

# **SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**JULY 8, 2010**

---

At 6:45 p.m., an Executive Session was held before the regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education on Thursday, July 8, 2010 in the Principal's Conference Room at Hatton Elementary School, 50 Spring Lake Road, Southington, Connecticut.

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m. by Mr. Brian Goralski, Board Chairperson. Board members present were Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, and Ms. Michelle Schroeder. Absent were Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Rosemarie Fischer and Mrs. Kathleen Rickard.

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 Mrs. Kimberly Hunt, Personnel Manager.

Present from Town Council and Board of Finance were Mr. John Leary, Mr. John Moise, Mr. Edward Pocock, Jr., Dr. Al Natelli and Mr. John Dobbins.

Also present was Board Attorney Richard Mills from Shipman & Goodwin.

#### **2. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR CONTRACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS**

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

**"Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of Southington Administrators' Association Contract Negotiations and upon conclusion, reconvene to public session to complete the agenda."**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

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

**"Move to return to public session."**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

*The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:20 p.m.*

### **3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION**

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

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 Ms. Frances Haag, Senior Special Education Coordinator.

### **4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ June 24, 2010**

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

**“Move to approve the minutes of June 24, 2010.”**

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

### **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. Notar-Francesco had a follow-up from the last Board meeting. She had a conversation with Mrs. Fischer about the policy discussion from the last meeting and of the timing of policies from approval at a Board meeting and to being put online. They talked about the importance of the accuracy of these policies being put online in a timely fashion. She asked if there was a defined procedure in place now with the technology department since the last Board meeting.

Mr. Thiery replied that the procedure right now is, when a policy is approved at a Board meeting, he notifies Michelle Passamano [his assistant] and she then works with Lura Terrace [Technology Analyst] and Karen Veilleux [Technology Director] to get the policies changed online. What is slowing them down is that they are online by full series, which means the entire series is on there and you have to scroll all the way through them to get any one policy. The entire policy series has to be updated because, if one policy, such as 4135, has to be updated, then the entire 4000 series has to be

updated online. It does not necessarily slow it down, but the technology department paused this time around because they were trying to figure out if there was a way to further segment the policies. They wanted see if they could just update policy 4135 and do it one policy at a time. Basically, they need to determine either they can do it that way, in which case the entire online series set needs to be changed or they concede that they cannot and they would have to hand over the whole series to be scanned. He noted that was the whole problem; it is a single PDF file and the entire series has to be scanned, which is a thick set. He absolutely agreed with her that they have to arrive at a procedure where, within one week, the policy is up-to-date from the change.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco wanted to be assured that would take place. Mr. Thiery replied that, when he knows how they were going to do it, he would make sure he updates the Board on how they are going to do it and what the expected timeline and procedure would be. Mrs. Notar-Francesco noted that she goes online to consult the policies.

Mr. Derynoski noted that at his workplace they are going through the same thing with PDF files. He stated that PDF files are great and credible, but, when someone wants to make a change, it is a tremendous amount of work. At his work, they are looking at putting them into a Word document so each page can then be changed as needed and then put online as a “read only” so people cannot change it. He noted that it is a common problem.

#### **Communication from Administration:**

Dr. Erardi distributed a packet to the Board for the Administration Report (*Attachment #1*):

1. Safety Survey Update: Dr. Erardi reminded the Board that in mid-winter Grades 7, 9 and 11 were surveyed through the Search Institute in collaboration with STEPS. The data from the survey is complete and he will be meeting with the Executive Board of STEPS to understand the safety report, which is important for the School Board to have. He would be reporting publicly to the School Board in August on that information.
2. Summer School 2010: Dr. Erardi reported that Summer School is up and running. It is a self-funded program and would be in the black with approximately \$1,000. He noted that they continue to struggle with the enrichment classes. Administration believes that it has to do with the timing of the course and not with the advertising because they do a lot of advertising. He felt that, because the enrichment courses were only a two-hour window, it is an inconvenience for the parent who is home with the child. For Summer School 2011, they are looking at a better way to share the enrichment in a different time slot. The remedial programs and enrichment programs are up and running and are housed at Hatton School and the high school. He noted that a report from Mr. Rick Terino, Summer School Director, would be forthcoming in August.
3. Parenting for Academic Success: Dr. Erardi stated that this was a pilot program that took place at Plantsville Elementary School. It is an outreach program to parents new to the English language. He shared that the Literacy Volunteers of Central Connecticut added a new pilot program using Plantsville School, which benefited five

families. He felt that this benefited the families and extended their new learning to their children, which makes Southington a better school district. He added that there is a possibility of continuing with this program in the future. There is no cost to the school district and connects the school-parent partnership in a wonderful way.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked how this took place within the school building. Dr. Erardi replied that the connection took place through Mrs. Jan Verderame [Assistant Principal at Derynoski] who has oversight for the ELL Program (English Language Learners). It was through her conversation with the literacy volunteers and there was space at Plantsville Elementary School, so they thought it was a perfect match.

## **7. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

### **a. Personnel Report**

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

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

Mrs. Notar-Francesco noted in the report that there were two speech teachers who were taking child-rearing leaves of absence and asked how those positions were being covered. Ms. Haag replied that the positions were posted and they are anxiously waiting to see if they have applicants. If they don't have applicants, they would look to their contracted providers that they have used in the past. Mrs. Notar-Francesco noted that one of the speech teachers is out from February 2010 to June 30, 2011, which is almost a year and one-half. She asked if that was correct. Ms. Haag replied that she believed they were out starting next September. Ms. Schroeder stated that the date is wrong then on the report. From the audience, Mrs. Kim Hunt [Personnel Manager] stated that it should have been February 2011 to June 2011.

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

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

**“Move to add item 10 to the agenda, Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of Student Matters and Personnel Matters.”**

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

## **8. OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. Town Council / Board of Finance Communications**

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

**b. Construction Update**

Dr. Erardi reported that Mr. Cox was on vacation. He stated that the timeline for the South End Elementary School Project continues to be on time, if not early. At Plantsville and South End Elementary Schools, the playscape will be in place for the start of the new school year.

Mr. Derynoski added that the South End School topography has taken on a completely different look. Mr. Goralski noted that the old building is completely gone, including the footing. Mrs. Clark added that there were mounds of dirt. Mr. Derynoski continued that the playscape at Plantsville School was installed and they were putting down 12 inches of mulch. He noted that it really looked nice.

**c. Facility Committee Update**

Dr. Erardi distributed a document (*Attachment #2*) that contained endorsements and a fact sheet put together by the Facility Committee. He stated that the collaboration between the Board of Finance, Town Council and Board of Education members who comprised this committee made this a “rich” committee with “rich” discussion.

Dr. Erardi reported that the committee met on Tuesday, July 6 and is bringing four conceptual items to the School Board that they feel are worthy of discussion at this level. The items are:

1. The Facility Committee believes that consolidation is possible between 49 Beecher Street and town departments to take place at North Center School.
2. The committee feels that it is viable for this consolidation to happen at North Center School. They support the partnership with North Center being the building for the Beecher Street and town departments’ move.
3. The committee has accepted, reviewed, and was passing on to the Board of Education at-large the recommendation that the School Board passes on the feasibility study that was recently completed by Kaestle Boos Associates (KBA) to the Town Council.
4. Along with the feasibility study from Kaestle Boos Associates, the committee was encouraging the Board of Education at-large to share this information with the Town Council to explore a Request for Proposal (RFP). The RFP would be inclusive of a private developer purchasing North Center School, renovating or imploding the building, and then leasing back the renovated or new space with a Purchase Plan to the town. In essence, the Facility Committee looked at their charge for Phase I and encourages the School Board to pass on the information to the Town Council by Monday, July 12 for their meeting. They hoped that the Town Council would accept it and, after reviewing the feasibility study, continue to pursue, through legal council (Assistant Town Manager), the draft of an RFP regarding the private developer.

Mr. Derynoski stated that there were some comments made about what that would look like. One of the items for consideration was that the Board of Education not turn over the property to a private developer, only the building, so that the town retains the ownership of the land itself. Mr. Derynoski, a Facility Committee member, stated that the committee had a lot of discussion on it and input from all of the members. He thought that it was a viable option. He noted that it still was going to be in the hands of the Board of Finance and Town Council to

make the ultimate decision. He thought that the committee, as a whole, put something together that encompasses what they felt would be in the best interest of the town as a whole.

Mrs. Clark, a Facility Committee member, stated that the committee would have been remiss if they did not look at an option that, at first may not sound very popular, such as selling the building; however, they would not have been doing their due diligence if they did not look into every avenue that was available to them.

Mr. Goralski stated that the Kaestle Boos Feasibility Study was now a public document for the community at large. He asked how the conceptual idea #4 came into a plan.

Mr. Derynoski believed that the plan itself was accepted as a workable document. It covered all the requirements that were needed from the administrative side for Beecher Street. It also takes into account the needs of the town so they could function as an efficient office space and still handle the problem of eliminating the Gura building because of the cost to renovate it.

Mrs. Clark added that she thought they were idealistic and naïve in the beginning when they thought about going into North Center and taking the town departments. What they did not realize were the depth of the ADA requirements, the upgrades and updates that need to be done, including the parking lot and the entryway. They did not have a price tag associated with it when the Board of thinking about this.

Dr. Erardi stated that during the study there was a meeting that included the local building inspector, members from Kaestle Boos Associates, town hall administrators, and central office staff, including Fred Cox. If the feasibility study came in at an unheard of amount, they would not be offering an option #2. The cost that they have of \$6,000,000, after the potential state reimbursement, is a number the committee felt needed a second option going forward and that was one of the reasons they looked at an option #2.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco understood that the Town Council has the final say in all of this. After all the RFPs are returned, she wondered if the Board of Education has a second look at it. She asked how the process worked procedurally. Mr. Derynoski replied that the building and property is assigned to the Board of Education and the School Board would have to take action before it could be released for any other use. The School Board reserves the right to take action until they have a clear understanding.

Mr. Goralski stated that ultimately, as a town building, any construction or work done to it has to be under the leadership, guidance and direction of the Town Council because it is their building. However, the Board of Education oversees the building while it is in their care. The School Board always has the opportunity to weigh in on it and vote on it.

Dr. Erardi responded that the timeline would be that he and Board members bring the summary of the conversation to the Town Council on Monday evening. In his conversation with Attorney Sciota, if the Town Council were able to move and reach consensus on the RFP, the School Board would have all information back by October. It would be coming back to the School Board at that point, with what that second option would look like, the proposal to sell to lease/purchase.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked, if all proposals were rejected, was there still time to go forward for referendum for November. Mrs. Clark replied that it would not be this year; it would have to be the next year.

Mrs. Johnson thought that the Town Council has to understand that the four concepts that the committee was conceptually sending along to them have not been approved by the Board of Education. These are just ideas that the Facility Committee, who studied them, was bringing forward and does not in any way represent the vote of the Board of Education.

Mrs. Johnson stated that the option was a fairly new concept in Southington and it was her understanding that there have been only a couple of other towns in Connecticut that have retained the ownership of the land and just rent a building to be erected on it. She thought that the Board might need advice from someone who has already done this. She asked if they have done anything as far as an advisor.

Dr. Erardi replied that there were two towns in Connecticut that they are aware of: 1) West Hartford, 2) Manchester. They have explored, gone forward, and completed their project. He had no additional information on either place. He assumed that their information would be forthcoming through the Assistant Town Manager if the town goes forward and continues to explore this avenue.

Mrs. Johnson questioned going to referendum for the \$6,000,000-plus and stated that the Board has not seen relative costs. She asked what the relative cost per year to the town in total, Board of Education and municipal, for renting this particular space, as opposed to what the cost would be to the town per year for 20 years for a \$6 million bond issue. She thought that was important to help make this kind of decision. Mrs. Notar-Francesco stated that the School Board would not have complete information until they have the RFPs. Mrs. Johnson stated that they could know now what the expense would be for a bond.

Mr. Goralski stated that the Finance Department at town hall would be best equipped to come up with those numbers. He hoped the Town Council makes part of their discussion the follow-up on the recommendations from this committee because those numbers may come back with reasonable numbers attached to them and the referendum may become the easiest choice. He thought that it showed a phenomenal collaboration between the boards to get to this point. He was excited to forward this to them. He stated that he would be going with Dr. Erardi to the Town Council meeting on July 12. He thought that this collaboration has opened doors for the future for other collaborations.

Mr. Goralski asked the Board how to move forward with this presentation to the Town Council. He asked if they should take Board action or sharing the work of the committee with them seeking their input to further move on it. Mrs. Johnson felt that, because they have three Board members absent this evening, they should just move it along as shared information. Mr. Derynoski thought that they could pass this on as the School Board endorsing the submission to the Town Council for their further review and action. Dr. Erardi noted that the Board endorsement would be that the School Board sees it as credible information. The Board is not taking a position on it; they are accepting the feasibility study and encouraging the RFP to happen and be brought back to the School Board.

Dr. Erardi noted that the committee believes, at this point, that there was a two-part charge. The first part was what was presented this evening. The second part is to look at the middle schools at the next scheduled committee meeting on July 27.

**d. Bid Award – Dividing Curtain Bid #T024**

Mrs. DiNello had hoped that the Board would be making a bid award for the dividing curtain this evening since the Board had approved the document to go out to bid during the month of June. They received bids; however, they needed to reject all the bids that were received because they did not meet the specifications that the bid document was written for. The Board received a revised document that opens up the specifications to allow vendors to meet the specifications. She gave the example of how they write a bid specification. They contact a vendor and get specifications for what it is they are bidding and they tailor that document for those specifications, knowing that many vendors can meet those specifications. In this situation, the weight requirements that they were asking for the curtain itself were not standard. Different vendors used different weights for the top and bottom of the curtain; therefore, the specifications that they received did not meet the specs that the bid was written for. Mrs. DiNello stated that she was looking for the Board to approve the revised document that would then go out. They would get the bids back during August, which would delay the work being done. Whoever receives the award would need to go in and do measurements, remove the existing doors in the gymnasium and it would take five to six weeks to order the dividing curtain. She stated that the good news was that gym classes were outside during the fall months. She hoped that the installation could be done over a long weekend in the fall. Mrs. DiNello pointed out that what she needed was the approval of the revised document to go out to bid.

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

**“Move to approve the revised Bid T024, Dividing Curtain for the Southington High School Gym.”**

Mrs. Johnson asked how this one was different from the other and if it had to do with the items on pages 15 and 16. Mrs. DiNello replied that she was right; it had to do with the specifications on pages 15 and 16 that give specific information on the material.

Mr. Goodwin [Purchasing Agent] replied that the way the specifications were designed now gives the vendors the option to bring a package forward and the package may vary from one vendor to another because they are dealing with a manufacturer. They all may meet their specifications, but be different in how it is made. For example, regarding the bottom of the curtain, each vendor came up with a different variation of it. One was rectangular at the bottom, another one was rounded; it does not really matter to them, as long as the rest of the specifications are met. It will still do the job that it is meant to do, but it is like the difference between a Ford and a Chevy. Both are a quality car, but they are made a little differently.

Mrs. Johnson asked how they came up with their initial specifications and asked where it came from. Mrs. DiNello replied that the initial specifications came from working with a vendor and they used those specifications to develop the bid document. They did not realize that the weight that particular manufacturer used may be 22 ounces, but that was not standard. The vendors responding to the bid had 19 ounces and did not meet the specifications that the bid was



written for; therefore, they were unable to make the bid award. The vendor whom they worked with in developing the bid specifications did not attend the mandatory walk-through and, therefore, their bid could not be considered.

Mrs. DiNello pointed out that the Board does not meet again until the end of August. She requested that the Board allow Dr. Erardi to approve the bid award during the month of August, so that they could get the doors removed in the gym prior to the start of school.

Mr. Derynoski asked if she felt the bids would come in within budget. Mrs. DiNello replied, "Yes." They were able to open up a number of the bids and they would be within budget. They were slightly less.

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

**"Move to approve the revised Bid T024, Dividing Curtain for the Southington High School Gym, authorizing the Superintendent to approve the bid award."**

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

**e. Tuition Students ALTA 2010-2011**

Dr. Erardi distributed a tri-fold brochure that had "Draft" written on top of it (*Attachment #3*). He stated that they are continuing to plan an August 19, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. regional breakfast with superintendents, guidance, department chairs and high school principals to share information about the Alternative Program. He asked if the Board had any changes to the brochure. He planned to have this in a final document within the next seven to 10 working days.

Dr. Erardi stated that the student tuition was developed by looking at the per-pupil cost, multiplying by two and rounding up. He noted that they are asking for a \$25,000 annual tuition for any child who attends for the entire school year. The second piece was that, if a child attends Alta from an out-of-district placement and there are special education costs, there would be a billing similar to what is done with foster children, which would delineate the level of service compared to the cost.

Dr. Erardi stated that, if the process moves forward with the original design being a pilot of five students, administration would be looking for the tuition reimbursement as they have in place with the Town Council. They are trying to marginalize the cost to the Board of Education and maximum opportunity for Southington students and students attending. They have a full-time program director this school year on the second year of a two-year funding stream. They are looking to maintain that same level of administration at no cost to the local Board of Education. He thought that this was an exciting time for the Alta Program. It was a program in trouble three years ago, and now, they have a model program with outstanding leadership and staff. He was bringing this to the Board for further discussion.

Mr. Derynoski was excited about the program and thought that it was heading in the right direction. He questioned the tuition calculation, although he thought that it was a good number. He asked how much faith they had in it being sellable. Dr. Erardi thought that the program

would sell itself. He stated that they have had one inquiry to send a child from a surrounding district to Alta, without even advertising the program. He thought that \$25,000 in comparison to outplaced programs was a number that would be attractive to other districts. However, the program profile was also important. Dr. Erardi stated that it was not just about generating funds; it was about offering opportunity to a child who fits the profile as Southington's Alternative students. Dr. Erardi planned to continue to share with the Board the monthly statistics. He would include the number of inquiries and acceptances in those statistics. Ideally, they were talking about starting the acceptance of out-of-district students in January. However, he felt that, with the work that has been done through Mr. Levin and the cooperation from the Alta staff and central office, they were prepared to open up this program at the start of the school year and not the second semester.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked if transportation costs were included in the \$25,000. Dr. Erardi replied that the transportation costs are at the discretion of the sending district. It would be plus transportation.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco stated that she absolutely loved the brochure written by students and it had some wonderful thoughts in it. She asked Dr. Erardi if he consulted other brochures when the "Draft" brochure was put together. Dr. Erardi replied that the brochure was unique concerning the Alta Program. He stated that they could consult with CREC for their expertise. Mrs. Notar-Francesco handed Dr. Erardi some CREC brochures that she had. Mrs. Notar-Francesco thought that the "Draft" brochure still needed some work. Though it was not bad, it needed some tweaking.

Mrs. Johnson asked who the brochure was aimed at. Dr. Erardi replied that it would be available for those attending the regional breakfast, not students. Mrs. Johnson was confused on why the student information needed to be in the brochure. Dr. Erardi stated that the original design was that they wanted the brochure to be informational and the opportunity to send home with those districts attending the regional breakfast to share with parents. Mrs. Johnson was concerned about a brochure with a student's name on it, the part where it requests student information. Mr. Goralski stated that would be used only when a student applies. Mr. Thiery pointed out that it was really a request for more information. Mr. Thiery stated that this was a program of choice; a student and parent chooses for the child to attend. It is not a district outplacing through the PPT process. It is one of the components that makes Alta so successful.

Mr. Goralski wanted to make sure that, as they move forward with this idea, they always focus on class size being small. He stated that what makes Alta different is its size. It is a small school. He wanted to make sure the class size and school size stay appropriate. He was in agreement with the five-person cap that they have for the pilot.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Alternative to Suspension**

Dr. Erardi distributed a document (*Attachment #4*) that reflects the past three years of action taken by the Southington Board of Education regarding expulsion. Dr. Erardi stated that, after looking at the historical data since 2007-2008, they could draw a number of conclusions. He stated that the 2007-2008 expulsion process generated energy in October and November.

There could have been a month or two in that school year where philosophically the School Board was in a different place than where they were at the finish of that school year. He noted that in 2007-2008, 30 students were expelled. The following school year, the number dipped to 27 expulsions. In 2009-2010, the expulsions were down to 13. He broke that data out for Board members so they could see the high school and two middle schools and the aggregate total of all three schools and how that effected the last three years.

Dr. Erardi shared what took place this school year regarding a qualitative study, which means conversations. It was about having conversations with students and parents who had gone through the expulsion process, what took place after the student's return and if they felt that the process offered benefit or harm for the length of time that they were out of school. He stated that it was done through the guidance counselor at the Alternative Program and through his office. He had shared with the School Board a document that was forwarded to the Board earlier that week. He thought that the data was, at best, informational and still needs additional historical information. The samplings of conversations were only so deep because they only expelled so many students. Consistently, in the conversations that they had, the students knew consequences. It was very clear that they risked whatever they were doing, knowing what the outcome may be. He would like to think that, because of the position that the School Board had taken, which he calls a "line in the sand position," the numbers have dropped by over 50% over the past three years; students are not doing what they were doing three years ago. He added that the counter argument to that would be that maybe students are getting smarter about what they were doing. Dr. Erardi plans to meet with Dr. Semmel and his administration at the high school to discuss the School Board's position. He thought that it was clear to all students that, if they choose to buy / sell, choose to use, choose to be egregious with the code of conduct, they will come before the School Board for a consequence. It makes no difference what the student's last name or gender is.

Dr. Erardi stated that there is a cost factor involved with expelling students. This year, they have explored the Virtual Learning Academy (VLA). He stated that the VLA was an opportunity for students to continue with their course work at a dollar decrease to the local Board of Education. He stated that, when and if they expel a student for an entire school year, which they do not do often, the approximate cost for that student is \$11,400. That is to provide 10 hours a week of instruction at contractual obligation over the course of one entire school year. Dr. Erardi pointed out that with VLA, over the course of a full year for five courses, the cost would be \$1,250. It would be a nearly \$10,000 savings. He felt that the online opportunity is credible and has been successful as a pilot through the expelled students.

Dr. Erardi pointed out that, from the findings, the students fell into one of two buckets. They fell into Bucket #1 when they realized that they were almost thankful because this was their bottoming out point and it was time to move forward, recalibrate, re-center and do what was expected at the school. They fell into Bucket #2 when, despite the time-out and intervention, their behavior did not change and the path they were on previously was the same path they were on when they returned. He stated that re-entry is one of the things they know that they must do and continue to do. They know that in a school of 2,000, to re-enter a student who has been out because of discipline is a very delicate matter. Administration will be asking that the conduit would be one counselor for the start of the next school year and that counselor would take responsibility for all students as they return back into the high school. He sees this work as serious work on the part of the School Board. He noted that was one of the reasons why they

decided to spend a long time gathering information about present practice. It gives the Board the opportunity to review what they are presently doing and to reflect on the work that has taken place over the past three years. It is also timely with the new high school principal. Dr. Erardi suggested that, early in the school year, the Board invite Dr. Semmel to share his thoughts on the code of conduct, student discipline and his expectations regarding suspension and expulsion.

Mrs. Johnson had a question on the Virtual Learning Academy. She asked where this was supposed to take place. Dr. Erardi replied that the VLA could take place in one of two places. They have found that, when they piloted this with six students, in all six cases, the student had a computer at home. If the student does not have access to a computer at home, the Southington Library remains available for the VLA. It is not done on school property. They have designated a staff member at the high school to have oversight for the VLA.

Mrs. Johnson questioned transportation to the library for the expelled students. Dr. Erardi replied that they are on their own. The position of the Board is that the tutors are not to go directly into the homes of these students unsupervised.

Mr. Goralski noted that he has spent some time in the public library in the afternoon for a variety of reasons and was amazed about how many of the students use the library. He commented that someone could not tell if it was an expelled student or regular student who was there for tutoring. He also noted that there were a number of faculty members using the library who were not part of this program who were tutoring or reading on their own. He was impressed that upwards of 20 to 30 students were working with an adult. He noted that the kiosks for the computers were all full with a blend of adults and students.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked how the learning for the Virtual Learning Academy was assessed and monitored. Dr. Erardi replied that they are trying to align courses to the program of studies that the particular child has. It is a file share back and forth through the Learning Academy. They do not have the ability to monitor that the actual expelled student is on the keyboard doing the work. Through a staff member at the high school, who is the coordinator, they are trying to determine for the start of the next school year if it was possible to appropriately identify that the work was actually coming from the student. At this point, they have no reason to believe that it was not. Before they expand the pilot, they have to ensure that the ownership of the work is coming from the child it should be coming from. Dr. Erardi would update the Board as they continue to work with VLA. He noted that VLA is a statewide program and not a program that Southington has invented.

Mr. Goralski thanked Dr. Erardi for this work. He stated that he was a big believer in deterrence. He thought that the reduction in numbers of expelled students speaks for itself. He noted that the greatest year for expulsions is Grade 10. He thought that should be looked at because if they follow cohort groups, they jump up in Grade 10 and then they drop down in Grade 11 and 12. He would love to see the year where the School Board expels no one.

#### **b. Summer Data Update**

Dr. Erardi pointed out that, in January, the placeholder for the number of retirements was 10 and they thought that there was some risk with that number; however, to Mrs. DiNello's

credit, they have reached that marker and, as of this afternoon, that number has moved to 13. He noted it was a moving target, which continues going forward.

Dr. Erardi reported that they had nine resignations. The bottom line that he was projecting as a potential savings is approximately \$90,000. He did not want Board members to get overly excited about that number because they have a couple of positions that are very difficult to hire at a low level. In particular, the World Language Chair at the high school has been posted for the past six weeks and they have yet to fill that position. There are the speech teachers mentioned earlier in the meeting and a middle school Technology Education teacher and, in all four of those instances, they will struggle coming in at a M1 or M2. He noted that it is tempered good news.

Dr. Erardi shared that the practice at looking at the enrollment projections that come out of Mr. Thiery's office is that they will start at Kindergarten and work forward. The attempt will be to resolve any hot spot that they have in Kindergarten first before they move to Grade 1 on to Grade 5. What is not reflective in this grid, because it is too early, are 32 parent requests for out of their neighborhood school into a different school. He noted that on or around August 1, Mr. Thiery would begin to look at the requests and make decisions around enrollment. They have the mobility of people moving in and people moving out of town before they begin to grant requests. He stated that Mrs. Passamano was beginning to get busy, like she was busy last year, with enrollments because there is a steady stream of people coming in to register their children.

Mrs. Johnson asked when the students leave the school district if there was notification given to Mr. Thiery's office. Mr. Thiery replied that under most circumstances, they do and it is timely. There are students, however, who leave the district and it not until the districts that they are arriving in probe his office that they find out. The vast majority of parents do let his office know.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco stated that the Grade 3 numbers were not good, which was not a surprise. She questioned Grade 5 at Derynoski and thought that parents would be called. She wanted to know if there was follow-up on that. Mr. Thiery replied that, regarding the parents of the fifth graders who were redistricted but chose to stay, 100% of those parents were called and were given the data. To the best of his knowledge, they all chose to stay. He noted that there is movement in the fifth grade at Derynoski represented in the 32 out-of-district requests that would provide some opportunities for relief in those numbers.

Mr. Goralski stated that he saw nine hot spots with over 20 students. He pointed out that this was a reflection of the budget and the economy. He knew that \$90,000 was absolutely nothing when considering to fill the four positions that Dr. Erardi mentioned. This was an impact of the financial situation we all are living in.

**c. Student Discipline – Southington High School**

Dr. Erardi pointed out that this would fall under Executive Session.

**10. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR STUDENT MATTERS**

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

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

**Motion carried by voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

***Linda Blanchard***

Recording Secretary

**SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION #1**

**July 8, 2010**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Brian Goralski, Board Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.

**Board Members Present:**

Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Ms. Michelle Schroeder, Mr. Brian Goralski

**Administration Present:**

Dr. Joseph Erardi, Jr., Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Howard Thiery, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance; and Mrs. Kimberly Hunt, Personnel Manager

**Others Present:**

From the Board of Finance: Mr. John Leary, Mr. John Moise, and Mr. Edward Pocock, Jr.  
From the Town Council: Dr. Al Natelli and Mr. John Dobbins  
Board Attorney Richard Mills from Shipman & Goodwin

**2. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR CONTRACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS**

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

**“Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of Southington Administrators’ Association Contract Negotiations and upon conclusion, reconvene to public session to complete the agenda.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

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

**“Move to return to public session.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

*The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:20 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Jill Notar-Francesco, Secretary  
Southington Board of Education

**SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION #2  
JULY 8, 2010**

Mr. Brian Goralski, Board Chairperson, called the Executive Session #2 to order at 8:40 p.m.

**Members Present:**

Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Ms. Michelle Schroeder, Mr. Brian Goralski.

**Administration Present:**

Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Jr., Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Howard Thiery, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance; Mrs. Kimberly Hunt, Personnel Manager.

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

**“Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing Student Matters and Personnel Matters, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session.”**

**Motion carried by voice vote.**

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

**“Move that the Board return to public session.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

*The board reconvened public session at 9:30 p.m.*

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

**“Move to expel student 2010-2011-01 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.”**

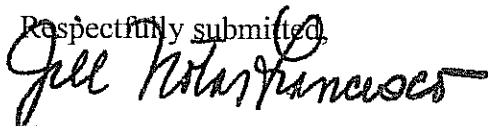
**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

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

**“Move to adjourn.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

The Board adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Jill Notar-Francesco, Secretary  
Southington Board of Education



## **Administration: Board of Education Report July 8, 2010**

1. **Safety Survey Update** (attachment #1)
2. **Summer School 2010**
3. **Parenting for Academic Success** (attachment #2)

*Vol. 1*  
*7/8/2010*

# **Developmental Assets: A Profile of Your Youth**

## **Southington High School**

Over the past 20 years, Search Institute has surveyed nearly three million youth about how they experience the 40 Developmental Assets—a research-based framework that identifies basic building blocks of human development. We've found clear relationships between youth outcomes and asset levels in both cross-sectional and longitudinal studies.

The results are compelling: The more assets kids have, the better. Youth with high asset levels are less likely to engage in high-risk behaviors (such as violence, sexual activity, drug use, and suicide), and more likely to engage in thriving behaviors (such as helping others, doing well in school, and taking on leadership roles).

Assets are crucial for the healthy development of all youth, regardless of their community size, geographic region, gender, economic status, race, or ethnicity. This report summarizes the extent to which your youth experience the Developmental Assets and how the assets relate to their behavior and overall health.

Literacy Volunteers of Central Connecticut added a new pilot program of "Parenting For Academic Success" at Plantsville Elementary School in Southington this spring. We met on Wednesday mornings from April 21-May 26, 2010. The Community Room in the school was a comfortable setting for the class since there were low tables/chairs for the children and high tables/chairs for the adults. The school secretary graciously let us leave one of our carts each week with the snacks and toys/supplies for the children in a storage room in the office.

Five families came during the course of the six week session which is about average for the pilot programs we have had at several schools. The group was ethnically diverse with a mom from Sudan, a mom from India, a mom & dad from South Korea, and a dad from Poland. I didn't get to meet the other mom who was a low literate English speaker who had grown up in Bristol most of her life. The education level of the parents ranged from completion of 10th grade through completion of college. Most of the parents spoke English fairly well except for the couple from Korea who have only been in the US for about a year. Some of the parents who have good social English told me that attending a class/workshop at their child's school is the main opportunity they have to practice English.

The adults were willing to share some of their experiences from their home cultures which provided enrichment to the program. The last day of class we had sharing of food from different cultures. Mr. Ko brought a beautiful cake he had made.

Some of the differences between a standard Adult Ed ESL class and Parenting For Academic Success are:

- \*We teach English vocabulary in the context of life skills and subjects taught in elementary school
- \*Our focus is on teaching parents with children ages preschool up to 3rd grade
- \*Our class teaches through fun, non-threatening, hands-on activities that parents can do with their children at home
- \*We provide books and school supplies for families to be able to assist their children with homework & other class assignments
- \*We encourage parents to learn about the American school system so that they can become advocates for their children
- \*Parents can earn extra books by keeping reading logs of books that they read to their children
- \*We provide a volunteer worker to do some activities with the children while the parents are taking the class

Committee Members:

Attending: Charlie Beliveau, Colleen Clark, David Derynoski, Joe Erardi, Howard Thiery, Ed Pocock, Jr., Peter Romano, John Weichsel

Also in attendance: Pat Johnson, Jill Notar-Francesco

Thanks to everyone who was able to attend last evening as we brought to close the committee's work on Phase 1 of our charge. I plan to share with the school-board-at-large the following:

1. Conceptually, the committee endorses the consolidation of 49 Beecher Street with the Gura town departments;
2. Conceptually, the committee believes that it is possible to relocate both entities into North Center School;
3. Conceptually, the committee has accepted the feasibility study by KBA as credible and passes it on to the Town Council for their further review
4. Conceptually, the committee would encourage the Town Council to further explore through the "request for proposal" process a private developer purchasing NCS, renovating or imploding to build new, with a lease / purchase plan back to the town.

I will also share with the school board that the above referenced items were not all unanimous in final conversation; however, clearly carried the majority of the committee.

Please let me know if your take away was any different from last evening as I am putting together my narrative for Thursday's board meeting. Committee members are more than welcome to attend as the SBOE will meet at Hatton School starting at 7:30 p.m.

Finally, our next scheduled meeting is planned for Tuesday, July 27<sup>th</sup> – 7PM – PES Conference Room.

By way of response back from this email.....are you able to attend the July 27<sup>th</sup> meeting?

Thanks to all for doing exceptional work with this very delicate planning –

JE

Fact Sheet: Beecher Street / North Center School / Gura  
Thursday, July 8, 2010

**Beecher Street**

Reoccurring Annual Cost: (Electricity, sewer, fuel, custodial, snow/grass)	\$44,264
Sale (potential) (Town planner – 8 lots: \$100,000 and \$125,000)	\$800,000 - \$1,000,000
Potential property tax - 8 lots (present mill)	\$38,572 / annual

**North Center School**

Reoccurring Annual Cost: (Electricity, sewer, fuel, custodial, snow/grass)	\$120,025
Renovate to new (total)	\$7,165,556
Renovate to new (community cost)	\$6,085,556

**Gura**

Raze the building	\$200,000
-------------------	-----------

## School Hours

**Classroom: 8:05 am – 1:35 pm**

Alta runs on a six-period daily schedule, and provides after school opportunities for tutoring and counseling. Students may participate in any sport or club at SHS.

The operational hours are from  
7:30 am -2:30 pm.

## Tuition

**Regular Education:** \$25,000 per year.

*Special Education and Related Services will be billed on a per student basis determined by student's PPT and IEP.*

## Community Partnerships

YMCA of Southington

Bread For Life

CMHA

The Hartford Insurance Group

Southington Social Services

Lincoln College of New England

United Way

Southington Public Library

## District Information

Southington Board of Education

**Brian S. Goralski**  
Board Chairperson

**Terri C. Carmody**  
**Colleen W. Clark**  
**David J. Derynoski**  
**Rosemarie Fischer**

**Patricia P. Johnson**  
**Jill Notar-Francesco**  
**Kathleen C. Rickard**  
**Michelle Schroeder**

**Joseph V. Erardi, Jr., Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

Southington High School Administration

**Martin J. Semmel, Ed.D.**  
Principal

**Andrew Bayer**  
**Helen Crowley**

**David Germano**  
**Brian Stranieri**

Alternative Education Administration

**Jess W. Levin**  
Administrator

**Barbara Belanger**  
School Secretary

**Diane Cavaliere**  
Physical Education  
**Florio Luciano**  
Art

**Mark Hill**  
Guidance

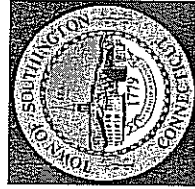
**Anita Holtz**  
English

**Amy Kosienki**  
Math

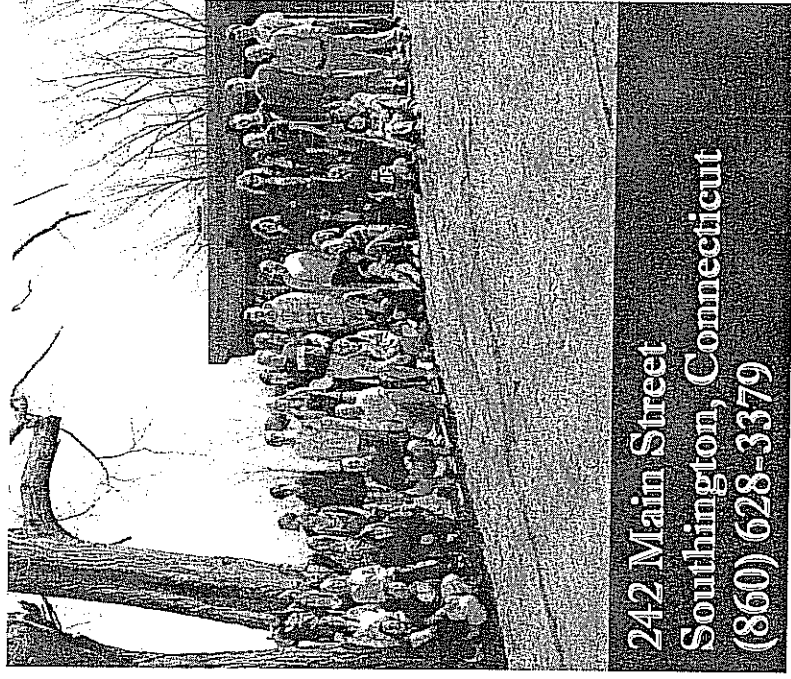
**Daniel Patterson**  
Social Studies

**George Pulley, Jr.**  
Science

**Juliellen Van Lenten**  
Special Education



Southington Public Schools  
49 Beecher St.  
Southington, CT, 06489  
[www.southingtonschools.org](http://www.southingtonschools.org)



## Program Philosophy

The Alternative Education Program is designed to support and ignite learning through differentiation, facilitated instruction, and interdisciplinary teaching that magnifies individual student talent.

Alta encourages students to make changes that will positively impact academic, social, and emotional development.

Teachers model the life skills necessary for students to become strong, independent individuals and meaningful contributors to society.

## Profile of an Alternative Education Student

The Alta student is eager to change and is encouraged to embrace positive change by the staff. The typical Alta student looks to enhance self-esteem, direction, and motivation. Alta gives students the opportunity to develop and gain a sense of belonging, self-worth, and purpose in a nurturing learning environment.

## Staffing

Alta offers full time, highly qualified, certified staff in the four major content areas, school counseling, and student support services.

## Service Learning

- ❖ **Alta Outdoor Beautification Project**
- ❖ **Alta students volunteer for Southington Social Services**
- ❖ **Southington Cares**
  - ✓ Students keeping seniors and shut-ins safe
- ❖ **Students Supporting Students at Derynoski Elementary School**
  - ✓ Alta students tutor students in Grades 3-5 in reading
  - ✓ Alta students support extracurricular activities and the arts throughout the year.

## Student Testimony

*"The teachers are helpful and they explain things well. Everyone is friendly. I want to pay attention because I like the teachers."*

~ **Class of 2010**

*"We have togetherness at Alta. This was a second chance for me."*

~ **Class of 2010**

*"There is a lot of structure at Alta. This keeps people safe."*

~ **Class of 2011**

## Sign Up Today

Complete the information below and mail to the **Alternative Education Program, 242 Main Street, Southington, CT 06489**. Once received, we will contact you for additional information.

### Student Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

### Current District Information

District: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Guidance Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

### Comments

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Historical Data

- Eighty-eight percent of our students have reached proficiency or higher on CAPT or the district-wide assessment in math and reading.
- Since 2008, 27 graduates have entered
  - ✓ *Two-year or four-year institutions*
  - ✓ *Trade and technical schools*
  - ✓ *Military*
  - ✓ *Workforce*
- Alta remains a school community with approximately 45-60 students.

**Southington Public Schools**

Student Expulsions

2007-2008

School Year

Southington High School

<u>Grade 9</u>	<u>Grade 10</u>	<u>Grade 11</u>	<u>Grade 12</u>
4	5	9	10

Total SHS =28

## Middle Schools

Joseph A. DePaolo Middle School

<u>Grade 6</u>	<u>Grade 7</u>	<u>Grade 8</u>
0	0	2

Total JAD=2

John F. Kennedy Middle School

<u>Grade 6</u>	<u>Grade 7</u>	<u>Grade 8</u>
0	0	0

Total JFK=0

District Total=30

**Southington Public Schools**

Student Expulsions

2008-2009

School Year

Southington High School

<u>Grade 9</u>	<u>Grade 10</u>	<u>Grade 11</u>	<u>Grade 12</u>
6	11	5	5

Total SHS=27

## Middle Schools

Joseph A. DePaolo Middle School

<u>Grade 6</u>	<u>Grade 7</u>	<u>Grade 8</u>
0	0	0

Total JAD=0

John F. Kennedy Middle School

<u>Grade 6</u>	<u>Grade 7</u>	<u>Grade 8</u>
0	0	0

Total JFK=0

District Total=27

**Southington Public Schools**

Student Expulsions

2009-2010

School Year

Southington High School

<u>Grade 9</u>	<u>Grade 10</u>	<u>Grade 11</u>	<u>Grade 12</u>
2	6	3	1

Total SHS=12

## Middle Schools

Joseph A. DePaolo Middle School

<u>Grade 6</u>	<u>Grade 7</u>	<u>Grade 8</u>
0	0	1

Total JAD=1

John F. Kennedy Middle School

<u>Grade 6</u>	<u>Grade 7</u>	<u>Grade 8</u>
0	0	0

Total JFK=0

District Total=13

6/30/2010