

SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT

REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 24, 2010

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, June 24, 2010 in the Town Council Chambers, Southington Town Hall, 75 Main Street, Southington, Connecticut.

The Celebration of Excellence took place at 7:10 p.m. in recognition of Andrew Dominello and Amanda Rafala, 2010 Southington High School graduates, for contributing to the success of the Coffeehouse at Southington High School under the leadership of Mr. Joseph Cippolini. They gave solo performances for those present at the meeting. Andrew Dominello sang while playing the keyboard. Amanda Rafala sang while playing the guitar. Mr. Goralski presented them each with a Certificate of Excellence on behalf of the Board of Education.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m. by Mr. Brian Goralski, Chairman. Board members present were Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Rosemarie Fischer, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Kathleen Rickard (*arrived at 8:15 p.m.*) and Ms. Michelle Schroeder.

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Goralski led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ June 10, 2010

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

“Move to approve the minutes of June 10, 2010.”

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Fischer, Ms. Schroeder, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mr. Goralski. ABSTAIN: Mrs. Clark and Mr. Derynoski. **Motion carried with six in favor and two abstentions.**

MOTION: by Mrs. Notar-Francesco, seconded by Ms. Schroeder:

“Move to add the minutes of the Special Board meeting of June 22, 2010 to the agenda as item 3.a.”

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

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

“Move to approve the minutes of the Special Board meeting of June 22, 2010.”

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

At this time, Mr. Goralski publicly introduced the new principal of Southington High School, Dr. Martin Semmel, who was present at the meeting. He stated that the Board was honored to have him as the leader of the high school and looked forward to what he could do for the school system. He asked Dr. Semmel to take the podium.

Dr. Semmel thanked the Board for appointing him as the next Principal of Southington High School and stated that it was an exciting time for him. He remarked that it was bittersweet to be leaving Bristol Central because he generated a number of positive relationships while he was there. He cultivated a staff and they did a number of great things, such as the test scores that they were able to achieve. He noted that student achievement was really high. At the same time, he has always commented to his students at Bristol Central that he wanted to be able to develop the school so that he would be proud to send his own kids to it. Now, his oldest daughter would be joining him at Southington High School in about four years, which may be bittersweet for her. He stated that he starts on July 1, 2010 and he could not be happier. He thanked the Board for the way the whole interview process went and that he felt like he was respected throughout the entire process. He felt that it was important and showed the character of the Board.

The Board welcomed Dr. Semmel to Southington. At 7:42 p.m., Mr. Goralski called for a five-minute break to welcome him and to celebrate with cake served in his honor.

The meeting reconvened at 7:52 p.m.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience

Marissa Sisco and Ellie Lefkovich, seventh grade Project Discover Students: They believed that this program should not be cut for many reasons. They felt that there were solutions to help save the program. Ellie Lefkovich stated that some reasons that it should be saved included that it gave more highly educated students a chance to learn away from the regular classroom because everybody else tends to be behind them so they get a chance to learn at their own level. It also lets students have a time to educate themselves on whatever they choose for their Independent Study Projects. They choose their own topics and learn more about them, which may actually influence their later careers. It also stops students from attending magnet schools, which costs a fee. It gives them a high-level education without the costs. It also stops teachers from being stressed from crowded classrooms. With the students in the Project

Discover classroom, the teachers don't have to worry about the extra crowding. Oversize classrooms would be cut down because kids would be away and it would give the teachers more chances to work with other students who need more help.

Marissa Sisco stated that the CMT would go down because the Project Discover students would be moving to magnet schools, which would also cause oversized classrooms because teaching positions would be eliminated since all the budget funding would be going to students in magnet schools. The budgets would "go through the roof" paying for all the students going to magnet schools also. The Project Discover students help the other kids and provide support to help the teachers that cannot reach out to everyone at one time. They need to have the full-time experience because that is what influences everybody the most. Cutting Project Discover opens the door for magnet schools to recruit people like them because the main people they target are the ones who do well in school. She stated that the students are the country's future leaders, presidents, and governors. They thought that the Board would want them to have a good education to do what is best for the country. Since Project Discover might be cut, parents are looking for K-8 magnet schools for their younger kids that want the extra education. She went to St. Thomas School for a better education and came to Kennedy Middle School for the Project Discover and the extracurricular activities. In 2006, when a person came to a Board of Education meeting and offered to build a magnet school, that would have benefited the town better because they would not have the problem of cutting Project Discover. She stated that some alternatives to cutting Project Discover would be to have Pay-to-Play sports or cut sports fully because there are many town leagues, travel leagues, and camps for middle school sports. One solution, instead of cutting Project Discover, is the Jacob K. Javits funding grant. It would be awarded in 2012 and, if the program is cut, they are less likely to get funding for it. There are schools funded across the state with hundreds of thousands of dollars for this program. They award new and continuation awards ranging from \$80,000 to \$450,000 over a course of three years. She read a quote from their website that states, "*Students with talent are found in all cultural groups, across all economic strata, and in all areas of human endeavor to support the development of gifted and talented students in the United States. The U.S. Congress reauthorized the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act as Title V, Part D, Sub-Part VI of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. This legislation reauthorizes the U.S. Department of Education to fund grants, provide leadership, and sponsor a national research center on the education of gifted and talented students.*" She stated that there were many people to contact for more information about this.

Ellie Lefkovich noted that many of their friends, and their parents, could not attend the Board meeting although they wanted to. They collected a list of names, which are not all the names because some people were not able to sign it. It shows a number of people who want this program saved (*Attachment #1*). She thanked the Board for their time and asked the Board to seriously reconsider the reinstatement of this program.

Marc Lefkovich, parent of three students who went through the Project Discover Program in elementary, middle school and continuing in high school, spoke on behalf of the program. He noted that there were very few parents in the audience tonight because most people feel that there really is not a chance to save the program and that the Board and the Superintendent have made up their minds at this point. He stated that he is a teacher from another school district and it has been his experience that, after a budget is passed, it is not necessarily the end of the possibilities that still could be funded during the school year,

depending on the discretion of the Superintendent and the Board of Education. He felt that it was important to still “try to make the case” for the program. He stated that he had three children go through the program and they benefited greatly from it. At the Project Discover Open House, what the students presented, and what they could do, could not be done in a standard classroom schedule. The amount of depth, knowledge, and work that they did is beyond what is possible in the regular schedule for all students to do. One of the main things that the Project Discover has done for them is allowed them to explore topics in much greater detail and study topics that they personally find interesting, which makes them dig much more deeply into it. He noted that Dr. Erardi was able to see the project that his son and his friend did, which was sports related. They actually wrote a sports magazine, they did five copies of it, and each magazine was 10-pages long. They recruited other students to write the articles that were all written from scratch and then they sold the newspapers in the school to make money at 25 cents or 50 cents a copy and that money then went back to Project Discover. He noted that it was a very extensive project. As a teacher, he felt that it was not the kind of thing that they would normally be able to do. He understood that there are some people who feel that closing this program may not be a great loss and that it does not serve enough students and may be somewhat elitist. He begged to differ with that thinking. He referred to his son who loves sports, such as basketball, football and baseball. His son plays basketball and baseball and is extremely good at basketball. Mr. Lefkovich noted that Mr. Goralski coached his son before. His son is generally the point guard and a great ball handler; unfortunately, genetics did not favor him and he knows that he would be challenged when he gets to the high school if he wants to try out for that team. He may not make it. Mr. Lefkovich asked if those high school basketball players or programs are elitist. There is a good chance that his son would not make that team even though he is going to try. He noted that his children probably would not make the Art Enrichment Program. His two daughters, who play violin, probably are not going to make select strings, but they do not consider any of those programs to be elitist because they cater to those students’ strengths and those students are offered something that is special to them and helps define who they are. In the case of the Project Discover kids, their ability to excel at academics is part of who they are. They thrive in that environment and in the ability to collaborate with other kids who thrive in that environment. If people were at the Project Discover Open House, they would have seen that. He hoped that the Board would reconsider how they might allocate the resources as they look forward in the summer and consider a way to keep this program going. It touches many kids and is a fairly inexpensive program compared to other programs. He thanked the Board for the cake and coffee.

Scott Perretta stated that he was a proud participant in the Project Discover Program. In the past year, he was in eighth grade and he felt that in Project Discover he could learn what he wanted to learn: things that he could not learn in his regularly scheduled classes. In the regular classes, he was fine in learning everything, but he actually wanted to learn more about current events in the country, world, town and state. Being in the Project Discover Program, he actually felt that he could learn all that. His Independent Study Project was on global warming. He did not think that in middle school they would discuss global warming or any problem that is occurring in the country or the world today. Being a member of Project Discover, he felt that he could excel more and learn more than most of the students in his regularly scheduled classes. He felt that reconsidering the Gifted and Talented Program would be a very smart idea and asked the Board to reconsider it.

Cathy Sisco, parent of Marissa, stated that the Gifted and Talented Program had been phenomenal for the students. She also has a son, who attends South End School, and he is looking forward to the opportunities that his sister had in the Project Discover Program because he is following that same path. She noted that Southington is a very competitive community and the community is really proud of the fact that the students excel. She stated that Southington was very well known for sports. She felt that Project Discover lets the students, who are more academically talented, show off their skills and abilities just like the sports teams do. She noted that they have a really great foundation coming up with the STEPS Program and the community services provided. They are focusing on so many arenas on the 40 developmental assets. She felt that Project Discover fits into that model. It is about keeping the students connected to school, about showing them that academics are important, and giving them something to feel good about themselves and be proud about who they are as individuals. It is an opportunity for the community to show how much they care about those successes. It also gives them the opportunity for social connections. They are not just that one smart kid that is in the class that broke the curve on a test. This is an opportunity where they all get together and create relationships that they do not have with some of their other peers because they are just at a different level. It is not about being elite; it is about really being proud of where their strengths are. As a parent, that is what she has always strived for her kids and that they could be proud of who they are and what their individual strengths are because everybody is different. She noted that Project Discover gives the students that moment to shine. She knows that it is tough times and that everyone is tightening their belts, but she hoped that they could find some funding to keep this program. The Board would have the opportunity to look at the Jacob K. Javits funding in 2011 or 2012. If they found funding for one or two years to bring Project Discover back, then they might be able to apply for that funding and keep it going without it coming out of the operating budget going forward.

Mr. Goralski thanked the students for attending the meeting and stated that he knew many of them because he had the privilege to coach them. He has received many letters and appreciated their input and the comments tonight.

b. Communications from Board Members and Administration

Communication from the Board Members:

Mrs. Notar-Francesco reported that last week, along with Mr. Thierry and several members of the Southington Education Foundation, she was invited to sit on a focus group to evaluate a project by a group of students in Grades 4 and 5 at Kelley and Plantsville Elementary Schools. She was unsure by the invitation what to expect and what this focus group was about. What unfolded in this focus group was astounding. There were 14 students from Plantsville and nine from Kelley Elementary School who worked under the direction of Mrs. Jackie St. John. Mrs. St. John asked the Grade 4 and 5 teachers at these two schools to select students from their classrooms for this project whom they felt could benefit from an experiential enrichment experience. These students were encouraged to “think big” and develop a business plan. They did a need analysis and they identified distinct needs at their school. Both teams wrote their own mission statements and an executive summary of their needs, which included the need to add current book titles to fill their school libraries. The two student groups called their business plan “Need for Reads” and “Plead for Reads.” They also wanted to work to promote and strengthen the partnership between Southington schools and the community. The students formed

committees to get the work done. Some students worked on the data collection and financials, others worked on promoting the plan through marketing and advertising, others worked on event planning and the PowerPoint presented to them. Some worked on writing the grant. Students conveyed that they had a true understanding and passion for their project. What Mrs. Notar-Francesco found to be the most significant aspect of this project was their fundraising event in which they would give back to the Education Foundation for supporting their need for reads. The project includes an ice cream social fundraiser in the fall that will not only raise funds for the Southington Education Foundation, but will also promote and recognize the organization for providing current titles for the libraries. She felt that this certainly got the attention of the Southington Education Foundation. This was a very exciting, creative project, rivaling Knightvertizing on a younger, smaller scale. She thought that it was fascinating.

Mr. Derynoski acknowledged that graduation last Friday went off without a hitch. He praised Mr. David Germano [Assistant Principal at Southington High School] for doing another outstanding job. He was proud of the students and staff and the total outcome. He felt that it was a shining evening for the Board and the community.

Mrs. Johnson attended the Derynoski Awards Ceremony last Friday and it came to her attention that not only Derynoski but also all of the elementary schools held awards ceremonies and honored their fifth graders in different venues. She thought that was a wonderful way for the administration at the schools, teachers, and the PTOs to say goodbye to these students to show how much they were appreciated and how much they had learned. She thought that it was fabulous that it was at every single elementary school.

Mr. Goralski shared a thank you note that he received from a teacher, Mrs. Tina Riccio. He stated that Mrs. Riccio thanked the Board for recognizing the achievement of her students, her work, and the work of one of her colleagues. Mr. Goralski stated that it was the Board's privilege to recognize the work of the students and staff.

Communication from Administration:

Dr. Erardi distributed a packet to the Board for the Administration Report (*Attachment #2*):

1. Summer Institute: Mr. Thiery announced that for the third summer in a row they would be holding a Columbia Homegrown Institute. At this point, 100% of the elementary teachers have been trained in the Columbia model. They are looking to move a group of them now to the next level. This particular Summer Institute will be for intermediate grade teachers in Grades 3-6 with the hope of establishing a more advanced practice. The goal is to establish a model or lead teacher in each of the buildings. Every year, teachers retire and every year they are replaced with teachers who may or may not have been trained in this model. This summer, Christy Curran who has been one of the two consultants for the last three years, will be running a weeklong workshop for teachers who have stepped forward and volunteered their time for a week during the summer to become lead teachers and advanced practitioners in this model.

Mrs. Rickard arrived at 8:15 p.m.

Mrs. Johnson stated that she knew that all the elementary teachers have been trained and asked if this was going to effect teachers in Grade 6 at the middle schools. Mr. Thiery replied that was correct. The Grade 6 teachers also went through the initial training and they dovetailed them into Cohort II. They have three cohorts of teachers who have done Columbia. Next year, Columbia will be working during the school year, primarily at the middle schools, as they roll out this model.

2. Breakfast Program 2010-2011: Mrs. DiNello reported that there recently was a meeting regarding the Breakfast Program that included the Principals at Flanders, Derynoski and Thalberg Schools, Nya Welinsky [Food Service Director], Dr. Erardi and herself. They reviewed the different ways that they have been running the program at all three schools, the areas they thought were successful, and the areas that they needed to work on to continue the success of the program for next year. There will be a little bit of tweaking and some parent communication to try to increase participation, specifically at Derynoski School. They plan to take some of the ideas that are working very well at Thalberg School to increase the participation at the two other schools. They plan to increase communications to the parents so that they know that the program is for all children. Many parents might take advantage of this opportunity for the small amount of time that they may be arranging and paying for day care.

Ms. Schroeder stated that at Derynoski School the Breakfast Program has one teacher volunteer. She asked what would happen if they get more children next year. Mrs. DiNello replied that there is a School Lunch Manager there who is paid and there is also a paid paraprofessional in the cafeteria. She was confident that the paraprofessional, who is currently there, would be able to handle the influx of students. If not, she thought that if they have such an increase it would be full pay and that they would be able to offset the additional cost, if they needed, to hire additional staff.

Mrs. Johnson asked when this program would be expanded to the other schools. Mrs. DiNello replied that the funding commitment that they have for next year is in place for these three schools. There is an outside possibility of adding one more school. There is not funding available to expand at this time to all the elementary schools.

Dr. Erardi replied that he sat with the funders for 2009-2010 to discuss the next school year. The school district has a very solid commitment for maintaining the current level of funding. Through the hard work of the grant writers, within their organizations and foundations, they are currently soliciting for additional dollars. They would most likely add an additional school at the start of the new school year and are hopeful that they can offer this at all the elementary schools during 2010-2011. Dr. Erardi stated that there is a need because there are hungry students coming to school.

3. Commencement 2010: Dr. Erardi publicly thanked the Class of 2010. He noted that they were aware that it was the last opportunity to send their high school principal out on a very positive note. Whenever 500 students are assembled and filled with fun anticipating commencement, he thought that there was no greater gift that any principal could receive than the respect of the senior class that graduated last Friday.

4. Summer School 2010: Dr. Erardi reported that the Summer School Program is under the direction of Mr. Rick Terino. He noted that this is one of the very few accounts in which there is a fund balance. On June 30, Mrs. DiNello closes the school year finances and they start over again with a new school year. Summer School is part of the Board of Education Student Activity Account and this summer will start with a fund balance of just over \$4,000. He stated that Mr. Terino told him that he was confident that enrollment would grow from last year and that the program would stay in the black regarding financing. This week is a very important week for registration. Dr. Erardi will have an update for the Board at their next meeting on how many enrichment classes were offered and what was driving the remedial program.
5. Regionalization Meeting - Alta: Dr. Erardi stated that August 19, 2010 would be the rollout of the Regionalization Program at Alta at the John Pyne Center at 9:00 a.m.
6. Facility Meeting: Dr. Erardi reported that the Board would have a very important Facility meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 6, 2010 at Plantsville School at 7:00 p.m.
7. BOE Meeting – July 8: Dr. Erardi noted that a number of Board members would be out of town for the July 8 Board meeting. He stated that he might send them away with some homework. He anticipated three significant items with an update on the subjective information that they had put together regarding the present expulsion policy. If July 6 goes as anticipated, he plans to share the proposal from the Facility Sub-Committee to the Board-at-large. He would also be rolling out a detailed plan of Alta for 2010-2011. He would be more than happy to answer any questions of Board members who are unable to attend the July 8 meeting. He stated that he did not see action being taken on these items at the July meeting.

Mrs. Rickard commented that she just returned from the Aqua Turf and Peter Smith, the Maitre'd at Aqua Turf, pulled her aside and said, *"Thank you so much for saving the Alta Program. I have had the pleasure of working with four Alta students over the past couple of years and they have been tremendous students and I do not know what path their lives would have gone had they not had the Alta Program."* She noted that Mr. Smith called Jessie Levin [Alta Director] and told him how great the students were.

c. Communication from Student Representative:

Mr. Goralski stated that the Student Representative, Christopher Amnott, has the summer off from attending Board meetings.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum Committee Meeting ~ June 10, 2010

Mrs. Carmody reported that the committee met on June 10 and discussed proposed new courses. She stated that Ms. Aurora Pedrolini, from the Business Department at the high school, presented a new marketing course on Sports and Entertainment. She stated that Mrs. Tina Riccio, teacher at the high school, presented the Early College Experience Course. This course is being offered in cooperation with the University of Connecticut. She thanked Aurora and Tina

for doing an excellent job in presenting the new courses. Mrs. Carmody reported that the committee also had a presentation by Mrs. Betsy Chester [Language Arts Coordinator] on a new approach to teaching spelling that would be implemented across the district next year. After completing a pilot study, two approaches were selected as outstanding components of a balanced literacy/language arts program. Teachers in Grades K-1 would be using a resource called *Words Their Way* and, in Grades 2-5, teachers will use *Sitton Spelling*.

Mrs. Fischer had a question on the Sitton Spelling component. She asked what they are doing now and why they are changing. She wanted to know what the driving force was behind changing it. Mr. Thiery replied that it was his intent to have Mrs. Chester give a presentation to the Board at the July Board meeting on these two things. She was unable to attend the meeting tonight. Mrs. Fischer interjected that there would be many Board members absent at the July 8 meeting and he might want to push the presentation back. Mr. Thiery replied that he would make arrangements that would be mutually convenient. He explained that the standards for spelling are part of the Language Arts curriculum that talks about conventions of writing; i.e., grammar, spelling, punctuation. Two years ago, they identified that the approach to spelling in the district was inconsistent. They have a variety of things going on including "Cast a Spell," and "Word Lists." Others were using "Word Work" because "Word Work" is part of the Readers' Workshop approach to reading and writing. Some teachers saw that connection and were already doing "Word Work" as a way to do spelling. "Word Work" focuses on the mechanisms and rules of the language with phonics being a part of it. Two years ago, they put together a group of Literacy Specialists to research the methods that were out there. The Literacy Specialists then recommended two methods to pilot. They piloted those this year with the Cohort I from Readers' Workshop; they were the most highly skilled in Readers' Workshop and they piloted it within their buildings, one to two teachers per building. They reported on which program they liked and that was brought forward to the committee. Next year, it would be uniform in all buildings Grades K-1 and 2-5.

Mrs. Fischer asked if any buildings were currently using these two programs. Mr. Thiery replied that there were classrooms in every building using these programs. There is no full building. Mrs. Fischer questioned if they were prior to the pilot. Mr. Thiery replied that they were not. Mrs. Fischer summarized that they learned there was inconsistency so, rather than taking an existing program and applying it across the district, they selected two brand new programs to pilot. She stated that this scenario sounded like DeNealian handwriting to her. Mr. Thiery replied that it was critical that the approach to spelling was consistent with the rest of their approach to language arts. Mrs. Fischer said that she understood that, but asked why they are introducing a program that has never been in the district, instead of using programs that exist that they have experience with and apply it across the district. Mr. Thiery replied that they were not consistent with Readers' and Writers' Workshop. These actually have the same subset of skills. Many of the things that teachers have already been taught in Readers' and Writers' Workshop will play into these two methods. This is the last piece in a balanced literacy approach and it makes for a coherent literacy approach because it is all the same values, skill sets, and things that they are asking students to do.

Mrs. Carmody explained that the committee was concerned about consistency. She stated that it was a holistic approach to spelling.

Mrs. Clark questioned the training for the teachers and the cost. Mr. Thiery replied that the training for the teachers would be held the first two professional development days in August. They have Christy Fong coming, who is connected to Columbia and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She would be doing Sitton Spelling with the district. Another consultant would be doing "Words Their Way." He did not have the cost and would get it to the Board. These programs do not have a student book. Instead, they have a one-time teacher manual and master that the teacher works from. He noted that it is actually cost efficient.

b. Policy and Personnel Committee Meeting ~ June 17, 2010

Mrs. Fischer reported that the Policy and Personnel Committee met on June 17 and discussed the Acceptable Use Policy for Staff that is on the agenda for the first read this evening. The committee also reviewed the 1000 series. They discussed the two-volume policy books that all the Board members have and identified that they need to be updated. They also discussed whether they wanted to continue to have hard copy policy books when all the policies are online. It is added paper and added costs.

Mr. Goralski thought that, like all other correspondences, Board members who want them could ask for them in hard copy. He felt that the fact they have electronic capability is really the way to go. Mrs. Notar-Francesco stated that, whenever she consults the policies, she goes online. Mr. Goralski added that his policy books were giant paperweights. He noted that Mrs. Carmody would like the big binders and the rest of the Board would go online. Mrs. Rickard asked if they should bring their binders to Beecher Street because it would free up some space on her shelves. Mr. Goralski added that he was all for the new approach.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked if the online policies were being updated on an ongoing basis. Mrs. Fischer noted that they discussed that at the policy meeting and Mr. Thiery told them it was updated. Mr. Thiery stated that he wanted to make doubly sure that they had a methodology for keeping that up-to-date. He sat down and talked to Lura Terrace [Technology Analyst for the website] and Karen Veilleux [Technology Director] and they agreed. Because of the way it is put online, if something changes in the 1000 series, he would forward them the entire 1000 series with the updates. Because of the difference with the new website, he could just forward them the policy and they will have no problem updating it. Following any Board action, on Monday he would establish that it is forwarded to them and updated.

Mr. Derynoski asked if the Policy Committee could write policy on how to keep the policy updated on the website. Mrs. Fischer replied that they would put that on their agenda.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Council / Board of Finance Communications

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

b. Construction Update

Plantsville School: Mr. Cox reported there was a small punch list with items that could not be done during the regular school year. These items would be done over the next couple of weeks. The playscape installation was still scheduled for July.

South End School: Mr. Cox reported that the exterior of the new building has changed with gravel being moved around and topsoil being pushed to the side to make way for new parking lots and athletic fields. He stated that they were still on schedule for all the site work. The playscape would be installed in mid-August.

Mr. Goralski asked if the VoAg project was going to be closed in the near future. Mr. Cox replied that there was a considerable amount of paperwork that the Construction Manager was working on. The facility has been in use now for 3-4 years. Because of an extensive punch list at that site that took over one year to address, it is a paperwork shuffle with the state now and is being reviewed very thoroughly.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Draft Policy ~ Social Networking – Second Reading

MOTION: by Ms. Schroeder, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

“Move to accept the Social Networking Policy as presented by the Policy and Personnel Committee.”

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

b. 2011-2012 New Course Recommendations

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

“Move that the Board approves the proposed high school courses and program changes.”

Ms. Schroeder asked how many students that the target population for the Spanish Level III was going to include. Mrs. Tina Riccio [World Language Teacher at the high school] replied that this year they had 23 students in UConn Spanish. Right now, they offer composition and cultural topics and students would have to choose between that or composition and Latin American Studies. Ms. Schroeder asked if it was a full class. Mrs. Riccio agreed and stated that they would get one high school credit for it.

Ms. Schroeder noted that, under the costs, it listed the anticipated cost for staff textbooks and materials. She asked if the total cost at \$55-\$90 was per student. Mrs. Riccio replied it was per student for the textbook. Ms. Schroeder asked if the magazine was one or for each student at \$38 each. Mrs. Riccio replied that the magazine was just one for the class every month.

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

Mr. Thiery thanked Mrs. Riccio and pointed out that this course was truly unique. This course is offered at UConn, and taught at UConn in English; Southington is teaching it in Spanish. He stated that Mrs. Riccio has developed an entirely new curriculum that was submitted to UConn in Spanish, which is truly a unique and high-level offering, and was approved by UConn. He gave Mrs. Riccio kudos.

c. Obsolete Textbooks

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

“Move to approve the disposal of the outdated textbooks as submitted.”

Mrs. Johnson asked what was going to be done with these textbooks. She noted that the Board received an e-mail recently from someone who was interested in buying them. Dr. Erardi replied that administration would continue with their past practice of doing their absolute best to sell the used textbooks. He reminded the Board that they just had a celebration last month with the American Legion, which took place because of the re-sale of used textbooks. The American Legion had raised \$1,000 through the collection of used textbooks. He stated that administration would do their absolute best to sell and distribute before destruction.

Ms. Schroeder recommended that with the textbooks that could not be sold if someone could contact those people down south, who were damaged by the storm, to see if the books could be donated to them. She felt that they would be helping those people who have lost all of their books. Mrs. Rickard replied that the books not sold are usually donated. Dr. Erardi remarked that administration would get back to Ms. Schroeder on that.

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

d. Acceptable Use Policy ~ First Reading

Ms. Schroeder understood that it was the first reading, but wanted to make a motion to accept the policy as presented. Mr. Goralski told her that the second reading had to first be waived.

MOTION: by Ms. Schroeder, seconded by Mrs. Carmody:

“Move to waive the second reading of Policy 4118.5 for the Rights, Responsibilities and Duties.”

Mrs. Johnson asked Ms. Schroeder why she wanted to do this. Ms. Schroeder replied that, as the committee went through the first reading, only minor grammar changes were made that would not require a second reading.

Mr. Goralski asked if this was a new policy. Mr. Thiery replied that it was. Mr. Goralski stated that it is a brand new policy, even though there were minor edits made at the committee level. It is the first time this policy has ever existed. Mr. Goralski knew that the committee read everything for grammar, but for many of the Board members this was the first time they were seeing it.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Ms. Schroeder, Mrs. Rickard, Mrs. Carmody. NO – Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Fischer, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mr. Goralski. **Motion did not pass with six against and three in favor.**

Mr. Derynoski stated that the recommendation by legal counsel was that the Board needed to establish a standard and expectations. He asked if this was something unique in nature and if other districts have this in place. Mr. Thiery replied that this policy exists in other districts and is a standard practice. Earlier this year, the Board passed a parallel policy to this for students. At that time, it was discussed that the policy did not really apply in every way to staff and that it would be better if staff had a specific policy.

Mrs. Richard asked how the staff would be notified. She was sure that it was common practice right now and that the policy was just making it formal. Mr. Thiery replied that the policy would be part of the beginning of the year roll out with a variety of materials distributed. There is a sign-off on the policy that needs to be returned.

Mr. Goralski asked about administrative oversight and ability. He noted that almost all businesses and employers have these similar rules, but there are also situations such as the World Cup that is streamed live so people could get the scores. He was not implying that the teachers would do such a thing, but in the teachers lounge when they are not teaching a class that could be happening. He asked if that would be a violation of the policy because then it becomes an administrative nightmare. He asked if that was the intent. Mr. Thiery replied that the way the policy is written, that would be a violation. He explained that the committee discussed that at length. In most districts, it is unlikely the administration would spend all of their time monitoring it. He pointed out that it could be monitored by the network so they could spot where there are problems because Southington controls the network and knows the traffic on the network. It would be enforced when there is a problem and comes to the attention of the administration. There are many things at work that cannot be policed 24/7. There is a rule in place and when the rules are violated, the rule becomes applied uniformly.

Mr. Derynoski stated that it would become an issue of consistency. How do you police this policy evenly for the use of computers district-wide between buildings where one building might be looked at closer than others might? It becomes a fairness issue in consistency and that is what they need to strive for. He thought that it would be great if it could be done electronically. He explained that the company he works for has monitors on all the computers so if someone happens to go someplace where they are not supposed to be, it is reported. He noted that people are aware of it, so there is no misuse of the computers. He would only be in favor of this type of policy if there were something that could be tied to monitoring use that would be consistent, fair and equal throughout the district.

Dr. Erardi thought that it was paramount that, whether it was this policy language or something similar to it, it be on record. If there was an abuse of technology, they need to have something in writing, as Board policy, that every staff member knows about in advance. The present practice of the Board is that they have the right, unbeknownst to any staff member, to check hard drives of computers. It is important that they periodically exercise that right when they believe a staff member is misusing technology. Dr. Erardi stated that the roll out with administration is to fall back always on common sense. He does not want any staff at any time during the instructional day to be on our technology navigating in places that they should not be. It could be something as simple as shopping and looking up a movie, which is inappropriate. He noted that the administrative need is emerging with the understanding of technology. There is professional development in place to move the entire administrative team to a common ground because they are not currently in a common place. He was pleased that this policy remains as a first read and suggested that they hold the second reading until August because this is a very important policy. He explained that they have to get to a point where there is a common consistency of understanding of the language, the roll out must be understood by every staff member and, when they start this school year, the Board is comfortable to know that there is something in place and understood by all and there is a monitoring system.

Mr. Goralski noted that the August meeting would be held before the first day of school. He noted that the August Board meeting is August 26 and the first day of school is August 25 for staff. Dr. Erardi stated that in the back-to-school packet for the teachers he would include the second draft that is a working draft by the School Board. If the Board is able to get this done at the August meeting, it would be part of the roll out in the opening faculty meeting district-wide. Mrs. Johnson pointed out that the convocation is August 25, so it would not be rolled out then. Mr. Goralski summarized that the second draft, that would be recommendations administration would bring to the Board at the August meeting, would be presented to teachers in their back-to-school packet. The teachers would receive that prior to August 25. The Board would act on it potentially on August 26, which gives them August 27 to sign the acknowledgement form and return it to their building principal. The teachers would start the school year with students on August 30 with this policy clearly understood and in place.

Mrs. Fischer stated that one of the important roadblocks to this policy is supervision and consistency in application. She felt that the only way to have that would be to have a computer program that monitors and she felt it would be costly. Mr. Derynoski remarked that it was not very expensive. Dr. Erardi replied that they work through the Connecticut Education Network and have a filtering system in place that prohibits staff from going near sites such as Facebook. They open that up only when administration is doing research regarding a student issue that was a Facebook-involved incident, which happens quite often. He thought that it was important to get cost and site licensing because this is something that they need to do and do well. Mrs. Fischer questioned if, she wanted to go shopping, it would block out her shopping. Dr. Erardi replied that it probably would not. Mrs. Fischer commented that they would have to balance cost against common sense.

Mr. Derynoski truly believed consistency was very important. He did not believe that it needed to be written into the policy. He agreed with Dr. Erardi that it was important for the staff to be made aware of this and signed by them so they are fully aware of the requirements and responsibilities. Mrs. Fischer wanted to know the cost because she thought that it was very important in helping the Board.

Mr. Goralski explained that between now and August, he would like Mrs. Veilleux, the technology expert, to tell the Board of the ability to monitor. He noted that, at his place of employment, if someone enters a site that was not a commonly used website, an icon comes on the screen that states, "Please be advised that this is not an authorized site regularly used." After clicking okay, it goes into a database that the technology department reviews. If he has visited a website that he was not supposed to, they could tell immediately who that was. If it was an unauthorized website, he still could not click okay and get there. He thought that the school system had the blocking device for the unauthorized websites, but what the Board needs to know from the technology department was if they have the ability to track the non-typical websites that are accessed. Mr. Goralski stated that, right now, he was very comfortable with the policy and that they needed the ability to consistently track it.

Dr. Erardi pointed out that the question that Mr. Goralski was asking was suitable for an executive session discussion and was a safety issue.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR STUDENT MATTERS

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

"Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, to discuss Student Matters and upon conclusion reconvene to open session."

Motion carried by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Blanchard
Recording Secretary

**SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

JUNE 24, 2010

Mr. Brian Goralski, Board Chairperson, called the Executive Session to order at 9:10 p.m.

Members Present:

Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Rosemarie Fischer, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Kathleen Rickard, Ms. Michelle Schroeder, Mr. Brian Goralski.

Administration Present:

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

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

“Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, to discuss Student Matters and upon conclusion reconvene to open session.”

Motion carried by voice vote.

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

“Move that the Board reconvene into public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The board reconvened public session at 9:26 p.m.

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

“Move to adjourn the regular Board of Education meeting.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Executive Session adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jill Notar-Francesco, Secretary
Southington Board of Education

Dustin Pratt *with Hollings*

SAVE PROJECT DISCOVERY!

*Gault Dunn**Geovint Dancy*

Help reinstate the wonderful program of Project Discover II in the middle schools! Sign the petition!

Marissa Sisco

Joann Amicone

Heidi Amicone

*Cathy Sisco**Max Michel**Julian Carbozo**Rachel Babon**Adalain Meer**Lexi Rothstein**Ryan Belden**Michelle Santolucito**Abigail Harris**Will Lefkovich**Chris Hope**Victoria Wang**Emilia McDore**Michael Lee**Sarah Cipollini**Sarah Paryeh**Jami Dilego**Jessica Gagnon**Brenna Sarantides**Matt Pestillo**Paul Grant**Robert Krasman**Robert Krasman*

Ellie Lefkovich

Laura Fontaine Rott

Eric Rott

Molly Cadogan

Julie Fink

Olivia Fischer

Gabby Pernal

Pam Lawrence

Alex Thomas

Steve Sca

Brianna Sadusky

Kyle Burleigh

Ben Johnson

Colin Burke

Scott Perrault

Greg McFall

John

Shannon P

Steve P

John M

Christina Lefkovich

Sarah Palko

Anna

Annalisa Segg

Samantha Abercizis

Christine Bailey

*Eric Courneau**Eric Courneau*

Marta Steeves

Jessica Howe

Katie Kavanagh

Olivia Corriveau

*John Stevens**John Stevens**John Stevens*

Hali Pliego

Brenna Sarantides

Debbie Stevens

John Stevens

John Stevens

Unann (C)

Patrick Etter

Mark Coby BEAT BOSTON!

Matt Steeves BEAT LA!

Maritza Pernal

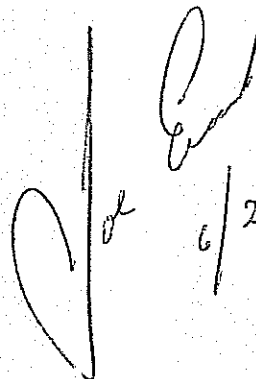
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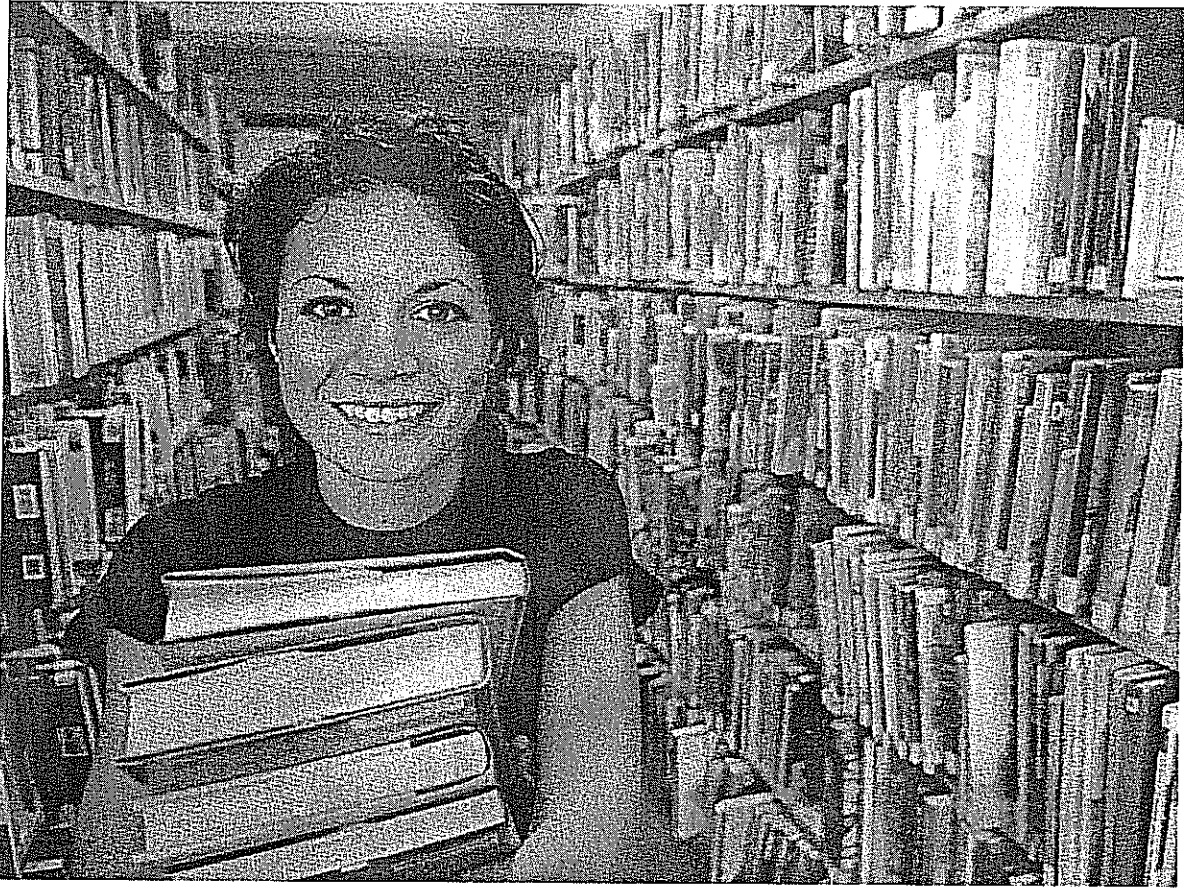
Lino E Flores

Scott Thompson

Administration: Board of Education Report June 24, 2010

1. **Summer Institute** (attachment 1)
2. **Breakfast Program 2010-2011**
3. **Commencement 2010**
4. **Summer School 2010**
5. **Save-the-Date – Regionalization Meeting – Alta – August 19th – 9:00 a.m. – John Pyne Center**
6. **Facility Meeting – July 6 – PES – 7PM**
7. **BOE – July 8 – BOE - HES**
 - a. **Present Protocol – Expulsion**
 - b. **Facility Committee recommendation**
 - c. **Alta Regionalization**


6/24/10



Save the Date....

**Advanced Summer Institute for Intermediate
Readers *(for teachers in grades 3-6) ...***

**Teachers College Staff Developer, Christy Curran, will
facilitate a four-day institute open to Cohort I & II teachers in
the district.**

July 12-15

Time and location TBA

We are looking for a **LEAD TEACHER** at each grade level in each school. Please let
your building administrator know if you are interested in attending.