

SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT

REGULAR MEETING

JULY 12, 2012

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, July 12, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers, Southington Town Hall, 75 Main Street, Southington, Connecticut.

1. CALL TO ORDER

An Executive Session meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson, Mr. Brian Goralski. Board members present were Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Terry Lombardi (*arrived at 6:35 p.m.*), Mr. Zaya Oshana, Mrs. Patricia Queen and Mr. Brian Goralski. Absent were Mrs. Terri Carmody and Mrs. Colleen Clark.

Present from the administration were Dr. Joseph Erardi, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Karen Smith, Assistant Superintendent; and Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance.

Present from Town Council were Dr. Albert Natelli (*left Executive Session at 7:20 p.m.*) and Dr. Stephanie Urillo.

Present from Board of Finance were Mr. John Leary, Mr. Edward Pocock, Jr., Mrs. Sandra Feld, and Mr. Anthony Casale, Jr. (*left Executive Session at 6:38 p.m.*).

Also present was Attorney Richard A. Mills, Shipman & Goodwin, LLP.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR SEA CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS AND UPSEU PARAPROFESSIONAL NEGOTIATIONS

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

“Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing SEA Contract Negotiations and UPSU Paraprofessional Negotiations, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move that the Board return to public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Executive Session ended at 7:30 p.m.

3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

The Regular Session was reconvened at 7:40 p.m. by Chairperson, Mr. Brian Goralski. Board members present were, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mr. Zaya Oshana and Mrs. Patricia Queen. Absent were Mrs. Terri Carmody and Mrs. Colleen Clark.

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

There were approximately three people in the audience.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ June 14, 2012

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

“Move to approve the minutes of June 14, 2012.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience

Mr. Arthur Cyr, 103 Berlin Avenue was very pleased with the completion and outcome of all the sidewalks and the entire parking lot at Kelley School.

b. Communications from Board Members and Administration

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

“Move Agenda Item 10.d (Program of Studies) to Agenda Item 8.b.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Communication from the Board Members:

Mrs. Notar-Francesco reported that there has been much press lately on CREC's Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts jazz choir called, The Real Ambassadors, who have been invited to perform at the London Olympics. There are three recent Southington High School graduates performing in the choir. They are Jesse Crofton, Dominic Pellegrini and Nicholas Charlton. Mrs. Notar-Francesco believes that this is a wonderful, rare opportunity for our students. The group was, in fact, the only high school group invited to perform at the summer Olympics. The group is fundraising to help with their travel expenses to London and will be holding a fundraiser at Smokin' with Chris Restaurant this coming Sunday, July 15th, beginning at 1 p.m. She congratulated and wished good luck to the jazz choir and our Southington students.

Mr. Goralski remarked that the Board members were very proud of the students who graduated on June 19. The weather was great and Mr. Germano did a fantastic job.

Communication from Administration:

Dr. Erardi distributed a packet of his Administration Report and noted that it would be the last time the Board would be receiving a hard copy (*Attachment #1*).

1. Family Resource Funding: Dr. Erardi publicly thanked the Graustein Foundation and the Community Foundation for Greater New Britain for their continued partnership with our Family Resource Center with a \$25,000 grant.
2. Main Street Community Foundation Partnership: Dr. Erardi thanked Sue Sadecki and the Main Street Community for their recent grant to relocate the Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington to a permanent space at Hatton Elementary School.
3. Safe Routes to School Grant: Dr. Erardi noted that through Mr. Cox's leadership, a final confirmation from the Connecticut State Department of Transportation regarding the Safe Routes to School Grant has been received and the conversation will be moving to construction.
4. Community Foundation of Greater New Britain: Dr. Erardi thanked James Williamson, President of the Community Foundation, for the foundation's ongoing commitment and the \$16,333 grant that they awarded to the high school for a special education transportation van for our students in transition to the age of 21.
5. Summer School 2012: Dr. Erardi reported that under the new leadership of David DeStefano, Summer School Director, the program is running well and is a self-funded program that will end in black ink.
6. Garden at the Barnes – Leon Peschel: Dr. Erardi announced that Leon will be celebrating his Eagle School project on August 23, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at the Southington Library. Mr. Goralski asked for clarification on where the event will be held.

7. SRO Police Department / SHS Partnership: Dr. Erardi reported that the practice with the Southington Police Department is that every two years there is a rotation of a School Resource Officer. Officer Jason Plourde will be rotating out of the SRO role. Dr. Erardi will share with the Board who the new SRO will be for the 2012-2013 school year when he receives the information.

7. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

a. Personnel Report

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

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

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum & Instruction Meeting ~ June 13, 2012

Mrs. Queen reported that the committee met on June 13 and all the members were present. There were two components to this meeting. They discussed the new Program of Studies and Southington High School Leveling. They had a comprehensive presentation by Dr. Semmel and Mrs. Helen Crowley [Assistant Principal]. There were three main components: 1) Questions of student placement in the levels; 2) Teacher professional development and, 3) and an assessment as to how well the system is working. In terms of student placement, guidelines have been developed and the Board has seen drafts of those before. They now have DRP data on every student's degree of reading power that we did not have prior to one year ago. Every student is tested in Grades 9, 10 and 11, as well as the eighth graders coming in, and that is key for leveling placement. An interesting piece to every guideline that the teachers receive is that their best judgment essentially trumps all other factors. In terms of teacher training, they focused on professional development for this initiative beginning this year. Mrs. Smith confirmed that the initiative will continue in 2012-2013, which is year two. They contracted with SERC's services to continue the work. She is very proud of the leadership teams, the department chair teams, and the teacher leadership teams that have formed at the high school around this topic. Mrs. Queen continued that the EIP teams are new for next year, which is significant in terms of improving student achievement overall. Mrs. Smith added that it would match what is occurring in Grades K-8. By the end of next school year, they were will have a Pre-K through Grade 12 SRBI or EIP Program in place, which they hope to be able to present to the full Board next fall.

Mrs. Queen added that Mrs. Smith does an amazing job describing professional development. Once it goes beyond the SERC professional trainers, the next level is collegial visits. Professional development is an ongoing framework that does not end because the official professional development has concluded. Mrs. Queen noted that many of the veteran teachers are already employing best practices and have been for years; they do it naturally and are masterful at it.

Mrs. Queen reported that there are several components to the assessment piece. She noted that the time to have another conversation to see where they are will be after the first marking period.

Mrs. Queen continued that Dr. Semmel noted that for the course sign-ups the percentages fell where he anticipated, with 25% of students registering for CP level, 50% in the CCP and 25% in the Honors. That was consistent across the board.

Mr. Oshana questioned how they were going to do the assessment side of it. Mrs. Queen replied that Dr. Semmel collects data as he does numerous walk-throughs through the building. The EIP teams will also be providing feedback. The work with SERC will provide another source of feedback. She noted that Dr. Semmel stated the first-quarter grades and exam grades would be the data closest to the teachers work. They are talking about potentially doing a survey of teachers, parents, and students to get anecdotal feedback, as well. The caveat is that it may take one or two years to really assess where we are.

Mr. Oshana asked what actually was being assessed. Mrs. Smith replied that there are several forms of formal assessments and that what occurs on a daily basis are the informal assessments including anecdotal data that is collected. The district currently has formal assessments known as “benchmark assessments” or end-of-semester exams and mid-term exams, CAPT testing, CMT, AP testing, etc. More importantly, we have curriculum-based informal assessments that, depending upon the curriculum that is being taught, are benchmark assessments along the way. For students who require something in addition to what we traditional assessment, we have a program called “Early Intervention.” It is a system whereby progress monitoring occurs. This means more frequent assessments are targeted for a particular student’s needs. We don’t have to wait a half semester or full semester to find out if someone is slipping. We may wait three to six weeks and form a small team to talk about how their intervention is having an impact on that student. It is called a “formative assessment.” It is an informal document. Mrs. Smith stated that they were becoming smarter with assessments and realizing that they don’t want to wait until the end of a term to find out how a student is doing.

Dr. Erardi noted that the design of the programming for students this upcoming school year is to put them into more competitive classes than they have ever had. There will be a lot of conversation around grades for the first line data that comes forward with the first quarter. We are stretching students and our expectation is to clearly have fewer failures. He thought an important piece to this conversation is the subjective piece, the qualitative piece, and to have conversations with students in regard to what they think is happening in their classroom. He stated that is the piece administration would like to bring back to the Board, which is a key piece to this.

Mrs. Smith stated that they are also trying to prepare for a new testing program in Connecticut. The Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMT) results are beginning to emerge now, as well as CAPT tests, and they are going to be de-emphasizing that particular vehicle of assessment and thinking about 2015 when the state is adopting the “Smarter Balanced Assessment,” which is another way of performance assessment. They will be hearing a lot in the next school year, particularly from districts that are piloting some different kinds of assessments. Mr. Oshana summarized that they will not just teach to the test. Mrs. Smith replied that was correct, and that it was a major shift.

Mrs. Queen stated that they are going to loop the administrator so the same administrator will be a part of that team grade. For example, an administrator will start with a Grade 10 class and will follow that same class until they graduate, and the next year's tenth grade administrator on the EIP team will be different. Mrs. Lombardi was concerned about the middle level student and the impact on them in this leveling. She felt that sometimes they lose sight of the middle level student. Mrs. Smith replied that they will bring data on that to the Board in early fall.

Mrs. Johnson asked about the small groups who are studying the process this summer and what their function would be after the summer is over. Mrs. Smith replied that they have several new classes especially AP Honors classes that are being developed. Teachers who are interested in and experienced with particular subject areas are working as a member of a team, or independently in developing a curricular topic and will then bring it back to the department. The department will have two days of planning at the beginning of the school year to review all the material from the current curriculum. They are doing a lot of leveling work as well in trying to either improve or modify current curriculum standards and assessments. All the teams working on curriculum at the high school are working directly or indirectly with Ms. Dale Riedinger, Math/Science Coordinator, or Ms. Betsy Chester, Language Arts Coordinator, as well as the department chairs and are also learning about Common Core together. She felt that Common Core State Standards, leveling, and the curriculum revision cycle are all coming together at a good time. There is a lot of professional development money that is going into the high school.

b. Program of Studies *(formerly Agenda Item 10.d)*

Mrs. Smith introduced Mrs. Marion Stannard who presented two classes that she would like to add to the Agriculture Science and Technology curriculum.

Mrs. Stannard stated that she currently teaches two Early College Experience (ECE) courses that are UConn credit courses. In the fall, she taught UConn Horticulture, which is a three-credit course and UConn Floral Art, which is a two-credit course that she taught in the spring. She has done that for six years and UConn approached several of the schools that teach ECE courses and asked where she would like to expand. Several schools have already started the Advanced Floral Art courses at their schools and she is now ready to do that because she feels that her students are ready to move into those advanced floral design skills. She was especially excited about the biotechnology course because it is a new area of the curriculum. Biotechnology has a lot of different definitions and is a plant science-based course for three credits. In plant science, biotechnology has been around forever. In Connecticut there is a huge horticultural industry and a large percentage of the nursery crops and the perennial crops are created through micro-propagation, which is taught in the biotechnology curriculum at UConn. Mrs. Stannard also has taught that in the past, and it would be part of this course as well. New in biotechnology is genetically-modified organisms, and they are prevalent in a lot of our food products; however, it is important for people going on in agriculture to know where they exist, why they exist, and how they come into being. If someone is not necessarily in favor of GMOs, they need to know how to identify where those products are and how to market products. Those are all issues that go along with the biotechnology curriculum.

Mrs. Queen asked if the students will use microscopes to modify the seeds. Mrs. Stannard replied that there were a lot of different laboratory procedures. Plant tissue culture, the micro-propagation that she spoke to, is done in a laboratory setting. Southington already has the

facilities in the agriculture building and she has taught it for many years. The students actually do the modifications in the test tube. They are not really down to the cellular level, but they are learning to identify what they need and the part of the plant to propagate on a microscopic level. Mrs. Stannard attended a professional development activity two weeks ago where the UConn Plant Science professor was helping those who are looking into teaching the biotechnology course to learn some additional laboratory procedures, and she learned how to isolate the DNA to determine whether a plant has genetically modified organisms. She would be able to teach that to her students as well.

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

“Move to approve the proposed high school courses as recommended by the Curriculum and Instruction Committee.”

Mr. Derynoski noticed that the textbooks are listed at \$1,125, but it is identified that current textbooks will be used for this course. He asked if these are additional textbooks that Mrs. Stannard would need. Mrs. Stannard replied that they have a fair number of biotechnology textbooks that they have always had as references because she has taught some parts of biotechnology for many years. Each curricular area has a biotechnology component, so they have a number of textbooks that they have used as references; however, when they teach it as a course, they need to expand the number of textbooks. Mr. Derynoski asked how many students she anticipated would participate. Mrs. Stannard replied that it was hard to predict. She hoped to market it to all of the Ag students because the Animal Science students need to understand that as well. For her two current ECE courses, class sizes are at 18 students and 10 students.

Mrs. Johnson asked what Mrs. Stannard’s previous reticence was in teaching the Floral Design class. Mrs. Stannard replied that she teaches a small amount of Floral Design to freshmen, and a fair amount to sophomores. With the junior / senior year, it has to fit in with the rest of her curriculum, so she wanted to make sure that she had the sequence ready so that she was not having a senior in a class who did not have the proper background.

Mrs. Lombardi asked if Mrs. Stannard could market her products because there is no one in town that really grows geraniums like Mrs. Stannard does. She thought that it would be good to have marketing within the community. So many people don’t know about the VoAg May 1st plant sale. Mr. Derynoski thought that they should have the marketing class at the high school sell advertising and expand their curriculum to cover that. He thought that it was a great opportunity to have cross-curricular education.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

Mr. Goralski noted that the Capital Improvement Plan has been moving forward with the other town boards, such as the November referendum for \$11 million worth of road repairs that are long overdue. He noted that the Board of Education has received support with their Capital improvements. Mrs. Lombardi stated that she would like to see technology move up on the

Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Goralski was not sure it was part of the Town Capital Improvement Plan. Mrs. Lombardi noted that there was a list where Kelley School made it to the top 10 and some of it was prioritized. Mrs. DiNello explained that the Board of Education had their Capital Plan and that Dr. Erardi has worked hand-in-hand with Mr. Brumback, Town Manager, with it. The fact that we recently have so many school construction projects moving forward (especially with the middle schools) they felt that it was the Board of Education's turn to take a back seat and let the town move forward with some of their projects at this time. Mrs. DiNello was happy to have a town-wide and Board of Education combined Capital Improvement Plan and seeing it move forward. It is the first time in her tenure that this is occurring. She thought that the prioritization list would be reviewed annually.

Dr. Erardi pointed out that he attended the Monday Town Council meeting and the Town Council had a public discussion regarding if there was a "hot button" that was unbeknownst to them. It appears from the conversation that there is some flexibility. He did not think that they would consider technology a "hot button." However, that is a conversation that he will have with Mr. Brumback as far as movement.

Mr. Goralski reported that he and Mr. Derynoski served on the Turf Advisory Committee and that the process has reached its conclusion. This past Monday, the Town Council supported their recommendation for ProGrass. He noted that they could see equipment on the high school grounds as early as next week. He stated that Mr. Swallow has done some work to make sure that we do not skip a beat this fall. It was a town government collaboration.

Mrs. Johnson noted that, when she read the letter to ProGrass, it stated something about an eight-year warranty. She asked who would be responsible for the condition of the turf after the eight years if something needs to be done. Mr. Goralski replied that ProGrass offered an eight-year warranty on the base, which is the part that is underneath the turf and is the only company that offers it. They also offered a maintenance program after year six that could be bought through them for \$5,000 a year and they could do a professional deep cleaning of the product above and beyond the grooming and things that we do. Each year that it is purchased up to year ten, it extends the warranty. The life is eight to twelve years. Mr. Derynoski noted that some areas in the northeast had ProGrass and were in their 13th year, and it is still in fine shape. It is a combination of use, abuse, maintenance and care.

Mrs. Johnson asked if there was discussion as to who was going to absorb the responsibility for replacement. Mr. Goralski replied that the Turf Advisory Committee recommended, and the Town Council continues to endorse, a Turf Advisory Committee be formed with representatives who are going to maintain and manage the plan to create funding through the program itself. The Board of Education will eventually have to look at some of their things that they have in place. After the installation, it should be self-maintained with no more tax dollars going into that plan. If it is managed right, it will always replace itself.

b. Construction Update

Mr. Cox reported that the Building Committee continues to meet on a weekly basis for the middle school projects with Fletcher Thompson and Newfield Construction. They are in the schematic stage now where they are checking site plans, classrooms arrangements, etc. The middle school administrators have had a lot of input through Mr. Palmieri at the meetings. It is

moving along considering the tight timeframe that they have and different people being on vacation. They will meet every Tuesday. Next week, he will go with the architect and Newfield Construction to meet with the state School Facilities Unit for their first of many meeting to get things started.

Mr. Cox reported that North Center continues to move forward and that environmental remediation has slowed down progress. The moving date appears to be the second week of August at this time. Next week, they will be pulling cable and fiber into the facility for the offices. The plan is to take down the plastic on the windows and actually put glass in the window frames.

Mr. Cox reported that the paving has been completed for Kelley School and it will take a couple of rainstorms and the cooling down process before they can start painting lines and painting the basketball court. They are also replacing the fencing near the kindergarten area because it had to be removed as part of the project. There have also been some drainage repairs. They are 10% under budget on the project.

Dr. Erardi added that, although we have been delayed in moving in, he was not uncomfortable with that because 49 Beecher Street has not been sold. Beecher Street staff will be prepared to move when it is time to move. He is impressed that the partnership remains strong and that the bottom line is patience.

Mr. Derynoski asked about the aligning of the driveway. Mr. Cox replied that the driveway will be realigned with the traffic light on Route 10 and the actual building of the driveway will happen in approximately three weeks. Mr. Derynoski asked if they were going to put in the extra turn lane on Route 10. Mr. Cox replied that he was not at the meeting when they got the final approval from the DOT. Mr. Derynoski hoped that they would be putting in a turning lane heading north so that traffic would not be backed up into downtown.

Mr. Oshana asked if the piles of rubble and debris in the front were there because of environmental issues. Mr. Cox replied that it was not and was held up by the Department of Transportation's decision. The piles of gravel actually came off the roof and it will be used for the base of the new driveway opening. The dirt with the weeds growing out of it will be used to backfill around curbs. It is all there for use and no environmental issues. Dr. Erardi added that the outdoor landscaping will begin next week.

Mrs. Lombardi assumed that they were saving some dollars in rent as a result of going in late. She asked what that equated to in savings. Dr. Erardi replied that he would get back to her on that.

Mr. Goralski stated that the Board will be included in all minutes from the Middle School Building Committee moving forward. He stated that every concern that the Board members have heard from teachers, that Mr. Palmieri is aware of, has been reflected in the latest drawings. The drawings are remarkable. He noted that Newfield Construction and Fletcher Thompson have worked together before and their teamwork is impressive. Mr. Goralski commented that Mr. Cox was irreplaceable.

c. 2012-2013 Staffing

Dr. Erardi stated that they were aggressive with the administrative search and through the hard work of Kim Hunt, Personnel Manager, Karen Smith, and many others they have their complete complement in place for the administrative team for 2012-2013. The matrix with 9.9 FTEs representing 11 bodies was as of June 27, 2012 and one-third of those positions have been filled. Administration continues to work hard with their quest at the high school for an exemplary Director of Guidance and the search for a physics teacher is difficult. As of July 12, those are their two greatest concerns.

Mrs. Johnson asked who the interim Director of Guidance was. Dr. Erardi replied that they just unsuccessfully negotiated with a candidate who they thought was coming forward; however, the position is written in a way where it is salaried at a 1.2 FTE, which equates to "X" amount of days and they did not want to give away those days, parcel them out to guidance counselors because they wanted ownership for the summer work. They are now at a point of negotiation with a candidate and, if they reach a successful ending, that person will come onboard and we will be in good shape. If that does not happen, on or around the first of August, we will then designate a counselor to take that lead responsibility to make sure that everything that needs to be done during the summer has been accomplished. Mrs. Johnson asked if there would be a substitute person to take that guidance position then. Dr. Erardi replied that conversation will come out of Personnel & Policy. He was very reluctant to start the year without a leadership role in that department. He is further reluctant to lower their standards within the pool of applicants.

d. K-5 Enrollment

Dr. Erardi noted that the actual contract language between the School Board and the teachers union is that the kindergarten and first grade number cannot exceed 27 and traditional classroom instruction classes in elementary and secondary schools cannot exceed 31 students. The numbers that the Board had set was that in Kindergarten a maximum of 18, Grades 1 and 2 a maximum of 22, Grades 3, 4, and 5 a maximum of 24. Looking at the June 30, 2012 enrollment matrix, there are a couple of hot spots with one being in Grade 2 at Derynoski School and Grade 5 at Hatton and Kelley Schools. There is a cool spot in Grade 1 at Plantsville. The end result by reduction in force and the grid is that they have a .5 position that they have yet to place. They did that because of their concern at Strong Elementary School in Kindergarten. As they have done in the past, administration will keep a running record for the Board, and the next Board meeting for this conversation will be on August 16.

Mrs. Johnson asked if the number 17 at Hatton School was the number of Pre-K students. Dr. Erardi noted that it was a typo and there should be "p.m." next to it because it is for a Kindergarten class. Mrs. Johnson was concerned that three of the elementary schools were functioning with less than 300 students. She was concerned about the cost efficiency. It is nice to have small classrooms, but they are sacrificing because of the budget constraints. She would like administration to start thinking about how this could be addressed. Dr. Erardi thought that there were actually two parallel conversations with that question. 1) In August, they will be talking about the superintendent's and administration's goals and they will bring a study to the Board on or around October 1, 2012 of all-day kindergarten. It is a difficult alignment with a full-blown redistricting plan and trying to create quality space in every building. The shortage of

quality space may dictate a much more aggressive look at redistricting. 2) The South End projection, when the school project was brought forward to the state School Facilities Unit, was a projection of 300 students and that was how that school was built, funded and was going to be reimbursed. He stated that there was a redistricting plan to address that; however, the neighborhoods that were supposed to have grown, have not. Dr. Erardi noted that was an ongoing conversation this year with the Curriculum and Instruction Committee about looking to make that a magnet within our own district to attract students. They have two to three years to do that.

Mr. Derynoski agreed with Mrs. Johnson about the inefficiencies. He stated that all-day kindergarten is going to be a reality at some point and they would have to find 13 rooms in the school district as it stands right now and that is almost the equivalent of a school. Right now, there are 26 kindergarten classes, morning and afternoon, and that is a lot of space. Before the Board goes jumping into expanding Project Choice they need to put a matrix together to see where their priorities and cost implications would be. Dr. Erardi noted that from last year to this year 14 elementary school classrooms were opened up because we have 14 fewer teachers in the elementary schools.

Mr. Goralski does not foresee himself supporting adding teachers because he does not know where they are going to get them beyond that .5 FTE. They have a month to study this document and he does not see how he can support adding a teacher that they don't have the funding for.

e. Southington Public Schools ~ 20/20 Vision: Long Term Planning

Dr. Erardi wanted to keep this on the agenda. The Administrative Institute is taking place in August and part of the Institute is going to be dedicated to the 20/20 Vision. This means that the administration would have the opportunity to be an integral part of the framework moving forward. The superintendent's plan is to be back to the Board in September with what the study will look like, who will be part of the ongoing work, and how the School Board will connect to the work before the presentation goes to the Board as a proposal.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion on Project Choice

Mrs. Smith explained that they currently have 30 Open Choice students enrolled in the Southington Public Schools and they are looking for support and encouragement from the Board of Education to increase that number by 15 students. If they are fortunate enough to fill those seats, they would anticipate five children coming into Kindergarten at Derynoski Elementary School, five children coming into Kindergarten at South End Elementary School, and five children either in total or combination of two schools (Flanders or Plantsville Elementary Schools) coming into Kindergarten. Beyond the 15 there are always sibling requests that follow on a case-by-case decision. There is a revenue increase if we take in 50% more students than we currently have and that would be the case if we were to offer 15 seats. Beyond that, there is an added grant that she would like to apply for this year in the amount of \$5,000 to help in a professional development way for adults around the general topic of diversity.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco knows that the funding for Kindergarten is at a premium and that is always what districts are looking for when they request Kindergarten students. She was worried that, if Southington was looking to achieve the \$6,000 per student, it may be hard to get 15 Kindergarten students. She asked if Southington would be willing to take other grades. Mrs. Smith replied that they would. Mrs. Notar-Francesco noted that it needed to be a 50% increase by October 1. What happens if the state does not come forward with the 15 students by then? Mrs. Smith reflected on what happened this year when they were late with filling some of the seats that were opened up and we finally did meet the maximum number of seats and, therefore, funding eventually did come. Mrs. Smith stated that she would get back with an answer on that because she could not answer that this evening. Mrs. Notar-Francesco noted that this year Simsbury piloted a couple of sections of Preschool Open Choice and she thought that they took about 30 students in the Pre-K pilot.

Mrs. Lombardi pointed out that she was involved in helping Open Choice hispanic families during the first week and she found that they needed a lot of support in assimilating because they are also traveling 20-30 miles to a new town that they don't know anything about. She asked if there was anything that could be done in terms of an orientation to our schools. Mrs. Smith replied that she has had meetings with those schools who currently have Open Choice children and one of the ideas was to have a host family or families assigned to the new children. The problem this year was that our seats were available, but they were not filled in a timely fashion. There is much more that can be done on an outreach, but also the idea of the host families for parents, not just for the children. For example, in our Extended Day Kindergarten classes, we had children who were going to return in the evening for Pasta Suppers, Ice Cream Socials or Book Fairs, and we had host families with whom the children would stay. The families would come after work and join them. They would like to do the same thing only on an adult basis. They are also marketing a little bit better and they are putting together a brochure selling our wonderful public school system.

Mr. Goralski acknowledged that there was a consensus from the Board for the administration to go forward with 15 students.

b. Magnet School Update

Mrs. Smith explained that there are CREC Magnets and there are Hartford Magnets that are not run by CREC. With the help of Mrs. Passamano, she was able to research each one of the magnets where Southington currently has children attending. She has learned that the magnets that service preschool through elementary school-age children have some common denominators, such as world language, all-day Kindergarten, and state of the art technology. They all tend to offer before and after school care for a fee. The magnets that are offered for middle school-aged students through high school also have state of the art technology and tend to be arts and science driven, and also incorporate world language. There are themed schools around music, art, and partnerships with the Bushnell and the Science Museum and musical organizations. There are phenomenal opportunities in the city. We have one student who is attending Project Learn in East Lyme because of marine science. In general, those were some of the common themes that she found. She would like to do a survey of the Southington families and the high school-aged students who attend magnets so we can find out what is it about the magnet system that is so attractive.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco would be interested in exploring through a survey why the Greater Hartford Academy of Math and Science (GHAMAS) is such a big draw. She understood that they have different levels of math and science, but she wonders if there were some things that Southington could replicate. They are spending approximately \$185,000 in tuitions for the GHAMAS students alone. She asked Mrs. DiNello what she budgeted for our magnet tuitions for this year. Mrs. DiNello replied that she would follow-up tomorrow through e-mail, but she believed that she budgeted what the current anticipated cost was, which at the time was \$351,000. She noted there was still a lot of movement going to take place. Mr. Goralski summarized that a hole in the budget technically could already exist. Mrs. Notar-Francesco felt that bringing in more Open Choice students would help offset the magnet tuitions.

Dr. Erardi explained that a good deal of the attraction to GHAMAS was that they have an engineering program for middle school students. We are actually losing students in the middle school and they are staying within that math and science track. The second piece is, if we use the dollar amount of \$6,000 X 45 Open Choice students that we plan to have in our district this upcoming school year, that is a revenue base of \$270,000. If they are looking at red ink in what they budgeted, he hoped that they could offset some of it with the Open Choice students.

Mrs. Johnson asked Mrs. Smith to talk about the preschool piece. Mrs. Smith replied that she had information about the University of Hartford Magnet School, Museum Academy, and Discovery Academy and explained that there are seven preschool students. She felt that this is where a survey would be helpful because she could only speculate that perhaps a parent works in the area. She noted that they are very attractively marketed. Mrs. Johnson noted that Southington was losing almost \$200,000 a year to students who could learn at our middle schools or high school if we could replicate some of the things at the magnets. Mrs. Smith explained that Southington has wonderful components of everything that every magnet school is offering. When she looks at GHAMAS, in particular, she thinks of STEM and the work going on in partnership with the Southington Education Foundation and Sloper, with Dale Riedinger actually doing hands-on science in the pond. There was a huge emphasis with making connections to STEM professions where students are out in the work world. She thought that, as a comprehensive public school system, Southington was replicating and expanding some wonderful things.

Mrs. Johnson thought that it was essential that Mrs. Smith looks further into it because there was no reason to lose students who feel that they cannot get their wishes fulfilled in the Southington Public Schools, when they can.

Mrs. Queen felt that Southington offered more in our math, science and engineering programs than our interested students can fit into their schedule. She wondered if it was a matter of compression. Could students who are able move through the curriculum more quickly and still cover more, and could some of the full-year courses be taught in half a year. These are students who are not taking a lunch because they are already taking eight classes a day. They need the full component of English, social science and world language for college applications, but they can't literally fit it in. Mrs. Smith thought that this would fit in nicely with Dr. Erardi's 20/20 Vision Plan as a piece of the puzzle in moving ahead with target goals.

Dr. Erardi would bring back to the August meeting how many students apply, are accepted, start at GHAMAS, and then return to the high school. He knows students who have

done that. Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked what happens to the tuition payments that Southington has paid at that point. Dr. Erardi explained that the students finish the year and then they come back. They don't finish the four years at GHAMAS.

Mr. Derynoski explained that in the past they had a lottery system where Southington would budget so many seats for students to attend GHAMAS. They then had the students who attended GHAMAS come to a Board meeting and show what they have accomplished with the curriculum. They wanted to go to GHAMAS because it fulfills their application to get into a higher level college. He does not see that as the case because Southington High School offers tremendous opportunities and there are a lot of students who have achieved access to some of the Ivy League schools without having attended GHAMAS. However, he thought that was the belief still out there with the parents. Dr. Erardi remarked that we have lost local control.

Mr. Goralski stated that the sad reality of this topic, and the cause of this, is the state of Connecticut Sheff case in Hartford created this and the districts outside of Hartford are paying for it. In his opinion, Southington is one of the most diverse high schools in the state of Connecticut available to all of these students and they are going elsewhere because they can. Until the state of Connecticut fixes their own problem, they are going to keep giving us a bill and we are going to keep paying for it. Mrs. Notar-Francesco clarified that the state of Connecticut did not create it, the courts did. Dr. Erardi added that it was adjudicated.

c. Appointment of Cable TV Committee Representative

Mr. Goralski explained that Mr. Rit Campbell asked that he be replaced as the representative. He has served with great distinction for a long time and he continues to bring his knowledge from that field to our high school every day. It seems reasonable that someone who volunteers for something should not have to do it forever. Mr. Goralski stated that Mr. Campbell personally had a role in the replacement selection. Dr. Erardi acknowledged that administration endorses the recommendation.

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

“Move to appoint Elizabeth Hosmer to serve as a representative to the Cable TV Committee for a two-year term to July 2014.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

d. Program of Studies *(moved to Agenda Item 8.b)*

e. Field Trip Approval

Mrs. Smith explained that she invited Football Coach Michael Drury to be here this evening in case the Board had any questions. She hoped this field trip request was self-explanatory because he was absent. She stated that she spoke to Dr. Semmel about the field trip; he approves it and the funding was covered by the Gridiron Club.

Mrs. Queen stated that, since they were talking about football, and this request is the kick-off of their season, there has been a lot of discussion in the media lately about the long-term

effects of the contact sport, not just concussions. There is discussion now with the NFL players about the lifetime of hitting with the head and long-term head issues. If the coach was in attendance, she was going to ask if there has been any discussion amongst his staff in terms of daily practice changes as a result of these studies.

Mrs. Smith replied that last summer there was a question about helmets when a lot of the stories were beginning to surface about young men who had now a history of injuries and long-term studies were being conducted. She knew that Eric Swallow did a thorough job of bringing in all sorts of information about how they even selected the helmets and how they get reconditioned. Dr. Erardi believed what Mrs. Queen was asking was how many days will there be contact and has that changed with the recent conversations that have taken place on the professional and the medical level. He stated that administration will ask that question through Mr. Swallow to Coach Drury and get that back to the Board.

Mrs. Lombardi asked if this field trip was for team-building and if this was an annual field trip. Dr. Erardi replied that it was for team-building. They have been doing this for a very long time, but did not go last summer because of the late hire of a coach. It is all about team-building and bonding. Mrs. Lombardi asked if team building was occurring during 'relax' times as well. Mr. Derynoski explained that this has been an ongoing field trip for many years and they used to go to New Hampshire or upstate New York. It was usually in conjunction with another school where they will have scrimmages. It is team-building. There is no free time and it is all done in groups. It is a great experience for the football players. The problem he has with this is that it was coming before the Board now rather than two months ago. Dr. Erardi believed that it did not come forward until they had the ability to make sure the funding stream was behind this. Mr. Derynoski stated that was legitimate, but they could have always come forward in advance of having funding with a caveat of funding being available. Dr. Erardi agreed. Mr. Derynoski stated that now they have to act on something and the coach is not here. Dr. Erardi was very surprised and he would inquire on Friday morning what happened to the coach. Mr. Derynoski noted that he will vote in favor of this, but if they had more time he would probably table it and wait.

Mr. Goralski commented that it would have been great if the coach was in attendance to answer these questions. He supports Coach Drury and hears that he is outstanding. He was very disappointed that Coach Drury was not in attendance. He hoped the administration could express that to him. It is disappointing to have a last minute request like this and the coach is not present. Mr. Goralski noticed that in the Personnel Report a coach resigned and he would like some follow-up on the replacement of who would be going on this field trip. He trusted Mr. Swallow to stay on top of that.

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

“Move to approve the field trip for the Southington High School Football Team to Camp Awosting in Morris, Connecticut, as presented.”

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Queen. NO – Mr. Goralski. **Motion carried with six in favor and one against.**

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Blanchard

Recording Secretary

**SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION
JULY 12, 2012**

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Board of Education Members Present: Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Terry Lombardi (*arrived at 6:35 p.m.*), Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mr. Zaya Oshana, Mrs. Patricia Queen, and Mr. Brian Goralski.

Board of Education Members Absent: Mrs. Terri Carmody and Mrs. Colleen Clark.

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

Town Council Members Present: Dr. Albert Natelli (*left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.*) and Dr. Stephanie Urillo.

Board of Finance Members Present: Mr. John Leary, Mr. Edward Pocock, Jr., Mrs. Sandra Feld, Mr. Anthony Casale, Jr. (*left the meeting at 6:38 p.m.*).

Others Present: Attorney Richard A. Mills, Shipman & Goodwin LLP.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR SEA CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS AND UPSEU PARAPROFESSIONAL NEGOTIATIONS ~ 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

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

“Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing SEA Contract Negotiations and UPSEU Paraprofessional Negotiations, and upon conclusion reconvene to open session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move that the Board return to public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

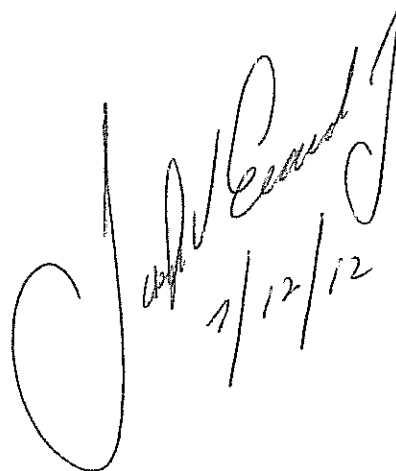
Respectfully submitted,



Jill Notar-Francesco, Secretary
Southington Board of Education

Administration: Board of Education Report July 12, 2012

1. **Family Resource Funding** (Attachment #1)
2. **Main Street Community Foundation Partnership** (Attachment #2)
3. **Safe Routes to School Grant** (Attachment #3)
4. **Community Foundation of Greater New Britain Partnership** (Attachment #4)
5. **Summer School 2012**
6. **Garden at the Barnes – Leon Peschel** (Attachment #5)
7. **SRO: Police Department / SHS Partnership** (Attachment #6)



A handwritten signature, likely of a board member, is written in black ink. Below the signature, the date "7/12/12" is written in a similar cursive style.

WILLIAM CASPAR GRAUSTEIN
MEMORIAL FUND

June 28, 2012

Mr. James Williamson
Executive Director
Community Foundation of Greater New Britain
74A Vine Street
New Britain, CT 06052

David Nee
Executive Director

Dear Mr. Williamson:

On behalf of the Trustees of the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund and the State Department of Education we are pleased to inform you of their action to approve an Option 2b award of \$25,000 for the Southington Discovery grant for the period of July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. We are excited about this funding partnership that will allow for a comprehensive approach to improving conditions for all children in Connecticut.

You will soon receive the Grant Memorandum of Agreement that will detail the terms and conditions of the award. We want to thank you for your continued interest and participation in Discovery. We are looking forward to working with you in your efforts to improve outcomes for your community's youngest children.

Sincerely,

David M. Nee
Executive Director

Ref. #2873.03

Cc: Krista Pringle



Connecting Donors Who Care With Causes that Matter

June 22, 2012

Ms. Susan D. Sadecki, President
Main Street Community Foundation
200 Main Street – P.O. Box 2702
Bristol, CT 06011-2702

Dear Susan:

On behalf of all of us here at the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain and our partners, Southington Public Schools, I'd like to express our most sincere thanks and grateful appreciation for your foundation's recent grant of \$3,655 to the Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington and its Family Resource Center. As you know, the grant will provide important support to their planned summer relocation to a new permanent home at Hatton Elementary School.

As fiscal agent and funder to ECCS, we are pleased to have your generous support to their programs, and hope that you and your Board members will have an early opportunity this fall to tour these new facilities. In a recent external evaluation of ECCS/FRC programs by the Community Foundation, our evaluators found that "the program has played an important role in supporting the school district's focus on reducing its Kindergarten readiness gap." Also noted was a substantial increase over the past three years in the number of pre-school age children and families using ECCS/FRC services. Your generous support will no doubt help to continue that important upward trajectory, bringing great long-term benefit to our Southington children as they begin their academic journey.

With best regards,

James G. Williamson
President

cc: Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Superintendent, Southington Public Schools
Krista Pringle, Coordinator, Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington

JOSEPH ERARDI

From: Susan Sadecki <susan@mainstreetfoundation.org>
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2012 1:35 PM
To: Krista Pringle
Cc: JOSEPH ERARDI; Jim Williamson; Jarre Betts
Subject: Family Resource Center

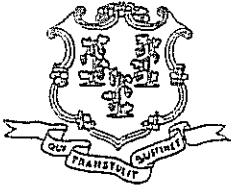
Hi Krista,

Congratulations! I wanted you to be among the first to know that the Main Street Community Foundation board of directors approved your grant proposal to transform a classroom at Hatton Elementary School to be used as a permanent space for the Family Resource Center of Southington. We hope this grant helps to provide additional programs to benefit families throughout Southington.

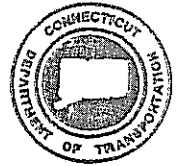
An official award letter and grant agreement will be mailed to Jim at the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain. We look forward to visiting the "transformed classroom" upon completion and wish you and Jennifer continued success.

Sincerely,
Susan

Susan Sadecki, MBA
President & CEO
Main Street Community Foundation
200 Main Street, P.O. Box 2702
Bristol, CT 06011-2702
Tel. 860.583.6363
Fax. 860.589.1252
Email. susan@mainstreetfoundation.org
www.MainStreetFoundation.org



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE, P.O. BOX 317546
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546

Phone:

June 20, 2012

The Honorable Garry Brumback
Town Manager
Town of Southington
75 Main Street
Southington, Connecticut 06489

Dear Mr. Brumback:

Subject: Federal Fiscal Year 2010-11 Safe Routes to School (SRTS)
Infrastructure Program - SRTS Project Award Notification

On May 25, 2012, the Department of Transportation (Department) received public involvement documentation and resolution of support from Southington's Town Council for the Joseph A. DePaolo Middle School SRTS project, fulfilling the prerequisites of the FFY 2010-11 SRTS Infrastructure Program. Therefore, the Department would like to notify you that your SRTS project is approved for a funding award of \$498,496.

The estimated construction cost of the project is \$498,496, which includes approximately \$40,535 for the cost of the Department's incidentals to construction. The Town is responsible for any costs associated with the design of these improvements and any costs required for the acquisition of rights of way. It is important to note that the Town is responsible for any construction costs over the maximum amount awarded.

The Department's Highway Design, Local Roads Office will be responsible for administering the design phase. A kickoff meeting with your Engineering Department will be scheduled in the near future to discuss the project details, schedule and the design process.

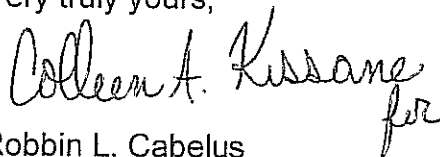
All costs incurred under this project must be in full compliance with both Federal and State regulations, policies, and procedures that govern the use of transportation

June 20, 2012

funds. Costs are subject to review by both Department Accounts Examiners and Federal Auditors. Payments will be made as reimbursements for project expenses after they have been incurred.

If you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact Ms. Sharon P. Okoye, SRTS Coordinator, at (860) 594-2367, or by e-mail at sharon.okoye@ct.gov.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colleen A. Kissane". To the right of the signature, the word "for" is written in a smaller, cursive script.

Robbin L. Cabelus
Transportation Planning Director
Bureau of Policy and Planning

cc: Dr. Joseph Erardi
Mr. Kenneth Shooshan-Stoller
Mr. Carl Stephani



Connecting Donors Who Care With Causes that Matter

June 28, 2012

Dr. Joseph V. Erardi Jr.
Southington Public Schools
49 Beecher Street
Southington, CT 06489

Dear Joe,

It seems only just a little while ago that more than 70 of your fellow Southington residents gathered last October at The Orchards at Southington for an evening of thanks and celebration of the Community Foundation's ten years of service to our Southington community. It was a wonderful evening, and we remain most indebted to our gracious hosts, Andy & Fran Meade, and Trish Walden and her husband, George Gorecki. Our deep appreciation also goes, of course, to our friends at The Orchards and the staff of Central CT Senior Health Services who worked so hard to make it such a special affair. It was, as someone remarked, "an Incandescent Evening!"

We are sorry that you were unable to be with us that night, but hope that one of our attendees may have told you about the event and its highlights. We appreciate your interest in and support of the Community Foundation, and thought you might like to have this update on our plans and activities since then.

As we mentioned that evening, our new Strategic Plan challenges the Foundation to "*become the philanthropic community leader that builds partnerships which bring people and charitable resources together to impact critical issues facing our Greater New Britain communities.*" Embodied in three core values of Leadership, Effectiveness and Impact, this charge calls for us to go "beyond grants" to invest ourselves more deeply into our community's most important issues, working closely with those already on the "front lines" to craft the strategies and gather the resources necessary for ultimate success.

One recent example of that new approach is our active support to the Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington's desire to create a new "Community Plan for Southington's Children." This Plan, once completed, will result in a more holistic and comprehensive approach to helping our Southington children prepare for academic success when they arrive at Kindergarten at Age 5. So, beyond our co-funding of the Collaborative with Southington Public Schools, we intend to actively participate in the Community Plan's promotion, meetings, research and deliberations, in order to help assure its eventual success.

June 28, 2012

Page 2

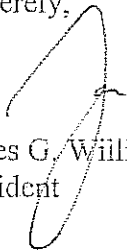
We are also working closely with the Southington Education Foundation to further develop the partnership established last fall with the Foundation's \$5,000 Challenge Grant to SEF's Annual "Fan of the Foundation" Gala. We're still in discussions right now, but hope to have something new and exciting to announce after the summer which will build on that relationship. Look for it.

Beyond those, we continue to respond whenever possible to Southington's emerging needs through our traditional Community Response Grants program. You may be aware of the Community Foundation's \$20,000 grant last fall to the Southington YMCA's innovative LiveSTRONG program for cancer survivors; our recent \$16,333 grant to the School District for the purchase of a van needed for its Special Education Transition Program for ages 18-21; or attended the recent dedication of the new Community Pavilion at the Southington Drive-In where the Foundation was honored, with many others, for its \$10,000 grant to that project.

Thank you again for your continued support to the Community Foundation. We value your interest, as well as your comments or suggestions on how we might best serve the Southington community in the months and years ahead.

Enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James G. Williamson". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

James G. Williamson
President

Movie and Trivia Mondays begin July 16th

In keeping with our Summer Reading theme, *Everything British*, we will be showing British movies based on books you will be reading. Films will include Agatha Christie's Poirot and Miss Marple characters, Jane Austen's *Persuasion*, and *King Arthur: The Young Warlord*.

We encourage you to read the book and then see the movie to compare your experience:

- Does the movie follow the plot of the book?
- Are the characters portrayed as you imagined them?
- Which do you like more, the book or the movie?

No registration is necessary for the movie showings. The movies are about an hour and 40 minutes long. Light refreshments will be served. Stop in the Library or check the on-line calendar for dates and times.

Everything British Trivia Quiz

Before the feature showings all in attendance will have an opportunity to take part in the *Everything British Trivia Quiz*. The person who correctly answers the most trivia questions will receive a small prize and a Bertucci's coupon for a free item from their Starters menu. A trivia sheet is available at the Adult Summer Reading display by the kiosk. Take your chance at: What is a Pasty? What is the British Isles? When do the 2012 Olympics begin?

The English Lady's Garden Earth Program

Tuesday, August 21st at 6:30 p.m.

In her naturally humorous and upbeat manner, The English Lady (a.k.a. Maureen Haseley-Jones) will discuss ways in which we can be inspired to connect at a deeper level with the meaning and purpose of Mother Nature and create beautiful gardens that respect the earth and flourish without the use of harmful poisons.

Maureen recognizes that at present, more than any other time in our history people need to make conscious choices about their health, lifestyle, and homes. This is imperative not only for humankind, but for our planet as well. "We are inexorably entwined with the earth" she says. "People need to know that even the smallest gesture of a garden has positive effects and rewards on the environment."

Maureen Haseley-Jones, comes from a long line of horticultural artisans, whose landscaping heritage dates back to the seventeenth century. She is one of the founders of the The English Lady Landscape and Home Company.

Maureen's "cheeky, self-effacing style" as the garden guru on WRCH Lite 100.5 FM radio has earned her a wide fan base for over ten years. *The New York Times* said of her "one of life's unexpected experiences was discussing manure with a baroness." And *Connecticut Magazine* described her as "anything but tweedy."

Registration is required and will begin Monday July 23rd. All in attendance will receive a

free raffle ticket for an opportunity to win an English Lady prize at the end of the program.

The Orchard Valley Garden Club and the Library are co-sponsoring this program. Light refreshments will be served.

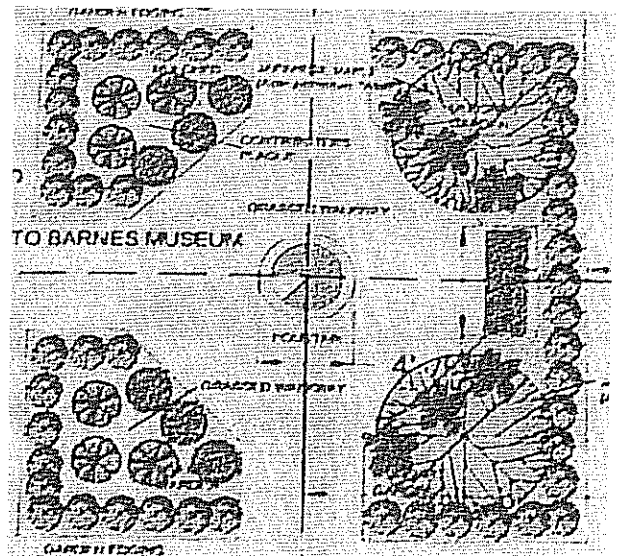
The Eagle Scout Garden at the Barnes Museum

Thursday August 23 at 6:30 p.m.

Eagle Scout Leon Peschel, will discuss his project and the process involved in creating the Barnes Eagle Scout Garden based on the original Barnes garden and English Garden designs.

If time and weather permit, those in attendance are invited to travel up to the Barnes Museum located at 85 North Main Street (Route 10) to visit the garden after the program. The grounds of the Barnes Museum are always open for the public's enjoyment.

Registration is required. The Orchard Valley Garden Club and the Library are co-sponsoring this program.



British authors you might enjoy!

- ☞ Agatha Christie - Whether you are a fan of Belgian detective Hercule Poirot or the charming Miss Marple, Christie's mysteries are always good reading. Try *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, or *And Then There Were None* for a taste of classic British mystery writing.
- ☞ Ian Fleming - If you are familiar with 007 only from the movies you might be surprised by Fleming's novels. Did you know he also wrote the children's story *Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang*?
- ☞ Nick Hornby - *About a Boy*, published in 1998, is about two "boys" – Marcus, an awkward yet endearing adolescent, and the free-floating, mid-30s Will Freeman, who overcomes his own immaturity and self-centeredness through his growing relationship with Marcus.
- ☞ John Le Carré - Le Carré began writing spy novels during the 1950s and the 1960s while he was working for the British intelligence services MI5 and MI6. His third novel, *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold* (1963), became an international best-seller, and remains one of his best known works.
- ☞ Jane Austen - A film adaptation of *Persuasion*, one of Austen's most popular novels, will be shown this summer as part of out *Everything British* movie series.
- ☞ Doris Lessing - Born in British Zimbabwe, Lessing was awarded the 2007 Nobel Prize in Literature. Her novels include *The Grass Is Singing*, *The Golden Notebook*, *The Good Terrorist*, and five novels collectively known as *Canopus in Argos*.
- ☞ Ngaio Marsh - New Zealand-born, Marsh is known primarily for her creation Inspector Roderrick Alleyn, a gentleman detective who works for the Metropolitan Police (London). She is one of the "Queens of Crime" alongside Agatha Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers, and Margery Allingham.
- ☞ Iris Murdoch - Murdoch's first published novel, *Under the Net*, was selected in 1998 as one of Modern Library's 100 best English-language novels of the 20th century. The (London) Times ranked one of "The 50 greatest British writers since 1945."
- ☞ Ian McEwan - *Atonement* was one of the most celebrated and honored books of its time. It was short listed for the 2001 Booker Prize for fiction and *Time* magazine named it in its list of All-time 100 Greatest Novels.
- ☞ Anne Perry - Perry is the author of two popular series set in Victorian England. One features William Monk, a police officer with no memory of his early life, (*Face of a Stranger*, *A Dangerous Mourning*) and the other features Thomas Pitt a Police Inspector removed from his job as a result of investigating the "wrong people." (*The Carter Street Hangman*, *Callander Square*)
- ☞ J.K. Rowling - *Harry Potter* – enough said.
- ☞ Mary Stewart - Stewart is the bestselling author of many romantic suspense and historical fiction novels. Her books include *The Moonspinners*, *Nine Coaches Waiting* and the popu-



Relax, Rejuvenate & Read

This Summer you are invited to relax and rejuvenate at the Library with a free chair massage provided by Advanced Massage Therapy Students of Branford Hall.

Come to the Library on the following Tuesday evenings between 6:00 and 8:00:

- ☞ July 17
- ☞ July 24
- ☞ July 31
- ☞ August 14
- ☞ August 21
- ☞ August 28

Massages are held on the mezzanine level and are first come, first served - no specific times will be scheduled. There is no age restriction. Infant/child massage will also be offered (*Parents must be present during the time of massage for anyone under the age of 18*).

Sessions are approximately 15 minutes in length,

Stop in to "Read, Relax and Rejuvenate."

Southington Police Department

Southington High School SRO

Final Report

2011-2012 Year

REPORTING PERIOD:

August 2011 - June 2012

This is the second year as the School Resource Officer (SRO) at Southington High School. During the school year, I was presented with a variety of duties and responsibilities as the SRO. A School Resource Officer is expected to act as a teacher, an informal counselor, and as a law enforcement officer.

During the year, I worked with school administrators on a variety of security issues including: parking lot safety, installation of new security cameras, Protective/Restraining Orders, bullying, and Code Lock Drills. The K-9 Units came into the school on a several occasions to conduct drug sweeps of the hallways. I responded to medical calls, parking lot accidents, fire alarms, thefts, fights, and many other incidents.

I guest lectured in a total of sixteen (16) Health classes demonstrating the effects of alcohol intoxication. I utilized my experience as an Accident Reconstructionist to show the end results of combining drinking and driving. Part of my presentation was to show photographs of fatal crashes that I investigated in Southington. Students were also shown a surveillance video that captured a fatal crash on Meriden-Waterbury Road that killed a Cheshire High gym teacher. This teacher was an intern at Southington High for several weeks. The driver of the other vehicle was found to be intoxicated and is currently serving time in prison.

I also lectured in several Psychology classes to discuss how psychology is used in law enforcement. Specifically, officer encounter individuals with substance abuse problems, psychological issues, and people dealing with traumatic incidents. Officers need to know how to deal with people and the unique problems they face. Psychology is also used to elicit confessions from suspects.

Part of my duties as a SRO was to act as an informal counselor. I spent a significant amount of time meeting with students and teachers in the role of counselor. As the school year progressed and students become more comfortable with me, they would come to my office to discuss problems they were having at home and at school. Many issues students encountered, were the product of being harassed through FaceBook, Twitter, Texting, and other mass media. I also worked closely with school counselors as they encountered various problems with students.

I assisted officers and detectives with information on various cases they were working on throughout the year. I helped recruit and acted as a liason for the Police Explorer program.

One of my duties as School Resource Officer is to enforce the law. During the school year, several students were arrested at Southington High School for various offenses. Students were charged with the following crimes:

Fighting/Breach of Peace
Breach of Peace - Other
Interfering with an Officer
Assault
Weapons Violations
Drug Related
Vandalism
Counterfeiting
Larceny

This is my final year as the School Resource Officer at Southington High School. My experience at SHS will carry over with me as I assimilate back to life in patrol. I have a new found respect for the remarkable job that the teachers and administrators do at SHS. In addition, I view students at SHS much differently than I did two years ago. I now realize the tremendous talent and potential that the youth of our town possess. The majority of students will move on to become highly successful adults.

I really enjoyed my tenure as SRO and will miss the faculty and students. I would like to thank Dr. Erardi, Dr. Semmel, and the school administration for fully supporting the SRO program and working with me as we faced new challenges on a daily basis. I would also like to thank Lt. DePalma and Chief Daily for giving me their full support and trust over the past two years.

Officer Jason Plourde #355
School Resource Officer