

Southington Board of Education
Southington, Connecticut
Regular Meeting
September 9, 2010

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, September 9, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in Town Council Chambers, Town Hall, Southington, Connecticut.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by Chairperson, Mr. Brian Goralski. The Board members present were: Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Rosemarie Fischer, Mr. Brian Goralski, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Kathleen Rickard, and Ms. Michelle Schroeder. Absent was Mrs. Terri Carmody.

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Goralski asked the Southington High School Student Representative, Christopher Amnott, to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ August 26, 2010

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

“Move to approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting of August 26, 2010.”

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

4. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from the Audience

There was no communication from the audience.

b. Communications from Board Members and Administration

Communication from the Board Members:

Mr. Goralski reminded the Board that at the last meeting they discussed “Adopt-A-School” and, through the hard work of Mrs. Albaitis, they were able to finalize the plan for the 2010-2011 school year. The document was distributed (Attachment A) and Mr. Goralski thanked the Board for continuing to participate in the program to represent each school. The majority of the schools have two Board representatives and those schools that have only one representative, with some coordination of the Board, they can ensure they attend a few meetings.

Mrs. Johnson requested that, if there’s ever a conflict, Board Members should email the SBOE, which will give the opportunity for others to respond. Mr. Goralski stated that, if there is an event that the Board representative would like everyone to know about, an email should be forwarded to the full Board so everyone will receive the message.

Mr. Goralski thanked the Board of Education for making this happen.

Communication from the Administration:

Dr. Erardi reported on the following information that was included in the Board packet (Attachment B):

1. Federal Funding: Jobs Legislation: This is a continuation of information that is coming from Washington and it’s trying to better define the jobs legislation that was discussed two weeks ago.
2. BOE/School Liaison: 2010-2011: This information was already shared by Mr. Goralski. Dr. Erardi distributed this document as a draft to the Executive Parent Council at their meeting that afternoon. He will now let them know that the draft they received at the luncheon is the final draft. He requested that the parents put the Board representative that is connected to their organization on their email list serve to ensure that they are included in all future communications.
3. Wellness Program: Dr. Erardi deferred to Mrs. DiNello.
Mrs. DiNello shared that they began the sign up for the Wellness Program on Monday, August 30 and by the fourth day of the announcement, all 80 slots for the pilot program were filled and they are currently running a waiting list. Mrs. DiNello is meeting with Pat Berardinelli, Executive Secretary to the Town Manager, so they can combine their list and determine how they are going to fill the three different groups for their start in September, October, and February. By Friday, September 17, all employees who applied to the program will be receiving a letter indicating the group they will begin with and whether or not they are on a waiting list. They were very excited that the slots filled up as quickly as they did.

Mr. Derynoski was reviewing the list and inquired about one of the programs being offered which is called *Zumba*. Mrs. DiNello explained that *Zumba* is a form of aerobics mixed with dance moves that are set to Latin-themed music which is supposed

to make the workout more fun. Because participants are dancing to the music, they don't realize how great of a workout they are getting.

4. Project Choice ~ Update ~ PES/SEES: Dr. Erardi shared with the School Board the magnitude of the Project Choice Program which originates out of the City of Hartford. Presently, this school year, there are over 7,000 youngsters involved in the program. They are heading out to over 24 different districts and are representing well over 150 different schools. Given this information, you are able to understand the magnitude of the transportation alone with such a program. As Board members know, Southington offered 17 spaces in Kindergarten and Grade 1 at Plantsville and South End Elementary Schools. As of that afternoon, they have 17 slots filled. It took nearly two weeks of school time to finish that process of assigning students. Dr. Erardi stated that the students have acclimated well and they are pleased and proud that they are in Southington Schools. He also stated that the resources that came with the program allow the district the opportunity to offer an extended learning program to the morning kindergarten students and there is a .2, which represents one day Literacy Specialist that is also part of the funding with the Project Choice Program.

Dr. Erardi is pleased that, down the road, the administrators at both Plantsville and South End will coordinate families that will connect to those youngsters and he believes that in all cases, with the exception of the few bumps to get over with transportation, it has been a smooth transition. Their doors have been welcoming and the Hartford students have done quite well in Kindergarten and Grade 1 at both schools. Dr. Erardi expressed that he was pleased that they have a Board of Education liaison in both schools. At one point, once things are settled, Dr. Erardi will be working with administration at both schools and they will be inviting the Choice parents to come and visit. The intent of that visit will be to ascertain from those families what Southington Public Schools can do better to serve them in regard to communication so that their stay will be a long stay that they are very proud of.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco stated that she is very pleased that they are offering this opportunity to 17 children in the Hartford community. She asked how transportation had resolved, considering that there were some rough spots during the opening of school. She asked if things had quieted down. Dr. Erardi stated that the rough spots were reviewed very closely with the transportation division of CREC. CREC changed the contractor within this two-week period. The contractor they started with is a different contractor being used today. He further stated that, if they asked the question two-days ago, he would have said they are in a better place; however, there was an afternoon pick up that took place close to 5:00 p.m. the day before. The up side of the 5:00 p.m. pick-up was that the administration was able to contact the parents and assure them that everything was fine and their children were safe. Mrs. Johnson asked who stayed and waited with the children at Plantsville when the bus was delayed and Dr. Erardi stated it was the principal, Mrs. Corvello.

Dr. Erardi is working very closely with the transportation company and both of the administrators at Plantsville and South End are going above and beyond to make sure the safety of the children is the paramount concern.

5. Seating Donation ~ SHS Tennis Courts: Dr. Erardi explained that this is another celebration for the partnerships that the School Board has cultured and developed and that Mr. Cox will share with the Board an ongoing conversation at the Board level that they have had over the past year and a half.

Mr. Cox stated that last March, the president of the Center Court Club Booster Club for the tennis team and Mr. Ed Kalat approached him and the athletic director about putting in bleachers. They went through a number of ideas and reviewed where they could go and how they would best suit the public. The attachment showed a schematic of the north end of the tennis courts, closest to the parking lot, that they reviewed and determined was the best place to put a 40-capacity bleacher with side rails and back guards. The schematic also showed that they made small, compact car parking spaces to protect the back of the bleachers and the plans were approved by the local building department. Once the funding is lined up and preparation work is done, the plan is to move forward. As recently as yesterday, they were hoping to get started on some of the concrete before the frost in the fall.

Mr. Derynoski asked about the location of the bleachers and it was explained that it would be partially on the existing sidewalk, which would be used to bolt down the bleachers. The pavers may be a concrete slab, depending on how it lines up and needs to be anchored, but they are still looking into that. The retaining wall and some of the excavation will be part of a project done by the Vo-Ag students and the assembly of the bleachers will be done by the maintenance department. Prior to use, it will be inspected, as they do with any new equipment, by their insurance carrier.

Mr. Derynoski also recommended that they consider using pylons to protect the bleachers rather than just curbing. He stated that, if it's just to protect the bleachers, maybe a 4-5 inch concrete pylon that's encased might be another suggestion. Mr. Cox agreed that the suggestion from Mr. Derynoski might work better for plowing considering it would be more obvious than curbing. Mr. Cox stated that he would probably be looking at the 6 inch bollards that are now vinyl coated so they aren't a painting effort each year.

Mrs. Rickard asked for additional clarification of the location of the bleachers and if they were at center court. Mr. Cox stated that they are near center and toward the road. It is off-centered because they had to work around the handicap ramp. He explained that there's not a cut-away in the bleachers for handicap, but there is seating on both sides. That is another reason why there is the patio/paver area in front to get around to either side which had to be approved by the town before moving forward.

6. Connecticut Consortium of Education Foundations: There has been quite a bit of discussion in the last 18 months about the Southington Education Foundation. The district has members from the Southington Foundation attending the State organization on October 5, 2010. He shared that this was informational and, if interested, any of the School Board members were able to attend.

This concluded the Administration Report.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco requested to make the following motion:

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

“Move to add School Safety and Student Discipline Matters to the Executive Session agenda.”

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

c. Communication from Student Representative

Chris Amnott shared that they started off the school year with a new principal, Dr. Martin Semmel, and it was a smooth start to the year. The clubs are starting now, from FBLA and the National Honor Society to the school newspaper. First meetings are planned and school sports are starting up. The football team is getting ready for their first game on Wednesday, September 15. The October SAT and ACT are also coming up. There are many things happening for seniors. They are getting in their yearbook quotes and they had free senior picture head-shots, courtesy of Art Rich. Many students took advantage of this opportunity.

The Board welcomed back Mr. Amnott.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Policy and Personnel Committee Meeting ~ August 26, 2010

Mrs. Fischer reported that the first item on that agenda was to discuss the Acceptable Use Policy for Staff. This policy was returned to the committee from the full Board. The Board had questions regarding enforcing the language surrounding computers and personal use. The committee consulted with their attorney and reviewed information from Mrs. Veilleux who attended a workshop that included this topic and ways to approach this issue. Mr. Thiery will draft a new version that takes into account the attorney’s recommendations and they will return this policy to the full Board for a first reading. The committee also continued their review of the 1000 Series.

Mr. Goralski stated that, based on the legislation that the Board was given at the last meeting, the Policy and Personnel Committee will have a lot of work in the near future.

b. Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting ~ September 7, 2010

Mrs. Notar-Francesco reported to the Board that the committee met for several updates. Dr. Semmel provided a NEASC update and said he had received a copy of the draft report in August. In September, the NEASC Accreditation Committee will meet and finalize that draft and they will also be notified of the accreditation status of Southington High School at that time. Dr. Semmel has begun discussions with his staff regarding some items in the draft and priorities of the work that needs to be done will be set once the final report becomes available. The committee discussed the timeline for implementing the changes. Southington High School must

report back to NEASC on their progress after two years and again after five years. When final, the report will be available to the community. The committee wanted to know about financial impact of the NEASC recommendations and Dr. Semmel stated that there would be a financial impact that will need to be considered further down the road, but he doesn't believe there will be any for next year. Dr. Semmel and Mr. Thiery briefly talked about integrating the NEASC recommendations into some of the elements of the new secondary school reform legislation.

The committee then reviewed the handwriting and spelling programs that were put in place this school year. Ms. Betsy Chester, Language Arts Coordinator, informed the committee that all Kindergartens were up-and-running using the Zaner-Bloser handwriting system. Grades 1, 2, and 3 will continue with D'Nealian and Zaner-Bloser will be phased in over the next 3 years in those grades. The purpose of this is so that no student needs to re-learn the handwriting system.

New spelling programs were also put in place. Students in Kindergarten and Grade 1 are using *Words Their Way* and students in Grades 2-5 are using *Sitton Spelling*. The teachers received professional development before the start of school to support their grade-level program. The teachers are very excited and they say it fits well with the literacy approach in the district. Mrs. Notar-Francesco spoke with some teachers who are clearly, very happy about the change. Ms. Chester is expected to present to the full Board at the next meeting.

Mrs. Paula Knight and Mrs. Jackie St. John, teachers of the Gifted and Talented Program, presented an overview of the week-long Institute they attended this summer at the University of Connecticut. They were very excited about the model that they witnessed at the Institute. The model is a Whole School Enrichment model that offers opportunities to students based on readiness and their level of interest. It's an enrichment topic that offers three levels:

- Type 1, which is an introduction and exposure to an enrichment opportunity.
- Type 2, which is skill building and somewhat more in-depth than Type 1.
- Type 3, which offers great in-depth opportunity into the topic.

Mrs. Knight and Mrs. St. John are crafting a formal proposal of how this would look in Southington Public Schools to bring back to the Curriculum and Instruction Committee at their October meeting.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco noted that Mr. Thiery then discussed Public Act 10-111. He compiled a memo for Dr. Erardi that will be shared with the full Board at one point. Mr. Thiery stated that the memo outlines the implications of Public Act 10-111 for both the Policy and Personnel Committee and the Curriculum and Instruction Committee. There's a body of work for both committees. This Act includes elements of secondary school reform as well as some other assorted legislator reforms or mandates for the school system. Mrs. Notar-Francesco stated that the memo was a very good guideline for both the Curriculum and Policy Committees.

That concluded the Curriculum and Instruction Committee report.

Mr. Derynoski stated that he knows they are working on the NEASC update and all the pertinent information relative to all the improvements that need to be made, but he can't see how this update isn't going to be affected by the Public Act. Mr. Thiery shared that one of the first

bodies of work for the administration is two-fold. One is to sort out the timeline of Public Act 10-111 because there is a variety of implementation dates running from the present to the year 2018, so they need to determine when things need and ought to be implemented. At the same time, they need to look at much of the Secondary School Reform Act and the way they will address NEASC; it would be very unwise for them to go down two separate paths. The second body of work is for the high school to look at them in an integrated fashion. If NEASC is asking for certain educational approaches and credits are going up in certain subject areas or instructional approaches are asked for by NEASC, they need to try to address things in similar ways using similar resources and strategies.

Mr. Derynoski noted that there is another element that hasn't been addressed. It's going to be a major facilities issue that needs to be brought to the forefront early on because of the approval process. If this Act doesn't get put on hold, they have a serious problem. Mr. Thiery added that the number of classes and facilities to go along with the number and types of credits need to be identified as soon as possible.

Mr. Goralski shared that Dr. Erardi mentioned some of the economic impact of that Act and, now that the committee is going to be looking at the curriculum impact, he asked that the Curriculum and Instruction Committee share the information as quickly as it's deciphered because the economic impact is what needs to be shared with the legislators. He also mentioned that Mr. Derynoski alluded to the topic of the Legislative Breakfast and this is something that needs to be planned right after November because some of the people at the first public forum spoke to the importance of communicating with the Board of Education. He stated that, following the election, he believes it's a phenomenal topic and he strongly supports the position that Dr. Erardi took in the newspaper; we always support the improvement of quality education, but when it comes with a cost, it shouldn't be thrown on taxpayers. It should be brought forward and supported by the people that put the Acts forward.

Mrs. Johnson commented on the Gifted and Talented Program Update. She urged the full Board to read that section of the minutes very carefully because what it represents is a major shift in the philosophy of educating the gifted and talented students. She believes that the philosophy should represent what the Board believes in. It's her understanding that Mrs. Knight and Mrs. St. John will be going to the Curriculum and Instruction Committee first to present the program, but she would like for the full Board to have a presentation of this different philosophy. Mrs. Johnson sees pros and cons to the program and she believes that it's the Board's decision to find out and decide which is the best way to go and to take the recommendation of these professionals into consideration.

Mrs. Rickard shared that the first day of school she and Mrs. Johnson met with Mrs. Knight and Mrs. St. John for quite some time and she didn't see the cons. She stated it's what the Board has been stressing all along which is that every child needs to be challenged to reach their potential and that is what this program does. It gives the teachers tools to help differentiate for every child. The only con she sees is the training of teachers. In the end, the students will reap the rewards.

Mr. Goralski shared Mrs. Rickard's thoughts stating that it's inclusion times ten. It brings enrichment to every child. There would be extensive professional development for the faculty, but it's an opportunity to challenge all students. The Board was disappointed with the elimination of the program at the middle schools, but they're excited that the three components

are not limited to gifted and talented. It's now expanded to children that express interest. It shows Mr. Goralski that the program is expanding to reach more students rather than less. At the same time, Type 3 would be the one that targets what used to be considered the gifted and talented component and Types 1 and 2 allow all other students the additional enrichment.

Mrs. Johnson added that the concept is called "Developing the Gifts and Talents of All Students." Mr. Goralski stated that it's an expansion of the program and, as long as it can be done in an economically efficient or no cost way, it sounds phenomenal.

6. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

a. Personnel Report

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

"Move to approve the Personnel Report as submitted."

Ms. Schroeder suggested that the administration include the amounts for the stipend positions. She stated that there are amounts, salaries, and hourly rates for other positions, but not for the stipend positions. She then asked that, for the next report, the administration add those figures.

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

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Council / Board of Finance Communications

Mr. Goralski stated that he, with the advice of the Board of Education, was seeking a joint meeting with the Town Council; he did have some correspondence with the Chairs of the other two Boards that they are seeking to meet with. The next scheduled meeting of the Committee of the Chairs, a new group that was formed by Mr. Pocock after the last election, is on Thursday, September 16, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. Mr. Goralski requested that they add to the agenda a Joint Meeting of the Boards. In email correspondence with the two members, they stated that Wednesdays are typically good days. Mr. Goralski will ask Mrs. Albaitis to poll the Board of Education to see what the availability is for Board of Education members for Wednesdays in October and, if there is a day or two that is good, he will share those days and hopefully come up with a date for that joint meeting. Mr. Goralski believed that, within the agenda tonight, the Board of Education would have some items that are pertinent for a collaborative discussion. He will keep the Board informed and asked that, if they have any topics, concerns, or interests that they would like shared with the other chairs to please let him know and he will do his best to present those at that Thursday meeting.

Another item that Mr. Goralski shared and was looking for approval and direction is a request he received from Mr. Christopher Palmieri, Chairman of the Apple Harvest Committee.

Mr. Palmieri requested that their committee be allowed to use some of the Board of Education space. They have a new vendor that is providing the carnival for the Apple Harvest and that vendor was hoping to store some of their trailers and equipment in that week span between the two weekends. The understanding that the committee has is that it would make for a better carnival because they would be helping the process of storing and transportation. They are requesting two specific areas: the lower lot at Derynoski, which could cause some concerns, and the North Center School which is empty with minimal office space being used. With the Board support, he would like to have Mr. Cox and Dr. Erardi follow up with Mr. Palmieri and his committee to see what the Board can do to support that request.

Ms. Schroeder stated that she supports storing items at North Center, but is opposed to storing anything at Derynoski. Mr. Derynoski asked if the Apple Harvest Committee shared what type of items they plan on storing. Mr. Goralski said that it was a preliminary request and was not very specific. Mr. Goralski thought that it would be best if they allow Mr. Cox and Dr. Erardi to review the request and the space and they can follow up with the Board. Mr. Derynoski shared a concern that if it's a trailer that will be locked up, that's fine, but if they're planning to put a flatbed that children might climb on and could potentially get hurt on, that would not be something he would support.

Mrs. Fischer reminded the group that, if they permit storing equipment on the Board of Education property, the Board of Education would have to be included on the vendor's insurance. Mr. Cox assured the Board that the insurance aspect would be taken care of.

b. Construction Update

Mr. Cox started with an update on Plantsville Elementary School. What remains is some fall site work, planting, and shrubbery. The intent is that they will be officially turning it over to the Board this fall as being accepted by the Building Committee. Following the project being brought to the Building Committee, Mr. Cox would bring it to the full Board for approval and close out of the project.

South End Elementary School started a little bit later and they continue to work on a punch list which is what they'll be trailing. The site is in fantastic condition with sidewalks and parking but there's a lot of planting that will be taking place later this month and the areas will be roped off. The areas won't be of use to the district until the end of the school year or preferably next fall. They still will have their playscape and paved playgrounds to use.

With the Vo-Ag project, there is still the intent of the Building Committee to close out that project with the Building Committee next week and Mr. Cox will follow up shortly thereafter to bring it to the full Board.

Mrs. Rickard added to the report that she was the president of the Plantsville PTO and the playscape that was there before the renovation was dedicated to the memory of Christopher O'Connell. Mr. Cox made sure that the plaques and everything that was in the ground were saved and kept safe during the construction project and they have been in discussion with Mrs. Corvello to have a rededication. It's very preliminary, but she will bring the information to the Board as it becomes available. She and the family are very excited.

c. Regionalization of ALTA

Dr. Erardi gave a brief update for the School Board that the administration at the Alternative Program continues to make contact with surrounding communities. They enrolled their first student from outside of Southington and the transition has gone well. Dr. Erardi will continue to update the School Board as they move forward.

Mrs. Rickard asked about the transportation and Dr. Erardi shared that the transportation is the responsibility of the sending district.

d. Class Size Update Grade 5

Dr. Erardi distributed a Grade 5 Class Size document (Attachment C). He shared that the document was provided per the request from the Board at their August 26 meeting and the ongoing question was in regard to Grade 5 and the request for a more definitive number after the start of the school year. The numbers provided are very similar, if not exactly, of what was presented two weeks ago. It's a reflection of the actual student population that was in school on September 2. The School Board approved two literacy tutors and the posting is coming to a close; they are looking to offer interviews and opportunities, most likely, next week. Dr. Erardi reminded the Board that they are looking to add a 1.0 FTE Literacy Tutor at Derynoski and to split the second tutor between the Kelley and Flanders Elementary Schools' Grade 5.

Mrs. Johnson asked if the function of the literacy tutor will be only for reading or will they assist with writing composition as well. Dr. Erardi stated that his belief is that this person will be active within the entire language arts block. Mr. Thiery agreed that all elements will be covered. Mrs. Johnson stated that she was concerned because she realizes that there is going to be a strong push on writing this school year.

Ms. Schroeder stated that she would like to keep a close eye on the numbers. She doesn't think the numbers will change much, but would like to make sure that all the students are staying on level with CMTs.

Mr. Goralski thanked the administration for their work on the class sizes.

e Withdraw All Previous Motions Regarding the Middle Schools of the Southington Public Schools

Mr. Goralski stated he was going to read verbatim from the agenda forum. He sought the advice from Attorney Sciota and Dr. Erardi also had some conversation with Attorney Sciota as well. The item is, "Withdraw all previous motions regarding the middle schools of the Southington Public Schools." The next agenda item involves some recommendations from the Facility Use Committee and, because this is a discussion that has been ongoing since the late 1990s, there is a need to clear the floor before they can proceed in any fashion. Mrs. Rickard corrected that the date to go back to is the early 1990s, not the late 1990s.

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

“Move to rescind the action taken at the March 23, 2006 meeting that pertained to the middle school building project.”

Mr. Goralski explained that the wording was brought to the Board from Attorney Sciota after reviewing the seven envelopes that he brought with him to the meeting. By making the motion, that would cover the Board should they take other action based on the recommendation that they had before them.

Mrs. Johnson stated that she believed that the motion was premature and that the Board should decide what it is that they want to do. It could very well be that they wish to consider a continuation of the previous motion regarding the middle schools. She believes that this motion is inappropriate at this time and it should be held until they reach some conclusion. She stated that they could have some discussion without actually withdrawing a previous motion that was made after a considerable amount of research and soul searching. She further expressed that the decision was not taken lightly and she is not in favor of the motion.

Mr. Goralski reiterated that the reason he sought Attorney Sciota's advice was because when you're dealing with parliamentary procedures and Roberts Rules, the best way to go into an agenda item that has potential action is to be sure that the floor is clear on the item being discussed. When that discussion took place with Attorney Sciota, Dr. Erardi, and Mr. Goralski, it was recommended to them that the motion be withdrawn. It's the best method that he recommended to the Board that would enable the Board to proceed with the discussion they have been having with the Facility Use Committee. As the Board is aware, the Facility Use Committee was put in place to look at middle schools as one of the issues and, as the Board knows, that committee has made a recommendation and, because it's on the agenda with the backing of material, that is why Mr. Goralski sought Attorney Sciota's advice. Mr. Goralski stated that he strongly agrees with many of the pieces that Mrs. Johnson said because he and five other Board members sat on the Board when the motion was made. It was made with a great deal of research. He wants everyone to know that it was not a lightly-made decision. It was educationally sound, but it wasn't supported by the community. He further stated that he cannot dispute that it still is educationally sound, but economics and other supports in the community lead them to the 12-year delay they are still sitting in.

Mr. Derynoski agreed, but he believed that a possible future issue is that now the Board is on two-year terms. It's going to be at least two years before they get rolling on this and they could have another Board in place who has a different insight and approach to take. With that said, this would probably be the third motion that they are taking on the project. He did sit on the Ad Hoc Committee and he knows that there was a lot of discussion and thought put into this. He stated that the community has not really had the opportunity to have any input on this because it's only been Boards and subcommittees and committees that have taken action. The community really has not had an opportunity to weigh their thoughts one way or the other as to what they feel they would be willing to participate in. To say that the community is not in favor is not a fair statement. Mr. Derynoski is in favor of moving ahead and he has additional comments when they get into the next phase.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES: Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Ms. Schroeder, Mrs. Fischer, Mrs. Rickard, Mrs. Clark, and Mr. Goralski. **NO:** Mrs. Johnson. **Motion carried with 7 in favor and 1 against.**

f. Middle School Update ~ Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation

Dr. Erardi began by publicly stating that, although four members of the School Board represented the Ad Hoc Committee, he would like to give the Board at-large credit. In many cases, they had 5-7 Board members present. He shared that with the community to give the sense of the dedication of the group. This Board went out on the nights they didn't need to be out to fully understand the work that was taking place. With that said, he shared that he feels like a rookie superintendent for only being involved for three years. He stated that their hard work over the decade has not gone unnoticed. The Committee had lengthy and smart discussions. Dr. Erardi facilitated the discussion and group. After all their work, which included a member of the Board of Finance, a member of the Town Council, and membership of the Board and Central Office staff, what they have concluded is to encourage this School Board to endorse a Renovation-to-New DePaolo and Kennedy at an approximate cost of \$40,000 to cover the feasibility study, with that recommendation going forward to the Town Council for their funding. Through the course of the past two weeks, they shared multiple documents and their attempt was to bring to the Board the best information that they presently had. What Dr. Erardi took from this task was that their best information is approximately four years old. The written documentation came to close, for the most part, in 2006. With that said, in many cases, projections that were ten years old aren't too far away from the original numbers that they are looking at for October 1, 2010. The Ad Hoc Committee felt strongly that, at this time, the resolving endorsement was a two-school study and that is what is coming forward to the Board from the committee, to endorse DePaolo and Kennedy to move forward to the Town Council at a cost of approximately \$40,000 for a feasibility study to go back to the School Board.

Dr. Erardi's last comment was that it's important that they understand the process. If they choose to do that this evening, they are not endorsing a two-school study. The only thing being endorsed is an update on information that is presently four years old that was brought back to the Board and that is when the Board can make their best decision. This evening is not an endorsement of a two-school study; if they endorse the Ad Hoc Committee work, all they are doing is telling the Town Council that they are interested enough to move forward with the work because the Board is anxious to see what the study would look like and to see if it would fit into the belief system for the middle schools. It's Dr. Erardi's belief that this is their last best effort with energy in a very long time to get something done at the middle schools. They have been in neutral for a while and they have not gone forward. He's hoping that they continue the momentum and the conversations that they have had. This will allow them to get better information to make better decisions for a middle school facility that he presently has great concern with.

Mrs. Johnson asked what a feasibility study would entail and what they would receive for their \$40,000. Dr. Erardi answered that they would once again go through the vision and mission of the middle schools. Item #1 is that there would be extensive interviews with the administrative team and Central Office staff, and they would look at what their instructional needs would be for what they feel is an optimal middle school program. Item #2 would be that they would have a projection with long-range planning with enrollment and they would then have the opportunity with the footprints they have of how they would go about facilitating the projected number of students. The projection would be a 25-year projection. Beyond 25 years you begin to talk about fiction. Finally, at the end of the study, they would have an updated, state-of-the-art plan with a cost connection. Dr. Erardi believes that there is data provided that represents what it would have cost ten years ago to what it probably will cost tomorrow. He

believes that's a key number. It will give them cost, a state-of-the-art facility, and the opportunity to have engagement with a better understanding of the latest design they feel is appropriate for their buildings. This would then go out to proposal and they would work with the Town Council.

Mrs. Rickard asked about the feasibility studies that they had in front of them; there were some green spaces in the front of the auditorium, which she remembered as being a space that they could not consider using. She then asked if we would give them the opportunity to give the Board what they believe is the best option. Mr. Cox agreed that they should leave it to the professionals to take the information and use it to the best of their ability.

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

“Move to request from the Board of Finance and Town Council the sum of approximately \$40,000 for the feasibility study for the two schools to renovate as new proposal.”

Mr. Goralski asked that he amend to include *to be funded by the Council*.

Dr. Erardi requested that they put the word *approximate* before the \$40,000 and it also include the *two middle schools* before the *renovate-as-new*.

Mr. Goralski asked if Mr. Derynoski would be so inclined to amend the motion to read as follows:

“Move to endorse and renovate-to-new a two school feasibility study for John F. Kennedy and DePaolo Middle Schools for an estimated cost of \$40,000 with the cost of this study to be requested by the Town Council and Board of Finance.”

Mr. Derynoski expressed that this is not the first time that they have gone through this endeavor and, while going through some of his archives on what they've done in the past, if they followed the plan of the Board prior to 2006, they would have already completed South End and Plantsville. If they had already done Phase II of the middle schools and started them when they wanted to, they would have already been complete at the end of this year. In taking into account the cost that was established at that time and what they've gotten this past week from the architect of record at that time, with the increase in cost, if they were to start the project now, as a Town going forward, there's going to be an additional cost to the Town of approximately \$22 million dollars. They couldn't afford the delay then. Any further delays will not make this less expensive.

Mrs. Clark agreed with the cost stated by Mr. Derynoski, but she is hoping that, since they sat down with a group that included the Town Council, Board of Finance, and the Town Manager, everybody was on the same page. The energy that came from those meetings is that everyone is finally saying 'yes, we need to do something.' That energy was lacking before, but she's hopeful that, now, it will move forward.

Mrs. Fischer asked if they were planning to have a referendum by November 2011 and Dr. Erardi stated that he believed that was yet to be decided. Mr. Goralski stated that, if the feasibility study is approved and supported by the Town Council and Board of Finance, which

they have every inclination that it would be, the joint meeting that he is hoping to schedule next week would be a discussion that they have at that time with all three Boards together, discussing it openly and publicly. He also believes that the next step would be a public hearing on supporting the funding of that feasibility study. That study is not in the budget and it would be an add-on that both the Board of Finance and Town Council would have to act on. His understanding would be that the public hearing would be the first opportunity for the public to stand up and speak to the governing bodies about what direction they want to go. This is something the Board of Education wanted back in 2006 and the public opportunities weren't there. He believes that the time is right for the community to get their chance to stand at the podium and share with the Boards if it's worthwhile to look into this project. He's excited that it's moving forward and hopeful that is the direction it goes. If it does happen, a referendum would be possible in November 2011.

Mrs. Fischer stated that her point was because everyone is elected on two-year terms and, if they want to have something accomplished, they need to keep 2011 in sight.

Mrs. Rickard expressed that, when she voted yes to withdraw all previous motions, it was very difficult because she would hate to see the Board of Education or any Board get in the habit of doing that. Every motion that is made is done with research and thought and the two-year terms are very dangerous for the Board of Education; she hopes that she doesn't have to do that again. She expressed that that type of motion isn't one they take lightly. In addition, while discussing Derynoski, Kelley, and the middle schools, they have had some casual conversations about possibly saying that everyone from Derynoski goes to Kennedy and everyone from Kelley go to DePaolo to try to even things out. If they are thinking of doing this, she would like to start the conversations now because the fifth graders are already starting to think about where they are going next year. Dr. Erardi stated that would be the type of variable conversation they would have with the architects and he believes that is important to be included.

Dr. Erardi went back to Mrs. Fischer's question about a timeline. If the Board takes action and it's brought to Town Council and they endorse the study through the Board of Finance, he guesstimates that the architectural proposal would go out to bid and come back to the Board in either December or January. They then would start the process all over again. If the feasibility study is completed in December or January, it will be back to the School Board for discussion. That will not be a discussion that will take place in only one meeting, so it would most likely go back to the Board in January or February for final consideration. If the Board chooses to move forward again, it goes to the Town Council and Board of Finance and, what Mr. Goralski eluded to, a number of public meetings and hearings will take place in regard to the cost associated with the study. The best-case scenario: if there's endorsement across all three Boards consistently, for the sake of conversation, he sees that journey ending in April or May, which would give the Board time for the November 2011 referendum. However, there are a lot of hiccups that could take place in the interim.

Mr. Derynoski stated that there is mention of having the Board of Finance and Town Council have their public hearing in which the public can share their input. The public-at-large response is held during a referendum. You will only get four to eight people out of 40,000 in town that will come forward and make a comment either in favor or against. This is not a clear representation of who we would want to have supporting this project. It should be a community project and it needs to go to referendum. They need to put something together that is educationally sound and meets the goals and the direction of the Board and administration that

they want to move forward with. He continued by stating you need to take into account the economic climate and the taxpayers. They need to know what their true needs are and need to address those needs.

Mr. Goralski agreed and stated that, if they had a referendum six years ago, they would be looking at the timeline that Mr. Derynoski referenced. The support among the elected officials did not exist at that time. They don't know the community's opinion. He believes that they now have elected support to take a direction and he believes that supporting the motion before the Board gives them the feasibility study to get the Board the numbers they need.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked if they know what the state reimbursement is at this point and Dr. Erardi stated that it's a "bouncing ball." He believes that it's 51.5%, but thinks it's going to change. Mr. Goralski shared that there are certain penalties and some pieces won't be covered by that reimbursement. Acreage for middle schools was a factor that the Board considered in the previous motion; now the new study will show if that penalty will exist. A new study is necessary.

Mrs. Johnson stated that one of her concerns in sending this forward is that they will most likely hear from the community that two schools is fine and good, but didn't the Board of Education buy land on the other side of town to build a new school. Mrs. Clark interjected that technically it was not true, but everyone believes that. Mrs. Johnson continued by stating everyone believes that and the question is going to be, what would the difference in cost be if they already have the land and, by supporting something like this, she doesn't know what to say to these people.

Mr. Goralski stated that the direction that the committee has given to the Board was this plan. When they have their joint discussions with other Boards, they can ask and discuss that with the other Boards; they are the ones that control the purse strings. Therefore, if they think it's a valid concern that the community should address, they can easily adjust the amount for their feasibility study and bring that piece in. The Board of Education will share with them the documentations they have, but these documents are under the control of the firm that did it. So, unless they were the firm that won the bid, there would be no way to guarantee that was available to them. He's sure that would be a substantial increase in the cost and he thinks that was part of the reason that the committee fine-tuned the direction. Mrs. Clark confirmed there was discussion surrounding the cost of a new building, but then you're left with a building and what do you do with a 100,000-square-foot building. It was addressed and they don't want to have another empty building.

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

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. School Opening 2010-2011 Update

Dr. Erardi deferred to Mr. Thiery for his reflection on curriculum and instruction. Mr. Thiery stated that school opened smoothly. He was incredibly proud of the administration,

teachers, and the committed and patient students. Despite temperatures in the 90s, he visited all the buildings across the first three days, paying particularly close attention to those with second floors. Even with the heat, teaching and learning occurred in all buildings. It was an outstanding display of professionalism and patience on the part of the students. In the elementary schools, there were many conversations about the new reading workshop model and the habits students have about reading in unique places around the classrooms. They fell back into those old habits because reading was a wonderfully quiet activity to do and they were encouraged to find their unique location, which was frequently on a cool floor. He couldn't commend their staff enough for that.

They opened with two days of professional development that included everything from the new Sitton Spelling program to Standards-Based Report Cards at the elementary level, and Database Decision Making and planning for students based on last year's results at the middle schools. As alluded to earlier, Dr. Semmel had an opportunity to begin to roll out the first implications of the NEASC report and begin to get feedback as to what they felt the priorities would be in their work. He believed that it was a very worthwhile two days and he saw many of the things worked on in those two days already operating in the classrooms. Again, it speaks to the professionalism of the teachers. On the whole, it was a very smooth opening of school and he is very proud of the staff.

Mrs. DiNello shared that on the business side they also felt that they had a very smooth opening of school. Purchase orders were filled and supplies were there waiting and ready for teachers to organize their classrooms. Payroll went off without a hitch and, considering the number of resignations, retirements, and new hires, the first payroll went very well. In addition, all teachers are now required to be on direct deposit.

School lunch also went extraordinarily well. This was the first time they rolled over the information for the point of sale system with the information in PowerSchool. The Breakfast Program began at Derynoski, Flanders, and Thalberg on Tuesday, September 6, and will be expanded to all elementary schools on Monday, September 13. She met Ms. Welinsky at Thalberg to watch the program in action, ask questions, and understand how they transition from breakfast to lunch. The school lunch manager, Sally, does a fabulous job with her warm welcome with all the students coming through the line. They are stressing the customer service piece and encouraging the students to come through.

Mr. Cox reported that the buildings were warm, the fans were running, and the buses were running. They initiated a bus safety initiative at all schools where a two-sided flyer was distributed to all parents dropping off their students reminding them about buses' flashing lights on the roadways and school property. They distributed 175 handouts at DePaolo alone. Ms. Schroeder acknowledged the dedication of Mr. Pepe who stood outside and physically handed the flyers to each car as they went by. Mr. Goralski stated that the PTOs were actively involved in the distribution. At Derynoski, there is supposed to be only one drop-off, but as they know, it happens in three locations, so the PTO was very active in assisting with the process there.

Mrs. Rickard interjected and questioned if there is a safety issue at Derynoski considering there's only supposed to be one designated drop-off area, but they know people are dropping off in three places. Mr. Goralski stated that Mrs. Smith was working on that since his children were in Kindergarten. Mr. Cox explained that there are three designated spots for buses and one for drivers, but the drivers are known to pull into the Pyne Center area and use that circle which they

are not supposed to do. He believes that handing out flyers has addressed that and it has reduced a great deal through the hard work of Mrs. Smith and the PTO. However, that school continues to be the most difficult. Educating the parents is the only thing that will fix the problem at Derynoski. They placed a chain in one entrance and the cars that come in by CVS, up by the Pyne Center, loop around Derynoski and drive out. They can't put a chain there because that is where the buses enter. Mrs. Rickard asked why they don't put a person there who stops the cars and doesn't let them go through. Mr. Derynoski stated that there are still staff that come and park at the upper level. Mr. Goralski stated that the school has always been a bit complex. Mrs. Rickard believes that training is needed and it's worth it to put someone there to educate parents and let them know that they cannot enter that way. It's a safety issue. Mrs. Fischer said that she used to park at DePaolo where the faculty park and one day someone knocked on her window and that was all it took for her not to do that anymore. She agreed to put a person there for a short period of time and it might be worthwhile if it's a concern.

Dr. Erardi will bring this issue back to the Board for additional conversation. Mr. Goralski appreciates this coming back because, around town, it's a much more current discussion. The discussion needs to spread.

Dr. Erardi had some final comments on the opening of school. It's his expectation that every child has a positive first day and they try to replicate that 7,000 times. He's pleased to share that, as an administrative team, they worked extraordinarily hard this summer and they continued to work hard during the first week on overtime fighting some brutal elements of heat. He had a number of prepared remarks, but held them because he had two conversations that took place; one was from a Board member and the other was from a parent during the Executive Parent Council luncheon.

The tradition of the School Board is that, anyone who can be part of the 12-school journey on the first day of school, takes part in it. They start in different places and, in most cases, those that were able to, had an opportunity to visit all schools. That becomes a labor intensive journey of traveling and walking. He was pleased with that particular Board member's statement, which was, "I should feel tired, but I feel energized." That is how he described the way the school superintendent felt. He was energized after being in every building and watching the extraordinary work of administration and staff on opening day.

The last comment was on the back end. He was further pleased at the Parent Council luncheon in which about 30 parents attended. One parent went out of her way to talk about how impressed she was that, despite her child having a new teacher that was assigned on Friday morning, that teacher's room looked no different than any other room in that building. That, followed by a second parent speaking to the same issue, followed by a Board conversation of, "we did that by design." That is important. If they are going to have a positive experience for every child, there's a system in place which included administrators and teams of teachers coming in over the weekend to ensure that, Monday morning, every child had their teacher and their teacher was prepared to educate the children in that classroom. Through the lens of at least two parents, at least one Board member and the superintendent, they had an exceptional 2010 school opening.

b. Approval of Raffles

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

“Move that the Board approve the proposed raffles for the 2010-2011 school year.”

Mr. Derynoski stated that he wasn't sure if it was ever discussed, but they have gone over many forms in the past and worked hard to standardize the forms for consistency. However, while reading the proposals for raffles, he read through them all and they are all basically the same, but they aren't even close to being the same. He was wondering if either the Curriculum or Policy Committee should create a draft form for future raffles. He thinks that it would be easier to read and would create some consistency.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco recommended that the form include the deadline by which it should be submitted for approval because she believed that was a bit of an issue this year. Mr. Derynoski stated that the date is included in the policy. Dr. Erardi shared that it's an October date and that historically this comes at least one meeting prior to that date, just in case there's a need to go back and get answers before the approval.

Mrs. Fischer made a suggestion that, considering it's going back to the Policy Committee, she would like to allow PTOs to submit twice a year. The reason is that there were times, when she was involved in the PTO, at the end of the year they would see that they needed more funds and would like to have a raffle, and they couldn't. Having a second chance in the spring would also be beneficial.

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

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR SAA NEGOTIATIONS

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

“Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing SAA Negotiations, School Safety and Student Discipline Matters, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session.”

Motion carried by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Passamano

Michelle Passamano
Recording Secretary

**SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION
SEPTEMBER 9, 2010**

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

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

Members Absent: Mrs. Terri Carmody.

Administration Present: Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Jr., Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance; Mr. Frederick G. Cox, Director of Operations.

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

“Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing SAA Negotiations, School Safety and Student Discipline Matters, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session.”

Motion carried by voice vote.

Mrs. DiNello left the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Mr. Cox left the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

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 9:54 p.m.

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

“Move to add student expulsions to the agenda.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move to expel students 2010-2011-04 and 2010-2011-05 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

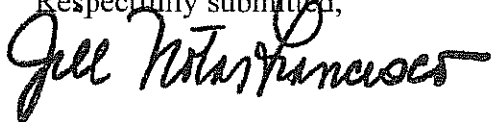
MOTION: by Mrs. Fischer, seconded by Ms. Schroeder:

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Board adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Notar-Francesco". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jill Notar-Francesco, Secretary
Southington Board of Education

| BOARD REPRESENTATIVE ADOPT-A-SCHOOL 2010 | |
|---|---|
| SCHOOL | SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE |
| ALTA @ Pyne Center | Terri Carmody |
| DePaolo Middle School | Michelle Schroeder Rosemarie Fischer |
| Derynoski Elementary School | Michelle Schroeder Dave Derynoski |
| Flanders Elementary School | Jill Notar-Francesco |
| Hatton Elementary School | Kathy Rickard |
| Kelley Elementary School | Kathy Rickard |
| Kennedy Middle School | Pat Johnson Colleen Clark |
| Plantsville Elementary School | Jill Notar-Francesco Dave Derynoski |
| South End Elementary School | Colleen Clark |
| Southington High School | Brian Goralski Pat Johnson Terri Carmody Colleen Clark |
| Strong Elementary School | Brian Goralski |
| Thalberg Elementary School | Dave Derynoski |
| Project CHOICE | Colleen Clark Jill Notar-Francesco |

Administration: Board of Education Update September 9, 2010

1. **Federal Funding: Jobs Legislation** (Attachment #1)
2. **BOE / School Liaison: 2010-2011** (Attachment #2)
3. **Wellness Program** (Attachment #3)
4. **Seating Donation – SHS Tennis Courts** (Attachment #4)
5. **CT. Consortium of Education Foundations** (Attachment #5)

Handwritten signature and date:
9/9/10



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools
School Business Managers

FROM: Brian Mahoney, Chief Financial Officer

DATE: September 3, 2010

SUBJECT: Education Jobs Fund Program

As stated in our August 19, 2010, e-mail, the Education Jobs Fund (Ed Jobs) Program is a new Federal program that provides \$10 billion in assistance to states to save or create education jobs for the 2010-2011 school year. Jobs funded under this program include those that provide educational and related services for early childhood, elementary and secondary education.

Connecticut's application to the U.S. Department of Education has been approved, and the State is slated to receive approximately \$110 million. **The list of entitlements is posted on our Web site:** <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2703&Q=322610>. However, as of this morning, we are still awaiting final guidance from the U.S. Department of Education regarding the distribution of entitlements for the Middle/Secondary Regional School Districts and their member towns. We expect to have a response from them by early next week.

The Governor has elected to allocate these funds based on a school district's relative share of the town's Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grant. As with all of our federal grants, the Ed Jobs Program funds will be paid through the Department's cash management system (ED111) through monthly draw downs, beginning this afternoon.

The Ed Jobs Program is a one-time grant that supports educational and related services during the 2010-2011 school year. **The funds are available for obligations that occur as of August 10, 2010 (the date of enactment of the Act).** A Local Education Agency (LEA) that has funds remaining after the 2010-2011 school year may use those remaining funds through September 30, 2012.

Please refer to the following pages for some of the frequently asked questions from the guidance provided by the U.S. Department of Education regarding the local use of the Ed Jobs Funds. In addition, please refer to the official U.S. Department of Education's Ed Jobs guidance in its entirety at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/educationjobsfund/applicant.html>.

If you have any questions regarding the Ed Jobs Fund, please contact me at brian.mahoney@ct.gov / 860-713-6464 or Eugene Croce at eugene.croce@ct.gov / 860-713-6466.

Questions regarding Cash Management procedures should be referred to Karen Calabrese at karen.calabrese@ct.gov / 860-713-6472.

Thank you.

Education Jobs Fund Program

Frequently Asked Questions September 2010

- 1. For what purposes may an LEA use its Ed Jobs funds?** An LEA must use its funds only for compensation and benefits and other expenses, such as support services, necessary to retain existing employees, to recall or rehire former employees, and to hire new employees, in order to provide early childhood, elementary, or secondary educational and related services.
- 2. What categories of expenses may an LEA support with Ed Jobs funds?** For purposes of this program, the phrase "compensation and benefits and other expenses, such as support services" includes, among other things, salaries, performance bonuses, health insurance, retirement benefits, incentives for early retirement, pension fund contributions, tuition reimbursement, student loan repayment assistance, transportation subsidies, and reimbursement for childcare expenses.
- 3. Which employees may an LEA support with Ed Jobs funds?** An LEA may use the funds to pay the salaries of teachers and other employees who provide school-level educational and related services. In addition to teachers, employees supported with program funds may include, among others, principals, assistant principals, academic coaches, in-service teacher trainers, classroom aides, counselors, librarians, secretaries, social workers, psychologists, interpreters, physical therapists, speech therapists, occupational therapists, information technology personnel, nurses, athletic coaches, security officers, custodians, maintenance workers, bus drivers, and cafeteria workers.
- 4. What are the statutory prohibitions on an LEA's use of Ed Jobs funds?** The statute prohibits LEAs from using Ed Jobs funds for general administrative expenses as that term is defined by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in its Common Core of Data. These prohibited expenses are administrative expenditures related to the operation of the superintendent's office or the LEA's board of education, including the salaries and benefits of LEA-level administrative employees.

The statute also prohibits LEAs from using Ed Jobs funds for other LEA-level support services expenditures as that term is defined in the Common Core of Data. These prohibited activities include the payment of expenditures for fiscal services, LEA program planners and researchers, and human resource services.

- 5. May an LEA use Ed Jobs funds to pay the salaries and benefits of an LEA-level administrative official who also teaches or has other school-level responsibilities?** For an individual with both LEA-level and school-level responsibilities, an LEA may use Ed Jobs funds to pay only that portion of the employee's salary and benefits associated with the time spent on allowable (i.e., school-level) activities. The LEA must maintain documentation substantiating that amount of time.

- 6. May an LEA use Ed Jobs funds to change previously established employee salary schedules or to reduce the number of furlough days?** Yes. An LEA may use Ed Jobs funds, for example, to restore reductions in salaries and benefits and to implement salary increases for the 2010-2011 school year. In addition, an LEA may use the funds for any additional salary and benefits costs associated with the elimination of furlough days that had been scheduled for the 2010-2011 school year. An LEA may not use Ed Jobs funds to compensate employees for any period prior to August 10, 2010, the date of enactment of the Act.
- 7. May an LEA use Ed Jobs funds to pay the compensation and benefits of individuals who provide school-level services but are not employees of an LEA?** No. An LEA may not use the funds to pay for contractual school-level services by individuals who are not employees of an LEA (e.g., janitors employed by an outside firm). However, an LEA that contracts with another LEA to provide educational and related services may use Ed Jobs funds to pay that portion of the contract associated with the salaries and benefits of the employees of the LEA providing the services.
- 8. May an LEA use Ed Jobs funds to meet previously unmet pension fund liabilities?** No. An LEA may not use Ed Jobs funds to meet pension obligations incurred in prior school years. However, an LEA may use its funds for pension obligations accruing on the basis of services that an employee performs during the 2010-2011 school year.

**BOARD REPRESENTATIVE
ADOPT-A-SCHOOL
2010**

| SCHOOL | SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| ALTA @ Pyne Center | Terri Carmody |
| DePaolo Middle School | Michelle Schroeder Rosemarie Fischer |
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| Thalberg Elementary School | Dave Derynoski |
| Project CHOICE | Colleen Clark Jill Notar-Francesco |

JOSEPH ERARDI

From: SHERRI-LIN DINELLO
Sent: Wednesday, September 08, 2010 10:28 AM
To: SHS; JFK; JAD; DES; THALBERG; KELLEY; Plantsville; ALTA; SOUTHEND; STRONG; FLANDERS; HATTON; DALE RIEDINGER; PATTY ST PIERRE; CHARLES BELIVEAU; JIM LOMBARDO; BOESTAFF; TINA CAMPUTARO; MARIE BORDONARO
Subject: FW: Southington WINS Program
Importance: High

Thank you to all of the applicants for the Southington WINS Wellness Initiative sponsored by the Town of Southington Self Insurance Committee and the Southington Community YMCA. By the end of the first week of enrollment, we had reached our capacity of filling all 80 spots available.

All applicants who applied will be receiving a letter notifying them of whether or not they have been accepted into the program by September 17, 2010. At this time, we are not accepting any further applications; however, we will be maintaining a wait-list.

In October, please look for flyers with information providing opportunities for all employees to participate in Yoga and Zumba classes sponsored by the Southington Community YMCA specifically for the Southington Public Schools and Town of Southington employees.

We will continue to work as a team in an effort to continue to provide wellness opportunities for staff.

Sherri DiNella

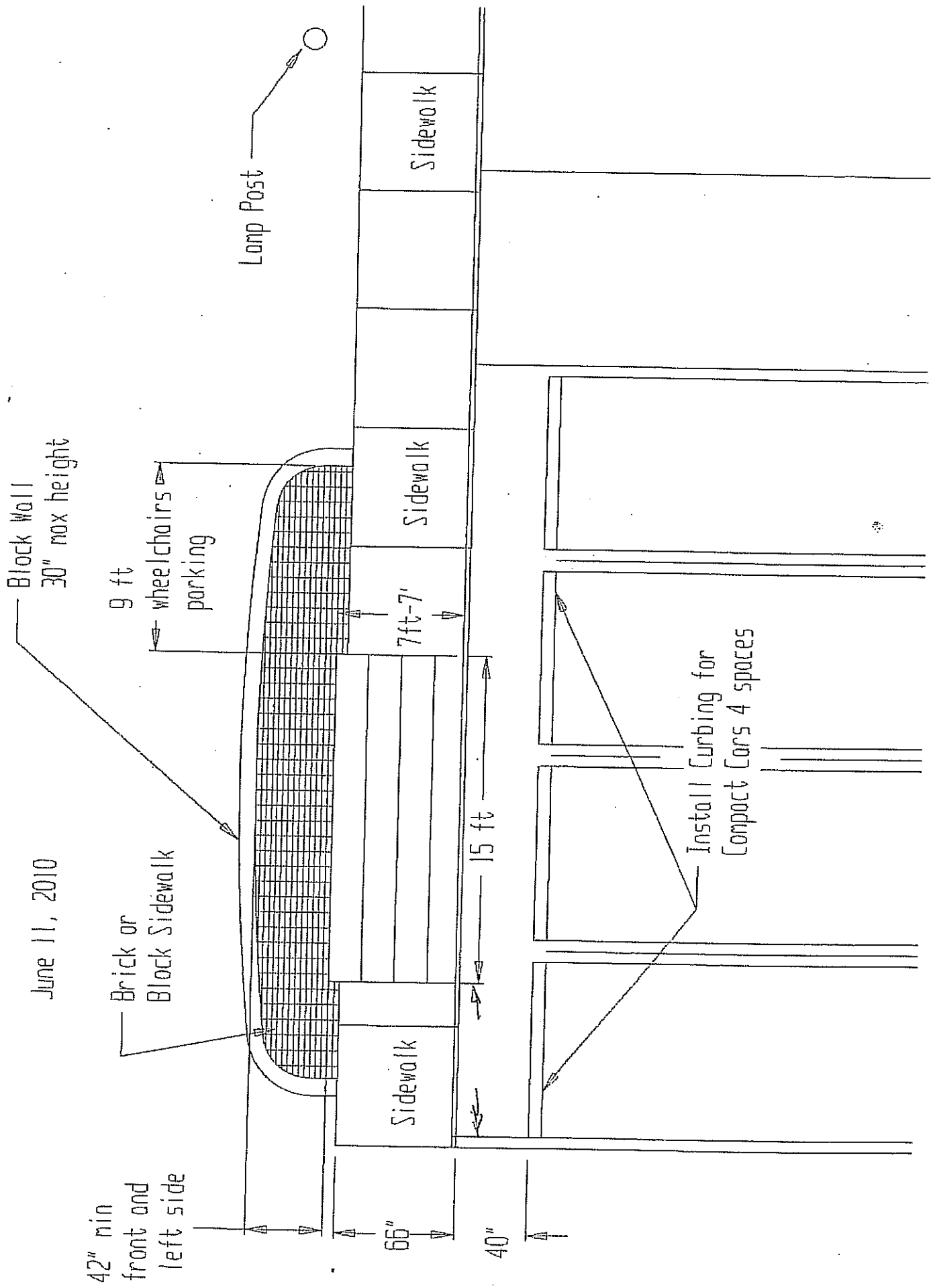
Director of Business & Finance
Southington Public Schools
49 Beecher Street
Southington, CT 06489
860.628.3200 Ext. 212
860.628.3205 Fax
sdinello@southingtonschools.org

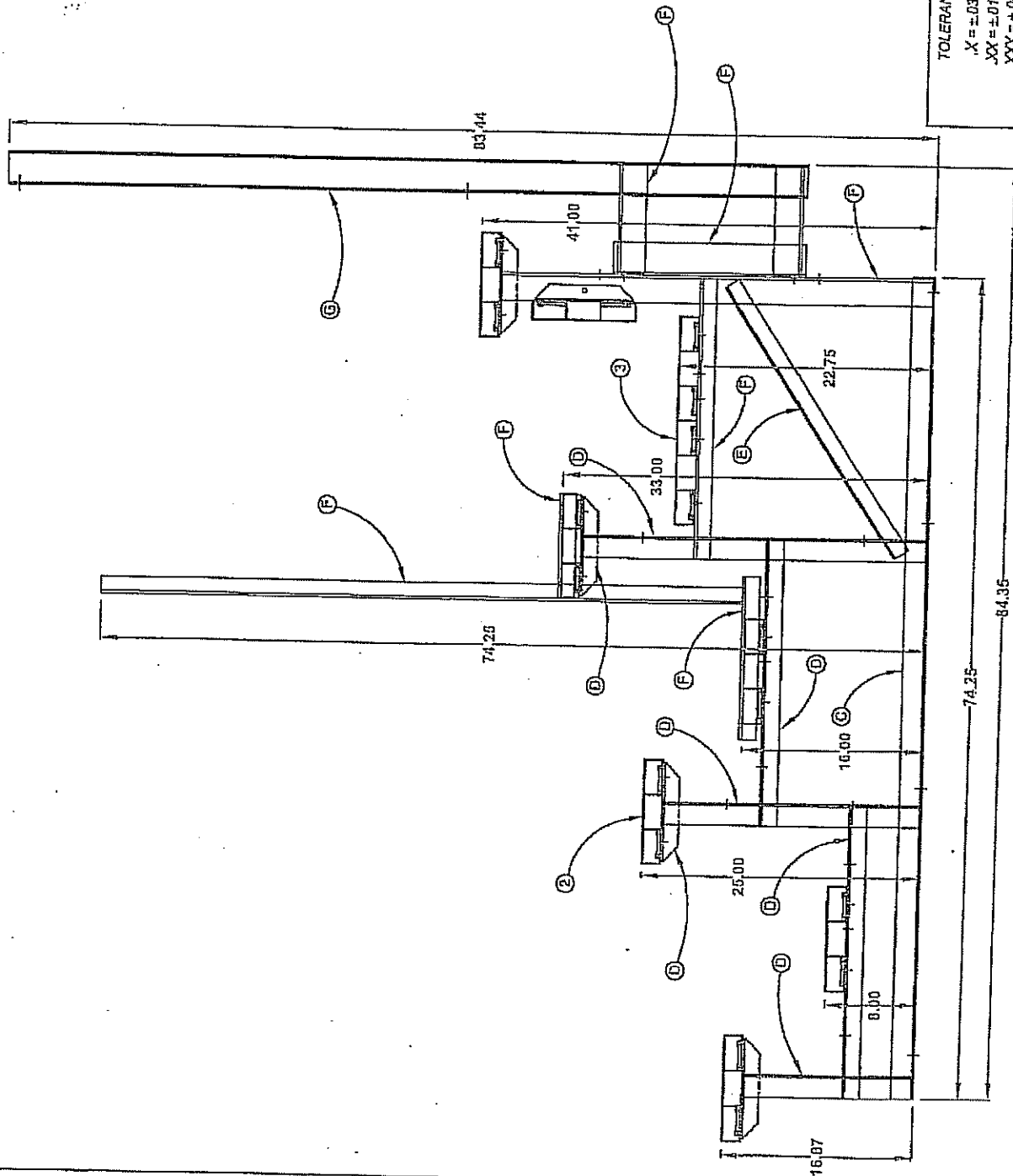
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Tennis Court Bleacher Project – SHS

1. 40 Seat Stationary Bleachers
2. Funding from the Kenny Hill Foundation and the Center Court Booster Club
3. Project directed by:
 Ms. Durelle Gimenez, Pres. Center Court Club
 Mr. Ed Kalat
4. Assistance provided by Ag. Science Dept. and District Maintenance

Friday, June 11, 2010 11:43:48





APPROVED
[Signature]
 BUILDING INSPECTOR
 TOWN OF SOUTHTON
 SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND
 ON THE JOB CORRECTION

RECEIVED

MAY 27 2010

TOWN OF SOUTHTON
 BUILDING DEPT

TOLERANCE

X = ±.030
 XX = ±.010
 XXX = ±.005

FRACTIONAL = ± 1/32
 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

REV DATE

REF

SPRINT
COMPUTER

1001 Diplomat Drive
 Farmers Branch, Texas 75244

DRAWN BY Z. OSORIO

CHECKED

APPROVED

TITLE

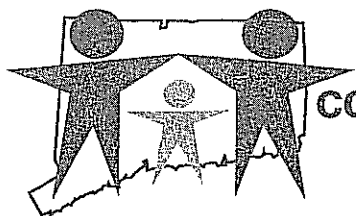
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CONNECTICUT CONSORTIUM OF EDUCATION FOUNDATIONS

Linking Schools and Communities

THE POWER OF EDUCATION FOUNDATIONS: *A Strong Foundation for Vibrant Schools and Communities*

Tuesday, October 5, 2010

8:15 am to 2:00 pm

Crowne Plaza Cromwell Hotel, Cromwell, Connecticut

Please join us for the eleventh annual CTCEF conference for education foundation board and staff members, community members, board of education members, superintendents, and other educators. Learn how local education foundations can provide important educational programs and resources to your schools and community. This year's conference will offer existing, new, and emerging education foundations information to help you reach your goals. Encourage members of your community to attend this important and informative conference.

AGENDA

8:15 am – 8:45 am

REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:45 am – 9:00 am

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Liz Stokes, President

Connecticut Consortium of Education Foundations

9:00 am – 9:35 am

**THE CHANGING STRUCTURE AND MISSION
OF PUBLIC EDUCATION: RAMIFICATIONS FOR THE
REAL WORLD**

W. Patrick Dolan, President, The Dolan Group

Special Consultant to the GE Foundation

9:50 am – 12:15 pm

SPECIAL TRAINING WORKSHOP

Foundations 101: A Blueprint to Success is a training workshop for individuals or teams who are starting or revitalizing an education foundation.

WORKSHOPS A1, A2, A3

9:50 am – 10:55 am

During this time period, you may attend **Education Reform: The Need for Effective Community Engagement; A Challenging Economy: How to Make It Work for You; or Your Alumni: How to Tap into This Proven Resource.**

WORKSHOPS B1, B2, B3

11:10 am – 12:15 pm

During this time period, you may attend **Data 101: Making Sense out of Data; Social Media: How It Can Work for Your Foundation; or Strategic Planning for Local Education Foundations: One Size Does Not Fit All.**

12:30 pm – 12:45 pm

FOUNDATION CELEBRATIONS

Teachers and students demonstrate the benefits of their education foundations.

Joe Erardi, Superintendent

Southington Public Schools

LUNCHEON DISCUSSION GROUPS

12:45 pm – 2:00 pm

Each table will discuss one of the following topics: strategic planning; mining data; alumni; planned giving; starting a blog; tips and tactics; Hartford's reform agenda; high-speed communications tools; questions about starting an education foundation; and fundraising.

SPECIAL TRAINING WORKSHOP

9:50 am – 12:15 pm

Foundations 101: A Blueprint to Success

This two-plus-hour workshop is for emerging foundations and for those who want to revitalize an education foundation. The presentation will include how to organize, legal and financial issues, recruiting and developing your board, fundraising basics, and your relationship with the schools and the community.

MODERATOR:

Joe Erardi, Superintendent, Southington Public Schools

PRESENTERS:

Tony Sheffy, Vice-Chairman

Southington Education Foundation

Liz Stokes, President

Connecticut Consortium of Education Foundations

Marty Rauch, Board Member

Cheshire Education Foundation

Gary Attmore, Attorney, O'Connell, Flaherty & Attmore

WORKSHOPS A (Choose one) 9:50 am – 10:55 am

A1 Education Reform: The Need for Effective Community Engagement

Using the progress of the Hartford Public Schools as a profile, the goal of this workshop is to have participants understand how independent, community-based organizations (like local education foundations) can and should play an active role in driving community ownership of school reform and help hold districts accountable to reform objectives and plans.

MODERATOR:

Pat Salner, Community Programs Director, Achieve Hartford!

PRESENTER:

Jim Starr, Executive Director, Achieve Hartford!

A2 A Challenging Economy: How to Make It Work for You

Smart marketing during rough times is your foundation's best strategy to help you make your case for fostering trust between the schools and the community. In this workshop, you will get tips on how to build support for your fundraising and project efforts by demonstrating the value your foundation brings to the families and children in your community.

MODERATOR:

Jodi Lussier, Vice-Chairman

Glastonbury Education Foundation

PRESENTER:

Ira Yellen, Founding and Past Chair

Glastonbury Education Foundation

President and CEO, First Experience Communications

A3 Your Alumni: How to Tap into This Proven Resource

Decades ago, the most successful colleges and private schools recognized the power of alumni support. Not surprisingly, alumni provide the largest percentage of individual donors and planned giving. Learn how local education foundations nationwide now use the same proven formula to grow their foundations.

MODERATOR:

Marge Hiller, Executive Director

Bridgeport Public Education Fund

PRESENTER:

Kathleen Brooks, Senior Account Executive

Harris Connect

WORKSHOPS B (Choose one) 11:10 am – 12:15 pm

B1 Data 101: Making Sense of Data

Today, everyone interested in improving outcomes for children asks for one central thing: "Show me your data!" Strong data can help assess local needs, guide decision-making, and measure impact, but sifting through and making sense of all the facts and figures can be confusing and overwhelming. Join this session to learn how to access, use, and present research findings and data to best meet your organization's and your community's needs.

MODERATOR:

Lisa Bugos, Administrative Director

Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools

PRESENTER:

Jennifer Harmon, Director of Research and Policy, ConnCAN

B2 Social Media: How It Can Work for Your Foundation

Social Media and other forms of Internet technology are more prevalent in today's world of fundraising than ever before. As these vehicles for unprecedented communication and outreach have become universally accepted, many education foundations are leveraging these low-cost, high-impact tools to create and build relationships. This session will help to outline the steps of creating a social media strategy and highlight the practical application of these concepts.

MODERATOR:

Kate Ebbott, Vice-Chair and Founding Chair

Redding Education Foundation

PRESENTER:

Mike Kierce, Regional Account Executive, eTapestry

B3 Strategic Planning for Local Education

Foundations: One Size Does Not Fit All

Strategic planning can help set the course for your foundation's future by building consensus around a vision and figuring out how to achieve it. While local education foundations may all share one aspect of that vision—improved educational outcomes in their communities—the definition of success and the road to achieving it are unique to each foundation. This session will focus on using strategic planning to build on each community's unique strengths and challenges to energize and reinvigorate your efforts.

MODERATOR:

Carolyn McNally, Secretary, ACES Education Foundation

PRESENTER:

Kathy Frederick, Principal, Frederick Consulting

**PRE-CONFERENCE NETWORKING DINNER
AT THE CROWNE PLAZA CROMWELL HOTEL**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2010 6:30
PM**

Take advantage of the opportunity to have dinner and interact with your colleagues from across Connecticut and from other states.

Overnight lodging on October 4 at a special rate of \$109 is guaranteed through September 13 at the Crowne Plaza (860-635-2000). Ask for the CTCEF group rate.

**DIRECTIONS TO CROMWELL, CT
THE CROWNE PLAZA CROMWELL HOTEL**

From the South: Exit 21 – off Interstate 91.
Left off the ramp. Hotel is 100 yards on the left.

From the North: Exit 21 – off Interstate 91.
Left off the ramp and under the Interstate.

A special thank you to
The William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund
for generously supporting this conference.

Thank you to
**Harris Connect, Kilakwa Associates,
and eTapestry** for sponsoring
the Continental Breakfast.

Thanks also to Print Sponsor **DonorsChoose.org**.

Please bring 100 copies of your
education foundation brochures,
newsletters, or other publications
for interested attendees to take home.

The Connecticut Consortium of Education Foundations is a statewide, 501(c)(3), non-profit organization that facilitates the creation, growth, and effectiveness of local education foundations in Connecticut.

REGISTRATION FORM

**The Power of Education Foundations:
A Strong Foundation for Vibrant Schools and Communities**

**Tuesday, October 5, 2010
Crowne Plaza Cromwell Hotel, Cromwell, CT**

☐ Yes, I will attend the 11th Annual Connecticut Conference
for Education Foundations on Tuesday, October 5, 2010

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____

E-mail _____

I am a ☐ Foundation Board Member or Staff Member
☐ Board of Education Member
☐ Superintendent
☐ Other: Specify _____

Name of Education Foundation: _____

Connecticut Consortium of Education Foundations Affiliate

☐ Yes ☐ No

School District/Town _____

Registration must be accompanied by a check or purchase order.

☐ \$125 Conference Fee (*conference only*)

☐ \$115 CTCEF Affiliates Conference Fee (*conference only*)

☐ \$95 Early Bird Special (4 or more people from same organization. All 4 must register at the same time with check or purchase order that must be received by September 11)

☐ Dutch Treat Oct. 4, 6:30 pm – Pre-Conference Networking Dinner at the Crowne Plaza Cromwell Hotel

☐ Check enclosed. Total: \$ _____

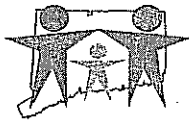
☐ P.O. #, if applicable _____

Total: \$ _____

Special dietary needs _____

Registration/Cancellation Deadline: September 27, 2010.
Cancellations made within 5 working days of the program date will be charged \$20. No-shows will be charged full fee.

Return this registration form to: CTCEF, P.O. Box 1032,
Weston, CT 06883 or fax to 203-454-0706 or call 203-227-9323.



**CONNECTICUT CONSORTIUM
OF EDUCATION FOUNDATIONS**

P.O. Box 1032 • Weston, Connecticut 06883

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**The Power of Education Foundations:
A Strong Foundation for Vibrant Schools and Communities**

Tuesday, October 5, 2010

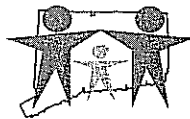
Visit www.ctcef.org for more information.

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

CTCEF...

Facilitating the creation, growth, and effectiveness of local education foundations in Connecticut

0648933097 0001



**CONNECTICUT CONSORTIUM
OF EDUCATION FOUNDATIONS**

presents

The 11th Annual Connecticut Conference for Education Foundations

**The Power of Education Foundations:
A Strong Foundation for Vibrant Schools and Communities**

**Tuesday, October 5, 2010, 8:15 am to 2:00 pm
Crowne Plaza Cromwell Hotel, Cromwell, Connecticut**

A special thank you to the William Caspar Granstein Memorial Fund for its generous support.

| GRADE 5 | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|
| Enrollment as of September 3, 2010 | | | | | | | |
| DES | FES | HES | KES | PES | SEES | SES | TES |
| 25 | 25 | 19 | 25 | 22 | 17 | 21 | 20 |
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| 125 | 50 | 59 | 77 | 44 | 35 | 66 | 82 |