

SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT

REGULAR MEETING

MAY 26, 2011

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, May 26, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the J. A. DePaolo Middle School Cafeteria, 385 Pleasant Street, Southington, Connecticut.

Dr. Erardi recognized the Fourth Annual 2011 *Profiles in Professionalism Award* recipients 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, a gerber daisy for the ladies and a box of chocolates for the men. The honorees were:

Zoe Backus, LPN, Southington High School
Bette Ann Bailey, Volunteer, DePaolo & Kennedy Middle Schools
Scott DePaolo, Building Substitute, Derynoski Elementary School
Susan Euley, Payroll Supervisor, Central Office
Jeffrey Duquette, School Psychologist, Kelley & Plantsville Elementary Schools
Maria Gazaferi, Math Tutor, Thalberg Elementary School
Sally Kamerbeek, Principal, South End Elementary School
Nancy LeBlanc, Kindergarten Teacher, Strong Elementary School
Christopher Longo, Maintenance Tech II
Mary Beth Moleski, Guidance Secretary, Southington High School
Marion Stannard, Agriculture Science & Technology Dept. Chair, Southington High School
Louise Torvinen, Paraprofessional, Southington High School
Janet Zesut, Volunteer, Flanders Elementary School

Refreshments were served in the courtyard, which was remodeled by Andrew White as his Eagle Scout project. The DePaolo Middle school concert strings provided entertainment.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:55 p.m. by Chairperson, Mr. Brian Goralski. Board members present were Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mrs. Rosemarie Fischer, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Patricia Queen and Mrs. Kathleen Rickard. Absent was Mr. David Derynoski.

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

Student Representative present was Christopher Amnott.

There were approximately 142 individuals in the audience.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Amnott led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ May 12, 2011

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

“Move to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 12, 2011.”

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

4. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience

There was no communication from the audience.

b. Communications from Board Members and Administration

Communication from the Board Members:

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

“Move to revise the agenda by moving Agenda Item 7.a (Textbook Recommendations) to Agenda Item 5.d and moving Agenda Item 7.b (Presentation of Curricular Review) to Agenda Item 5.e.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco reported that she attended the J. F. Kennedy Middle School Award Ceremony. She stated that it was wonderful to see the number of students on the stage who received academic awards. She congratulated the students and their families for all their hard work. She also attended the Southington High School Art Exhibit and stated how fortunate Southington is to have such talented artists. She felt that the district was very fortunate to have the arts. When she went to San Francisco for the NSBA Conference, there were many districts that had lost their arts and music programs. Mrs. Notar-Francesco shared that she also attended the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts to see “Anything Goes.” Jessie Davidson, a sophomore at Southington High School and half-day arts student, had the lead. She noted that Domenic Pellegrini, a full time student at the Academy, who is from Southington, also performed and they both did a superb job on the show.

Mrs. Queen echoed Mrs. Notar-Francesco on the Art Exhibit and was completely impressed. She reported that yesterday was the Foreign Language Awards and Foreign

Language Honor Society inaugural induction at Southington High School. There were a number of students acknowledged for their placement on the various language state and national exams. She quoted a speaker from the Foreign Language Honor Society induction who said, *"Speak to someone in a language they understand and you speak to their head. Speak to someone in a language that is their mother tongue and you speak to their heart."* Mrs. Queen thought that this was a great quote. She noted that the speaker not only spoke to the cognitive benefits of learning a foreign language, but to the global and overarching ideal goal of world peace.

Mrs. Johnson stated that this was a busy time for Board members and that they enjoy the opportunities to attend all the concerts and award nights. She noted that she attended the Art Exhibit and the Kennedy Middle School vocal and instrumental concerts and thought that they were outstanding. She stated that the Southington High School Foreign Language Chair, Dr. Alexandru, was the Director of Le Grand Concours, which is a statewide organization of teachers of French. The Grand Concours awarded certificates of excellence to French students from throughout the state. She was impressed that one of the speakers was a representative from the French Counsel who was the Director of the Yale Center for French.

Mrs. Clark reported that last weekend South End School put on four sold out performances of "High School Musical Junior." Normally, on Friday afternoon the performance is just for the students, but this year they had both students and invited grandparents. There were 70 to 80 grandparents for a cast of 86 students.

Mrs. Carmody complimented Dottie Fontana and William Chisholm who make the delicious refreshments at Southington High School for the events that the Board attends.

Mr. Goralski reported that CABA (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education) sent him a letter asking the Board to become a member. He noted that it continues to be costly to participate in that association. He asked Dr. Erardi to send a copy of the letter to the Board members. Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked what CABA delineates as the benefits for joining their association. Mr. Goralski replied that there were many benefits including policy and negotiations that are things the Board is able to do through the quality of Central Office administration and the Board's legal counsel.

Mr. Goralski announced that the Board of Education was cancelling the June 23, 2011 meeting because it conflicts with graduation. There will only be one meeting in June.

Communication from Administration:

Dr. Erardi pointed out that Mrs. Clark was the producer and innovator behind the High School Musical Junior production at South End Elementary School and congratulated her for a job well done.

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

1. Derynoski Principal: Dr. Erardi reported that the selection of the Derynoski Elementary School Principal will be on June 14 at Hatton School starting at 6:00 p.m. (not 6:30 p.m.) with interviews starting at 6:30 p.m.

2. American Association of School Administrators (ASAA) Position Statement: Dr. Erardi stated that he was fortunate to be one of two representatives in the State of Connecticut to be a part of federal legislation and to have the opportunity to share their thoughts, as Superintendents, with Washington. They have taken a very strong position with No Child Left Behind (NCLB) asking for the immediate relief from NCLB for next year.

3. CREC Executive Council - 2011-2012 Slate of Officers: Dr. Erardi announced that Jill Notar-Francesco, who has represented the School Board and the community for a number of years, was elected as the Vice-Chair of the CREC Council for 2011-2012. He congratulated Mrs. Notar-Francesco.

4. Standards Based Report Cards: Dr. Erardi reported that this letter has been shared with all elementary school parents and that it was posted on the school district website. He noted that Sally Kamerbeek (Principal of South End Elementary School) coordinated the committee over the past two years. To refine and bring to close the district's standards based report cards, the committee listened to parents who have commented, advocated and lobbied for teacher comments on the report card. He noted that this will take place as students take their report cards home on the last day of school.

5. United Way: Dr. Erardi reported that the United Way National Day of Action, June 21, 2011, is an added partnership with United Way. Four of our elementary schools will have representatives from United Way reading to children in many different grade levels.

6. Southington Remembers 9/11: Dr. Erardi reported that this was a follow-up requested by the School Board. He has been in touch with the organizers of Southington Remembers 9/11, who will commemorate the 10-year anniversary on Sunday, September 11. He will share more information with the Board about the vision of this committee as they progress towards September.

7. Superintendent's Contract and

8. Superintendent's Goals 2010-2011: Dr. Erardi reported that items #7 and #8 deal with the Superintendent's Goals and Objectives for 2010-2011 and compensation for 2011-2012. Annually, he presents to the School Board, in advance, his goals and objectives. He hoped that the Board would be comfortable in conversation with those goals and taking action on June 9. The compensation for the Superintendent for 2011-2012 will be discussed later in the agenda regarding the reallocation and adoption of the 2011-2012 operating plan. He thought that it was vitally important that any school leader, or anyone who is in charge of an organization, stands in front of it and not behind it. He pointed out that nearly all the bargaining groups have agreed to freezes during the past three years. He noted that the Southington Administrators Association will do so once again. This means that in the past three years they have been frozen for one and one-half years. When he and the Board negotiate an extension to the Superintendent's contract, he will be requesting and settling on a zero percent raise for 2011-2012.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco noted that the 6:00 p.m. Derynoski Principal interviews were changed from 6:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Dr. Erardi stated that the first interview would be at 6:30 p.m. The Board confirmed that 6:00 p.m. was a good time for them with the first interview at

6:30 p.m. Mrs. Rickard announced that she would not be able to attend due to a prior commitment.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco thanked Dr. Erardi for the freeze on his salary once again. This puts a freeze on his salary for a total of two years. As much as she does not like it, she was greatly appreciative of this, and felt that it shows what he gives back to this community on a daily basis.

Mr. Goralski looked forward to Dr. Erardi's evaluation when the Board can share their belief in the great work that Dr. Erardi does in the district. He shared Mrs. Notar-Francesco's thoughts with regard to the salary freeze. He thanked Dr. Erardi on behalf of the community for continuing to be a great leader who leads.

c. Communication from Student Board Representative

Christopher Amnott reported the following:

- There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday in the East gym.
- Coach Drury is the new football coach at the high school.
- The Drama Club will present "A Night on Broadway" on May 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. Admission is free.
- Any juniors interested in running for class officer positions next year can get the job application on the website.
- Yearbooks are available to buy for \$65 and can be purchased in the school library. Overstock 2009-2010 yearbooks can also be purchased for \$10.
- Seniors will receive their yearbooks during Period 8 on Thursday, June 2; underclassmen will receive yearbooks on Friday during homeroom.
- Class Night is Thursday, June 2 at the Oakdale Theatre and Class Day will be June 3.
- Unified Track had a meet yesterday that was successful.
- The Senior Prom was Saturday, May 21.
- Mr. Amnott wished the veterans and servicemen a nice Memorial Day weekend.

Mr. Goralski asked Mr. Amnott how the interviews were proceeding for his replacement. Mr. Amnott replied that the first round of interviews were held last week; however, he could not attend due to tennis. He would touch base with Dr. Semmel to discuss the candidates. Dr. Erardi pointed out that Mr. Amnott's last meeting with the Board would be on June 9.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting ~ May 17, 2011

Mrs. Carmody pointed out that items from this meeting would be discussed later in the agenda as items for the Board's review and approval.

b. Policy & Personnel Committee Meeting ~ May 20, 2011

Mrs. Fischer reported that the Policy and Personnel Committee met on May 20, 2011 and reviewed a number of items. She stated that Dr. Semmel attended the meeting to update the

committee on the procedures that were put in place to collect money for lost textbooks. Letters were sent to parents and students, so that there would not be any surprises, and there would be consequences if the money was not forthcoming, such as not being able to walk at graduation. She stated that the committee discussed the Wellness Policy Review with Dr. Erardi giving an overview on the committee's work. The work going forward is to contact the Board's attorney to receive some sample policies and regulations so the committee can draft a Wellness policy. She reported that the committee reviewed the Bullying Policy; Dr. Erardi discussed bullying and keeping up with the State of Connecticut current requirements. The committee will form a subcommittee to include Board members, administrators, teachers, parents and a representative from the Southington Police Department to work on the Bullying Policy Review to incorporate changes. Mrs. Fischer reported that the committee looked at Policy #1325, Public Gifts to Schools, and there was a question about threshold monetary values. She noted that Dr. Erardi surveyed other districts and she was surprised at the data collected. Dr. Erardi distributed a copy of the survey (*Attachment #2*). Mrs. Fischer reported that the committee discussed school volunteers and that, for the start of the 2011-2012 school year, Dr. Erardi will convene the administration to look at their practices to ensure consistency on recording school volunteers.

c. Finance Committee Meeting ~ May 19, 2011

Mrs. Clark reported that the Finance Committee met on Thursday, May 19, 2011.

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

"Move to renew the Oak Hill Lease for the 2011-2012 school year, with a 5% increase."

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

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

"Move to approve the YMCA 2011-2012 rates, as presented."

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

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

"Move to approve BID #2011-BID-16 for the Boiler Removal and Replacement at Derynoski Elementary School, as presented, with the Bid Award communicated via e-mail."

Mrs. DiNello stated that the proposed funding for this project is coming from the Student Based Supplemental Grant that the Board of Education will be receiving in the amount of \$128,809. This is the second year that the School Board is receiving this grant. The purpose was to make sure that the State met their requirements for funding special education. What they have traditionally done to fund the grant is move some of the revenues on the town side. This year, the town was the aware that those adjustments would be made. She noted that the Finance

Committee was proposing that the School Board bring the request for an appropriation of \$128,809 to the Board of Finance and Town Council and request that the Board of Education receive the appropriation of this grant to directly pay for this boiler project during the summer of 2011. The money belongs to the Board of Education; however, the Finance Committee is asking to allow the town to take the revenues and then appropriate it back to the Board of Education next year to fund this item. The funding is contingent on this bid. Mr. Goralski asked if the Board members who made the motion would stipulate to amend the motion to allow for that process to take place as described.

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

“Move to approve BID #2011-BID-16 for the Boiler Removal and Replacement at Derynoski Elementary School, as described above, with the Bid Award communicated via e-mail.”

Mr. Goralski stated that, if this motion passes this evening, he would draft the letters with Mrs. DiNello’s office requesting the appropriation and the process described. He felt that the process was very similar to the rental process. He thought that this was a very creative way of addressing a very serious capital need within the schools.

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

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

“Move to approve the Apple Equity Lease, as presented.”

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

Mr. Goralski thanked Mrs. Karen Veilleux [Technology Director] for the creative way that she has been replacing the computers in the schools.

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

“Move to approve the 2010-2011 Purchasing Plan, as presented.”

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

Mr. Goralski thanked the Finance Committee for their hard work.

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

“Move to approve Facility Use Charges and Long-term Use Charges, as presented, along with modification to the language in Section D.”

Mrs. Johnson asked for an explanation of this complicated issue. Mrs. DiNello replied that throughout the year the Board has been making some changes to the Use of Facility charges.

Based on a recommendation from committee members, they wanted to revisit the Facility Use charges to break out the specific fields at Southington High School, middle schools, and Derynoski. The Board had a modification of the charges in front of them, specifically for the JV baseball field because the committee did not feel that it should be at the same pricing level as the high school. The fields at the high school are more expensive to use than the middle schools and Derynoski because there is more time, effort and money put into those fields. She felt that it may be somewhat of a deterrent, but the committee wanted to have the rental fee available for those who were interested. She noted that the second page breaks out the charges on an hourly basis because administration has been approached by different organizations that were looking to use the fields for a season or to run long-term clinics within the school buildings. The committee felt that it was important to have an hourly use charge, so that, if a league or a team contacted Mr. Cox for a long-term rental, they would be able to be charged based on the hourly use versus a full-day use of the field that they may only be using for two hours.

Mrs. DiNello pointed out that the last adjustment came out of continued conversations with the Finance Committee throughout the year regarding whether individuals or organizations that are looking to use the fields should be paying a rental fee if they are not operating for profit. The committee discussed what the not-for-profit status meant. Oftentimes, people use the term “not-for-profit” and they mean not operating for profit, and they may also mean someone who has actually gone through the process of getting the proper certification and the 501(c)(3) designation. The committee’s thought was that they would work specifically with the Park Board, which was a discussion from a joint meeting held with representatives from the town Park Department, the Park Board, Eric Swallow, Fred Cox and Dr. Erardi to come up with a process where their office would actually be the determining factor on whether or not the organization or team was operating for profit. They were not looking for them to have an actual not-for-profit status; however, if the group basically raised revenues to cover the costs of their program to break even, they would anticipate that the Park Board would be sharing with them that those groups could have a rental fee waived. The School Board would only be charging fees for reimbursement for costs whether that is maintenance, custodial, lights, and those specific costs that the school system is absorbing. Mrs. DiNello stated that they want to be good community partners to the taxpayers that are trying to benefit the students and children of Southington.

Mr. Goralski acknowledged the space constraints in the schools with the Parks and Recreation programs, and he felt that this was an excellent opportunity. He appreciated the work of the administration in building this collaboration and developing this system for the many different ways Southington students are being allowed to participate in different sports activities on the school grounds.

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

d. Textbook Recommendations (formerly Agenda Item 7.a)

Mrs. Carmody thanked the teachers for the hard work that they put into selecting textbooks and the excellent presentations that they gave. She asked if the Board wanted her to go through each textbook. Dr. Erardi replied that the fidelity of the meeting that Mrs. Carmody was alluding to was amazing. He stated that the presenters were prepared, the textbook was relevant, and he believed that the committee would be comfortable with one motion endorsing

their work with all textbooks. Mrs. Carmody agreed that her committee would be comfortable with one motion for all textbooks.

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

“Move that the Board of Education approves the purchase of the textbooks that are endorsed by the Curriculum and Instruction Committee.”

Mr. Goralski stated that traditionally he has one question and that is if the copyright dates are the most current available. The committee acknowledged that they were. Mrs. Notar-Francesco noted that the committee went through every single textbook; there was a question on one date that was rectified, so all copyright dates are current. Mr. Goralski acknowledged that former Board member Dr. Monti taught him about copyright dates.

Mrs. Johnson mentioned that, while these new science textbooks are costly, one interesting component of them was the availability of e-books so the students would be able to leave their books in their lockers, if they wish, and access the book online at home or in the Southington Library. Mrs. Carmody pointed out that all the textbooks were available at the meeting if anyone wanted to look at them.

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

e. Presentation of Curricula Review (formerly Agenda Item 7.b)

Mrs. Carmody reported that the curricula review was for Technology Education and Commercial Construction. She stated that Justin Mirante (Technology Department Chair at the high school) did a wonderful job on this. She noted that he gave an interesting presentation on the skills that industries want the students to have and what the high school is offering. She noted that the enrollment in this program has increased. She stated that the entire Curriculum and Instruction Committee was pleased with the success of the program, the success of Project-Lead-the-Way and the presentation. Mrs. Carmody remarked that she had asked Mr. Mirante if there were any girls enrolled in that class, and the answer was no. Dr. Erardi commented that he had asked if any boys were enrolled in the Early Childhood Program, and the answer was no.

Dr. Erardi stated that Mrs. Carmody was correct with the Technology Education presentation because that was presented at the last committee meeting, but they held all of the reviews including Anatomy and Physiology, Ecology, Social Studies and Gifted and Talented for this evening. He felt that these curricula should all be looked at individually for motions because of their depth and breadth.

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

“Move that the Board of Education accepts the Technology Education, Commercial Construction curricula.”

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

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

“Move that the Board of Education accepts the Anatomy and Physiology curricula.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move that the Board of Education accepts the Ecology curricula.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move that the Board of Education accepts the Social Studies, Grades 1-5 curricula.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move that the Board of Education accepts the Social Studies, Grades 6-8 curricula.”

Mrs. Johnson was very impressed that the social studies curriculum from grade one all the way through the high school was receiving attention. She stated that there was continuity with the social studies committee. She noted that the committee was very careful to look at all the different areas that each of the grade levels were studying and made many recommendations as to what might be duplicated and what might be better served in a different grade. She was very impressed with this collaboration among all of the grade levels. Mrs. Carmody noted that there would be articulation meetings that would continue.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move that the Board of Education accepts the Gifted and Talented New Program Curricula Proposal.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mrs. Carmody stated that the committee sincerely thanks all the teachers and administrators for their excellent presentations. They answered questions and presented the committee with a wealth of information and showed differentiated instruction and 21st Century Skills. She stated that the Board should be proud of what the students are getting in the Southington school system.

Mr. Goralski thanked the Curriculum Committee because the teachers do the work, but the Curriculum Committee comprised of Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Notar-Francesco,

and Mrs. Queen, who has attended all the meetings, read all the work cover to cover. It is not just rubber-stamped.

Mrs. Rickard asked if the committee came up with a new name for the Gifted and Talented Program. Dr. Erardi replied that it was a work in progress.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

Mr. Goralski stated that the middle school proposal that the School Board is looking to move forward to the referendum process will go before the Town Council meeting on June 13.

Mrs. Johnson mentioned that the School Board received an e-mail from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities alerting them to an unfunded mandate that passed the House of Representatives yesterday and was scheduled for the Senate today. She read the following note that she sent to Senator Markley, *"Please oppose and delete Section 28 of House Bill 6650. This is an unfunded educational mandate requiring Boards of Education to pay for education services provided for students incarcerated in juvenile detention facilities who would have normally attended school in their district. This mandate is too large to simply 'pass and workout' some other time. I do not speak for the entire Southington Board of Education at this time, but as a member of 20 years standing, I do have some insight on this issue. Thank you for your consideration."* She acknowledged that she received a response from Senator Markley very quickly. The response read, *"Pat, thanks for getting in touch. I hope that all the Senators are hearing about this. I will do my best to get this out of the bill. These last minute surprises are the worst part of the legislative process. Joe."* Mrs. Notar-Francesco stated that she sent a similar note to Senator Markley.

Mr. Goralski noted that he received the same e-mail today and Senator Markley responded to him within five minutes. Mr. Goralski was very happy that Senator Markley was responsive to the needs the Board has in the community.

b. Construction Update

Mr. Cox reported that, since the last Board meeting, things have been quiet. Right now, they are focusing on the air conditioning and ventilation systems. They have not been able to put it to the test due to the weather conditions during the last couple of weeks. He noted that, with the weather forecast for next week, they will have the opportunity to test it and he will update the Board at their next meeting.

c. Kindergarten Extended Day Program

Dr. Erardi reported that Assistant Superintendent-elect Karen Smith would be presenting the Kindergarten Extended Day Program to the School Board on June 9 with a complete report from the committee to bring this from committee to practice for next year.

d. Curriculum Initiative ~ ALTA Presentation

Dr. Erardi stated that Mr. Jesse Levin [Director of ALTA] and an ALTA student were in attendance to share an update with the School Board.

Mr. Levin thanked the Board and Dr. Erardi for inviting him to speak. He noted that a student was going to speak. He wanted to touch on a few key points and stated that ALTA will be ending the school year with 57 students enrolled. They are looking to graduate 17 seniors this year, which is the largest graduating class at ALTA. They are continuing to develop, in conjunction with the Board of Education, Dr. Erardi and Dr. Semmel, the tuition initiative for bringing students from other districts. They currently have one tuition student who is graduating successfully and the sending district, Plainville, has been very pleased with her progress. They are continuing to network with other districts and have several other perspective candidates for next year. He stated that one of the reasons for the continued increase in enrollment was the seamless the relationship with the high school administration in bringing students to ALTA who need an alternative setting.

Mr. Levin spoke to the ALTA Curriculum Initiative for 2010-2011. Last summer, one of his main goals was to give ALTA an identity as far as curriculum. They are using science to drive the curriculum at ALTA partly because of the multi-faceted combination of the quantitative portion, literacy portion and the hands-on portion of science, which is working very well for the students. He noted that it was also creative enthusiasm in other content areas as well. He planned to continue with that and also work on the life skills curriculum, which is such a crucial part of what they are doing at ALTA over the summer. He will also continue working on developing half-credit courses in all content areas for students who need credit recovery coming from either Southington High School or other districts. Mr. Levin reported that it has been a fantastic year. He introduced one of the graduating seniors, Lance Hammell, who will talk about his journey to, from and through ALTA.

Mr. Lance Hammell, an ALTA student who will be graduating this year, thanked the Board of Education, Dr. Erardi and Dr. Semmel for inviting him to speak. He wanted to talk about how he initially came to ALTA and why he stayed there. He found ALTA through his ninth grade guidance counselor and his sister, who originally attended ALTA. He attended ALTA because he got in trouble with his credits due to medical reasons. He noted that at first it was a little rocky because he did not know what to expect, but he ended up liking it. He really cherishes this program and supports it in every way. He stated that the teachers are amazing and the curriculum was well done. He has learned so many things in the short time that he has been in ALTA. He stated that he would not trade that for the world. He really liked how it was composed and hoped that, in the future, the program keeps running, with more students and a bigger building, and that it thrives. He stated that his academic progress has risen from straight F's to almost First Honors every single year. He stated that the teachers supported him, and the one-on-one time and dedication the teachers devote to all the students was very critical and gives it a family environment. He does not feel like he is in a regular school; it felt like a family. After graduation, his future plans are to go to college. He wants to be a chef and get a full-time job. He then wants to go to college to major in mechanical engineering and ballistic science and maybe work for the Department of Defense for weapons making. He loved the program and hoped that it continues.

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Goralski thanked Lance for sharing his experience with the Board of Education. He stated that it was an honor to the program that Mr. Hammell and his peers all have plans for the future. He thanked Mr. Hammell for sharing his story.

Mr. Levin thanked Mary Beth Noto [Special Education Coordinator] because he has worked side-by-side with her this year with many ALTA students and they have had many successes. He appreciated her knowledge, guidance and support of ALTA. He will miss her when she retires at the end of this year.

e. North Center School Project Update

Dr. Erardi reported that the Facility Advisory Committee will be meeting on June 6. He was pleased that the information to the realtors and commercial brokers had been mailed and they will be showing 49 Beecher Street on Friday and next week. They will have an update for the committee on June 6. They will also speak to the North Center School Project and the renovate-to-new DePaolo and Kennedy Middle School Projects.

f. Middle School Feasibility Study Update

Dr. Erardi reported that the updated timeline for the Board of Education was attached so that they are all current with dates and times. Mr. Goralski noted that the only change was that the Town Council meeting has now moved from May 23 to June 13.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Textbook Recommendations (Moved to Agenda Item 5.d)

b. Presentation of Curricula Review (Moved to Agenda Item 5.e)

c. Reallocation / Adoption of 2011-2012 Operating Budget

Mrs. DiNello distributed the 2011-2012 Superintendent's Recommendation for Operational Budget Reductions (*Attachment #3*). She pointed out that the Superintendent's Reallocation proposal was sent to the Board via e-mail on Monday. She thought that it was self-explanatory. She explained that the Board of Education originally requested a 1.95% increase and that the Town Council approved a \$79,614,662 budget. The Town Council's rationale was that they wanted the Board of Education to receive the Educational Jobs Fund grant directly and not have those revenues on the Town side as they had done with the ARRA funding. They reduced the Board of Education budget amount directly for that; however, the Board of Education will have those grant funds. In addition, through the Town Council's action, they also made an adjustment to the contribution for health insurance due to the reduction in administrative fees. She noted that the overall action was from the Board of Finance recommendation of the \$80,000 reduction. In the proposal, administration thought that it was important that they find a way to fund the Educational Technology Plan that was in the Property/Facility Maintenance section of the budget that was not funded. They needed to make additional cuts so they would be able to fund the new lease at Hatton School to continue a way to have a computer replacement cycle throughout the district.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco applauded Mrs. DiNello on that document and thought that it was very simple to go through. She supported everything on the budget reallocation list.

Mrs. Rickard thanked Mrs. DiNello for all the information prior to tonight's meeting.

Mr. Goralski thanked administration for their hard work this year. He pointed out that, following tonight's motion, the Board of Education will have a balanced budget moving forward and felt that they truly will be an example in the State of Connecticut for how to make good things happen in a bad economy.

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

“Move that the Board of Education adopt the 2011-2012 Operating Budget with reallocations.”

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

d. Artificial Turf: Partnership with Southington Park & Recreation Commission (Middle School Proposed Outdoor Space Constraints)

Mr. Goralski thanked the Southington Park and Recreation Commission for attending the meeting.

Dr. Erardi explained that the School Board received a number of informational updates on this issue. He stated that the beginning of this conversation took place two weeks ago when they spoke to the Educational Specifications and the Board had, for the first time, the visual of the renovate-to-new middle school projects. He publicly thanked Mr. Cox and Mr. Swallow for providing timely information for his office and for the Board of Education. He believed that every document that was forwarded to him was sent to the Board prior to this evening. Dr. Erardi explained that Mr. John Fontana, Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission, was at the meeting to share the thought and the present position of the Park and Recreation Commission on artificial turf and the replacement of the Southington High School track.

Mr. Fontana thanked the Board of Education for having him speak on behalf of the Park and Recreation Commission who were all in attendance except for Mr. Fasulo who was ill; they felt that this was a major support item. Mr. Fontana prefaced his remarks by stating that in his running the Coaches Association for the state, and in any coaching and teaching, there is always a plus and minus. In 1992, he was happy to be a part of the Sporting Goods Manufacturing Association for nine years that dealt with the safety of bats, balls and artificial turf. When it comes to turf, all the negative things that once took place are now all positive. He believes that this is one item that there is no negative anymore. You can take a turf field and run all the physical education programs in a day. There is no maintenance outside of running a machine over it every week. He has been working on this in Southington for five years to make this go through, and he and the Park Board did not think that there was a more important time, and it will help with the renovations of the middle school projects. He stated that the Park Board was happy to take that leadership knowing that, down the road, working with the Park Department and the high school athletic director, the events would be taken care of. The Park Department feels that, if this field was up and running, it should be exclusive to the Board of Education and the two middle schools to run their programs, as long as the referendum spells out that they are doing those two schools.

Mr. Fontana introduced Mr. Bob Thomas from Pro Grass to answer any questions on the turf. Mr. Goralski noted that the Board of Education has received information from Mr. Fontana over the last couple of weeks. Mr. Fontana stated that Mr. Thomas and his architects were the ones who designed the field and the track. Mr. Fontana stated that the Coaches Association has a special relationship with Pro Grass and the price, and what they will do on that field, is extraordinary.

Mr. Thomas stated that, aside from the field, it was a very impressive evening and that he was very impressed with the Board of Education's passion as a group for this community. He noted their due diligence with the curriculum and new textbooks, and he has that same passion because of his 22 years experience in higher education where he taught at Hiram College in Ohio. His point is that the Board really emphasizes quality in all that they do for the students, programs and community, and this is just another step. The difference is that the field classroom does not have heating or a roof, so all those costs are gone. What they are doing is providing the students in bands, physical education classes and sports with the best piece of equipment that they could have. He applauded the Board for all their efforts, and he hoped that they take into consideration that classroom that it rains and snows in.

Mrs. Queen was astonished to witness turf fields used in the month of March in which the snow is shoveled off and the fields were usable. She asked Mr. Thomas to speak to that. Mr. Thomas replied that field space is very important. He pointed out that Pro Grass did Meriden's field and built the entire facility including the lights and bleachers. He was very proud of that field. The Meriden people told him that the only month that they do not use the field is January. In February, it is in full usage. Mr. Thomas noted that, when he was at Meriden's field last night, there were renters coming on to use it. The turf field is something that could be used 12 months of the year. He stated that the snow can be removed and things that his company would provide if they were the vendor to provide this facility. More importantly is the value that it brings from a revenue generating opportunity. He noted that the second field the company did was in a small prep school in Michigan; they it made clear that the whole day it was used by the school only, and at the end of the day they rented it out. In the first year they were able to bring in \$60,000 in revenue and they were never allowed to have the lights on past 11:00 p.m., per ordinance.

Mr. Goralski asked for some information at the last meeting regarding the impact of construction at the middle schools and Fletcher Thompson sent the Board a great deal of information on that. Mrs. Johnson asked to address the Fletcher Thompson memorandum because she thought that the disruption of field use was something that the Board has to accept as a matter of course. She thought that during the school day the curriculum for physical education could be addressed indoors, as they do during the winter. She thought that there were other opportunities. If using the artificial turf as an impetuous because the fields at the middle schools would be utilized for staging, there are other areas that the sports programs at those schools could be using. From DePaolo, the boys and girls could walk to Memorial Park for baseball and softball, and the students at Kennedy could be bused in. She stated that this was the only issue that she wanted to discuss right now with regard to use of playing fields. She thought that it was an issue that was minor in the scheme of things, and she did not think that it was something that they really have to address with artificial turf to solve that problem.

Mrs. Rickard pointed out that the Park and Recreation Commission have been working on this project for five years. They have answered all the Board of Education's questions and

some of the Board's questions they have answered a few times. The Board of Education has been asked to form a partnership with other town boards in sending this project to referendum. She stated that, as a member of the Board of Education Facilities Committee that spent over a year working on a plan for North Center School, she was surprised and frustrated when the plan was delayed by the Planning and Zoning Commission, but they had questions that they needed answered to make an educated decision. She could respect that. In this instance, all of the Board of Education's questions have been answered, some a few times. This partnership is something that the Board needs to make the middle school renovation safe for the students. She did not agree with Mrs. Johnson that the students should be in the gym when it is a nice day and they could be outside. She felt that it would benefit all the youth in town. She strongly supports approving this partnership and allowing the ultimate decision to be made by the taxpayers in Southington. She did not want to be a member of a Board that holds up something that is going to benefit so many people in town.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked why something that is so important to the community was not included in the Board of Education Capital Plan. Mr. Goralski replied that no Board member put it in the Capital Plan because it typically is curriculum driven with the exception of safety issues, such as the parking lots. Dr. Erardi explained that the Board left off the turf conversation with the then State Attorney Richard Blumenthal's study. They had a moratorium in discussion in regard to safety components that Mr. Fontana just addressed. It was his recall that a very lengthy study was brought to close by Attorney Blumenthal and concluded that the artificial turf was equal to and, in some cases, safer than a natural grass field. It was not included in the Capital Plan presentation and the lack of the turf being a part of that plan was because they had placed a moratorium on that discussion two years ago in a joint meeting that was held in council chambers. Mrs. Notar-Francesco noted that the Attorney General's decision came about one year ago and the Board would have had ample opportunity to put it in the Capital Plan they just put together.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco stated that she was not in favor of putting this together with the middle schools. She felt that they had far greater needs in the district than artificial turf at this moment. She would have rather seen the Southington High School old VoAg classrooms get cleaned up and used as part of this plan instead of turf. She thought that there were things that they could be spending money on as a community for repairs and maintenance that outweigh this.

Mrs. Carmody agreed with Mrs. Notar-Francesco. She does not want to see it attached to the middle schools. She stated that the middle schools were a priority for her and that it has been a priority for the Board of Education for 15 years or more. She was leery that the voters would be upset that they put turf as part of the package with the middle schools. She also believed that there were other capital projects that take priority over the turf. She was not against the concept of the turf; she was against the concept of putting it on the referendum with the middle schools.

Mrs. Queen felt that turf would add value to the school system. In terms of cost, after the initial outlay, which the voters would agree or not agree to pursue, she looked at the cost savings on the field and it looked as if they would save \$30,000 a year. In 10-12 years, they may need to do a replacement, to a cost of about \$300,000. It is a \$30,000 savings times 10 years or maybe longer and about a wash in terms of what they can save in maintaining the fields. She felt that it would provide a revenue stream in terms of gate receipts. With the addition of a turf field, there is the ability to give flexibility with the field use in sports that cannot play in the evenings right

now. A lot of community members that come to the high school athletic contests in the evening cannot make a 3:45 p.m. game. She was astonished to see community members who come to these games in the evening because they are Blue Knight fans, not necessarily because they have a child whom they are watching. They come to support their community. She felt that it provided a source of great healthy entertainment and a place for students to congregate to support their classmates and the school spirit. She sees the fields as being somewhat overburdened right now at the high school, as well as the middle schools. They have two freshman soccer teams, boys and the girls, that walk from Southington High School to DePaolo Middle School to practice because there is no field space for them at the high school. She was not sure how they would be impacted when the middle school renovations take place, but she was sure that they would have problems with field space. Mrs. Queen asked if Mr. Swallow envisions the ability to put all the field sports athletic contests on the turf field and if it would be a scheduling issue.

Mrs. Queen noticed that, when attending athletic events at other schools that have turf fields such as Meriden, Newington, Simsbury and both the high schools in West Hartford, our student athletes are experiencing this athletic environment in the context of being the visiting team and never having experienced this at home. She noted that balls move differently on a turf field and, in addition, they are often set in a stadium setting with loud speakers and lights and our students are not accustomed to that. For these many reasons, she thought that a turf field at Southington High School would add value. She wanted to confirm that they would have the ability to schedule all of these contests.

Mr. Swallow, who was in the audience, replied that they would definitely have the flexibility to do that. Practices could start at 2:30 p.m. or 3:00 p.m., and games could start at 3:45 p.m. They can book and schedule the use of that facility on an ongoing basis and potentially get three contests in each day. They could run practices in conjunction from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. It would be his responsibility to schedule and coordinate the logistics of all uses of the teams. One important item to note is that currently some of the facilities are not at CIAC regulations, specifically, field hockey. If they do incur a home game for a tournament play, he has to move them off their normal regular season field to the soccer field or away.

Mrs. Rickard asked if with the renovation of the track would allow them to post track meets. Mr. Swallow replied that they currently have a six-lane track and the proposal is to recondition the six-lane track. They looked at adding two-lanes, which would be cost prohibitive. In order to host a conference meet, they would need eight lanes, and we currently have six lanes.

Mrs. Clark stated that she does not argue with anything that has been said positively about artificial turf. She cannot argue with the maintenance factor or the usability factor. The other day she saw her niece, who is a student at Boston University, in Meriden on the turf with her Seacoast Maine team. They rented the field and played against the Connecticut team with the revenue going to Meriden. She wholeheartedly supports a turf field. However, her problem is that the referendum is for the two middle school renovations that are desperately needed because they have two schools built for 650 students housing close to 800 students. To her, the turf field is a want, and the middle school referendum is a need. She does not want the two of them mixed as though they have equal importance because in her mind they do not. She does

not want something that is needed to be jeopardized by something that is wanted. While she is in favor of a turf field, she is not in favor of amending the original recommendation.

Mrs. Johnson applauded the passion of Mr. Fontana and members of the Park and Recreation Commission. She thought that it was admirable for people who have only the opportunity and advantage of students in mind to bring forth this kind of effort. Philosophically, she was not opposed to artificial turf. Like Mrs. Clark, her issue is financial and she was very concerned about the cost. She felt that it should not be married to any middle school referendum questions. While she supports it philosophically, she thought that the timing was not right for the finances. Next year, when the Board of Education comes before the town fathers with the budget presentation, they are looking at a \$1.6 million funding cliff. She stated that she was absolutely opposed to this.

Mrs. Rickard did not think that this was supposed to be a debate for turf or against turf. She explained that the Board has been asked to partner by another town commission who has worked very hard on this. She stated that the Town Council has asked the Board of Education to be the mediator step before this plan goes to them. She stated that she does not know all the work that they did and does not know the work that the Town Council is going to do, but she was not going to sit there and put a stop to everything that they have worked on for five years. She noted that the Board of Education asks other town departments to partner with them all the time.

Mr. Goralski stated that for eight years he has had the privilege of sitting on the Board of Education and for five of them he has heard Mr. Fontana and other people on the Park Commission such as Mr. LaPorte, Mr. Kanute, and Mrs. Palmieri, who are people he has known since his childhood, who have talked about the constraints of the Southington Parks system. For the eight years that he has sat on the Board, they have built partnerships. He stated that Dr. Erardi has made the School Board an example in the State of Connecticut for how to grow partnerships, such as the Southington Education Foundation. He noted that North Center School is the shining star of collaboration in this town and the School Board led that process. To him, the middle school project has needed to be done well before he served on the School Board and he looked forward to the opportunity to bring it to the community. Other elected boards have asked them to collaborate with the Park Commission to address their field needs in our community. He believes that there are serious concerns with loss of space. He noted that the architects shared with the Board their initial vision which impacts the extracurricular activities in the middle schools. They also spoke to the impact of construction on a work-around project and Board members have seen the impact on Thalberg, Hatton and Strong School when they worked around children. This opportunity to build a partnership with the Park Commission to address their need would directly address the Board's need to work around the students. Creative scheduling by Mr. Swallow would address the ability for those teams to compete at the high school. He noted that baseball can walk down the street to Memorial Park. Kennedy would be an added expense busing the athletes to play baseball and softball at Recreation Park. Soccer needs a soccer field as walking down the street to the high school is a reality. He was excited about the opportunity. Mr. Goralski stated that, if the Board moves forward with this partnership, they would have to amend their previous motion. They would have to send that to the Town Council for their ultimate decision about the referendum.

Mrs. Rickard stated that, since this was such an important decision that people have passionate feelings about, and, since Mr. Derynoski was not in attendance, she wanted to know if this was tabled until the next Board meeting if it gave the Town Council enough time to do what

they need to do. Mr. Goralski replied that the next Town Council meeting is on June 13 and the next Board of Education meeting is June 9.

Mr. Goralski stated that all the Board members received an e-mail from Mr. Derynoski at 5:26 p.m. today sharing his opinion with the Board. He explained that Mr. Derynoski was in California on business. Mr. Goralski read the e-mail. *"Brian, I am sending this e-mail as support for the turf project being planned for Southington High School for the football and track fields. It is my understanding that this project would be processed to run concurrently with the middle school projects and will also be supported by the Parks and Recreation Board. I am not able to attend tonight's meeting due to being out of town."*

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

"Move to table this item until the next Board meeting."

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Fischer, Mrs. Queen, Mrs. Rickard, Mr. Goralski.
NO – Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Carmody. **Motion carried with five in favor and three against.**

Mr. Goralski stated that this item is tabled until the Board's next meeting and he will send the appropriate correspondence to the Town Council.

- e. **Assistant Superintendent of Schools Contract 2011-2014**
- f. **Director of Operations Contract 2011-2014**

Mr. Goralski noted that Agenda Items 7.e and 7.f would be discussed in Executive Session.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PERSONNEL MATTERS, REAL ESTATE, STUDENT MATTER AND CONTRACTUAL DISCUSSIONS

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

"Move that the Board go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing Personnel Matters, Real Estate, Student Matters, and Contractual Discussions, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session to complete the agenda."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Blanchard

Recording Secretary

Southington Board of Education

**SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION
MAY 26, 2011**

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

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

Members Absent: Mr. David Derynoski.

Administration Present: Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Jr., Superintendent of Schools.

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

“Move that the Board go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing Personnel Matters, Real Estate, Student Matters, and Contractual Discussions, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session to complete the agenda.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move that the Board return to public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The board reconvened public session at 10:25 p.m.

7. NEW BUSINESS

e. Assistant Superintendent of Schools Contract 2011-2014

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

“Move to offer newly appointed Karen Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, a three-year contract beginning July 1, 2011, as presented by the Superintendent of Schools.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

f. Director of Operations Contract 2011-2014

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

“Move to renew the contract of Frederick Cox, Director of Operations, for three years beginning July 1, 2011, as presented by the Superintendent of Schools.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move to add to the agenda as Item 7.g. a stipend position for an assistant to the Director of Technology.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

g. Stipend Position for an assistant to the Director of Technology

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

“Move to approve a stipend position for an assistant to the Director of Technology.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move to add a student expulsion to the agenda.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PERSONNEL MATTERS, REAL ESTATE, STUDENT MATTER AND CONTRACTUAL DISCUSSION

a. Student Expulsion

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

“Move to expel student 2010-2011-23 from the Southington Public Schools as stipulated by the Superintendent of Schools.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

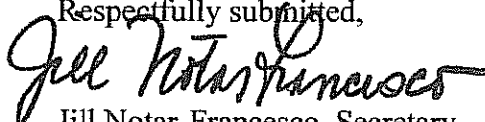
MOTION: by Mrs. Rickard, seconded by Mrs. Clark:

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Board adjourned at 10:32 p.m.

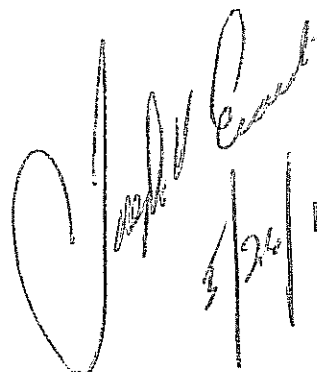
Respectfully submitted,



Jill Notar-Francesco, Secretary
Southington Board of Education

Administrative Report – May 26, 2011

1. DES Principal – Board Interviews – Tuesday, June 14th
Hatton – 6:00 p.m.
2. ASAA Position Statement – Relief from NCLB (attachment #1)
3. CREC Executive Council: 2011-2012 Slate of Officers (attachment #2)
 - a. Jill Notar-Francesco: Vice Chair
4. Standards Based Report Cards (attachment #3)
5. United Way – Day of Action: June 21, 2011 (attachment #4)
6. Southington Remembers: 9-11-01 (Attachment #5)
7. Superintendent's Contract - Salary Compensation: 2011-2012
8. Superintendent's Goals 2010-2011

A handwritten signature in dark ink, followed by the date 6/24/11.



May 24, 2011

TO: U.S. Secretary of Education
Members of Congress

Resolution Concerning Regulatory Relief for American's Schools

Whereas the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), currently known as No Child Left Behind, is more than three years overdue for reauthorization;

Whereas the current law is widely recognized as flawed and 'in need of improvement';

Whereas the current accountability requirements will result in more than three quarters of America's public schools being labeled as failing in the coming school year;

Whereas such a drastic misrepresentation of the accomplishments of America's public schools does more harm than good and undermines the hard work of millions of educators and students across the nation every day;

Whereas America's public schools and the students they serve deserve relief from the onerous regulations that are widely acknowledged to be both unfair and overly burdensome;

Whereas, in facing the challenge of implementing these complex regulations, school districts across the nation struggle with the rigidity of regulation and are forced to spend resources, both financial and human, on compliance rather than on teaching and learning;

Whereas it is increasingly unlikely that Congress will be able to complete full reauthorization before the 2011-12 school year and alleviate pressure from both current law and its related regulations;

Be it therefore resolved,

We, the undersigned, support reauthorization of the outdated ESEA legislation.

We urge—absent Congressional reauthorization—immediate regulatory relief for the 2011-12 school year, and any efforts to rescind or modify current regulations and alleviate undue pressure on the nation's schools.

We urge the Department of Education to exercise their regulatory authority to relieve school districts from the constraints of current statutes, keeping schools from being held hostage while Congress moves forward with complete reauthorization.

We request that this relief be straight regulatory relief, not waivers. Schools deserve straight regulatory relief, and not the additional requirements or conditions that often come with waivers.

We specifically support suspension of additional sanctions under current AYP requirements, effective for the 2011-12 school year. (Schools currently facing sanctions would remain frozen; no new schools would be labeled as 'In Need of Improvement' or subject to new or additional sanctions.)

Signed,

Daniel A. Domenech
Executive Director
American Association of School Administrators

Anne L. Bryant
Executive Director
National School Boards Association

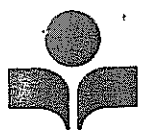
Date

Date

PLEASE NOTE:

AASA and NSBA invite other associations, school leaders and interested citizens to sign the petition online at:

<https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dGttMXRGZXVLT2FFQThKUkk4cHo2WkE6MQ>



CREC
Capitol Region Education Council

Bruce E. Douglas, Ph.D.
Executive Director

111 Charter Oak Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(860) 524-4063
Fax (860) 548-9924
www.crec.org

TO: CREC Representatives and Superintendents
FROM: Bruce E. Douglas, Ph.D.
DATE: May 12, 2011

CREC Annual Meeting
May 18, 2011
4:15 – 7:00 pm
CREC Central
111 Charter Oak Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

AGENDA

4:15-4:45 Registration and Reception
Division Exhibits – Council Room

5:00-7:00 ***Business Agenda***
A. Roll Call of Boards of Education
B. Distribution of Minutes from the 05/19/10 Meeting (Attachment A)
C. Nominating Committee Report (Attachment B)
 1. Election of Board of Directors
 2. Election of Officers
D. Leadership Budget: 2011-2012 (Attachment C)

Program Agenda

A. Welcome
B. Executive Director's Remarks
C. Chairperson Comments
D. Passing of the Gavel
E. Presentation - "CREC Schools: Route to Success"
F. Regional Routes Video
G. Presentation - "Saving Money, Adding Value, Cutting Costs"
H. Closing Remarks
I. Adjournment and Dinner

JOSEPH ERARDI

From: JOSEPH ERARDI
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2011 9:22 PM
To: JOSEPH ERARDI
Subject: Congratulations Jill Notar-Francesco

Board Members, Parent Council Leaders, and SPS Administrators –

Please join me in congratulating Jill as she was elected this evening by the CREC Council to serve as the 2011-2012 vice-chair within their Executive Board.

Well deserved.....

JE



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

BOARD OF EDUCATION

BRIAN S. GORALSKI
BOARD CHAIRPERSON

TERRI C. CARMODY
VICE CHAIRPERSON

JILL NOTAR-FRANCESCO
SECRETARY

COLLEEN W. CLARK

DAVID J. DERYNOSKI

ROSEMARIE MICACCI FISCHER

PATRICIA P. JOHNSON

PATRICIA A. QUEEN

KATHLEEN C. RICKARD

49 BEECHER STREET
SOUTHTON, CT
06489

WWW.SOUTHTONSCHOOLS.ORG

OFFICE TELEPHONE
(860) 628-3202

FAX
(860) 628-3205

SOUTHTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 2011

RE: Standards Based Report Cards

Dear Parents, Grandparents, and Guardians:

The present practice of the Southington Public School district is to conference with Grade K-5 parents twice during the school year. The final report card, which symbolically represents the close of the current year, is sent home with the student. This process will continue.

As you know, all elementary school educators have evaluated student work and outcomes by using the *Standards Based Report Card*. We asked for parent input with this evaluation tool and I want to thank so many of you for taking the time to share constructive thoughts that have been sent forward for committee consideration.

It was our intent to leave the report card intact for this school year and to make any subtle or significant changes for the 2011-2012 school year. However, we added, and will continue to add, teacher comments on the last report card of this year and for years to come. Teacher comments will appear on every June report card.

Finally, I thank all parents, grandparents, and guardians for working with us to refine this new format that was based on best practice and educational research.

You are an enormous part of our success formula as we continue to strive to make a positive difference in the life of every student. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Joseph V. Erardi, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

da/c/letters/standardbasedreport.wd



United Way of Southington

PRESS RELEASE

5/25/11

United Way of Southington Reads to our Youth

The United Way of Southington (UWS) will be participating in a nationwide United Way drive to engage 1,000,000 volunteers over the next 3 years in mentoring our youth. On Tuesday, June 21st volunteers, board members and staff will be in local elementary schools as guest readers. Lincoln College and Target have already volunteered readers. The goal of this "Day of Action" is to help improve the academic success of young people; a goal that UWS has been behind for years.

Guest readers can either bring in their own book or one will be provided. They can plan on spending about half an hour at school. Dr. Joseph Erardi, Superintendent of Southington schools said "our schools and our students are excited to partner with United Way. This United Way venture is an enormous win-win for all involved.....thanks to Carol Reilly for making this happen."

"With just 2 days left to the school year on June 21st, I think this will be a fun event to help break up end of school jitters. There is just nothing more important than reading with our youth when you think about it – almost everything you learn, you are reading about it. And, this event goes so well with our unofficial trademark – *We are Southington people helping Southington people.*" said Carol Reilly, Executive Director, UWS.

If you or a group you belong to is interested in being a guest reader, please contact Carol Reilly at the UWS office at 860-628-4565 for further information.

To donate to UWS, please mail your check to PO Box 546, Southington, CT 06489. And remember, if your company has United Way workplace giving, you can direct your money to go to UWS to help you, your friends and family by designating so on your form each fall.

May 25, 2011

**Dr. Joseph Erardi, Jr.
Superintendent, Southington Public Schools
Southington, CT 06489**

Dear Dr. Erardi,

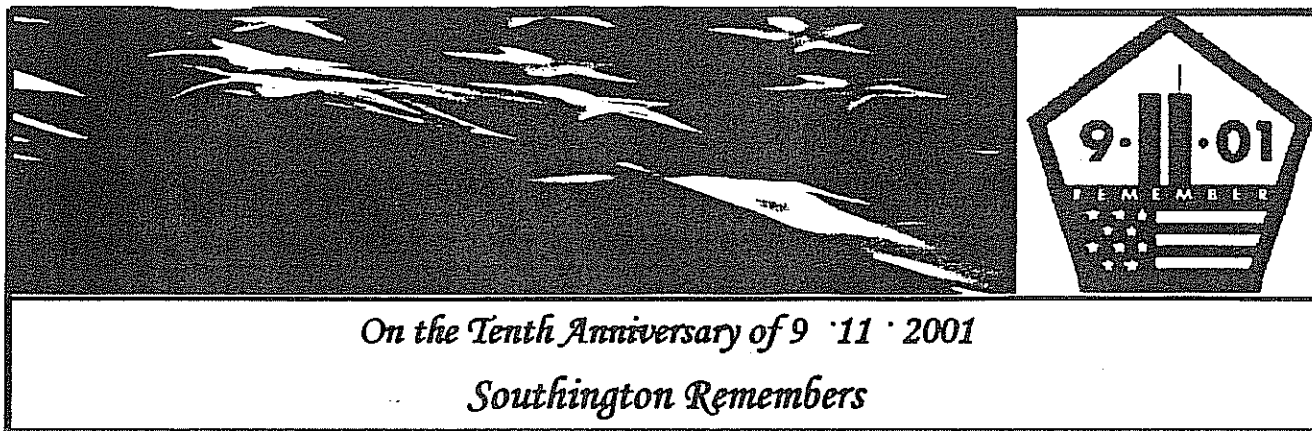
The Southington Remembers 911 event committee respectfully request the use of the Southington Public High School facility (outdoors weather permitting), free of rent, for a town-wide memorial service on the 10th anniversary of the September 11th tragedies.

In an effort to accommodate what could possibly involve a large attendance since it is open to everyone in our community, we felt the need to ensure we have space for a large audience.

We look forward to coordinating with you on this town-wide event. It is a wonderful opportunity for all of the different organizations, schools, religious groups, town services, etc., to join together!

Regards,

**Leeanne Frisina
event coordinator
860.919.1479
SouthingtonRemembers911@yahoo.com**



A TOWN-WIDE REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE WHO DIED IN THE ATTACKS ON AMERICA ON 9-11-2001

We are pleased to invite you, as a leader of a group that is a vital and integral part of Southington life, to join a town-wide, non-sectarian tribute to the nearly 3,000 people who lost their lives in the terrible violence of September 11, 2001.

Here's how the program will work:

- We will produce a memorial card that you will inscribe with the name of a person who perished in the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon in Virginia and the passengers and crews of the four commercial airliners used as weapons of destruction.
- A quantity of cards will be made available to each participating organization, congregation or group for distribution their individual members by June 2011.
- During the months of June, July and part of August, participating individuals are asked to perform an act of kindness, act of charity, good deed, or say a prayer in remembrance of the life of the person who they are honoring and write the act of remembrance on the ribbon. Remembrances are open to the creative imagination and preference of each group and individual.
- By the middle of August, groups will collect the cards of their members and return them to the *Southington Remembers* committee so that they may be displayed at a town-wide non-sectarian service to be held at at 7:00 pm on Sunday, September 11, 2011.
- We ask that each group appoint a coordinating group and provide us the name of one or two contact persons.

This effort will join, in part, with other efforts nationwide as a "911 Day of Service 2011," in an attempt to make September 11, 2011 the single largest day of charitable service in U.S. history as a tribute to the 10th Anniversary of September 11, 2001.

With warmest wishes,

Leeanne Frisina
Coordinator

Please respond to 860-919-1479 or email SouthingtonRemembers911@yahoo.com

An organizational meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday June 15, 2011, 6:30pm at the Southington Library.

Publicity Coordinator: Dick Fortunato.

Initial Sponsoring Organizations

Bread for Life · Church of Saint Dominic · First Baptist Church · First Congregational Church ·
Gishrei Shalom Jewish Congregation · Grace United Methodist Church · Gurdwara Guru Nanak Darbar (SIKH)
Plantville Congregational Church · Southington Care Center Pastoral Care · Southington Chamber of Commerce ·
Southington Community Services · Southington YMCA · St. Paul's Episcopal Church ·
United Way of Southington · Zion Lutheran Church

District responses to BOE Gift Acceptance Levels

ATTACHMENT #2

District	Response
Guilford	over \$1,000 to BOE
Waterbury	over \$1,000 to Superintendent
Westport	over \$2,000 to BOE
Region 10	Superintendent sends thank you letter & cc to BOE as an FYI
North Stonington	Superintendent sends thank you letter & cc to BOE as an FYI
Wilton	over \$2,500 to BOE
New Milford	over \$1,000 to BOE
Simsbury	over \$1,500 then BOE must approve in advance
Greenwich	Send long policy as an example

**Southington Public Schools
Operational Budget Reductions
Superintendent's Recommendation
2011-2012**

BOE Operational Budget Request 2011-2012	80,988,544	1.95%	
BOF Approved Operational Budget	79,748,537	0.39%	
Town Council Approved Operation Budget	79,614,662	0.22%	
Reductions Needed	1,373,882		1.68%
Education Jobs Fund Grant applied	(1,160,007)	1.46%	
Reductions Needed	213,875		
20310 Health Insurance Reduction for Administrative Fees	(133,875)		
Reductions needed	80,000		

New Personnel Requested

14200	Para Kindergarten Extended day- fund with grant	(8,160)
14200	Teacher- Kindergarten	(42,100)

Salaries

11110	Administrative Salaries-Superintendent freeze	(3,270)
83112	Turnover - 2 Administrative Retirements	(13,056)
11810	Turnover - 2 Custodian Retirements	(6,406)
11210	Director of Alta-no ARRA funds (salary less 1 tuition)	72,383
11135	Technology Assistant (5 hrs day* 191 days)	12,415

Purchased Services

32520	Rental of Facilities- 1 month North Center	(16,667)
32140	Refuse Services	2,400
32200	Custodial Services	(11,685)
32301	Upkeep of Grounds	1,500
32325	Computer Maintenance Software	(5,000)
32900	Care of Grounds	3,497

Supplies

41500	Oil heat- 3.24 gallon	10,195
41200	Science Supplies	(53,000)
42200	New Textbooks	(170,839)

Equipment

54200	Reduce Technology Contingency	(5,000)
54100	PowerSchool Server Upgrades	2,343

**Southington Public Schools
Operational Budget Reductions
Superintendent's Recommendation
2011-2012**

Special Projects

70000	Labor to upgrade Power School	5,250
70000	Wiring for N. Center- offices	10,000

Special Education

83123	Homebound Instruction	22,000
83314	Evaluation & Diagnostics	(10,000)
83315	Transllion Services	(10,000)
83319	Purchased Services	(25,000)
83369	Applied Behavior Analysis Program	54,639
83370	Tuitions	26,561
83337	Professional Development	(5,000)

Property Facility Maintenance

32510	Technology Lease	82,000
	(moved from P/F/M to Operating budget)	

Total Adjustments

-80,000

Budget in Balance

0