The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, June 9, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the Southington Town Hall Council Chambers, 75 Main Street, Southington, Connecticut.

Before the regular meeting, Celebration of Excellence recognitions took place at 7:05 p.m. Dr. Erardi announced that there were three parts of the Celebration of Excellence. The first part was the recognition of the Southington High School All-State Athletes by Dr. Erardi, assisted by Mr. Goralski and Mrs. Carmody who presented the All-State Athletes with plaques. Mr. Eric Swallow, Athletic Director, and Dr. Martin Semmel, Southington High School Principal, gave brief remarks.

**ALL-STATE ATHLETES**

**Baseball:** Chris Lee, Sal Romano  
**Boys’ Basketball:** Tyler Dube  
**Boys’ Swimming & Diving:** Michael Smigelski  
**Cheerleading:** Jenalee Bruneau, Rebecca Klem, Jessica Sackett  
**Cross Country:** Bryan Wilcox  
**Field Hockey:** Gretchen Egan, Alisha Washer  
**Football:** Tyler Dube  
**Girls’ Soccer:** Erica Kosinski  
**Girls’ Volleyball:** Elsie Bernaicke, Victoria Broynman  
**Gymnastics:** Carlie Blitz, Katelyn Hyde, Amanda Miranda, Kayla Nati, Toni Penta  
**Ice Hockey:** John Gradante  
**Indoor Track:** Cherraine Davis  
**Softball:** Nicole Rossitto

The second part of the Celebration of Excellence was the recognition of Christopher Amnott, the Board of Education Student Representative for the past two years. Mrs. Carmody and Mr. Goralski recognized Mr. Amnott with a plaque and a gift, and thanked him for his years of serving on the Board as the student representative.

The third part of the Celebration of Excellence was the recognition of the top three scholars of the Class of 2011 who were presented with a plaque by Mr. Goralski and Mrs. Carmody:

Kevin Twerago – Valedictorian  
Kristy Solomon – Salutatorian  
Shannon Kizilski – Essayist
1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Chairperson, Mr. Brian Goralski. Board members present were Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Rosemarie Fischer, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Patricia Queen and Mrs. Kathleen Rickard.

Present from the administration were Dr. Joseph Erardi, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Karen Smith, Principal of Derynoski Elementary School and Assistant Superintendent-Elect, Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance, and Mr. Frederick Cox, Director of Operations.

Student Representative present was Christopher Amnott.

There were approximately 45 individuals in the audience.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ May 26, 2011**

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

"Move to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 26, 2011."

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

Mr. Goralski noted that the Board invited Mrs. Smith, Assistant Superintendent-Elect, to join them at the head table.

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:**

Mr. Derynoski reported that he was invited to a “Heroes among Us” show put on by the fifth grade class at Derynoski Elementary School that was presented in the form of the Emmy Awards. It had everything from the announcers, the paparazzi, crowd control, and advertisements. He thought that it was amazing and breathtaking. He noted that he was actually presented with a Community Star Award and that Dr. Erardi also received an award.
Mrs. Carmody acknowledged the Volunteer Luncheon that she attended on June 9 that recognized all the parent volunteers in the school system. She noted that their work and the hours that the volunteers give were invaluable. She thanked Stop and Shop for sponsoring the Volunteer Luncheon and Dr. Erardi for organizing it. She noted that Board member Mrs. Clark was one of the volunteers also recognized. She stated that the Board was very appreciative to all the volunteers who help the school system.

Mrs. Johnson pointed out that Mr. Derynoski attended the afternoon show at Derynoski School. She went to the evening show and was also recognized as a “Heroes among Us” in the evening presentation. She also enjoyed the program and found it so touching. She noted that she has been a Board member for 20 years and has never received such accolades. She was very appreciative.

Mrs. Johnson reported that she received a message from Karen Dalia, who is in charge of the Southington High School All-Night Graduation Party, stating that they were having problems this year. Because of the economy, the Grad Party is running $3,000 short on funds and needs extra support this year. The parents of each of the seniors are being asked to give $30 as a share for their student. Ms. Dalia told her that, if the 100 parents who have not yet donated would do so, it would be very helpful. Mrs. Johnson pointed out that anyone could donate and sponsor a senior to keep them safe. Mrs. Johnson stated that checks could be made payable to the Southington High School All-Night Graduation Party and sent to the high school. Mrs. Rickard pointed out that they also needed volunteers and that she on was the 2:00 a.m. through 5:00 a.m. shift.

Mrs. Queen reported that the Awards Night at DePaolo Middle School was a great success and that, despite tornado watches, there was a packed house to support 151 DePaolo students in an evening dedicated to affirming academic excellence.

Mrs. Clark attended a music event at Southington High School that was comprised of four elementary schools, the DePaolo seventh grade band, and the high school symphonic band. She stated that it was marvelous to see South End and Kelley Elementary Schools play together, and Flanders and Hatton School play together because they had the same music teachers. She found it wonderful to hear the progression of first hearing the elementary school musicians, then the middle schools, and then the high school musicians. She commended the music instructors, Jeff Shaw, Sara Ossias, Manny Lopes and Tim Johnson for the wonderful program.

Mr. Goralski reported that he attended the UNICO Top 25 dinner on June 1, which is one of his favorite events and the longest running partnership that the school system has that recognizes academics. He stated that it was an excellent event and that many of the students at their Board meeting that night were recognized. He thought that it was remarkable to see where students were going to college and what they were doing. He noted that UConn was very well represented with the scholars.

Mr. Goralski reported that the Tennis Booster Club held an event on Monday afternoon to recognize the donors who were instrumental in installing the bleachers. He noted that there was an exhibition match played after the event and that he was drawn into a tennis tournament for the Bob Garry and Kenny Hill Scholarship Funds.
Mr. Goralski pointed out that there was only one Board of Education meeting in July and the date of the meeting was causing some difficulty. He noted that Dr. Erardi was representing the State of Connecticut on the national level and would not be able to attend the scheduled July meeting. He noted that Mrs. Albaitis surveyed the Board for availability for a Board meeting in July. He pointed out that on Tuesday, July 19 there were seven Board members available to attend; however, he was concerned because Mrs. Johnson, who was available to attend the other days surveyed for July, was not available to make the July 19 meeting. He asked for the Board’s feedback to consider allowing the meeting to be switched to July 19. Both Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Rickard, who could not attend that date, agreed to the date change. Mr. Goralski stated that he would have Mrs. Albaitis formally change the meeting in July to Tuesday, July 19. He noted that Strong PTO was originally slated to host the Board for their July meeting and that he told them to enjoy their summer and that they can host a Board meeting in the fall.

Mr. Goralski noted that the locations of the Board meetings for 2011-2012 (Attachment #1) were distributed to the Board members at their seat and posted with the Town Clerk for public record. He stated that the one change in the fall would be to schedule a meeting at Strong School prior to the North Center Municipal building’s opening. Mrs. Noro-Francesco asked if the July Board meeting would be held in the Town Council Chambers. Mr. Goralski stated that he would like the July 19 meeting held in Town Council Chambers, but the administration would have to check to see if it was available.

Mr. Goralski reported that he attended the Project-Lead-the-Way Open House. He noted that many of the students recognized at the UNICO Top 25 dinner were involved with Project-Lead-the-Way. He stated that it was an impressive night because they were seeing the engineering program’s completion and the seniors presenting their own invention. He thought that it was an outstanding night to highlight one of the best programs at Southington High School.

Mr. Goralski thanked Mr. Amnott and stated that it was a pleasure to have him at the meetings and that he was sad to have him leave.

Communication from Administration:

Dr. Erardi discussed the following (Attachment #2):

1. **Derynoski Principal:** Dr. Erardi reported that on Tuesday, June 14 at Hatton School at 6:00 p.m. there will be a working dinner before the Board interviews the three candidates for the next Derynoski Elementary School principalship. Interviews will start at 6:30 p.m. He noted that the Curriculum and Instruction Committee would convene at 5:30 p.m. at Hatton School.

2. **AP Project Expo:** Dr. Erardi stated that he had the opportunity to attend Heather Allenbach’s class over the last couple of years when her AP Psychology students would present their year-end summative project. He noted that they have moved this to a much different level and that he was really pleased with it. He thought that, in a very similar format to Project-Lead-the-Way, the AP Psychology and AP Chemistry students would be presenting their end-of-the-year projects on Wednesday, June 15. He asked the Board to attend, if possible.
3. **Southington Public Schools’ Teacher of the Year:** Dr. Erardi announced that Jessica Bruenn is the 2011-2012 Teacher of the Year, which is well deserved. He noted that this was announced yesterday in front of the Strong Elementary School Grade 5 students. He stated that Jessica would have the opportunity at Convocation on August 24 to address the School Board and the staff of the Southington Public Schools. He thought that she was a great selection.

4. **Southington Remembers 9/11/01:** Dr. Erardi stated that he was very pleased to be involved with this. The ten-year remembrance of September 11, 2001 is on a Sunday, and the tentative plan is to have the event at the football stadium at Southington High School. The planning team for this event was guesstimating that up to 5,000 people would be in attendance. He thought that it was going to be done well and a dignified event. He hoped that Board members would be there as part of the presentation and program.

5. **Class Matrix:** Dr. Erardi reported that this matrix was an early snapshot that the Board never received before. They would be able to see the work that takes place during the summer. It is a snapshot of where the school system was as of June 7, 2011 with enrollment. There was work to be done; however, overall, they were in the best shape they have been in for a very long time. He was very pleased with the numbers and noted three or four hot spots that would be looked at. This would come back to the Board with an update in July and a final update in August. He noted that the August Board meeting was moved to allow much greater flex time than where they were last year. He thought that they were in great shape with class sizes in Grades K-5.

6. **Southington Education Foundation - STEM Center:** Dr. Erardi reported that attached was an update and a conceptual plan of the STEM Center that the Board has talked about for the last seven months.

7. **ECCS Update:** Dr. Erardi stated that he attached a brochure from the Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington explaining the Family Resource Center and their work.

8. **Policy Update: Gift Giving:** Dr. Erardi reported that, at the last Personnel and Policy meeting, the committee was presented with a small set of nine districts and what their threshold was for gift giving. He stated that all 18 local districts in Southington’s DRG (District Reference Group) would be surveyed to get a better picture of where they are with information that involves the local Board of Education regarding gift giving. Mrs. Fischer stated that, at the committee level, they thought that the number would be much greater; however, the threshold appeared to be $1,000 to $2,000. It will go back to the Personnel and Policy Committee before it is brought to the Board-at-large.

9. **Activate Southington Partnership:** Dr. Erardi reported that it will be an interesting morning at DePaolo Middle School on Thursday, June 16, 2011 with a combination “Walk and Bike to School Day” in conjunction with Activate Southington. The planners of this event would like to have some Board members at DePaolo Middle School as the walkers and bikers arrive to school that morning.
Dr. Erardi remarked to Mr. Chris Amnott, “Chris, I said it last year and I will repeat it again this year. I had the opportunity to write about it as part of your college pocket that went forward. I will continue to believe that I do not know if I have ever met a better student than Chris Amnott. I am real proud of what you have done with us for two years.”

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

“To move Agenda Item 8.b (Vo-Ag Equipment Grant) to Agenda Item 5.b.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

c. **Communication from Student Board Representative**

Christopher Amnott congratulated the top 25 students and the top three students, and stated that he knows many of them personally. He stated that Kevin Twerago, Valedictorian, was a teammate of his in basketball, baseball and golf. He stated that the students represent the school well, and he congratulated them on all their hard work that has paid off. He also reported that:

- The final exam schedule will be Period 1 and 4 on Friday. Monday will be Period 2 and 5, followed by 3 and 6, 7 and 8.
- Art Rich is sponsoring free yearbook pictures for the seniors next year on July 13, August 3, and September 7.
- Graduation will be held on June 23, followed by the All-Night Graduation Party. He hoped to see the Board members at these two events.
- Class Day and Class Night were a great time. It was a new experience going to High Meadow for Class Day, which was fun. Chevrolet Theatre for Class Night was a good time as well.
- Volleyball was beat in the state semi-finals by Staples ending their run at a second consecutive state championship.
- James DiNello and Keith Lebel made it to the second round in the Tennis State Tournament and the rest of the Tennis team lost. He stated that Stephen Murphy’s mother was a saint because she drove Alex Hoder, Stephen Murphy, and him home from Hartford in rush hour traffic so they could make it to Class Night.
- In baseball, his good friend, Sal Romano, was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds in the 23rd round, 715th. The call came a little later than they expected, but he was going to make the best of it. The State Championship is Saturday night at Muzzy Field against Newington.

Mr. Amnott announced that the two people who would be replacing him were Leon Peschel, who will be a senior next year, and Whitney DiMeo, who will be a junior next year. He had the pleasure of knowing them through The Emblem. He stated that they were great people and that the Board would like them. He hoped that they have more charisma and personality than him.

Mr. Amnott stated that when he first attended a Board meeting he did not know what to expect. He met with Dr. Erardi who has been more than an inspiration and thanked him for writing recommendation letters for college and being a great role model. He noted that Mrs.
DiNello has known him as a young child, and Mrs. Rickard watched him play Little League baseball. He knew Mr. Goraliski through the grapevine. He stated that all the Board members have treated him well and they did have fun. With the countless meetings that the Board might think could be tedious, he tried to add a little humor and excitement to the meetings to make the Board members enjoy it a little more. He stated that the Board has been great to him and he would never forget them. He felt that it has been a great two years, and he was leaving it in good hands with his two replacements.

Mr. Goraliski stated that Chris Amnott’s parents in the back of the room should be proud of their young man.

Mr. Goraliski welcomed the two new student board representatives and told them they will have name plates for when they join the Board. He stated that the Board looked forward to having both of them at the meetings. Mr. Goraliski pointed out that he has known Miss DiMeco since her elementary school days at Derynoski Elementary School. Mr. Goraliski had the utmost faith in their abilities.

Dr. Erardi asked if the new student representatives wanted to address the Board. Mr. Leon Peschel stated they were very excited to be there. They had to go through an interview process and they were selected from many very talented students. They were very excited to serve on the Board and be able to represent all the students. Miss DiMeco stated that Leon summarized it well, and that it was an honor to be part of the Board. She thanked the Board.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting ~ May 31, 2011

Mrs. Carmody stated that she was only going to report on the Sitton Spelling because the other items would be reviewed when the Board addresses the Program of Studies later on the agenda.

Mrs. Carmody reported that Mrs. Chester shared an overview on the initiative that has been piloted in the spelling program. Within this program, the students have priority words that the elementary school teachers stress through all of their subject areas, so that the students are using these words consistently throughout their day. Mr. Carmody felt that this was a great way for students to be learning spelling versus memorizing a list of words week-to-week. The Sitton Spelling was a pilot program this year, and the teachers seemed satisfied. There were some bumps in the road, but overall the teachers were enthusiastic about the program. She was certain that the Board will be hearing more about it when they see the results of the CMTs, which will give them an indication of how well this is working.

Mrs. Clark questioned the cloze assessment and word study and asked if it was part of incorporating all subject areas. Mrs. Carmody stated that was correct. Mrs. Clark asked how they were holding students accountable for the spelling of the word. Mrs. Carmody replied that in the priority word list, there are words that students are responsible for in all aspects of their work and they are using them throughout the year; they have to continually spell them and their work is being checked. The teachers look at those words through their students’ writing and assess them as a total package.
Mrs. Smith responded that there are high frequency words and they are called "no excuse words" where, continuously through all curricular areas, the expectation is that these words would be spelled correctly. There is differentiation allowed because there are some students for whom a spelling "no excuse word" would include some more challenging vocabulary pulled from science and social studies as well.

Mrs. Carmody felt that it was a much better approach. It was piloted and they seem to be pleased with it. She was sure that it would continue to be monitored. She thought that a great test would be performance on the CMTs, especially in editing and revising.

Mrs. Fischer asked what the motivation to change the spelling program was and what the challenges are that they are facing during the pilot of Sitton. She asked this question because she remembers the whole D'Nealian handwriting pilot from 2003 and within a few years it went by the wayside and it was gone.

Mrs. Smith responded that Mrs. Chester would certainly be the expert to answer the questions. She explained that Kindergarten and Grade 1 do not use the Sitton spelling. They use a program called, "Word Work." Word Work includes phonics, phonemic awareness, sounds and letters, etc. It is a program that requires much teacher preparation, but, once the preparation is completed, it could be used year after year. Once a child has understood how words work and sounds are put together, they are ready for a more highly specialized spelling program. An example might be in a second through fifth grade classroom where the long vowel "o" sound is being studied, and students will have time to brainstorm and write down all of the long "o" words that they can think of. It is a class competition of sorts. It is amazing to see the word banks that are developed as a result of that and the real lesson is the long "o" sound. She stated that students will then put into "Words We Use" notebooks the words that they are going to use for their own journal writing and they become responsible for it. This is a very simplified overview. Previously, students who had good memories could memorize 20 words and they had visual acuity that would allow them to get 100 on a test. However, when they were asked to perform a written language assignment, high frequency words or spelling words were being misspelled with regularity throughout the rest of the day and the rest of the curricular areas. She stated that a list of Sitton high frequency words was created years ago with words that all students at the end of certain grades should know. Those high frequency words have been more or less stable over the years. This program is much more involved with the sound, letters and expansion of words. There might be 20 students in a classroom and, while there are basic words everybody needs to know, there will be other students who are ready to take on the challenges of other words. They will be tested and then students are assessed according to their written work. All of the high frequency "no excuse words" count.

Mrs. Fischer pointed out that in the minutes it states that it took some time to get things moving in the right direction. She asked what that meant. Mrs. Carmody replied that it was an anonymous survey and that the committee questioned some of the responses from the teachers, because the committee did not think that they were overwhelmingly pleased with it. Mrs. Carmody stated that Mrs. Chester explained that it depended on how much effort the teachers themselves put into implementing it. The committee had been given a demonstration earlier in the year by four of the teachers who piloted it. The four teachers were very enthusiastic about it and saw so many changes with their students.
Vo-Ag Equipment Grant (Moved from Agenda Item 8.b)

Dr. Erardi stated that the Vo-Ag Director, Marion Stannard, was at the meeting to answer any questions. He stated that she continues to be appropriately aggressive with requests for the State of Connecticut. What has changed since the last time is the difference of five percent (5%). In the past, the State of Connecticut picked up 100% of all funding. In this particular case, with a grant request of $259,753, they will be looking for nearly $13,000 within the Ag Science budget. He hoped that the Board would take action on this, so they can move the question through to the Board of Finance in the immediate future.

Mrs. Stannard explained that the items that were on the grant request were driven by two major factors: 1) increased enrollment and, 2) the direction that they are taking the curriculum. Those are two things driving the request and the need to keep updating.

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

"Move that the Board approve the Educational Specifications, the Town Council be requested to approve the grant proposal for the Vocational-Agriculture equipment in the amount of $259,753, and that the Council establish a "pass-through" account for the reimbursable funding of $246,765. The Board will fund the remaining five percent, or $12,988, from the district’s 2012-2013 budget."

Mrs. Rickard asked how much bigger the activity bus was than the one they already have. Mrs. Stannard replied that they currently have a 14-passenger bus and the proposed new one was 20-passenger. Mrs. Rickard asked who would drive the bus. Mrs. Stannard responded that she currently has a CDL (Commercial Driver’s License). She is the biggest promoter for getting a larger bus because her UConn Horticulture class traditionally has 18 to 22 students, and they have been limited. They cannot get off-site because it is a 14-passenger bus. Her other two staff members currently have a Public Service License, but they could upgrade to a Commercial Driver’s License. Mrs. Rickard noted that they would then have three people who could drive the bus. Mrs. Rickard asked if the bus would be sitting at the high school when it is not transporting the horticultural students. Mrs. Stannard replied that was correct. They currently store the 14-passenger bus, and they would do that with a larger bus as well.

Mrs. Rickard pointed out that they have to hire a bus if, for instance, the Math Team wanted to compete somewhere. She asked if they can find a driver, could they use this bus for other activities or, because it is purchased with this grant, would they be limited to only using it for the Ag Science program. Dr. Erardi replied that it was a great question and that he would research it.

Mr. Derynoski liked the list and thought that it was very detailed. He asked if they have enough storage space to handle the amount of equipment that Mrs. Stannard was looking at. Mrs. Stannard replied that the landscape equipment will continue to be a challenge. They have increased the amount of work that they do with athletic field management, so they do a lot of juggling and shuffling. They still use the storage building that is behind the baseball field; it is a little farther from their current facility, but they would store things seasonally. They would
move them in and out of the shop in the new facility and seasonally store things down in the lower building.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked how the five percent would impact their budget, and would it leave her short for that year. Mrs. Stannard replied that they had to do some projections and one of the primary numbers that they looked at was the "hold back" that they are asked to do every year. They also looked at their service of equipment line item because that was one of those line items that they can never predict exactly how much they would need. Those were the two items that they put as "hold aside." She would anticipate that, if something would need to be repaired, they might have to postpone it. This is the juggling that they had to do with the service of equipment line item because that is an unanticipated number. Mrs. Stannard added that the 14-passenger bus has started to age.

Mrs. Johnson asked what was going to happen to the 14-passenger bus. Mrs. Stannard replied that she would be working with Mr. Cox regarding when they should retire that bus. She would work with the maintenance people as well. They would like to keep it for a while because their enrollment has gone up tremendously, and different teachers are sometimes trying to use the bus at the same time. She would follow the school’s replacement schedule based on the age of the bus. Mrs. Johnson asked if she expected to trade it in. Mrs. Stannard replied that this is what she will ask administration as to what is the best changeover time to make that decision.

Mr. Goralski noted that the original request from the state was larger and the collaboration between the two was how they settled on this number. Mrs. Stannard replied that was correct. Mr. Goralski added that, because of the growing role with landscaping at Southington High School, this equipment seems to address that aspect of it. He complimented Mrs. Stannard and her students because he has never seen the fields at the high school look as good as they do now, even back to the days when he went to school there. He stated that Mrs. Stannard and her students deserve this equipment. Mrs. Stannard wanted to pass on the thanks to her students; the temperature has been hot during the last two days, but they have been out there working.

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

6. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

a. Personnel Report

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

"Move to approve the Personnel Report, as recommended."

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

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

Mr. Goralski had four dates to share with the Board members. This coming Monday, June 13, Fletcher Thompson Architects will present the middle school proposal to the Town Council. They hope that the proposal will continue moving beyond that Board. He stated that this will be followed on Wednesday, June 15 with the Board of Finance official presentation of the referendum. On Tuesday, June 21, Planning and Zoning will see the plans for the middle schools. All meetings will take place at 7:00 p.m. in Town Council Chambers. On July 11 at 7:00 p.m. will be the Town Council’s last step presentation before they can see the referendum item become a reality this fall. He thought that they were moving in the right direction and he looked forward to continued work with Fletcher Thompson.

b. **Construction Update**

Mr. Cox reported that at South End Elementary School they continue to modify the air conditioning. The original installation company was there this past Friday evening and most of the day on Saturday doing repairs and modifications to the system. They are seeing it work much better, but it still needs to be adjusted and tuned up. The hot weather has given them the opportunity to really put it to the test after the newer installation last weekend. He thought that the timing was good. The lawn at that site has been scrappy and the contractor has been given the directive to get it going so it can be accepted by the end of this month. If not, they will own it again through the fall. They have to make sure that it is right before the school uses it, or they will never get it where it needs to be.

Mr. Cox reported that Plantsville School was well along the way. They have a couple of little outdoor things, such as a bike rack that needs to be installed.

Mrs. Cox reported that the new initiative by the building committee is putting in a server for the building management system, and to go out to bid for the server system to serve Plantsville Elementary School and network with South End Elementary School. It would be sized so they could eventually tie in the entire district by fiber, and they could control the energy management from that one location. It will be Internet available, so they could also do it offsite. They were in the process of doing that with some of the remaining funds.

Mrs. Queen asked Mr. Cox to explain the benefits of the networked system for the whole district as far as cost savings. Mr. Cox replied that every building is now monitored by an energy management company. They have alarms that they watch and a service that they provide at a contractual price. By eventually networking all the schools, it could be done by one central control and location. The technicians could be called by the monitoring company, get on a PC, and verify the problem. They then would actually send signals to shutdown certain sections and start-up other ones. This all could be done remotely. Mr. Cox noted that they have been held up from doing this before; in order to get into our systems, our Technology Department had to allow outside companies to get through our firewall, which we don’t want to happen. This would allow us to go through an Internet process, which would be a real timesaver.

Mr. Cox announced that there would be a Lighting Fair on Sunday, June 12, 2011 at Southington High School from 11:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. The Fair is sponsored by the Town Energy Commission and the Connecticut Energy Efficiency fund. They were open last Sunday
on the promenade and they will be out there again this coming weekend. He stated that they have compact fluorescent lighting at really good pricing packages and some LED displays. They will answer any questions on the new upcoming technology for anyone that might be interested.

c. Kindergarten Extended Day Program

Mrs. Smith stated that she was very happy to be representing a committee of 25 people who have worked for over one year in studying the idea of an Extended Kindergarten Intervention Program. She acknowledged those people who have worked so hard for this period of time. She thanked Leann Mirisola, Arlene Mobarak, Carol Needham, Michelle Daigle, Christina McKirryher, Ellen Bellinger, Tracey Gambardella, Betsy Chester, Dale Riedinger, Jan Verderame, Pat Mazzarella, Betty Lutz, Sally Kamerbeek, Kathy Magnoli, Robin Hirsh, Stefanie Gernhard, Heather Alfonso, Amy Lasbury, Franca Imme, Karen De bishop, Nancy LeBlanc, Patty Landry, Paula Gorham, and Jeanne Walsh.

She continued that this was not a brand new idea; however, the spin on Southington’s Extended Day Kindergarten is that it is a district-wide program. Their proposal is that it be housed in two locations for next fall and that they not start the program until October 15 or as late as November 1. This would give the teachers time to collect data and evaluate students and their readiness skills when they move into Kindergarten. What they would like to try next year is to identify students in each of the eight elementary schools who would fit the criteria to be recommended for an Extended Day Program. It means that they would attend their half-day program at their home school. For students who are selected to participate in an extended day, early school students would attend South End Elementary School and late school students would attend Derynoski Elementary School. There would be a room available in both locations for an Extended Day Kindergarten.

Mrs. Smith stated that, in communication with Mr. Cox and New Britain Transportation, they have worked out the transportation pieces of it. They have decided, mathematically, to allow a certain number of students to be nominated for this program for the first year. Although the program is based on need and the need can be redefined according to the school, year, and the number of students being worked with, the committee thought for the sake of the pilot year that they would like to offer, mathematically, five slots to every one of the smaller elementary schools (the early schools), and six slots to the two larger schools, and 13 slots to Derynoski Elementary School. This would total 50 slots for the Kindergarten students for next fall. On top of that, South End Elementary School has five slots for the Project Choice Program that they are hoping to fill, and Derynoski Elementary School has five as well. With those 10 slots, there would be a total of 60 children who would be eligible to participate from October 15 or November 1 until the end of the year in another half of their Kindergarten program.

Mrs. Smith explained that they will use criteria that are standards-based and in the Board packet is a checklist that will identify children to be invited to participate in the program. It follows the standards-based report card and the benchmark assessments that Kindergarten teachers routinely begin by October 1 with all students. She stated that, should there be a school that clearly does not have their quota of students who would be in need of this intervention, the spots would be given up to another school that has a waiting list. A committee that is made up of one teacher from each of the schools would be determining who would be eligible to
participate. The smaller schools would have a committee of five and the larger schools would have a committee of three. Mrs. Smith would sit on both of those committees as well.

Mrs. Smith stated that they are very excited about the prospects of this program that would be funded, in part, with some Choice money from the state. The schools in the district have piloted, in one way or another, versions of this extended day and they had some excellent results upon which they have based this recommendation.

Mrs. Fischer asked if there were concerns that they would exceed the number of slots and then there would be a lottery. She asked if it would be useful to weight some of the criteria. As she looks at the criteria, they are to be checked off. She felt that they might end up with more seats than what they have. To her, the criteria list under language arts and mathematics speak to what they are trying to accomplish, rather than the criteria on the top of the list that seem more behavioral. She thought that it would be good to have some weight to these criteria so that it is not a simple check mark. Mrs. Smith replied that it was an excellent point, and they spent many meetings discussing that very point. They opted not to go for a Selection Committee and opted to have the selection of the students invited to participate be school-based. They gave up a little bit of that decision-making to each school. Mrs. Smith explained that each school knows their population better than the district does. If a child is in school “X” and the school has 20 students who would be eligible for this program, they are going to trust the authority of that school body to complete the check list and determine who would be their six top candidates who would benefit.

Mrs. Fischer asked what else were they going to use other than the objective criteria. Mrs. Smith replied that they are going to use observation and employing the use of literacy support that might be available early in the year to come in and do informal assessments as well. Sh noted that the intake inventory that currently has occurred in all of the buildings for the Pre-K students who are coming in, such as inventory data in mathematics, language, and literacy, is very valuable data as well. There are school teachers who would tell you that they have a pretty good handle on the incoming class already based on the intake from the spring. That, coupled with teacher observation, teacher experience, and the data from the check list, would be sufficient for this year. Mrs. Fischer was getting a sense that no child would really be in this program strictly for significant issues in the top grouping. Mrs. Smith replied that was correct.

Dr. Erardi felt that the model that will be rolled out would have a building principal, literacy specialist, and a Kindergarten teacher all sitting down together and coming to a conclusion on the five needy students in each building. The check list is a starting point and not necessarily the ending point.

Mrs. Carmody pointed out that this program was not going to cost any additional money for the school system. She noted that transportation is also covered by a grant. Dr. Erardi clarified that the transportation was part of a grant-funded program and that there would be no additional cost for transportation. However, he noted that Mrs. Smith mentioned the Project Choice grant-funding coming forward, and the grant-funding will cover all but one full-time educator in Kindergarten. Dr. Erardi stated that Kindergarten has been expanded by one full-time teacher to run this program and it was in the budget.
Mrs. Queen questioned the assessment period October 15 through November 1 and asked if the students were expected to have these skills day one of school, or if they have until the October to November period to learn them. Mrs. Smith replied that these were the standards based on what one would expect after initial instruction and weeks of instruction have occurred in the Kindergarten classroom. It is a guideline; they do this assessment a little less formally on all of the students. This is just a little more formal and a little advanced assessment than what occurs for everyone.

Mrs. Queen asked if “Awareness of Gross Differences” was as simple as “larger than or smaller than.” Mrs. Smith replied that was correct. Mrs. Queen asked if rhyme production was where the student has to create the rhyme. Mrs. Smith replied that was correct, they would have to express it. Mrs. Queen questioned the “Recognizes and expands a 2 attribute pattern using manipulatives” and asked if that would be like “red, green, red, green.” Mrs. Smith replied it was color, size and shape.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco stated that there are still other avenues for those students who do not qualify for this program and asked Mrs. Smith to address that. Mrs. Smith explained that one of the benefits of spending one year studying this initiative was that there was tremendous sharing school-to-school about the kinds of programs already being implemented creatively. As an example, there could be some four-year olds starting Kindergarten who clearly would benefit from a double-session of Kindergarten. Sometimes that is because they are receiving some special services when they come into Kindergarten, such as occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech and language, and there are occasions when enrollment will allow them to provide those services after the Kindergarten half day. It is an extended program, of sorts, with parent agreement to pick-up or to drop-off a little bit early. There also are some situations where a child may not need to repeat the entire Kindergarten year, but they might have a split day with part Kindergarten, part first grade. It is an intervention that currently exists. Mrs. Smith explained that, years ago, Thalberg Elementary School piloted a program known as “K-Plus.” It was then implemented in most of the schools were some students were invited to arrive one hour before their session started or stay one hour longer at no cost to the Board. They just had to rearrange master schedules to make it happen. All of those things will still be in place in various schools, depending upon the ability of the school to offer that service. Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked if every school had something. Mrs. Smith replied that they did and, with creativity, they design their own plan.

Mr. Goralski understood that, prior to this group of 25 committee members working collaboratively, there could have been a great idea at Thalberg Elementary School that Flanders Elementary School never knew about. Mrs. Smith replied that was correct. Mr. Goralski felt that, with Mrs. Smith as the catalyst behind this study and now as the Assistant Superintendent, spreading some of these ideas could be a great possibility. Mrs. Smith replied that it really could and, while they are starting with it as an intervention model, the committee was committed to the idea that full-day Kindergarten is a definite direction that they want to discuss down the road.

Mrs. Johnson noted that the program review would be on-going with monthly data updates provided to teachers, parents and administrators. She stated that was an informal review and asked if the committee had some formal reviews and assessments in mind. Mrs. Smith replied that they did not. They are planning to have one curriculum day this summer with four teachers from this committee and they have approval to spend one full day doing that. They
planned to develop a more formal assessment so that school “A” and school “B” are on the same page when it comes to assessment and she will be getting a report every month. Mrs. Johnson asked if she would be sharing that information with the Board. Mrs. Smith responded that she absolutely would update the Board through the Curriculum and Instruction Committee.

d. North Center School Project Update

Dr. Erardi reported that he and Mr. Cox would be meeting with town officials and Alan Borghesi on Friday morning. The Borghesi Corporation is planning to sign contracts the week of June 13.

Mr. Derynoski asked if they were still on track for the timeline that was established about one month ago. Dr. Erardi replied that he would have a better answer after they met and that was one of their questions. He will inform the Board with a weekly update.

e. Middle School Feasibility Study Update

Dr. Erardi reported that the roll out is underway and next week they will be discussing the Middle School Feasibility Study twice and they will come back the following week with the Planning and Zoning Committee. If the Board members were available, he hoped that they would join Fletcher Thompson with that presentation.

Dr. Erardi noted that, through conversations with people, it appears that this community is clearly ready to move on the middle school initiative. He was pleased to share that with the Board.

f. Artificial Turf: Partnership with Southington Parks and Recreation Commission (Middle School Proposed Outdoor Space Constraints)

Mr. Goralski explained that this item was tabled at the last meeting. He apologized because the day after that decision was made (late Friday on Memorial Day weekend) it was brought to his attention (and the Board’s) that some timeline issues and meeting agenda issues were present that the Board was not made aware of earlier. Because of that, any possibility of the joining of the two items really is no longer feasible or possible. He stated that the Board does not want to do anything to jeopardize the middle schools, and the tabling and discussion of this item wrapped up at their last meeting. What he would like to do now was to forward the understanding, which they have as a Board, that when the times comes, whether that be through Capital Planning or work on the part of the Parks Commission, the Board of Education was willing to partner and work with them. The Board of Education sees the mutual benefit of the two groups working collaboratively because, if this did occur, it would have definitely benefited the school system and community. With the Board of Education’s approval, Mr. Goralski would like to forward communication to the town government that the Board does support that partnership and collaborative work when the time comes to move forward.

Mrs. Fischer pointed out that this agenda item was marked “Decision Requested” and asked what kind of motion was needed. Mr. Goralski replied that there was no motion possible and it was a tabled item. Dr. Erardi added that it remains as presented from when it was tabled on May 26. Dr. Erardi summarized that Mr. Goralski was requesting no action at this time and a
letter of support would be sent if the Parks and Recreation Commission chooses to go forward with a Capital Plan on their side with the town government. Mrs. Carmody clarified that it would be their Capital Plan and not the Board of Education’s. Dr. Erardi noted that the content of the letter would be that, if the Parks and Recreation Commission continued to pursue an artificial turf field, the Board of Education would support their Capital Plan.

Mrs. Carmody noted that she received telephone calls on the artificial turf and someone mentioned to her that, with artificial turf, if the school wanted to have graduation on the field, which is where Southington holds their graduations, they would have to put special boards on the turf. She heard that those special boards had to be purchased from the company that installs the turf at a cost of about $300,000. She questioned if that was true. Mr. Goralski replied that he did not think so. Mrs. Carmody remembered that, when they had their first discussion on turf many years ago, somebody talked about putting chairs on the field. Mr. Goralski interjected that years ago that was a concern. Mrs. Carmody continued that maybe it was not a problem anymore, but she did receive several telephone calls that, if Southington wanted to hold graduation on the artificial turf, they would have to put boards down to put chairs on the turf. Dr. Erardi stated that he knows what she was talking about, and he would have an answer for her. He did not know the dollar connection to the question. He did not know the level to which artificial turf has gone, but there previously needed to be a covering on that field prior to putting chairs on a field. He would find out if that was still the case, along with the cost connected to it. Mr. Goralski remarked that it would be more relevant when they start planning for turf, which is not the immediate direction in which they are going.

Mrs. Johnson would hope that, when Mr. Goralski sends this letter to Parks and Recreation, that he removes the word “partnership” because she thought that it had the wrong connotation. She thought that the Board would support their efforts to do something for the Southington school system, but we would not be partnering with them in this instance. Mr. Goralski replied that, if he is writing the letter, he was uncomfortable with that because he believes in partnerships. He felt that was what the Board stands for and does. If he was going to write a letter with his name on it, he would have the word “partnership” involved. He thought that the concern that Mrs. Johnson was addressing would be what that word means. He believed that it implies that they would work together, assist one another, and that they have a common goal to better the community. He felt that was what the word “partnership” means. He thought what Mrs. Johnson was referring to would be more of a monetary meaning of the word “partnership.” He thought that would be more of a discussion at the time the plan moves forward. Mrs. Johnson replied that she agreed with his interpretation of partnership, and she thought the word could be construed in several different ways; she would hope that he might think about using a word other than “partnership.” Mr. Goralski promised that, before he forwarded any letter on behalf of the Board, he would share it with the Board ahead of time. The Board members thought that would be a good idea.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Program of Studies – 2012-2013

MOTION: by Mrs. Rickard, seconded by Mrs. Notar-Francesco:
“Move that the Board of Education approves the proposal of high school courses as recommended by the Curriculum and Instruction Committee.”

Mr. Derynoski asked if these funds were already in the budget. Dr. Erardi pointed out that the request in front of the Board is for 2012-2013. They were just trying to get this into the Program of Studies. There will be training this summer for the Advance Placement (AP) educators, and they are in good shape with funding for that this summer.

Mrs. Carmody felt that they were offering the students wonderful opportunities with the Program of Studies at Southington High School. She noted that the presentations to the Curriculum and Instruction Committee were very well done.

Mrs. Queen quoted a great phrase from the Advanced Placement Environmental Science course where the justification for the class was that it “challenged students at the highest academic level” and she felt that was the incredible value of adding four Advanced Placement classes to the high school curriculum. She was very pleased to see this.

Mr. Goralski stated that some of these seemed like semantics to him because they already have UConn Spanish and he believed that they had UConn French and UConn Italian. What they are doing is dropping the word “UConn” and putting the word “AP” in its place. Dr. Erardi replied that was not correct. Dr. Erardi clarified that a student can enroll in one of the AP World Language classes and could be in that class and part of the Early College Experience (ECE) Program that allows them to receive three credits for each semester. If the student is successful with that class, through the lens of the ECE Program, he / she would end that class with six credits. Concurrently, that same student is then able to take the AP exam. For the student who is looking outside of the state university system, they are in that class at the highest level and they are preparing for the AP exam. The umbrella for the course with ECE is that they absolutely allow a student to do both; however, the instructor must stay on course with the ECE curriculum. The student cannot receive both, but they are allowed to take both. It is an additional opportunity for the student to perform at the AP level. Mr. Goralski asked if there would still be a UConn Spanish Class at Southington High School. Dr. Erardi replied that there would. He pointed out that ECE is the state university system. Mr. Goralski asked if he could sign-up for ECE Spanish, or does he now sign-up for AP Spanish. Dr. Erardi replied that he could do one or both, and it is the same class. Mrs. Queen added that it would also have the additional requirements that students need to do well on the AP exam. The curriculum would be enhanced now. Mr. Goralski stated that it was the same class regardless of what you are signing up for. Mrs. Carmody replied that it is now going to be called “AP.”

Dr. Erardi pointed out that Dr. Semmel had a deep background with this as he brought it forward at Bristol Central. They thought that this question would come forward and ECE is explicit with their language that it is allowable. He knew that Mrs. Carmody spent some time researching this also. The interesting piece is that, when a junior or a senior takes this course and they take the AP exam, they do not have that result. When they are concurrently enrolled, they are still staying really focused on the ECE part of this. He thought that it had great benefit and had great enhancement. He felt that the beauty of this is that they have not compromised their ECE program in any way.
Mrs. Rickard stated that, to answer Mr. Goralski’s question, there is only going to be one Advanced Placement French class, there is not going to be two. Dr. Erardi replied that would be correct unless there is a demand student-wise to have two sections. There is not going to be one UConn French and also an AP French class.

Mr. Derynoski asked how many students would participate in each of these classes. Dr. Semmel took the podium and replied that there are so many opportunities for the students at the high school and sometimes they have to choose one course over another. It is hard to say how many because sometimes the numbers go up in French and down in Spanish, and the next year Spanish may be up and French may be down. They anticipate at least one section for each of these highest level courses. There would be approximately 15 to 20 students in each of the sections. Mr. Derynoski asked if it would be a class of four or five students. Dr. Semmel replied that it should not be.

Mr. Goralski noted that the AP Environmental Science class, which is new, was projecting out two sections. He thought that was an exciting opportunity. Mrs. Carmody stated that at the committee meeting there was a teacher whose child graduated from Southington High School and was attending Wake Forrest. He had so many AP credits from the high school that he only needs to take one course in his senior year. You can imagine the money that his parents are saving because of this. Mrs. Rickard remarked that one of her children did that, and she entered college as a second semester freshman and graduated with two Bachelor’s degrees in three and one-half years because of the AP classes at the high school.

ROLL CALL VOTE. YES — Mrs. Fischer, Mrs. Queeii, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Rickard, Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mr. Goralski. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Vo-Ag Equipment Grant (Moved to Agenda Item 5.b)

c. Year End Report on Superintendent’s Goals ~ 2010-2011

Dr. Erardi stated that this was before the Board for a second read. He did not have a lot of feedback from Board members regarding questions from May 26. He hoped that the Board was comfortable to take action to close out the objectives for 2010-2011.

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

“Move to approve the Superintendent’s Goals, as presented.”

Mrs. Notar-Francesco questioned on page three of Dr. Erardi’s goals his reference to “the ongoing training of staff to fully utilize all aspects of technology creating a seamless integration for enhanced instruction.” She noted that he listed it as completed and she thought that it should be ongoing. Dr. Erardi agreed with her; however, he felt that “complete” meant they had a plan in place for this school year. They implemented the plan through Mrs. Veilleux and they felt that it was effective. He stated that the plan will be back again next year and that it would never go away.
Mrs. Notar-Francesco questioned if there were any successful grants that the grant writer produced. Dr. Erardi replied that he planned to bring an update on that to the School Board in July as an agenda item. He met with Mrs. Boulanger and the approach that they decided to take for the school system was to not look at the smaller grants. They are in the midst of a couple of very impressive opportunities on the federal level. The grants are being completed and the timelines of submission are yet to take place. They do not know whether they will be successful or not until they hear back from the committees. He believed that the decision the Board made six months ago was the right decision, and he was extraordinarily pleased with Mrs. Boulanger’s work. He will have a full report in July. Mrs. Notar-Francesco pointed out that the other side of this would be the renewal for Mrs. Boulanger. Dr. Erardi replied that is why they will come back in July.

Mrs. Queen commented that she put a sticky on the cover of her binder and wrote the word “Phenomenal!” She felt that the breadth and scope had to be acknowledged and that all that has been accomplished just this year has been amazing. She felt that this should be read into the minutes so the public can see all that has been done.

Mr. Goralski pointed out that Dr. Erardi often passes credit on and, when the Board talks about his work and his goals in a five-minute window, it does not give credit to the work that he does. Mr. Goralski stated that Dr. Erardi’s work is ongoing and his work is so open and his communication with the Board is non-stop. His weekly updates address these goals throughout the year and they get follow-ups to the weekly update throughout the week, as well as other communication from Dr. Erardi. Mr. Goralski thought that, like every other thing in education, the goals are a living and breathing document. Once it is approved each year, the Board lives it with him through his communication with the Board and that is what makes his work phenomenal, like Mrs. Queen said. Mr. Goralski thought that the goals were ambitious to start with, and every year Dr. Erardi adds a page of more goals. He thanked Dr. Erardi on behalf of the Board for the work that he has done.

Mr. Derynoski remarked that he does not know how Dr. Erardi does it all. These only outline the specific goals that Dr. Erardi has set and that the Board approved last year, it does not include the countless things that Dr. Erardi does above and beyond that he takes on day-to-day as situations develop. Mr. Derynoski was impressed with everything. Whatever Dr. Erardi sets out to do, he gets it done and does it very well. Mr. Derynoski joked that he did not understand how Dr. Erardi gets all the things done and has a wife who still talks to him.

Dr. Erardi stated that he was appreciative of the Board’s comments and thanked them for their complimentary remarks. He stated that it was not just something that he consistently says to make folks feel good, but the Central Office team is not deep; however, the roster that they call the Central Office team (the cabinet, support staff, the executive assistants) are just as solid as he can ever imagine. They meet every challenge that takes place in the district. He stated that was the reason why the work gets done. He has extraordinary workers who are dedicated to the cause, and the cause is the 7,000 children. He remarked that he was thrilled to have Karen Smith as a part of this team now. The team loves their work and works hard for the children. He stated that this was a team effort, and he was appreciative to be a part of that team.
ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Rickard, Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Fischer, Mrs. Queen, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Goralski. **Motion carried unanimously.**

d. Superintendent’s Evaluation 2010-2011 (After Executive Session)

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR STUDENT MATTERS, CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS AND PERSONNEL MATTERS

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

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

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

At 9:08 p.m., a motion was made to go back into open session.

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

“Move to go back into open session.”

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

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

“Move to amend the motion to go into Executive Session to include members from Fletcher Thompson in Executive Session.”

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

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

“Move to adjourn the regular meeting.”

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Linda Blanchard**
Recording Secretary
Southington Board of Education
EXECUTIVE SESSION
JUNE 9, 2011

Mr. Brian Goralski, Board Chairperson, called the Executive Session to order at 9:25 p.m.

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

Administration Present: Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Frederick Cox, Director of Operations.

Others Present: Mr. Joseph Costa and Mr. Curt Krushinsky from Fletcher-Thompson, Inc.

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

“Move that the Board go into Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing Student Matters, Contract Negotiations, Personnel Matters, and to include members from Fletcher Thompson, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session to complete the agenda.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Costa and Mr. Krushinsky left the Executive Session at 9:45 p.m.

Mr. Cox left the Executive Session at 9:55 p.m.

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

“Move that the Board return to public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The board reconvened public session at 10:35 p.m.

8. NEW BUSINESS

d. Superintendent’s Evaluation 2010-2011

Mr. Goralski stated that the Board of Education would release a statement to the press and to the public representing the Board’s great appreciation for the work that the Superintendent has done for Southington. The goals that Dr. Erardi shared are public and those goals are what he was evaluated on. Mr. Goralski stated that the Board has found that Dr. Erardi has met or exceeded expectations in all measurable areas. Mr. Goralski further stated that the Board
continues to recognize and greatly value Dr. Erardi’s integrity, energy and dedication in making Southington’s public schools the finest in the state.

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

"Move to add student expulsions to the agenda."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR STUDENT MATTERS, CONTRACT DISCUSSION NEGOTIATIONS, AND PERSONNEL

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

"Move to expel student 2010-2011-24 from the Southington Public Schools as stipulated by the Superintendent of Schools."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

"Move to expel student 2010-2011-25 from the Southington Public Schools as stipulated by the Superintendent of Schools."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

"Move to adjourn."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Board adjourned at 10:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Notar-Francesco, Secretary
Southington Board of Education
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<td>Carl M. Small Vo-Ag Center</td>
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1. DES Principal – Board Interviews – Tuesday, June 14th
   Hatton – 6:00 p.m. (working dinner / prep)
   Candidate #1 – 6:30 p.m.
   Candidate #2 – 7:15 p.m.
   Candidate #3 – 8:00 p.m.

2. AP Project Expo (Attachment #1)
3. SPS Teacher of the Year – Jessica Bruenn (Attachment #2)
4. Southington Remembers: 9-11-01 (Attachment #3)
5. Class Matrix – June Snapshot: (Attachment #4)
6. SEF: STEM Center (Attachment #5)
7. ECCS Update (Attachment #6)
8. Policy Update: Gift Giving
9. Activate Southington Partnership (Attachment #7)
You are Invited
to the
1st Annual
AP Project Expo!

Wednesday, June 15, 2011
6:00—7:30 pm
SHS Cafeteria

CollegeBoard
Advanced Placement
Program

Research Projects
Presented by students of AP Psychology & AP Chemistry
June 8, 2011

Jessica Bruenn
96 Barberry Lane
Meriden, CT 06451

Dear Jessica,

It is indeed my distinct privilege and honor to "officially" inform you that you have been selected as the Teacher of the Year for the Southington Public Schools for the 2011-2012 school year. Your dedicated service to our district has impacted so many students. Students respond to you in a positive manner. Your excellence in the classroom has been recognized by your peers by selecting you as the 2011-2012 Teacher of the Year.

On behalf of the Southington Board of Education and the entire community, let me congratulate you on a job well done.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

c: Linda Lackner, Principal, Strong Elementary School
   Christopher Palmieri, Chairman, Teacher of the Year Committee
   Karen Smith, Assistant Superintendent
   Cabinet Members
   Board of Education
   da/c/closingschool1/teacheryearbruenn11.wd
A Town-Wide Remembrance of Those Who Died in the Attacks on America on 9-11-2001

Please choose a name from the list of those who died on September 11, 2001 due to terrorist attacks. Write the name on your star. When you have completed an act of kindness, good deed, or charity, write the deed on the back of the star and return it.

[please have a return date and place. The Southington Remembers committee will request that all stars be returned to us to create the display no later than August 28, 2011. Some schools are choosing to run this program now and have stars returned by the end of school year]

[This program should be tailored to the age group. Please feel free to change wording as needed and to explain the purpose in a way that is appropriate for the age level being addressed. The youngest groups may instead work together on an act of kindness or even decorate the stars]

These stars will be put on display as part of a town-wide remembrance service to take place at 7:00pm on the Southington High School grounds on September 11, 2011. All are welcome to attend.

This effort will join, in part, with other efforts nationwide as a “9/11 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.
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YMCA Camp Sloper - STEM Center Business Plan

The following information is an overview of the proposed STEM Center facility that could potentially be constructed at YMCA Camp Sloper, 1000 East Street in Southington, CT.

**WHO:** The STEM Center project is a collaborative effort by three community organizations: the Southington Education Foundation (SEF) - Contact: Dr. David Monti; the Southington Board of Education (BOE) - Contact: Dr. Joseph Eradri; YMCA Camp Sloper Outdoor Center (YCS) - Contact: Mark Pooler.

**WHAT:** The STEM Center would be a 3,000+ sq ft building that would be used to enhance the current Science, Technology, Engineering and Math curriculum in Southington. This would be a year-round facility that would have a large 30'x50' all purpose room, a break-out class room, bathrooms and many program amenities that would be utilized for the subject areas outlined above.

**WHEN:** The STEM Center is in the conceptual stage right now. Our hopes and intentions would be to complete fundraising and construction within the next 3-5 years. Currently the SEF has made a $25k grant available for a pilot program in 2011-12 that would include all 4th graders in Southington coming to YMCA Camp Sloper to participate in a hands-on science program beginning this fall. The current program plan suggests that the BOE would have access and use of the STEM Center 2 days a week, September - June at no charge. This would allow YCS to have all other days/months to produce income to offset the maintenance and operating expenses.

**WHERE:** The STEM Center would be constructed at YCS, 1000 East Street in Southington, CT. The location on the property would be in the field to the immediate left of the existing skate park. This location is outlined on the Master Plan for a large year-round program building for this exact type of use. Public water and sewer are located in close vicinity of this proposed site already.

**WHY:** The STEM Center would be a great enhancement to YCS and would allow for several opportunities in the future. The Master Plan for YCS was developed off of 4 key visions for the property: 1) Improving the day camp program, 2) Expanding Outdoor Center programs, 3) Developing community and YMCA membership enhancements, 4) Providing comprehensive volunteer opportunities. The STEM Center would greatly expand the Outdoor Center program opportunities. Income generating programs that can be developed or expanded include:

- Environmental education / science programs to other school districts
- Year-round team building programs
- Facility rentals and special events
- Birthday party programming on a year-round basis
- Hosting training events

The STEM Center would also improve the day camp program by providing additional rainy day and indoor space that would serve as shelter during inclement/severe weather days as well as provide significant programming opportunities. This would be an obvious community enhancement and would allow for numerous volunteer opportunities in conjunction with the programming.

**HOW:** The proposed arrangement for the STEM Center would see the SEF raise the money needed for construction, the BOE fund transportation, the teachers lead the program, and YCS maintain/insure the building and supply support staff as needed.
240 Main Street Room 120
Southington, CT 06489

Early Childhood Collaborative
Of Southington

"Developing the Learner In Every Child"
Since 2003 The Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington has been partnering with the William Casper Graulstein Memorial Fund and other communities across Connecticut to improve the lives of young children.

The ECCS has been working to:

1. Raise awareness about the importance of high quality early childhood experiences.

2. Advocate for high quality early child care.

3. Connect child care providers, preschool teachers and elementary educators in order to improve the quality of children's experiences as they transition into kindergarten.

What Does “Readiness” Mean?

When describing a child who is “ready for kindergarten,” teachers list the following characteristics:

• Excited about coming to school and eager to learn.

• Curious about the world around them and full of imagination.

• Aware of other people's feelings; able to share, play, and take turns with others.

• Able to sit in a group and pay attention to the teacher for 10-15 minutes.

• Able to understand and participate in conversations with good command of the language the family speaks at home.

• Able to express feelings and needs in words.

• Able to follow routines and directions.

• Able to take care of personal needs independently.

When Choosing Child Care:

• Visit the home or center before enrolling your child. Check to see that the children who are there are actively engaged.

• Check online to see if the home or center is licensed by the Department of Public Health.

• Ask what the child/staff ratio is.

• Look for a clean, safe environment including a designated area for recreation.

• Does the home or center do assessments and share your child's progress with you on a regular basis?

Family Resource Center of Southington

“Working Together To Strengthen The Ties Between Schools and Families”

We offer free programs in Southington’s schools for young children and their families, such as:

• Parent-Child Playgroups
• Parent Workshops
• Family Literacy Program
• Parent-Child Computer Classes

Websites for Parents and Providers:

For information about Southington child care centers, home-based care and other community services call Infoline at 211 (bilingual) or visit their website at www.infoline.org.

For information on Southington schools including bus routes, session times, school calendars and phone numbers visit www.southingtonschools.org.

For information about the Early Childhood Collaborative...
DePaolo Middle School
Walk and Bike to School Day

Thursday, June 16, 2011
(Rain date: Friday, June 17th)

Dear Students and Parents

The Southington Public Schools, the Town of Southington and Activate Southington are working to ensure the safety of children traveling to and from school. To that end we are beginning a Safe Routes to Schools Program. This program will determine the safest routes to walk and bike to school, suggest safety improvements, and develop fun ways to encourage more children to use those routes. We will be teaching children safety and look at ways to slow down traffic around schools.

We are excited to announce that our first event will be at DePaolo Middle School with a Walk and Bike to School Day on Thursday, June 16, 2011.

On June 16th, students are encouraged to walk or bike to school. Volunteers from the community will be at street intersections around DePaolo to meet and greet our middle school students. Upon arrival at the school students will enter a festive atmosphere acknowledging their efforts.

We will complement our Walk and Bike to School Day with some questionnaires and surveys. Please keep your eyes open for them. This information will be invaluable for the Safe Routes Community Team as we strategize potential changes and improvements.

REMEMBER: More children walking and biking means better health benefits for them and the environment, and reduced traffic congestions for everyone

For more information, please feel to call Frank Pepe at 860-628-3260