book, not new.

Mr. Goralski asked that this conversation continue when they get to agenda item 8c, Textbook Recommendations.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

Mrs. Clark shared that they had a meeting of the Blue Ribbon Park Committee earlier that week. They prioritized the committee's thoughts about what needed to be done with the parks. It's going to be presented to the Town Council and will include lighting, signage in the parks,

bulletin boards, and a new park for the town. They ranked everything on a scale of 1-13 which is what they determined as a committee. They will share this information at the next Town Council Meeting.

Mr. Goralski stated that on May 29 there's a public hearing that he plans to attend and there will be a turf report given to the Town Council. The chair of that committee is fielding questions by the community and requested that Mr. Goralski attend.

b. Construction Update

Dr. Erardi was pleased to share that the Town Council is bringing on board Newfield Construction to their upcoming middle school projects. This company was responsible for the last three projects done in the district and he is very pleased with the selection. Next week, they will be holding interviews for the architectural piece of the projects.

The North Center/Government Center project is moving along. They were hung-up for approximately 2-3 months with issues surrounding windows. The old windows have now been removed, and the new windows are being installed. They continue to believe that a July 1 move-in date is possible.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Field Trip Approval

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

“Move that the Board of Education approve the field trip as presented.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

b. Curriculum Review ~ Language Arts K-5

Mrs. Smith shared that she was proud to present to them a brief version of the curriculum and instruction meeting that they had regarding the Language Arts Units of Study. There were representatives in the audience to share the process and a video.

Ms. Betsy Chester, Language Arts Coordinator, mentioned that there were 43 teachers who were involved in writing this curriculum over the past three years and she recognized all 43 teachers publicly. It has been a lengthy, yet rewarding journey. She expressed her appreciation to all those involved in this rewrite.

Ms. Chester introduced Stephanie Lawlor and Lindsay Verroneau who would review the process and information being presented.

Ms. Lawlor shared that she and Ms. Verroneau represent a team of many teachers who spent countless hours over the past three years writing, reading, re-writing, and revising the units of study. The committee went back over the units to ensure that they were aligned with Common Core State Standards. They also studied the latest and best work put out by Teachers

College of Columbia. It was hard work, but the outcome is that they now have teachers who own the curriculum and are passionate about the teaching of reading and writing.

The committee feels that the teaching of reading and writing with this new curriculum is 100 percent aligned with the Common Core. There is a continuity of skills being taught from grade to grade and from unit to unit. There is a progression of learning and increasing expectations as they move through the units. Students are being taught skills that are transferable across many texts and genres. There are more non-fiction, reading and writing, argument writing, and research opportunities that are aligned with the content area curriculum. There is also a heavy emphasis on the speaking and listening components of the Common Core. Through partnerships, book clubs and presentations, listening and speaking is embedded into all the units. Ms. Lawlor currently works as a part time special education teacher and a part time literacy specialist at Kelley Elementary School. She works with students who struggle the most in reading and writing. The workshop model encompasses differentiation naturally. There is direct, explicit instruction in skills being taught to students and, through small strategy groups and conferring, the individual needs of all students are met. Additionally, the group took the opportunity to applaud the administration for implementing Readers and Writers Workshop the correct way. Teaching these skills around literacy are complex and challenging and the teachers feel that this partnership with Columbia is invaluable. The staff developer days and coaching days for the literacy specialists have provided teachers with the necessary support to become more competent and effective in their practice. They look forward to growing and learning as professionals and to implement the outstanding units across the district.

Ms. Verroneau shared that she was speaking on a classroom note. As a classroom teacher, it has been her pleasure to be part of the curriculum committee. She experienced the benefits of Readers and Writers Workshop first hand with her students. She has watched them grow and become true readers and writers. The approach to teaching reading and writing has been a fundamental component of their balanced literacy block. Along with the Readers and Writers Workshop, their balanced literacy blocks include a read-aloud, word-work, and shared reading and writing. As a committee, they also created a word work addendum for each grade level as a guide for teachers to follow. The addendum is also aligned with the Common Core and covers areas such as usage, punctuation, spelling, and vocabulary. Students are held accountable in the application of these skills throughout the day. The workshop model has also provided students with opportunities for authentic reading and writing. Students are given choice as to which books they would like to read and choice in which topics they would like to write about. The choice has created a motivated community of readers and writers across the district. Students spend more time reading than they ever have before. Students get upset when the reading time is up. They absolutely love the reading and writing.

In closing, Ms. Chester shared a ten-minute video that was taken in a variety of classrooms at Kelley Elementary school that validates everything that was shared by Ms. Lawlor and Ms. Verroneau.

Following the video, Mrs. Carmody shared that she is awed by the learning that is happening through the Columbia program. A very important thing to her is the skills that are being taught in elementary school and she cannot wait to see how it will follow the students through middle and high school. The skills of critical thinking, forming opinions, identifying

differences, and the author's purpose are essential. She is very proud and thanked everyone for their hard work and enthusiasm.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco thanked the teachers and Ms. Chester for their impressive work.

Mrs. Clark shared that she knew one of the students who was in the video and that the mother of that student is thrilled with what her son is being taught.

Mrs. Lombardi was privileged to collaborate as an ELL tutor. She cannot say enough about the patience for all students and how this program has opened up their abilities to speak and listen. The collaboration between ELL and this program is working and she thanked everyone for their work.

Mrs. Johnson also thanked the committee for their hard work and dedication.

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

“Move that the Board approve the revised Grades K-5 Language Arts Curriculum.”

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

Mr. Goralski used Chairman's privilege to move an item within a heading and stated that a motion was not necessary. Therefore, he moved agenda number 8g, Student Use of Personally Owned Technology ~ Advisory Report, to 8c. There was a student present, Julian Cardoza, who waited in the audience to be part of this presentation. Mr. Goralski thanked him for representing students who served on this committee and stated he was incredibly grateful for his patience.

c. Student Use of Personally Owned Technology ~ Advisory Report

Dr. Erardi asked Julian Cardoza and Karen Veilleux, Technology Director, to sit at the front table to be part of the discussion.

Dr. Erardi stated that Julian is an exceptional ninth grade student at Southington High School. He was one of three voices at the high school that they thought was a major contributor to the information that was being shared that evening. The advisory committee was in existence for approximately three months. The direction that they are moving towards has much to do with the information that was discussed at the table. Dr. Erardi was a facilitator for the committee and the expertise came from those who sat at the table. Mrs. Veilleux was an enormous help with vision and insight. The committee is recommending for the administrative team to convene on June 20. They will have the conversation of the insight that came from the committee that includes four different pilot programs. The pilots would be in small numbers and would include a group that is yet to be identified at grade level or school:

- Pilot #1 ~ Use of stand-alone devices (i.e., Kindles, eReaders, Nooks)

- Pilot #2 ~ An exchange of student email addresses under the guidance of the Board of Education
- Pilot #3 ~ Paperless classroom
- Pilot #4 ~ Wi-Fi pilot that includes the use of iPods, laptops, and cell phones

In all instances, there would be direction with each pilot and it will be brought back to the Board of Education as a proposal at the July meeting. If the Board moves forward with the consensus recommendation to pilot in 2012-2013, the administration would return in November and December with updates. This would allow the pilot to meet for a full semester. It's important that Board members were aware that this conversation was limited because of the infrastructure of the buildings. The information that the administration plans to bring forward in the near future will be in combination with the Director of Business, Director of Technology, and the high school principal. They will determine what needs to be done to put the infrastructure in place at the high school that will equate to what will be in place at the middle school. That will be brought to the Board within the next three months. This is all a subset of the Vision 2020 that Dr. Erardi spoke to earlier.

Mrs. Veilleux thanked committee for their hard work. There were great discussions, questions, and having input from students and teachers was fantastic.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked if the administration would be bringing to the Board the dollar amount that will be needed when more information is brought forward in July. Dr. Erardi shared that the timeline would be that they bring back to the Board a pilot that could take place with existing conditions. They do have spaces in the high school that are 'hot spots' that they plan to run in a pilot form. The information surrounding dollars will be brought to the Board in time for their planning stages for their 2013-2014 budget. In essence, a two-year opportunity is really a three-year window. They will have the information for planning their 2013-2014, 2014-15 budget, which falls in line with the building project at the middle schools.

Mrs. Queen asked the committee members what some of the essential questions were that were discussed. Mrs. Veilleux stated that they spent a lot of time wrapping their hands around how they were going to make this work with existing infrastructure. Currently, Plantsville and South End Elementary Schools are the only schools that are completely Wi-Fi. They also asked what technology is appropriate at what level. They knew that they needed to write new policy to address these devices. There were great questions from teachers on how they would use these items in the classroom on a daily basis and how to address the have and have nots. They thought that, through collaborative learning, that would be addressed. Many questions will be answered as they begin the pilot. They hope that this will help ease some of the fears.

Dr. Erardi added that the primary, initial essential question was the plus/minus protocol. The committee weighed heavily on knowing that moving forward with the proposal, pilot, and hopefully the change of program, there are some negatives. The committee strongly concluded that the plus factor clearly outweighed the concern factor. They agreed that if they don't do anything, then they are not preparing students for the next level. If we don't do anything, it's not preparing students.

Mrs. Lombardi stated that she attended a Bring Your Own Technology Conference last week. It was an important learning opportunity for her from several aspects. She realized that

Southington and all other districts are behind in preparing our children for the future. We are living in two worlds – the home world and the school world. It's imperative that we merge those worlds together. There are some districts who haven't started, those who are beginning, and those who had started this technology process. They learned the following:

1. His top priority is the infrastructure. Without that, you cannot move ahead as fast.
2. Equity issue – those who have and those who don't have.
3. They are starting at the high school level to get students ready for the workforce.

Trust in this process is the common denominator. Mrs. Lombardi commended Dr. Erardi on his Vision 2020 and she volunteered to sit on any committee to assist with this process.

Mrs. Johnson thanked Julian Cardoza for staying at the meeting and asked that he share with the Board what he brought to the committee from a student perspective. Julian stated that he attends the Greater Hartford Academy of Math and Science and they were much further ahead than Southington High School with what students can use and bring. The sophomore students are given technology to use. He sees where GHAMAS is and knows that is a direction Southington can go. Mrs. Queen agreed that what students are experiencing at home is very different than what is happening at school. She believes that Southington needs to make a commitment in a financial way, but would like everyone to remember that by bringing your own devices, the financial burden is spread over all families. These are devices that many of the students already have, so they can take advantage of what families already have in their homes.

Mr. Goralski shared with Julian that he was incredibly proud of him and thanked him for everything he has done. He also thanked Mrs. Veilleux for being on the committee and keeping the district moving in the right direction

d. Textbook Recommendations

Mrs. Carmody referenced the English Anthology book and could not believe that the cost to rebind this text would be that much. Mrs. Smith shared that Mrs. Hackett has been working on this project daily by communicating with publishers and gathering information. As the information came to Mrs. Smith, she forwarded it to the committee. The edition that she wanted to purchase did not come in hard cover. To pursue additional options, staff needed more time. There is a discrepancy in the cost that they are working to get answers. Mrs. Carmody stated that we rebind books every year. She believes that the soft cover book will have to be replaced at the end of the year. Mrs. Goralski shared that he would not vote to purchase any soft cover books and agreed that the Board should spend a little extra money for something that will give the district four or five years. He wondered what the average life span is of a bound book versus a soft cover book.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco shared that she was also on the committee and reviewed the texts. She felt that they would be setting up the students for failure when the book doesn't last. At the end of the year, the student would be responsible for paying for the book. She didn't feel it would be fair to the student and asked if they could approve the science texts instead. Mr. Goralski agreed that they should do an overall motion and list the books that they are going to approve.

Mr. Oshana asked what book they are currently using and Mrs. Smith shared that it is a different version of the Norton Anthology which is a hard cover book. She further stated that there is time to research further. She stated that, as she was asked questions, she got the answers. She also believes that, when the policy is adopted for bring your own device, they will have a program in place for electronic opportunities that may not exist right now. That is the preferred way of the staff; however, we cannot adequately recommend that because we don't have a policy that is guiding them.

Dr. Erardi began to summarize the conversation by stating that, what the Board is concluding is correct. A soft cover book is a one-year consumable and that is the way it would be presented to the student body. The cost analysis that was presented is that the cost is doubled when you add the cost of binding the book. Mrs. Smith interjected that after further questioning, she needed to have additional time to further research these questions. Dr. Erardi recommended to the Board that they hold off on approving the soft cover textbooks and allow the administration to return to them on June 14 with the best information.

Mr. Goralski stated that, when they make the motion, remove the books that contain soft covers and vote on the remaining. They would like to give the administration the opportunity to do more research and return in June with the answers. In addition, he requested that, at all future meetings pertaining to textbooks, administration have additional staff present to assist with answering the questions.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco thanked Ms. Dale Riedinger for her efforts with the texts, especially the one that the committee struggled with, and she took the extra time to work through the committee's issues.

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

“Move to approve the purchase of the following textbooks: Jane Eyre, Visualizing Earth Science, Campbell Essential Biology with Physiology, Environmental Science for AP, Modern Chemistry, Stats: Modeling the World, Stats in Your World, Tonal Harmony With An Introduction To Twentieth Century Music.”

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

e. Homework Policy ~ First Reading

Mrs. Clark explained that they had a Policy and Personnel Committee Meeting on Monday, May 21, 2012 which is why they had the items sent electronically that day and a hard copy delivered at their meeting. It was a true collaboration between the committee and administration to get this done.

Mrs. Carmody stated that the work done was done very well and the committee did a great job. She wondered if they could make homework part of the students' grade. Mrs. Smith shared that they have had extensive conversation about this, particularly at the high school. That is why there is a statement in the regulation indicating that guidelines for homework in Grades 9-

12 are currently under development. They could have come up with minutes, but it was the quality of the homework and the consistency that is still under discussion. Until they have a report from the high school on all the initiatives that are currently underway, they wanted to postpone having that level of discussion for regulation purposes. The Board of Education can choose to make suggestions, but, if it doesn't match the learning that is happening in the school and the expectations, then they would be revisiting that regulation every six months. Regulations can and should include clarity of thought relative to the value of homework, but there is quite a bit of debate about the purpose of homework.

Mr. Goralski stated that this is the first reading. If anyone has any thoughts, ideas, or suggestions before the next meeting, they are asked to send them to Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Smith with a copy to Mrs. Passamano. If there are not any changes before the next meeting, Mr. Goralski asked that they not include a paper copy of this policy and regulation with the June 14, 2012 packet. He would like to see a cover sheet only, unless there are changes. This is an effort to continue with their support of paperless meetings.

Mrs. Lombardi stated that homework is different using technology and that the context of the policy is that it's referring to paper. She didn't believe that the same amount of time would be taken if the student is using electronic devices. Mr. Oshana stated that they did talk about this and part of it is the project work that will include research. Research will still have to be done, but will most likely be done online. He did not think that technology will have any effect at all. Mrs. Lombardi asked if someone could take a look at that component and if there is a different policy when you are looking at a technology environment. Mrs. Smith mentioned that the suggested homework procedure and timeline that is referenced is part of the regulation, not policy. This chart should be used as a guideline for parents. Prior to including those guidelines in the regulation, Mrs. Smith received input from the school principals and coordinators. She agreed that they will revisit this topic. Dr. Erardi stated that he is aware of two public school districts, New Canaan in Connecticut and Burlington Public Schools in Massachusetts, and the administration will check with both those districts to see if they made adjustments to their policies.

Mr. Goralski stated that the second reading will take place at the next meeting and reminded the Board that the policy will be voted on at that meeting. Any additional questions should be addressed to Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Smith with a copy to Mrs. Passamano prior to that meeting. His expectation is that the Board will vote on the policy at that meeting. Mrs. Clark also reminded the Board that they are only voting on the policy, not the regulation.

f. AFSCME Contract

Mrs. DiNello happily reported that the AFSCME contract was ratified by the union. The union overwhelmingly supported the contract and she hoped that the Board would take action on this agenda item.

Mr. Goralski stated that he would abstain from this vote because of his role as an AFSCME member. Should a tie occur, he would then cast a vote.

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

“Move to approve the tentative agreement between the Southington Custodial, Maintenance, Secretarial, and Food Service Union (AFSCME, Local 1303 of Council #4) and the Southington Board of Education.”

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Queen, Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Johnson. ABSTAIN – Mr. Goralski. **Motion carried with seven in favor and one abstention.**

Mr. Goralski thanked Mrs. DiNello for her work. It was a long, collaborative process and he also thanked the members of AFSCME. When you work mutually, together, and collaboratively as it was done, you come to a working relationship to move the district forward. Everyone is valuable and he is pleased that they worked together.

g. Reallocation/Adoption of 2012-2013 Operating Budget

Mr. Goralski began by stating that the nine Board Members had a vision and they presented the vision as a group. The team worked together and everyone involved in the process, helped the process. This budget has the least reduction that he has seen in the nine years he has served on the Board of Education. Any reduction challenges them, but they are pleased with what they have in front of them. Dr. Erardi shared that he was pleased to report that all staff will be returning and, with that being said, their proposal did not include any additional reduction in force. They had a flurry over the past two weeks which allowed them to make the proposal to the Board of retiring teachers or staff members that, for personal reasons, will be leaving the district. Dr. Erardi stated that Mrs. DiNello does exceptional work and asked that she share with the Board a line item analysis of how they propose to reduce the budget by \$215,000.

Mrs. DiNello stated that the process was different as they went through the allocation and she believed that it was mainly because of the budget that was originally proposed and the staff cuts that they had at the start of the process. She believes that the Board had a clear understanding as to what it was going to look like as far as enrollment and class sizes moving forward. She was proud to report that the reallocation plan she presented did not have any additional reductions or impact within the classrooms. Ms. DiNello referenced an attachment that she distributed to the Board (Attachment #2) which outlined their reductions.

They did benefit from the additional realized savings from additional turnover that they received since the budget adoption in January which are listed on her attachment under the title of *Salaries*. With the retirements, there are additional savings, above and beyond, what they anticipated from the savings that they would have had from layoffs of the least senior staff.

Purchased Services included conversation during the budget process about fire protection fees that were going away which saved close to \$5,000. Also, revisiting the cost of water and sewer, there was not an increase in the water rates for the next year.

When reviewing Contracted Custodial Services, they are fortunate that all agreed to hold their prices for next year and, therefore, they were able to reduce in the 2012-2013 budget the anticipated increase that was budgeted in the fall.

There are savings with the printing expenses. Because more work is being done online, they anticipate a reduction in print materials throughout the 2012-2013 school year.

There had been conversation about the funds that they are saving from the six months of rent at North Center School; they hope to bring a Purchase Plan to the Finance Committee at their meeting on June 4, 2012. By doing so, that would allow the school district to purchase the textbooks that the Board approved that evening. It would also allow them to back-fill what they believe to be a shortage in the Special Education Tuition account based on projections they had last fall. Mrs. DiNello is very proud of the reallocation plan that was presented.

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

“Move that the Board of Education adopt the 2012-2013 Operating Budget.”

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

Mr. Goralski thanked Mrs. DiNello for her leadership, her vision, and her communication with the other entities of town government, the Board of Education, and the media.

His biggest thank you was to the Board of Education faculty. They proposed a reduction of work force and the faculty stayed positive, united, and they did not splinter or split. He believes that some teachers announced retirement that were not comfortable doing so. There were also young teachers who were fearful, yet worked hard and continued to be great teachers. That is because of the leadership team of the administration. He thanked Mrs. Hunt for fielding the calls throughout this budget season and made the faculty comfortable during the process.

Mr. Goralski will share a document with the press and he circled the North Center Rental Savings and how they hope to apply that amount. The certified staff currently in place in Southington Public Schools shows that they have 565 FTEs. In 2012-2013, it shows them having 551 FTEs. That is a reduction of 14 staff. He asked that the administration send the document to the media electronically so that the community knows that is where they lost staff. It shows that there are 14 fewer teachers in Southington, but this was without layoffs. That is where he is most proud.

Mrs. Queen shared how happy she is that people are not losing their jobs. They weren't sure what was going to happen, but it worked out very well.

Mrs. Lombardi stated that she is proud to sit on the Board of Education and the work that they collectively accomplished. She hopes that they can also get the class sizes where they would like them to be.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked when they will be seeing a 'sneak-peek' of the class sizes. She asked if this would be discussed at the next meeting. Dr. Erardi shared that historically, though Mrs. Smith's office, they collect data weekly, as it changes weekly. They will bring back to the Board the most valid data that the administration can bring forward at the July meeting. They will certainly keep the Board updated through the weekly update, but he feels strongly that the first conversation needs to be in July.

- h. Compensation for 2012-2013 Unaffiliated Employees (After Executive Session) ~ Discussion and Direction**
- i. Evaluation of Superintendent of Schools 2011-2012 (After Executive Session)**

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR UPSEU PARAPROFESSIONAL NEGOTIATIONS, COMPENSATION FOR 2012-2013 UNAFFILIATED EMPLOYEES AND EVALUATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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

“Move that the Board go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of UPSEU Paraprofessional Negotiations, Compensation for 2012-2013 Unaffiliated Employees and Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session to complete the agenda.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Passamano

Recording Secretary
Southington Board of Education

**SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

EXECUTIVE SESSION
MAY 24, 2012

Mr. Brian Goralski, Board Chairperson, called the Executive Session to order at 9:50 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Mr. David Derynoski.

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

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

“Move that the Board go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of UPSEC Paraprofessional Negotiations, Compensation for 2012-2013 Unaffiliated Employees and Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session to complete the agenda.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mrs. Smith and Mrs. DiNello left the Executive Session at 10:15 p.m.

Dr. Erardi left the Executive Session at 11:05 p.m.

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

“Move that the Board return to public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The board reconvened public session at 11:34 p.m.

8. NEW BUSINESS

h. Compensation for 2012-2013 Unaffiliated Employees ~ Discussion and Direction

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

“Move that the compensation increases for unaffiliated employees be awarded on a 0% to 3.0% scale, using the funds available in the 2012-2013 Board of Education budget and based on a performance evaluation by the Superintendent of Schools.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

i. Superintendent’s Evaluation 2011-2012

Mr. Goralski stated that the Board of Education would release a statement to the press and to the public representing the Board’s tremendous appreciation for the work that the Superintendent, Dr. Joseph Erardi, has accomplished for Southington. Dr. Erardi was evaluated on the goals that he shared with the Board and the public.

Mr. Goralski stated that the Board has found that Dr. Erardi met or exceeded expectations in all measurable areas. The Board continues to recognize Dr. Erardi’s effective leadership in all areas of his work and acknowledged that he has once again accomplished the impressive yearly goals set forth for the 2011-2012 school year. The Board continues to greatly value Dr. Erardi’s leadership, strong fiscal management, integrity, and dedication to our schools. Through his outstanding communication skills and active involvement within the community, he has established a level of trust with school staff and community members that have allowed Southington Public Schools to continue to move forward and remain focused on meeting the needs of all students.

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Board adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jill Notar-Francesco, Secretary
Southington Board of Education