

SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT

REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 13, 2013

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, June 13, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Municipal Center Public Assembly Room, 200 North Main Street, Southington, Connecticut.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR SAFETY AND PERSONNEL ~ 6:30 P.M.

An Executive Session meeting was held 6:30 p.m. through 7:00 p.m. (*Minutes attached*).

3. BOARD RECOGNITIONS

At 7:05 p.m., in Celebration of Excellence, the Board recognized the following honorees:

- Board of Education Partnership AARP #4943: Rachel Wache, President and Christine Kwiat, Chairperson for the Box Tops and Campbell Soup Label Committee.
- Southington High School FIRST Robotics Team 195 Cyber Knights recognition of graduating seniors.
- Southington High School FIRST Robotics Team 195 Cyber Knights recognition for their accomplishments.
- Southington Education Foundation Partnership recognition to the Southington High School FIRST Robotics Team 195 Cyber Knights presentation of a check for \$1,500.
- Hope Scalise ~ Derynoski Elementary School winner of the Doodle 4 Google Art Competition.
- Katlin Klein ~ DECA International Competition in the Learn and Earn Project, placed second.
- Whitney DiMeo ~ 2012-2013 Board of Education graduating Student Representative.
- Class of 2013 Valedictorian ~ Bryan Davis
- Class of 2013 Salutatorian ~ Jonathan La Follette
- Class of 2013 Essayist ~ Molly Potter
- Edmund Klein ~ Southington High School Senior Class President, scheduled for deployment prior to graduation, was presented with his high school diploma.

All honorees were presented with a Certificate of Excellence from Mr. Goralski, Board Chairman.

4. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

The regular session was reconvened at 7:55 p.m. by Chairperson, Mr. Brian Goralski. Board members present were Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mr. Zaya Oshana and Mrs. Patricia Queen.

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

Student Representatives present were Miss Whitney DiMeo and Miss Abigail Harris.

There were approximately 45 people in the audience.

5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the student representatives.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ May 23, 2013

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

“Move to approve the Board of Education regular meeting minutes of May 23, 2013, as submitted.”

Motion carried by voice vote with eight in favor and Mrs. Johnson abstaining.

a. Special Board Meeting ~ June 12, 2013

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

“Move to approve the Board of Education special meeting minutes of June 12, 2013, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move to move Agenda Item 11.d ‘Appointment of Assistant Principal of Derynoski Elementary School’ to Agenda Item 6.b.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move to add Agenda Item 11.f - ‘Waive Policy #3323 – Bids and Quotes’.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move to add Agenda Item 11.g - ‘Student Expulsion’.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

b. Appointment of Assistant Principal of Derynoski Elementary School
(formerly Agenda Item 11.d.)

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

“Move to appoint Kelly Nichols to the position of Assistant Principal at Derynoski Elementary School effective July 1, 2013 with a starting salary of \$110,412.”

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

Mrs. Nichols commented that she started her career in Southington as a special education teacher at DePaolo Middle School. She thanked her family and friends for their support, the Board members, Dr. Erardi, Mrs. Smith and the interview committee for believing in her and giving her this wonderful opportunity to join the Derynoski family as assistant principal. She promised to work hard every day with integrity, compassion and a vision to provide opportunities for high levels of achievement for all the learners.

Mr. Goralski called for a recess at 8:00 p.m.

The Board reconvened the regular meeting at 8:05 p.m.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience

Natalie Brennan, 1487 East Street, stated that she was a Grade 5 student at Hatton Elementary School and a SOAR student. She was very upset that the SOAR program was cut from the budget next year. She felt that the SOAR program was an amazing way to boost intelligent minds and make them stretch, and now with the decision of All-Day Kindergarten no other children will be able to participate in SOAR. She stated that intelligent children needed to be challenged and should not sit in a classroom bored. She noted that children blossomed each year in SOAR. Life skills, social skills and leadership skills were also taught besides learning new instructional material. The students were encouraged, constructively criticized and helped along the way. She felt that when intelligent children are challenged they will grow up to be successful in life. From inspiring to challenging, learning to progressing, SOAR has it all and it is a shame to think that other students will not be participating in this program for the years to come.

Mackinnon Brennan, 1487 East Street, stated that he was a Grade 5 student at Hatton Elementary School and a SOAR student. He stated that the SOAR program has brought fun and the excitement of learning to students who might otherwise be bored. Every person in SOAR

had made a connection to the program and teachers. He felt that if the Board wanted to upgrade the schools, instead of implementing a full-day Kindergarten, they should upgrade the SOAR program even more. He felt that if there were SOAR programs at all the elementary schools and middle schools, it would help more students than full-day Kindergarten. He asked the Board to please bring back the SOAR program.

Michelle Brennan, 1487 East Street, stated that she was the proud mother of Natalie and Mackinnon. She and her family were very disappointed with the decision by the Board of Education and administration to eliminate the SOAR program for the most academically talented and gifted students. Over a period of a few years, the SOAR program and the Gifted and Talented Program have been completely dismantled for the most promising students. Although the state does not mandate education for the gifted and talented, according to the school system's website it was available until the last Board meeting. The state does not mandate special services for this population and does not mandate that parents send their children to Kindergarten. She felt that the students should not be made pawns in a budget war. The parents count on the Board of Education to make the right decisions with the funding that is provided. The district motto is "making a difference, one student at a time." However, she did not understand how the decision to eliminate the SOAR program or a program like it would enhance the Southington public schools greatness or reach one student at a time. We teach our children not to judge a book by its cover, yet, she felt that Southington has become a town with an education system identified by appearances and not content. Southington will spend a bundle on a beautiful new football field, two middle schools being renovated to as new, a fabulous municipal building, and most recently a full-day Kindergarten program that will keep up with neighboring towns; yet, they do not have a guaranteed plan in place to educate the most excited and diligent learners. To her, it was not in keeping with what the school system should be executing in terms of the education of the students. She understood that Dr. Erardi proposed a plan for afterschool enrichment and personalized education; however, she does not agree that enrichment classes should be taught after school or by aspiring administrators. If Southington is trying to raise the bar for the students, the children not meeting the bar should be the children staying after school. Many children have their afternoons filled with activities that will round out their development. She felt that the children should be challenged during school. The identified and advanced learners have needs too, which have been discounted in this plan. She wondered about the fabulous students Southington loses annually to "brain drain" because the students and their parents decide their needs are best met at either a private or magnet school. What concerns her most about this decision was the way it was slipped in at the eleventh hour. This made her concerned about the administration and Board's commitment level to the SOAR students because the public did not get a chance to communicate disappointment and there was not a set replacement plan in place to meet the needs of the SOAR students. She was speaking as an advocate for her children, the children for whom SOAR-like programming may be the only push they will ever get, and for the many children who have parents that think their voice does not matter. She had been told by many parents that they could not make a difference with this administration and Board; but, she wanted to teach her children that they can make a difference. She asked the Board to consider the real-world educational needs of all the students and reinstate an in-school program for the best students.

Jeanne Segrue, 26 West Ridge Road, stated that the high achievers should be challenged throughout their educational careers. She felt that the Southington schools teach to the middle, provide assistance to those falling behind, and ignore the gifted students. She heard that the core curriculum would address the needs of the advanced students; however, it has not. Several

teachers have said that they don't know what to do with the students at the top. She noted that several friends and neighbors have pulled or will be pulling their students out of Southington schools to place them where they will be challenged. She has heard that afterschool enrichment programs will address the needs of the high achievers. She felt that some children will love these programs; however, some students want their afterschool time to be in activities and felt that they were being punished and must stay after school. She questioned why Southington was considering making the more advanced students stay after school to challenge them. Ms. Segrue quoted from the assistant superintendent's blog of October 26, 2012 regarding the identification of gifted and talented children which was required under Connecticut special education law. She was upset that eliminating SOAR was to finance the all-day daycare program. She was aware that it is called All-Day Kindergarten; however, since the curriculum is not changing, she felt that all it is really doing is providing childcare. She asked the Board to keep the SOAR program in school during the school day.

b. Communications from Board Members and Administration

Communication from the Board Members:

Mrs. Notar-Francesco had questions regarding the grid of certified staff time out of the classroom that Dr. Erardi had sent to the Board members. She requested that this be put on the Board agenda at a later date for discussion. Dr. Erardi stated that it could be put on the June 27 or July 11 Board agenda. Mrs. Notar-Francesco questioned if the numbers included PPTs, Professional Development, personal, sick time, or field trips, etc., and would like to see a breakdown. She felt that the high school numbers were high and requested an explanation. She would like some thought given on how to mitigate some this in the future.

Mrs. Queen reported that she attended the CAFE presentation of the 2013 legislative wrap-up on Tuesday, June 11, 2013. She had e-mailed the details to the Board to review. She highlighted the following from the meeting:

- The CAFE representatives felt that much credit had to be given to the coalition of groups that worked together to push for education funding at the state level with funds being put back into the budget, especially the transportation funding.
- There is a competitive grant up to \$15 million for security infrastructure, which was applied for by CAFE that will be given out in \$3 million to \$5 million amounts.
- She reported on a Public Act that unleashes innovation in Connecticut schools, which addresses the portfolio standards that CAPSS wants at the high school level. It permits Grades 11 and 12 high school students to earn academic credits using non-traditional standards.
- There is a taskforce to study mandated relief for high performing districts. The high performing districts are considered the top 15 districts with the highest district performance indicator, the five districts with the greatest improvement in district performance indicator, and the five districts with the greatest decrease in achievement gap. Mrs. Queen summarized that mandate relief for being in the top category of high performing districts would save school districts money. She pointed out that Southington falls into the bottom 20 districts across the state in terms of our funding of the operational plan.
- High school diplomas will now be granted to World War II veterans who have contributed to the war effort and did not graduate from high school. She asked that this be announced at the Military Luncheon.

- Preschool tuition for the RESCs will not be charged back to districts.
- She wondered if Public Act 929, the change in roof pitch, will affect Southington's eligibility for reimbursement.

Mrs. Lombardi reported that a red carpet extravaganza was hosted by the students at Kelley Elementary School for Mrs. Betty Lutz, Principal, who will be retiring. On behalf of the Board, she wished Mrs. Lutz a wonderful retirement. Mrs. Lombardi reported that she, Mrs. Queen and Mr. Derynoski attended the DePaolo Middle School 36th Annual Awards Night.

Mrs. Johnson reported that it was time for jubilation regarding all the accomplishments of the students. She attended the Kennedy Middle School Awards Ceremony and there were approximately 95 students on the stage being recognized. At one point, the Band Director, Mr. Tim Johnson, asked the students to raise their hand if any of the students were involved in music of any kind and every single one of the 95 children raised their hands.

Communication from Administration:

Dr. Erardi reported on the following:

1. Military Luncheon: Dr. Erardi announced that the actual luncheon will start at 12:30 p.m., not noon, and will honor 10 graduates of the Class of 2013.
2. Because of 26: Dr. Erardi announced that the community will unite on the Plantsville Green on Saturday, June 15 at 10:00 a.m. for a moving program. Governor Malloy and Senator Blumenthal will be speaking at the program.
3. Volunteer Luncheon: Dr. Erardi announced that on June 18, at noon, at Testa's Restaurant, there will be five volunteers from each school who will be recognized at this annual program that is sponsored by Stop and Shop.
4. Middle School Groundbreaking Ceremony: Dr. Erardi announced that on Tuesday, June 18 there will be a groundbreaking ceremony at DePaolo Middle School at 5:30 p.m. He will inform the Board members where to assemble once he hears from Mr. Cox.
5. Class of 2013 - Commencement: Dr. Erardi announced that there has been a change in the program this year where the Board of Education members will lead the Class of 2013 onto the athletic field for commencement. He suggested that Board members arrive no later than 4:30 p.m. for a light dinner before commencement. He asked the female Board members not to wear high heels.
6. Southington Public Schools Health Forum: Mrs. Smith reported that a Southington Mental Health Forum for local health providers and Southington Public Schools mental health support staff will be held on November 5, 2013 (Election Day) in the Municipal Center Assembly Room. It will be called "A Card Swap Day," which is an opportunity to make connections with private and public service providers. It is an outreach program to improve the mental health within the community.
7. Chamber Partnership: Dr. Erardi reported that, through the combined partnership of the high school leadership and the Chamber of Commerce, there was a "Training for Tomorrow, Today" breakfast meeting held on June 11, 2013. There were approximately 50 students who were involved in the authentic learning experience program that prepared them for after graduation. This was a celebration with the business owners, students, and Chamber of Commerce. He

noted that Dr. Semmel thought that he could double the program for the next school year.

8. Introduction – Stephanie Lawlor, K-12 Language Arts Coordinator: Dr. Erardi announced that Stephanie Lawlor was the new Language Arts Coordinator replacing Ms. Betsy Chester who will be retiring on June 30, 2013. Mrs. Lawlor commented that she was a special education teacher and literacy specialist at Kelley Elementary School for the past five years. She remarked that she was deeply committed to Southington and looking forward to the challenges. She thanked Dr. Erardi and Mrs. Smith for providing her with this opportunity.

Communication from the Student Representatives:

Miss DiMeo reported on the following:

- She recognized and congratulated the top three students and the class president who have served as role models for the senior class and community.
- Katie Klein, who was acknowledged for her academic achievements with the international testing, will be reading a speech during the official graduation ceremony.
- She congratulated the Robotics team for their accomplishments.
- Last week, the UNICO 25 and the Top 10 dinners were held.
- The final exams are taking place at the high school.
- The graduation ceremony will be held on Friday, June 21, 2013. Six tickets will be given to students for outdoor graduation and indoor graduation consists of four guest tickets.
- The All-Night Graduation Party will follow graduation, which the students are excited about. She thanked the parents for their commitment to this program.
- Miss DiMeo thanked the Board members for their passion for education and always putting the students first. She was proud of the Southington education that she just completed and credited the Board for always putting forward the best initiatives possible.

Miss Harris reported on the following:

- She thanked Whitney DiMeo, who will be attending Boston University, for mentoring her as a student representative on the Board.
- Youth Honor Day was held on June 12 and she had the privilege to shadow Dr. Erardi, who was incredibly busy.
- The AP Expo was held the evening of June 12 and classes showcased their thesis projects.
- She congratulated the baseball team for being runner-up in the Class LL championship and the softball team for winning the Class LL Championship. She congratulated the athletes for their accomplishments.
- Miss Harris looks forward to working with the two new Southington High School student representatives who will be serving on the Board the next school year. She introduced Gabrielle Baker and Stephanie Krar both high school juniors.
- Miss Harris thanked the Board for a fantastic first year serving on the Board and looks forward to next year.

Mr. Goralski thanked Dr. Semmel and Mr. Baxi for the process that was put in place for the selection of student representatives. He noted that Mr. Baxi, a former student representative, came before the Board to ask how he could help with the educational experiences in our schools. The Board was excited for his mentorship to help the current representatives take it to the next level.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. Personnel Report

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

“Move to approve the Personnel Report, as submitted.”

Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum & Instruction Meeting ~ June 10, 2013

Mrs. Carmody reported that the committee discussed leveling with Dr. Semmel updating the committee on the effects of leveling for the 2012-13 school year. This was a summary presentation, with Dr. Semmel returning in the fall for the full-year presentation. Mrs. Carmody stated that Dr. Semmel told the committee there was a decline in disciplinary issues, which he attributed to leveling changes. In the fall, the committee will get a total picture of all the level changes after surveying the teachers, students and parents.

Mrs. Carmody reported that the committee previewed the sample Smarter Balanced Assessments that the students will be taking. This is a student evaluation system that will replace the CMT and CAPT testing program and will measure the child's individual growth. She felt that it was much better assessment program.

Mrs. Queen noted that two children taking the test might ultimately be taking different tests at the same time because the test is interactive and reacts to the responses of the test taker. She noted that taking the test actually becomes an educational experience. Mrs. Queen pointed out how important professional development was going to be for the next few years. She felt that next year the Board should take that into consideration when they put together a budget for the following year.

10. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

Mr. Goralski reported that he did not have any communication.

b. Construction Update

Mr. Cox reported that there is no change since the last Board meeting on the elementary school update. The state is still reviewing the information that they received from Newfield

Construction. For the middle schools, Mr. Cox reported that 27 out of the 32 trade contracts had been awarded. The remaining five are scheduled to be awarded next Tuesday. On June 21, the contractors will start on second shift at both middle schools setting up to begin work. The current projection is that the projects are approximately \$1.6 million under the original construction estimate.

Mr. Goralski thanked the state delegation for securing the bill package passage that gives Southington the 56% reimbursement rate that the public was told about at referendum.

- c. Administrator Evaluation Plan Update**
- d. Teacher Evaluation Plan Update**

Mrs. Smith reported on the combined Administrator and Teacher Evaluation Plan updates. She stated that on June 12 the subcommittee of the Administrator Evaluation Plan met with Kim Wachtelhausen, a consultant with the State Department of Education. They learned that the rigor of the SEED Program, or the State Teacher Evaluation Program, is similar for the administrators. She noted that the rigor, requirements, and time commitment is extraordinary. The six members of the subcommittee volunteered one week this summer to attend a RESC-sponsored workshop on the details behind the Administrator Evaluation Plan. It will emphasize the skillset that every administrator needs to master in order to achieve the status of proficient and exemplary. Similar to the Teacher Evaluation Plan, they are also going to be spending this year implementing and learning from it. The Board will continue to get updates.

For the Teacher Evaluation Plan, Mrs. Smith reported that on August 16, 2013, Patrick Flynn will be in Southington for professional development on day two of the retreat to help administrators learn how to calibrate the observational requirements in entering a classroom in order to come up with consistency of observational practice. Also, on August 15, Kim Wachenhausen will be helping calibrate what Dr. Erardi and Mrs. Smith should expect to see as they go around the district to visit administrators. It will be a very intense retreat focused on evaluation and support systems.

Mr. Goralski asked if Mrs. Notar-Francesco's question concerning certified staff out of the classroom should be part of this presentation or as a new business agenda item. Dr. Erardi suggested that it be a separate agenda item.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked if the state approved the Southington teacher application. Dr. Erardi replied that the state has approved it.

11. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Textbook Recommendations**

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

“Move to approve the purchase of the textbooks endorsed by the Curriculum and Instruction Committee.”

Mrs. Carmody thanked the teachers involved for doing due diligence in finding textbooks that were appropriate, answering the many questions from the Curriculum Committee, and doing everything possible to find eBooks at the lowest cost that they could.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco pointed out that in every case the copyright dates on these books were 2012, 2013 or 2014. Mr. Goralski noticed that every textbook also included eBooks. Mrs. Clark was very happy that these new books are coming with the eBook because there are some reluctant learners that find it easier looking at a computer screen than reading a book.

Mr. Derynoski noted that, on the cover document of this agenda item, it states that the cost is in the budget; however, he wanted to see the number \$135,000, which is in a separate document, on the cover sheet so that it is easy to follow. He noted that within the document it was broken down for each book and they would have to add up the numbers. Mrs. DiNello clarified that the \$135,000 also includes the classroom libraries for the science and language arts curriculums which are outside of the list that the Board would be taking action on tonight.

Mrs. Lombardi stated that she spoke to Mrs. Rachel Wache, who does an enormous amount of volunteer and fundraising work for the community. She noted that Mrs. Wache is undertaking an initiative to obtain books for ALTA because ALTA does not have a library. Mrs. Lombardi asked administration to look into that situation. Mr. Goralski requested to move on the motion before them first and to discuss this after.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mrs. Lombardi asked about the condition of ALTA's books and what they had in terms of literacy support. Mrs. Smith replied that there was a budget for library books and for classroom sets that come from the high school and that ALTA is considered part of the high school. However, she will investigate Mrs. Lombardi's concerns. Mrs. Smith stated that she did not know that there was an effort underway to do something other than what they currently have. Dr. Erardi explained that they are also looking to continue the pilot next year with technology at ALTA and providing a Chromebook to every ALTA student, which should give them greater access beyond the textbook in front of them.

b. Grades 6-8 English / Language Arts Curriculum Approval

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

“Move to approve the Grades 6-8 English / Language Arts Curriculum.”

Mrs. Carmody thanked the committee for their hard work and incorporating the latest Common Core State Standards into the curriculum. Mr. Goralski asked Mrs. Smith to extend the Board's appreciation to the two faculty members who were in attendance for foreign language and Ms. Hodges for science regarding the textbook recommendations that were on the agenda.

Mrs. Smith asked Betsy Chester to introduce the Grades 6-8 English / Language Arts Curriculum team. Ms. Chester read the names of the literacy specialists who were part of the core team of writers as well as all the language arts teachers in the department who were involved in the writing of the curriculum throughout the last two and one-half years and thanked them for their efforts.

Ms. Chester explained that the middle school English / Language Arts curriculum has been a process for over two and one-half years. It is a continuation of the K-5 curriculum and has been developed for grade levels, but also through the lens of a vertical study with a focus on building upon students learning in each of the Common Core State Standards going deeper and deeper into the expected learning outcomes. These units have incorporated all the major shifts of the Common Core State Standards with a balance of genre studies in reading, the structures for writing, and increasing the expectations and opportunities for informational and argument reading and writing. There is also the expectation that the conventions of the language are taught explicitly and that the students are held accountable for them in their writing. The skills and strategies that are embedded in each of these units are transferrable and universal, so that our students own them and they carry them on to their own independent learning. There is ample opportunity for digital reading and writing and technological choices and experiences. The curriculum is rigorous, well designed and aligned with the educational expectations for today and the immediate future. Ms. Chester stated that she is very proud of this work and the dedicated efforts of all the middle school teachers.

Mrs. Smith explained that Smarter Balanced Assessment is going to drive the changes required in the instruction; thus, the professional development needs to adapt to those changes because it is a cycle. The end result will determine what is needed to get there, and then the training required to make it happen.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco noted that in Grade 8 the curriculum was written with the idea of transition for Grade 9 in it, so it is actually one entire continuum. The need for trade books was also discussed, as well as how professional development is imperative.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

c. Grades 6-8 Math Curriculum Approval

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

“Move to approve the revised Grades 6-8 Math Curriculum, as presented.”

Mrs. Carmody thanked Ms. Dale Riedinger for her hard work. Ms. Riedinger explained that they were in transition with the Common Core implementation and they have been working on it for three years. Grades 4-8 received a lot of changes because, under the previous Connecticut State frameworks, Algebra I was just where we had it. Now, under the Common Core Standards, half of Algebra I has now moved down to Grade 8 math. At this point in the transition, they cannot have any student miss Grade 8 math, which used to be called pre-algebra. The plan is to offer Grade 8 math and Algebra I in the same year. A double class of Grade 8 will be offered for the first half of the year and seamlessly move into the Algebra I around the holidays. They will receive two classes to get that Algebra I in by the end of that year. The students will continue to receive Algebra I at the honors level, and those students will be able to take geometry honors at the high school and will have the same opportunity to take calculus as seniors. She explained that what used to be taught in high school is slowly moving down into the middle school. It has been a challenge, but they are working towards it and doing the best that they can to ensure the students have those opportunities.

Mrs. Johnson asked how the students would be assessed in the new half-and-half Grade 8 class and what would the assessments be based on. Ms. Riedinger replied that they look at a lot of criteria and gave an assessment a couple of weeks ago to determine if students had completely mastered Grade 7 math already. There is an abstract piece to it that they have the ability to show what they know, and can do, and apply that reasoning into other problems that look more towards the algebraic reasoning. They also look at the student's work throughout the year, benchmarks, and the student's ability to explain his/her thinking and show what they really know. Mrs. Johnson asked if the follow-up to that would be the success in ninth grade and will it be reviewed at the end of next year. Ms. Riedinger agreed, and they expect it to be very similar to the students who have taken Algebra I in the past. They are confident with the double math class that they will be able to complete it. These are the top level students so they will be able to continue to move at a much faster pace. Mrs. Johnson asked if these particular students in this new course would be tracked. Ms. Riedinger agreed. Mr. Goralski stated that he was happy to see the rigor in the new work.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

d. Appointment of Assistant Principal of Derynoski Elementary School (*Moved to Agenda Item 6.b*)

e. Finance Committee Meeting ~ June 10, 2013

Mr. Goralski stated that for a variety of reasons there was not a quorum for the Finance Committee meeting. Mrs. Notar-Francesco pointed out that there was a discussion with those in attendance and that certain items were being brought before the full Board for action.

a. Transfer of Funds

Mrs. Notar-Francesco explained that a transfer was for the purchase of an electric range for the Family and Consumer Science Department. She asked if Mrs. DiNello looked into this as requested at the meeting. Mrs. DiNello explained that the price on the transfer was the original estimate that had been received from one quote. However, through the work of Lisa Jones [Accounting / Purchasing Manager], they are actually purchasing the range for \$529, which was substantially less than the over \$700 estimate.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco explained that Thalberg wanted to purchase iPad minis for the classroom to use in conjunction with the SmartBoards, which would provide greater mobility to teachers to move around the classroom monitoring students work.

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

“Move to approve the Transfer of Funds, as submitted.”

Mr. Derynoski stated that he arrived late to the meeting and missed the discussion on the transfer of funds. He questioned if the iPad minis was a pilot program. Mrs. DiNello replied that she was not sure that “pilot” was the right word because it is not changing the curriculum and that it was another avenue for the teacher to be more mobile in the classroom. It is engaging the teacher and students more within the classroom. Mr. Derynoski took the use as a “pilot” which meant that they are not quite sure if the iPad mini will be applicable to do what it needs to

do to make it worthwhile. Mrs. DiNello replied that Thalberg was the first school that was going to try it to see if it was something that they want to expand upon as they talk more and more about “bring your own device” to school. Mr. Derynoski questioned the cost of \$7,000 to purchase iPad minis. Mrs. DiNello explained that they are looking at \$3,500 for the purchase of the 13 iPad minis and the other \$3,500 is to purchase content area literacy support. Mr. Derynoski felt that there was not enough detail and a breakdown in the reason for making the request. Mrs. DiNello explained that Mrs. Bennett [Thalberg Principal] was conservative in her spending this year as a new principal running her building for the first time. Mrs. Bennett came to administration with funding in her budget and asked if this was something that she could try. She met with Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Veilleux [Technology Director] about this concept and everyone who Mrs. Bennett spoke to thought that it was something they would like to try within the district. Mr. Derynoski had a concern about buying 13 when they could buy one iPad mini to see if it works.

Mrs. Veilleux explained that calling it a “pilot” was not the best term to describe this. They have already tested this in the past. They are not using it in a whole school and only certain teachers in certain buildings are using them. Most of the iPad minis are personally owned by the teacher. The app that they are piloting is the best application to use with it to control the SmartBoard. The iPad minis have been used successfully in the classrooms at various levels already. The cost is \$329 for each iPad mini.

Mr. Goralski stated that committee meetings are very intense this time of year, and it was important that committee members are present. One of the reasons that he sought clarification from Attorney Sciota was to see if his presence would count at committee meetings toward a quorum. He apologized that he could not make the Finance Committee meeting.

Mrs. Lombardi commented that she has attended practically all the Finance Committee meetings. This past meeting, the time was changed at the last minute, and the polling is taken at the last minute and she had other obligations. She requested that they pencil in a Finance Committee meeting one week prior to the Board meeting on an ongoing basis so they can all plan appropriately.

Mrs. Lombardi noted that after the work that was done on Vision 2020, she hoped that the Board could give the staff and educators some leeway to use technology to the best of their decision-making for a classroom. She thought that Mr. Derynoski was right to question the dollars and transfers, but she did not need to know specifically every application that is being used in a classroom. What she is after is achievement and that is her philosophy. She would like to put the onus on the Director of Technology and the teacher to select the best technology for the child. Mr. Derynoski agreed with her 100%; however, if this was a budgeted item it would not have been a question; but, since it was a transfer they have an obligation to find out why the money is going from one area into another. What he was looking for was an explanation as to why they were spending so much money on a pilot. Mrs. Notar-Francesco stated that this was fully discussed at the non-meeting prior to his arrival. Mr. Goralski pointed out that this was committee-type dialog with differences of opinions, which he liked, that the public usually does not see. What the community is seeing now is committee work that is being done at the Board table.

Mrs. Queen stated that the idea of the teacher choosing the technology for the student is something they all understand. The concept of personalization is about the student choosing the

technology themselves to meet their learning needs and that they have a toolbox of resources, one of which is technology. She wanted to state that, since that would come up in a committee discussion.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

b. YMCA Contract Extension Request

Mrs. Notar-Francesco explained that the YMCA leases space in our buildings for their Before and After Childcare programs at Derynoski, Flanders, Kelley, Hatton, Thalberg and Strong schools. The Board recently approved a revised fee schedule for the YMCA. Before them now is the YMCAs request for a five-year contract extension for the purpose of their long-term planning at each of the schools. She stated that the administration is recommending adding an addendum to the existing contract, adding two-years, to give them the five years that they are looking for. Their current lease expires in June 2016, and, adding the two years, would bring them to 2018.

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

“Move to add addendums for two additional years to the current YMCA Before and After Childcare Program contracts expiring in June 2016.”

Mr. Goralski stated that he thinks of the YMCA as a partner in educating and serving the community and, with the YMCA renting the space in the schools, it is an extension of that partnership.

Motion carried by voice vote with eight in favor and Mrs. Clark abstaining.

c. Apple Lease 2013-2014

Mrs. Notar-Francesco explained that this was a formality because Apple was requesting a motion and approval in order to move forward in leasing equipment for Kelley and Flanders Elementary Schools. Funding for this new lease has already been included in the budget for 2013-2014.

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

“Move to approve the new three-year Apple lease funded in the 2013-2014 budget to replace equipment at Kelley and Flanders Elementary Schools.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

d. All-Star Driver Proposal / Contract

Mrs. Notar-Francesco explained that a contract for leasing space to Top Driver, which is now owned by All-Star Driver, was being requested. Administration received a proposal for a one-year or a three-year contract, and recommends the three-year proposal because there will be a \$1,500 per session rental fee. If the Board agrees, administration will prepare a new three-year

contract for 2013-2016 using the original contract as a guide, and will ask Attorney Mark Sciota to review it.

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

“Move to approve the three-year proposal with All-Star Driver, as presented.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

e. Purchase Plan

Mrs. Notar-Francesco explained that the following items were approved to be reallocated from the 2013-2014 budget at the May 26 Board meeting: 1) New Program Textbooks, 2) Full-Day Kindergarten furniture and curriculum needs; 3) Infrastructure upgrade for technology, 4) Furniture replacement. Administration is requesting that any additional funds that potentially become available be used to continue the infrastructure upgrade and SmartBoard purchases within the schools.

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

“Move to approve the 2012-2013 Purchase Plan, as presented.”

Mrs. Johnson apologized for not being able to attend the last Board meeting where this was discussed. She stated that no one likes to reallocate monies and take away worthwhile programs. She was very touched by the elimination of the SOAR program. She was heartened to see that there still is a great deal of concern and interest in the community in education for the gifted and talented within the school day. She asked if additional monies left over could be used to continue the SOAR program. Mrs. DiNello explained that would be problematic because the main cost of the SOAR program was salaries, and salaries need to be paid during the budget year in which the work is done. There is not a mechanism to carry forward money into the new year budget unless the Board wanted to ask for some type of appropriation or carry forward of current operating budget funds into next year to fund that program. Mrs. Johnson asked if there was some potential for the continuation of the SOAR program for next year. Dr. Erardi replied that there has been ongoing discussion within administration and with both SOAR teachers. There will be information forthcoming to the Curriculum and Instruction Committee in the very near future, and it will be an opportunity at the committee level to look at the continuation of offering enrichment to the elementary school children.

Mr. Derynoski pointed out that they have two weeks left in the school budget year and questioned if there was any idea as to how much money would be left. Mrs. DiNello replied that the last pay date is June 28, which does not provide her with time to do a new analysis. Mr. Derynoski asked would there be enough time in two days to purchase these items associated with spend down if she did not know until June 28. Mrs. DiNello replied that most of the payroll would be run on Tuesday of that week so that would give her some opportunity prior to June 30 to adjust any purchase orders that would be issued specifically for the infrastructure upgrade and SmartBoard purchases, which are the only two areas they are considering spending any additional dollars. Mrs. DiNello pointed out that at the committee level Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked that she report back to the Finance Committee on the total amount spent when the purchases are completed.

Mr. Goralski questioned whether they would take the monies from infrastructure and technology if they end up short. If so, they would have to recoup that from next year's budget after July 1, 2013, which is the gamble that he spoke about on May 26 that made him uncomfortable. Mrs. Queen clarified that by spending this money they are not buying the things that they would have bought normally at this point in the year when principals hold back their 25% and at this point they are normally allowed the wish list of items that they really need and they are not buying those things. Mrs. DiNello replied that was correct. As part of Dr. Erardi's presentation, approximately \$250,000 of this plan is specifically coming from school building supply accounts.

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

f. Waive Policy #3323 ~ Bids and Quotes

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

“Because of the sensitivity of our school safety purchase plan, move to waive the requirement to bid the project and further move for administration to appropriately pursue competitive quotes to complete our safety initiatives.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

g.. Student Expulsion

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

“Move to expel student 2012-2013-10 as stipulated by the Superintendent of Schools.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Blanchard
 Recording Secretary

**SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION
JUNE 13, 2013**

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

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Brian Goralski, Board Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR SCHOOL SAFETY AND PERSONNEL

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

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

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Board went into Executive Session at 6:31 p.m.

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

“Move to reconvene into public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Board exited Executive Session and recessed at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jill Notar-Francesco, Secretary
Southington Board of Education