

SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT

REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 14, 2012

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, June 14, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at the Old Marion Schoolhouse, 1135 Marion Avenue, Marion, Connecticut.

1. LIVING HISTORY CELEBRATION:

Before the regular meeting, there was a living colonial history celebration at the Old Marion Schoolhouse which houses the Marion Museum dating back to 1825. Those present were given demonstrations of weaving, quilting, butter churning, and writing with a quill pen, picnicking, children's outdoor games, etc. and were served refreshments by the Marion Community Association members wearing period costumes. Ms. Vicky McCarthy greeted the Board of Education meeting attendees and gave a brief introduction and history of the Marion Schoolhouse.

2. BOARD RECOGNITIONS:

Before the regular meeting, Celebration of Excellence recognitions took place at 7:05 p.m. outside the building on the front lawn. 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.

ALL-STATE ATHLETES

Baseball: Justin Robarge

Boys Swimming & Diving: Michael Smigelski

Field Hockey and Academic All-State: Micaila Dean

Field Hockey, 2nd Team: Danielle Macioci

Girls Soccer: Erica Kosienski

Girls Volleyball: Victoria Broytman, Corinne Horanzy

Boys Volleyball: Daniel Carbone

Ice Hockey: John Gradante

Track: Cherraine Davis

Softball, 1st Team: Nicole Rossitto, Jordyn Moquin, Sydney Ferrante

Wrestling: Travis Daly

Girls Lacrosse, 2nd Team: Sarah Pelligrinelli

The second part of the Celebration of Excellence was the recognition of the top three scholars of the Class of 2012 who were presented with a plaque by Mr. Goralski and Mrs. Carmody:

Brandon Duffany – Valedictorian
Laura Wilcox – Salutatorian
Jacquelyn Ford-Cooperman – Essayist

The third part of the Celebration of Excellence was the recognition of Tad Meissner who remodeled the Plantsville Elementary School Environmental Classroom as an Eagle Scout project twice due to the destruction of his first project by storm damage. Mrs. Carmody and Mr. Goralski presented a plaque to him.

3. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:45 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; Mr. Frederick Cox, Director of Operations; and Dr. Perri Murdica, Senior Special Education Coordinator.

Student Representatives present were Leon Peschel, Whitney DiMeo and Abigail Harris.

There were approximately 28 individuals in the audience.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / PATRIOTIC SONG:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the Star-Spangled Banner was sung by Autumn Sheffy.

Mr. Goralski thanked the Marion Schoolhouse Association for hosting the Board of Education meeting and bringing history to life for everyone.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

“Move to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 24, 2012, as amended.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience

There was no communication from the audience.

b. Communications from Board Members and Administration

Communication from the Board Members:

Mrs. Queen reported that she was thrilled with the education that her Southington High School graduate has received with the Southington Public Schools. She wanted her child to love learning and she noted that without a doubt that was achieved in his 12 years of education. She thanked all the teachers, administrators and staff and stated that her family was very lucky to be in this community.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco reported that the CREC Council met on Wednesday, June 13 and had their final Council meeting of the school year. The Commissioner was in attendance at that meeting and the Council unanimously approved the budgets for three new magnet schools to open in the fall. This action was directly in response to the State Department of Education request. The state has continued to struggle to be in compliance with the court order of the Sheff stipulated agreement and they realized last fall that they were not going to make their numbers so they approached CREC to provide three additional magnets. These magnets that will open are expansions of existing programs. They are the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts Elementary, the Great Hartford Academy of the Arts Middle School, and Two Rivers High School. They will open in late August with limited grade capacity in each building.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco stated that, within the discussion of the new magnets, the CREC Council also had much discussion about Open Choice. Recent state legislation on the Education Reform Act provides increased funding for Open Choice for large districts such as Southington if Southington was to offer seats and accept 50% more Open Choice students than we currently have enrolled in this school year. She felt that the Board should look into this and that this legislation could be a way to offset the magnet school dollars going forward. She felt that they should have the conversation sooner rather than later. Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked if it could be an agenda item for the next Board meeting.

Dr. Erardi replied that the administration would be prepared on July 12 to do two things. 1) He would provide an update on magnet schools and where Southington is with tuition and numbers; 2) He would update the Board on Project Choice numbers. They presently enroll 30 students and to meet the new legislation they would bring in an additional 15 students. Mrs. Notar-Francesco noted that the grant funding level with the new legislation is actually double. Dr. Erardi added "plus \$6,000 per child." Mrs. Notar-Francesco noted that right now it is \$3,000.

Mr. Goralski announced that the Board meeting scheduled for June 28 will be cancelled. The next Board meeting will be July 12, 2012. Mr. Goralski announced that on Tuesday, June 26, the STEPS organization will have a tree dedication at Recreation Park with the rain date on June 28. Mr. Goralski stated that he received a thank you from the students who went on a field trip to Rome and Greece and shared it with the Board members. Mr. Goralski reported that there were some CAFE and Connecticut Education Foundation professional development opportunities for the Board members to attend that he would be happy to share with the Board members.

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

“Move to add Contract Negotiations and Potential Land Acquisition to the Board of Education Executive Session agenda.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Communication from Administration:

Dr. Erardi shared that when Leon Peschel, Student Representative, sat with him last week on the monthly broadcast of Spotlight on Education as a liaison between the students and the Board of Education, he told Leon that as a person in education for over 30 years he would be hard pressed to find a student who had been more impressive than Leon. When Dr. Erardi thinks of all the things that he would want his own children to represent, Leon represents all those things with distinction. He congratulated Leon’s parents and Leon.

Mr. Goralski told Leon that it was a privilege for him and the Board to present Leon his Certificate of Excellence plaque for serving as the Board of Education Student Representative. He thanked Leon and noted that he “upped the bar.” Every student who came before Leon brought something special; however, Leon “upped the bar” for Whitney DiMeo and Abigail Harris, the 2012-2013 student representatives. Mr. Goralski stated that Leon brought curriculum, academics, and extra-curricular activities all to life for the Board and did it with eloquence, grace, respect and offered insight to certain agenda items. Mr. Goralski thanked Leon, wished him luck and noted that the Board members will miss him. Mr. Goralski presented Leon Peschel with cards and gifts from the Board members and the administration.

Mr. Derynoski stated that he had the opportunity to sit next to Leon and Whitney during Board meetings, and noted that Leon brought a lot to the Board and even some humor, which was very refreshing. Mr. Derynoski’s advice to Leon was, “Don’t change.”

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

1. Commencement 2012: Dr. Erardi reported that there will be a reception for Board members and town elected officials starting at 4:45 p.m. on June 19. There are just fewer than 500 graduates. He congratulated Dr. Semmel, the administrative team, staff, and the graduating 2012 class.
2. Veterans /SBOE - Reflection: Dr. Erardi reported that he received a wonderful letter from a veteran in Southington who was part of the Veterans’ Speakers Bureau. He noted that the letter was a terrific summary of the work that the Board has done with our veterans, which is an extraordinary partnership.
3. JAD / JFK Enrollment 2013-2014: Dr. Erardi shared that last evening at Kelley Elementary School they had eight parents who had a conversation about 2013-2014, addressing a balance or imbalance between the two middle schools. He will keep the Board informed as they move forward with that initiative.

4. Extended Day Kindergarten: Mrs. Smith shared that the intervention gap that had existed for some students has begun to close dramatically. The reading scores at the end of Kindergarten are paralleling those children who are non-intervention students. The goal for next year is to continue with this program as presented this past year and also to be tracking the graduates of the Extended Day Kindergarten Program as they enter and travel through their first grade year in all eight elementary schools. Hard data presents one part of the story and that data is celebratory but so do the narratives, the parent e-mails, and the smiles on the children's faces when she visits them. On behalf of the teachers and the staff she thanked the Board and Open Choice for helping us support this program, and New Britain Transportation, Dr. Erardi and Mr. Fred Cox for the hours and hours spent talking about busing. She felt that this was a very worthwhile program. Dr. Erardi added that this program would not be in place if it were not for the assistant superintendent.
5. SEF Update: Dr. Erardi reported that the Southington Education Foundation continues to do extraordinary work for our students. One week ago, they gave grant awards to a number of teachers with innovative grant proposals.
6. Parent Appreciation Luncheon: Dr. Erardi thanked Stop & Shop for underwriting the cost of the second annual Parent Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. The luncheon was an opportunity to thank hardworking parents throughout the community.
7. JAD Extended Field Trip – Student Experience: Dr. Erardi introduced Debbie Moreau, a social studies teacher at DePaolo Middle School, who took a number of students to Washington.

Ms. Moreau thanked Dr. Erardi, the Board members and Mr. Frank Pepe for their support of the field trip to the Antietam Battlefield. She provided a PowerPoint presentation with photos of the field trip. Mr. Goralski noted that the presentation would not be able to be televised, but if Ms. Moreau made a copy of it available to Mr. Rit Campbell, hopefully, he could show it at the end of the broadcast. The presentation was narrated by James Brino and John Guzauckas. Seven students (Rachel Bruno, Megan Enright, James Brino, Jason Tosta, Justine Griffin, Amanda Thompson and John Guzauckas) went on a field trip to the Antietam National Battlefield and National Cemetery on April 21, 2012 and celebrated Connecticut Day. The real battle occurred on September 17, 1862 with 26,000 casualties. James Brino noted that the monument that was in the center of the national battlefield and built by James Batterson of Hartford, Connecticut was taller than DePaolo Middle School and was "ginormous." The students signed two scrolls with their names, with one to be stored in the Antietam National Archives and the other in the Hartford Library. In 50 years on the 200-Year Anniversary of the Civil War, people can look at the scrolls and see who went on the field trip. The students also visited Washington, D.C. Each of the seven students explained what they liked best about the trip and presented Dr. Erardi with a 150th Anniversary of the Civil War pin.

Mrs. Carmody hoped that the students would continue their interest in history through high school and thanked Travelers Insurance for their support of this field trip. Mrs. Clark pointed out that the back of the t-shirts worn by the students read, "That the Generations to come, might know them" and noted it was the study of history.

c. Communications from Student Board Representatives

Mr. Leon Peschel reported the following:

- 1) Class Night was held at the Toyota Theatre with a buffet and a slideshow of the events throughout the last four years.
- 2) Graduation practices are in full-swing with Mr. Germano for the Class of 2012
- 3) On Tuesday, the seniors rode their bikes to school with a wide variety of different vehicles such as bikes, tricycles, scooters, students pulled in carts, and some seniors taped skateboards to their bellies.
- 4) Mr. Peschel recognized Cherraine Davis as the CCC Champion and noted that she was also the State Champion and also the New England Champion in track. She is also a scholar and takes several AP classes.
- 5) Last Friday was Youth Honor Day, which is an incredible opportunity for the Student Council and other students who are interested in politics to shadow different town officials. The students were able to see what goes on behind the scenes. Mr. Peschel had the privilege of following Dr. Erardi around on a very busy day.
- 6) Last week was the Top 10 Luncheon. The students in the Top 10 chose a favorite teacher. It is the Top 10's way of celebrating and also being able to thank a teacher who was instrumental to their success.
- 7) The Top 25 Dinner was also held last week which honors the Top 25 students of this year's class and is hosted by UNICO.

Mr. Peschel thanked the Board members for his experience as a student representative. He noted that oftentimes children or young adults are not listened to or respected for their opinions. He had the privilege of serving on a committee that dealt with leveling and the Board and administration had done an incredible job actually listening to what the students had to say.

Miss DiMeo noted the following:

- 1) They are in the middle of final exams at the high school.
- 2) The softball team is the state runner-up.
- 3) Tuesday is the last academic day at the high school and there was the AP Expo for the second year. After the AP exam, the curriculum is over so they focus on doing an end-of-the-year project in which the students can select what they want.
- 4) Miss DiMeo personally thanked Mr. Peschel stating that it was honor to serve with him. He is one of her best friends and will be missed.
- 5) Miss DiMeo introduced Abigail Harris whom she had the pleasure of knowing this year because they both served on the Technology Committee.

Appointment of Student Board Representative Abigail Harris – Class of 2014

Miss Abigail Harris stated that she was currently finishing her sophomore year at the high school and thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as a Board of Education Student Representative for the next two years. Mr. Goralski shared with Miss Harris that if she ever had homework, studying, or family matters to attend to, it should come first before anything she does with the Board.

7. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

a. Personnel Report

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

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

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Policy & Personnel Committee Meetings – May 21, 2012 and June 11, 2012

Mrs. Clark reported that the Board had their first reading of the Homework Policy at their May 24, 2012 meeting and for the second reading the only change was that one sentence was deleted from the Regulation, which was sent to the Board via e-mail.

Mrs. Lombardi thanked the staff for the follow-up and looking further into the implications of technology onto the homework policy.

Mrs. Clark reported that the committee reviewed the Internet policy at their June 11, 2012 meeting. This policy needs to be approved this evening before June 30 per a state mandate. The committee discussed the policy at the meeting; however, the committee opted to not make any changes due to the time constraints. Mrs. Clark asked the Board to waive the second reading of this policy.

Mrs. Johnson stated that the language in this policy does not necessarily represent what typically comes from this committee. It is a fluid document and they expect that technology policies will continue to be addressed for quite some time. Therefore, the committee was comfortable with the language at this time. Mrs. Clark added that the attorneys checked it and the language was through CABE. The committee is never comfortable presenting a policy to which they made no changes; however, there was no time for it.

Mr. Oshana pointed out that this came down very quickly from the state as a mandate and if they don't get this in to the state then there is significant consequences to the district. It will become a Southington policy once they get beyond this. The state did not give Southington or any other district the opportunity or time to look at this policy before it was due. Mrs. Johnson added that May 15, 2012 was the first date that all districts were made aware of this requirement.

b. Finance Committee Meeting – June 4, 2012

Mrs. Notar-Francesco reported that the Finance Committee met on June 4, 2012 with five Board members (four committee members and Mrs. Johnson) in attendance.

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

“Move to use Tilcon and the state contracted bid price for the Kelley Elementary School parking lot and allow the Business Office to get quotes for the remaining cost of the project.”

Mr. Goralski questioned if this was in the town’s budget. Mrs. Lombardi replied that it was one of the top ten items in the Capital Plan. Dr. Erardi responded that it was going to be a cash funded project.

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

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

“Move to award Bid #2012-BID-08, Contracted Custodial Services (North Center) to Performance Environmental for a base price of \$22,564.12 to be split between the Town and the Board of Education.”

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

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

“Move to award Bid #2012-BID-10, Rubbish Removal Services, to HQ Rubbish Removal for three years for a total of \$198,645 as recommended by the Finance Committee.”

Mrs. Notar-Francesco reported they received eight bids with widely varying prices.

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.**

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

“Move to approve the proposed rate increase for the YMCA as recommended by the Finance Committee.”

Mr. Goralski assumed that this was negotiated with and communicated to the YMCA and would not come as a surprise. Mr. Goodwin replied that was correct.

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

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

“Move to approve the renewal of the Oak Hill leasing of two classrooms at Thalberg Elementary School with a 5% increase.”

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.**

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

“Move to approve the restructuring of the current Apple leases to provide additional equipment for the district as recommended by the Finance Committee.”

Mrs. Karen Veilleux [Technology Director] explained that in 2006-2007 they started the Apple leases. Last year, they restructured a lease and started a new lease so they currently have two leases ongoing that would be in year two of three years. She proposed that they take equity out and they were able to buy new equipment and add a year on to the end of the lease. For the two existing leases, she would like to take equity out of them. They had already budgeted to start a third lease in the 2012-2013 budget. With that, she had the ability to take out and purchase \$392,211 worth of new equipment. This equipment would be used to totally refresh Derynoski School’s equipment, which is quite old. They also have the ability to help out the high school. It does not have to be used solely for Apple products. If they have additional funds, she is looking to try to increase laptop carts at Kelley and Flanders Schools; they don’t have a real computer lab.

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

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

“Move to approve the revised Purchase Plan and waive any bid thresholds due to time constraints now to the end of the year.”

Mrs. Notar-Francesco reported that the 2011-2012 Purchase Plan was essentially a wish list should the funds become available. The committee felt that the textbooks at the top of the list of \$112,270 were a priority. They also talked about moving the non-fiction and informational texts for \$15,000 to a priority status as well if the funds become available.

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

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

Mr. Goralski reported that last evening he attended a public hearing with the Board of Finance for the next step in the turf process. They voted 6-0 to authorize a bond ordinance for the purchase of a synthetic turf field at Southington High School. He thought that it was a great tribute to our staff as Mr. Eric Swallow [Athletic Director] attended to answer any questions from the Board of Finance. It was from the financial point of view and it appears that project is moving forward still. Mr. Goralski noted that Mr. Cox would be an active participant in anything that involves construction and the town asked that he be the point person whenever construction takes place on school property. He noted that Jim Lombardo [Maintenance Foreman] and Charlie Beliveau [Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds] have played a very important role in this committee's work because one of the focus areas for the Board of Finance last night was sewers and drainage.

Mr. Goralski stated that he planned to invite the Town Council and Board of Finance members to the Board of Education's next meeting to talk about teacher negotiations. This letter will come out of Mrs. DiNello's office inviting them and Attorney Rich Mills to the Executive Session that will take place before the regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Dr. Erardi commented that on Wednesday at the Parent Luncheon, the Town Manager, Garry Brumback, launched the conversation about the Capital Plan. He noted that Mr. Brumback did a terrific job sharing with the parent volunteers of moving forward with bridges, streets and sewer repair.

Mrs. Queen asked what Mr. Goralski meant about moving the Turf Project forward. Mr. Goralski replied that right now an RFP (Request for Proposal) is being sent out to all interested bidders. There is going to be core drilling done on the field on Friday so that every company will start on a level playing field. They will all have the same information in front of them for their bid documents. The sewer information was incredibly good news and everything in place can accommodate an appropriate drainage system at the surface. Mr. Goralski understood from Attorney Sciota that those numbers should come back eight days after the mandatory walk-through. The bids will be opened on June 28, 2012. Mr. Goralski stated that in a perfect world, if the numbers are below \$900,000 as projected, construction could begin as early as mid-July. He noted that the Board of Finance scheduled a special meeting on June 26 where they are going to discuss ways to finance this, although bonding is approved, they were considering cash from surpluses in the town budget or if there is interest on the part of the Town Council to draw down. The Board of Finance is going to be an active participant in this meeting to plan that and then ultimately the Town Council will decide how to spend it. All approvals are already in place.

Mrs. Carmody read in the newspaper that one of the people who spoke asked if any of the money could come from the Board of Education. She knows that the Board of Education made it clear that in the Board of Education's motion to support the turf field, the Board was adamant that they approved the turf field, but financing will never come from the Board of Education's budget.

Mrs. Lombardi asked who would manage the project and what the Board of Education's role would be as they move forward. Mr. Goralski replied that the bid document is a turnkey. The company that oversees the project will be responsible for all construction related to it. Once the project is accepted, it will be turned over to the Board of Education as complete. Mr. Goralski noted that Mr. James Grappone [Acting Town Engineer] showed a drawing with a

dimensional scale in the map that is part of the bid document that shows the fence line for the current track. The contractor who is awarded the bid will have control of the area inside the fencing with the oversight of Mr. Cox. The contractor will be responsible from start to finish of the project inside that fencing.

Mr. Derynoski pointed out that in the past, when these types of projects came about, such as a school roof or other school project, the Town Council would appoint a building committee who would be the overseer of the project with the assistance of Mr. Cox. Mr. Goralski thought that was good advice to pass forward to the Town Council.

Mr. Cox added that it is going to be a field used by the entire town so the direction should be given by a group of people. He could see representation from his office, Parks and Recreation, Attorney Mark Sciota's office and the Engineering office to be the core group, so if issues do come up, such as change orders or decisions that have to be made, they could address it. He has had some discussions on that.

Mrs. Johnson questioned fees for use of this facility if it was going to be a town-used field. Mr. Goralski replied that the Advisory Committee of the turf proposal recommended that a part of this process moving forward would be a Turf Advisory Committee to be named to oversee the management, funding and the costs of that field. Part of that is to raise funds for the maintaining and future replacement and to assist in the process of scheduling and setting fees. With this being a shared entity, the Board of Education and Town will have a role in it. Mr. Goralski hoped that he, Mr. Derynoski and Mr. Cox could serve on that committee.

b. Construction Update

Mr. Cox reported that the Plantsville and South End projects were complete. The stalemate is at the state level in Hartford with their consolidation of departments. Right now, between the two projects, there are tens of thousands of dollars of change orders that are being questioned and he and Newfield Construction are providing information when asked. There is no one at the other end reviewing and making the final decisions at the state level. He has been in communication with the state, but people are doing multiple jobs and told him that they will get to it in fair time. It does not hurt the audit process; it just means we are still fighting to get additional reimbursement from the state on this.

Mr. Cox reported that work continues on the North Center project. Unfortunately, the July 12 Board of Education meeting will not be able to be held there. With any luck, they will have the August Board meeting at North Center.

Mr. Cox announced that the Town Council hired Fletcher Thompson to do the architectural and construction services for both the DePaolo and Kennedy Middle School projects this past Monday evening. Fletcher Thompson met with the Building Committee the following evening and discussed schedules. Fletcher Thompson reassured the Building Committee that it was a tight schedule but it could be done. It will be a busy summer and the Building Committee will meet every Tuesday during the summer to get the paperwork up to the state in a timely manner.

Mrs. Johnson asked when Mr. Cox anticipated that the architects would have some drawings for the Board. Mr. Cox replied that they would be doing the schematics during the summer and would have an update around Labor Day. Mrs. Johnson asked if the committee that is meeting with the architects included representatives from the each middle school such as the principal or assistant principal. Mr. Cox replied that at this time they were not. It was too early in the process but Mr. Christopher Palmieri [Assistant Principal at DePaolo] is on the Building Committee. He would be meeting with both principals and assistant principals and putting together their list to share with the architect of things they don't care for on the conceptual drawings that need to be readdressed.

Mr. Goralski noted that he and Mrs. Clark were there on Tuesday with Mr. Cox and Mr. Costa from Fletcher Thompson showed them some of the changes that have already taken place. The Board will approve the final drawings. Mr. Derynoski thought that the important aspect of the process was that the Board be kept aware of how it was being put together. One thing they don't want to do is have Fletcher Thompson do the work and come to the Board and the Board as a whole does not have a majority that likes what they see. Mrs. Clark thought that everyone at Tuesday's meeting were in agreement with communication in all directions to make sure that the final product was what everyone had envisioned.

Mrs. Lombardi asked if teachers, staff, paraprofessionals and students gave input into this. Mr. Cox replied that the input from the teachers and staff came at the very beginning when the Educational Specifications were put together last spring, one year ago. Mrs. Lombardi asked if they were involved in any way in the current process of taking a look at things as it goes along. Mr. Cox replied that, if there were questions, the school administrators would address it with the staff. Safety, the facility itself, and the grounds were what Mr. Cox is responsible for than the arrangement of the actual classrooms. The teachers have given a lot of input this past spring. Mrs. Lombardi felt that the teachers were the one running the classrooms and they should have some input. Mrs. Clark replied that the science lab was one of the examples that Mr. Palmieri shared with them. The science labs were all ganged up together on one end of the building so that they could bring gas into the labs. She pointed out that Mr. Palmieri explained the teachers don't want to be all in a row, they want to be with their teams. She noted that all those ideas the teachers had are being brought forward to the architect through the administration. Mr. Goralski stated that once a project begins the only people who really have direction would be the building committee.

Mr. Derynoski thought that the paperwork to the state had to be filed by the end of June. Mr. Cox replied that was correct and that 90% of that paperwork comes from his office and the financial schedule, which is one of eight, is put together with the architect. He has already talked to Mr. Costa from Fletcher Thompson about that. He will have the paperwork completed and, if need be, hand delivered to the state. Mr. Derynoski explained that, if it does not get to the state by June 30, they have to wait another year.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Appointment of SEA Negotiating Committee

Mr. Goralski announced that the team for the SEA Negotiating Committee would be comprised of Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Queen, Mr. Oshana and himself. Most of the meetings

will be held in the evening. Mr. Goralski stated that Mrs. DiNello sent him the schedule starting with a meeting with the municipal fiscal authorities in August after everyone's vacations and through September they will start working on issues before they need mediation. By October 21, 2012, the parties must name an arbitrator if the contract has not been settled. The deadline is dictated by state statute.

b. Textbook Recommendations

Mrs. Smith reported that she has learned so much about re-binding. She explained that Dr. Adina Alexandru from the Southington High School World Language Department, Mrs. Regina Hackett, Department Chair of the English Department, and Ms. Betsy Chester, K-12 Language Arts Coordinator were in the audience to answer any questions. There were three textbooks returning this evening for consideration of a vote. At the Board's request, they were able to order the identical copies of what they are looking for and they will be able to purchase these items in hard cover with the help of binding companies.

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

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

Mrs. Johnson had a question that hinges on a meeting that the Curriculum Committee had with Dr. Semmel the other day and it had to do with numbers of students in classes and what constitutes a good number. The concern is students in classes that are less than 10. It is not especially cost effective to have a class of 10 students, on the other hand, when it is something so specialized and the policy of our comprehensive high school is to be able to offer these specialized courses, it becomes a balancing act. Her concern was about the anticipated enrollment for the AP Italian this year. She asked if there would be 10 students in the class. Dr. Alexandru replied that the number could change with transfers from district-to-district, but as of right now there are seven students. Mrs. Johnson asked if there was any way to encourage more students to take the class. Dr. Alexandru replied that everybody in her department encourages students to take AP classes and continue their study of a foreign language, but the reality is that the same students take AP Physics, AP Math and AP English, and there are only so many hours in the day that they can do it.

Mr. Goralski commented that the Board supports textbooks that meet the needs and the AP Italian textbook had to meet the fiction of one demand and the non-fiction of the other demand and Dr. Alexandru had to work hard to find the book, but by the end of the day the Board wants something that lasts and is worth the money. The problem they had was not that the Board did not like the book, but they were not durable as paperbacks. He wished she had given the Board the information about the hard cover sooner because it was obviously available. It was not the work; it was the durability that was the Board's concern. He wanted her to bring that back to her colleagues so in the future it could be done in one shot and it won't take everyone two days.

Mrs. Smith stated that she wanted to take responsibility for what the Board saw before them last month. Regarding the books that were proposed, the publishers did not publish books that were hard cover, so they had to look for alternate ways to get hard cover and that was

something that she did not even know could be done. She pointed out that the team did work very hard to find books from publishers that were hard cover. Mr. Goralski stated that these were great books. Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked if there would be enough time to order them for the start of school. Mrs. Smith replied that there was enough time.

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

c. Homework Policy – Second Reading

Mr. Goralski noted that the Board was sent the one change electronically. It was the last sentence of the second page of the document.

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

“Move to approve Policy #6154, Homework Instruction, as amended.”

Mrs. Notar-Francesco thanked the committee for the great work.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

d. Policy 6141.9 – Internet Safety Policy – First Reading

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

“Move to waive the first reading requirement for the Internet Safety Policy.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move to approve the Internet Safety Policy #6149.9.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR UPSEU PARAPROFESSIONAL NEGOTIATIONS, COMPENSATION FOR 2012-2013 UNAFFILIATED EMPLOYEES, CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS, AND DISCUSSION OF LAND ACQUISITION FOR POTENTIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION PURCHASE.

MOTION: by Mr. Derynoski, seconded by Mr. Oshana:

“Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of UPSEU Paraprofessional Negotiations, Compensation for 2012-2013 Unaffiliated Employees, Contract Negotiations, and Discussion of Land Acquisition for Potential Board of Education Purchase, and upon conclusion reconvene to open session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Blanchard

Recording Secretary
Southington Board of Education

**SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

JUNE 14, 2012

Mr. Brian Goralski, Board Chairperson, called the Executive Session to order at 9:20 p.m.

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

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

MOTION: by Mr. Derynoski, seconded by Mr. Oshana:

“Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of UPSEU Paraprofessional Negotiations, Compensation for 2012-2013 Unaffiliated Employees, Contract Negotiations, and Discussion of Land Acquisition for Potential Board of Education Purchase, and upon conclusion reconvene to open session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mrs. DiNello left the Executive Session at 9:35 p.m.; Mrs. Smith left the Executive Session at 9:40 p.m.

MOTION: by Mr. Derynoski, seconded by Mr. Oshana:

“Move that the Board return to public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The board reconvened public session at 10:30 p.m.

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

“Move to add 2012-2013 Compensation for Unaffiliated Employees to the agenda.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move to add 2012-2013 Compensation for the Superintendent of Schools to the agenda.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10. NEW BUSINESS

e. 2012-2013 Compensation for Unaffiliated Employees

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

“Move to approve the 2012-2013 compensation grid for Unaffiliated Employees as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

f. 2012-2013 Compensation for the Superintendent of Schools

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

“Move to approve the 2012-2013 compensation for the Superintendent of Schools to \$170,000 and language changes agreed upon within the Superintendent’s contract.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Board adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jill Notar-Francesco, Secretary
Southington Board of Education

Administration: Board of Education Update June 14, 2012

1. **Commencement 2012 – June 19th – 5:30 p.m.**
2. **Veterans / SBOE – Reflection** (Attachment #1)
3. **JAD / JFK Enrollment - 2013-2014** (Attachment #2)
4. **Extended Day Kindergarten** (Attachment #3)
5. **SEF Update** (Attachment #4)
6. **Parent Appreciation Luncheon** (Attachment #5)
7. **JAD Extended Field Trip – Student Experience – Debbie Moreau**

Joe Emond
6/14/28

JOSEPH ERARDI

From: wayne white <w_l_white0739@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 7:03 PM
To: JOSEPH ERARDI; SBOE
Cc: Leonard Marcheselle; ELIZABETH HOSMER; David Brennan; Steve McCarty; CHRISTY MICHALAK; JASON GHIDINI; Hushak Walter; JOEL PATRICK LEGER; Jack Savage; JEFFREY SHAW; JOYCE MCALOON; DEBBIE MOREAU; Steve Pinterich; PATRICIA A. QUEEN; RICHARD TERINO; Igino Torone; MARYANN CASTRILLI; LOUANN SIERUTA; KIMBERLEE KALAT; TRISH KENEFICK
Subject: Fw: Veterans Speaker Bureau

Dr. Joseph Erardi,

With the school year coming to a close I, along with the Veterans' Speakers Bureau, would like to take the opportunity to thank you for the support you have given to the Veterans allowing us to partner with Southington classroom teachers by bringing us into the classrooms to speak to students on our experiences and what it means to be a Veteran. When we started this program we thought perhaps it might be too late in the school year to put it in place. I guess we underestimated what we could accomplish together. It was a daunting task establishing a data base with names of Veterans who would be willing to speak, matching them to teachers requests. Without your personal support behind this effort I doubt we would have been as successful! We were able to match Veterans to classrooms beginning on May 2nd at Kelly followed by South End and Derynoski Elementary schools on May 25th. On June 6th (D Day) Len Marcheselle and I had the honor to speak at DePaolo Middle School to seventh grade Social Studies students. On June 14th Veterans will be attending the Flag Day ceremony at Thalberg Elementary. Veterans have also volunteered to read to our students on reading day.

To the Southington Board of Education who listened to the concerns of the Veterans regarding the issue of students attending school on Veterans Day. You allowed us to express our concerns at BOE meetings. After listening you agreed with us that Veterans Day, as a national holiday, Veterans would be properly honored by not having our students attend school on Nov 11. For this we thank you!

We must also recognize the efforts of individual educators within the Southington school system who have contributed a great deal to the success of this program. Beth Hosmer who has worked very closely with us in setting up the Speakers Bureau data base, ironing out glitches within the data base, and investing many hours of her spare time. Christy Michalak for developing the Teacher request form and contacting others in the system asking for their involvement. She also gave up much of her personal time. Richard Torino, as busy as he is with his impending new duties at the high school, was the catalyst behind the DePaolo Middle School program. Joyce McAloon for handling the Connecticut Fisher House wrist band program. What a great success!

A thank you also to the teachers who invited us into their classrooms...Maryann Castrilli, Louann Sieruta, Trish Kenefick, Kimberlee Kalat, Christy Mahalak and Richard Torino.

We are looking forward to the next school year, hopefully being invited into many more classrooms to share our experiences, where we as Veterans can bring a sense of understanding of what it means to be a Veteran.

For the Veterans Speakers Bureau,

Wayne White

Definition of a Veteran

A Veteran-whether active duty, retired, or national guard or reserve-is someone who, at one point in his, or her, life wrote a blank check made payable to The United States of America; for an amount of "up to and including my life". That is honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it.

Author unknown

If you can read thank a teacher. If you can read in English thank a vet.

No Change in Districting

2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR

	JAD	JFK
DERYNSKI	28	77
FLANDERS	47	0
HATTON	53	0
KELLEY	20	46
PLANTSVILLE	0	49
SOUTH END	0	44
STRONG	0	58
THALBERG	68	0
GRADE 6	216	274
GRADE 7	278	287
GRADE 8	247	296
TOTALS	741	857
DIFFERENCE	116	

CURRENT 5TH GRADERS

Grade 5 to Grade 6

Moving some KES* students to JAD who were originally districted for JFK

2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR

	JAD	JFK
DERYNSKI	29	94
FLANDERS	48	0
HATTON	51	0
KELLEY	48	23
PLANTSVILLE	0	53
SOUTH END	0	31
STRONG	0	83
THALBERG	84	0
GRADE 6	260	284
GRADE 7	235	255
GRADE 8	290	274
TOTALS	785	813
DIFFERENCE	28	

CURRENT 4TH GRADERS

Grade 5 to Grade 6

2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR

	JAD	JFK
DERYNSKI	35	74
FLANDERS	57	0
HATTON	72	0
KELLEY	42	27
PLANTSVILLE	0	41
SOUTH END	0	48
STRONG	0	68
THALBERG	65	0
GRADE 6	271	258
GRADE 7	260	284
GRADE 8	235	255
TOTALS	766	797
DIFFERENCE	31	

CURRENT 3RD GRADERS

*Beal Dr, Beverly Dr, Burr Ct, DeSorbo Dr, Emmas Way, Hitchcock Rd, Horne Cir, Jude Ln, Lowery Dr, Meeker Rd, Merriman Cir, Pine Dr, Walkley Dr

Extended Day Kindergarten Narrative

Developing the Extended Day Kindergarten program this year was an exciting endeavor. We developed goals for our classrooms and individual goals for the students within the first week of classes. When the program began in October, we looked at the individual needs of the students and realized that we needed to immerse them in letter and sound identification as well as beginning phonological awareness skills. It was important for us to monitor their growth and understanding of the concepts being taught, which is why we assessed them bi-weekly. The information gained from these assessments was a critical component in creating lessons that provided them with ample opportunities to be successful and challenged them at the same time.

During our monthly meetings we were able to share ideas, develop the curriculum, and discuss successful components of the program. We also identified areas where we could improve instruction next year.

January was an exciting time. After three months of intervention it became clear that our students were ready for explicit instruction in sight words and medial sounds. We utilized our resources (literacy tutors and CREC literacy specialist) to emphasize these important pre-reading and pre-writing concepts. The students began to make connections between letters, sounds, and words in their reading and writing.

As with any new program, there were some challenges this year with Extended Day Kindergarten. Our biggest challenge was giving and receiving the same information at the same time from each of the schools. We found that e-mail worked best for most of us due to our rigorous schedules, but it was still difficult to touch base about student progress and needs in a timely manner. We believe that there needs to be some additional time set aside for us to meet with the home-school teachers throughout the year.

A critical component of this program was having the full-time paraprofessional and a literacy tutor. Having them in our classrooms allowed us to develop activities that were reinforced every day. We would not have been able to meet the unique needs of the learners without their support! A common planning time with our paraprofessional would be beneficial, as we need to continually monitor student growth.

We are so proud of the accomplishments of our students this school year. We are excited to say that we know with absolute certainty that this program made a difference in the lives of sixty wonderful Southington students.

District Extended Day Kindergarten Data

Throughout the 2011-2012 school year we have been tracking the growth of our Extended Day Kindergarten students in the area of Language Arts. The students were assessed in the following areas: letter identification, sound identification, phonemic awareness, sight words and DRA. This is a culmination of data from both XK classrooms.

In November 13% of our students met the EOY benchmark for letter identification (52 out of 52 letters); by June 97% of students had met this goal.

In November 13% of our students could successfully identify 30 out of 33 sounds. By June 93% of students had met this goal.

In November 5% of our students could successfully complete 9 out of 9 sections of the Extended Day Kindergarten Phonemic Awareness assessment. By June 95% of students had met this goal.

In November 18% of our students could successfully identify all 25 Kindergarten Sight Words. By June 95% of students had met this goal.

Based on the DRA data provided by the home-school teachers, 60% of our students met or exceeded the EOY benchmark (DRA level 4) by June. The data also shows that 38% are below grade level (DRA level 2 or 3) while 2% are significantly below grade level expectations. At the district level, 71% of Kindergarteners met or exceeded the EOY benchmark, 28% are below grade level, and 1 % is significantly below grade level.

[illegible]

SOUTHINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON
JUNE 13, 2012
12:00 NOON

HAWK'S LANDING
201 PATTONWOOD DRIVE
SOUTHINGTON, CT

Sponsored by:
Stop & Shop Supermarket
505 North Main Street
Southington, CT



A G E N D A

1. OPENING REMARKS ~ Terri C. Carmody, Vice Chairperson
2. REMARKS ~ Patricia Mazzearella, President SAA
3. REMARKS ~ Richard Terino, President SEA
4. REMARKS ~ Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Jr., Superintendent of Schools



June 11, 2012

Dr. Joseph Erardi, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools
Southington Board of Education
49 Beecher Street
Southington, CT 06489

Dear Dr. Erardi:

It is with great pleasure that I enclose a donation in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) to help support the 2nd Annual Parent Volunteer Luncheon.

We applaud the work done by your organization and extend our best wishes for much continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judi Palmer".

Judi Palmer
Director of Marketing & External Communications

Enclosure: Check # 0006188568