

SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT

REGULAR MEETING

September 11, 2014

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, September 11, 2014 at 7:32 p.m. in the Municipal Center Public Assembly Room, 200 North Main Street, Southington, Connecticut with Executive Session scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Brian Goralski, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Present from the Board: Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Pat Johnson, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, and Mrs. Patricia Queen.

Board Members Absent: Mr. Zaya Oshana.

Present from Administration: Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Karen Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; and Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance.

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

"Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing the Transportation Contract, AFSCME Local 1303-140 of Council #4 Nurses Contract, AFSCME Local 1303 of Council #4 Custodial, Maintenance, Secretarial and Food Service Employees Contract, and Southington Board of Education Grant Writer Contract, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Amended motion to add Personnel to the Executive Session agenda: Mr. Derynoski and Mrs. Carmody agreed to amend the motion to add "Personnel" to the motion.

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

"Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing the Transportation Contract, AFSCME Local 1303-140 of Council #4 Nurses Contract, AFSCME Local 1303 of Council #4 Custodial, Maintenance, Secretarial and Food Service Employees Contract, Southington Board of Education Grant Writer Contract, and Personnel, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS AFSCME NEGOTIATIONS AND PERSONNEL

Mr. Brian Goralski declared the Executive Session ended at 7:06 p.m. The Board recessed from Executive Session at 7:06 p.m.

3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

The regular session was reconvened at 7:32 p.m. by Mr. Brian Goralski, Chairperson. Board members present were Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, and Mrs. Patricia Queen.

Board Members Absent: Mr. Zaya Oshana.

Present from the administration were Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Karen Smith, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance; and Mr. Peter Romano, Director of Operations.

Student representatives present were Mr. James Brino, Mr. Chris Iverson, and Ms. Elizabeth Veilleux.

There were approximately 10 people in the audience.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by the student representatives.

Mr. Goralski requested a moment of silence in memory of first responders, civilians, and the families of those who were lost in the tragedy on September 11, 2001. In addition to remembering September 11, Mr. Goralski asked that a moment of silence be observed in honor of Lieutenant Michael Shanley, Southington Police Department, whose funeral services were held that day.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ August 14, 2014

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

“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of August 14, 2014, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of September 10, 2014.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 8-0.

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

“Move to move agenda item 10a., Appointing of the Director of Pupil Services, to item 5a. on the agenda.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 8-0.

a. Appointment of Director of Pupil Services (formerly agenda item 10a.)

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

“Move to appoint Ms. Margaret Walsh as the Director of Pupil Services with a start date to be determined based on further discussion with the Superintendent of Schools at a salary of \$140,000 prorated.”

ROLL CALL VOTE: Yes ~ Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Queen, and Mr. Goralski. Abstain ~ Mrs. Lombardi.

Motion carried with seven members in favor and one abstention.

Mr. Goralski called for a brief recess to congratulate Ms. Meg Walsh.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience

Joe Landrie, 41 Preli Court, took the opportunity to share with the Board of Education that he believes that they made a wonderful decision by assigning Mr. Tim Connellan to the position of Superintendent of Schools. He then shared his concerns pertaining to homework. He stated that his granddaughter is an outstanding middle school student who is averaging five hours per evening completing her homework assignments. He believes that homework should not take more than three hours per night and is asking that the Board of Education review their policies and get back to him with some answers.

Mr. Goralski requested that Mr. Landry have the parents of the student follow-up with the principal at the school. Mr. Landry stated that he would appreciate hearing back from the Board of Education.

Arthur Cyr, 103 Berlin Avenue, stated that at 3:30 p.m., he witnessed a car that passed by bus #1 that was carrying students from Derynoski Elementary School. The driver was stopped to drop off students, had all his lights flashing, and was beeping the horn at the driver who neglected to stop. Mr. Cyr was wondering about the status of the buses with cameras. He recalls that there was a test with cameras on some buses and was curious as to which buses have cameras and if more buses will be provided with cameras. He stated that this is a serious issue and wanted to be sure that these incidents are reported to the police department.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco requested that Mr. Connellan and Mr. Romano provide the Board of Education with a report identifying which buses have exterior cameras. She's wondering if the cameras are still being used and would appreciate the administration reviewing the status of this program.

b. Communications from Board Members and Administration

Communication from the Board Members:

There were multiple reports acknowledging and commending all involved with the opening of the middle schools. Mrs. Lombardi commended the middle school staff and workers. She toured DePaolo with Mr. Palmieri one-week prior to the start of school. When she visited the school on the first day, she stated "It was like magic." The teachers must have worked around the clock to get their classrooms in order. She noted that meeting with the Grade 6 students in the cafeteria was a new process that seemed to work extremely well.

Mrs. Clark shared that the schools were in phenomenal shape. She commended the administration and staff, but also wanted to thank the building officials in the town who worked very hard to make this happen. They were there all summer and were always available to the district when needed.

Mr. Goralski also commented that the maintenance staff went above and beyond their normal duties. The coordination between the maintenance and contractors was amazing. The opening of the two middle schools was all about teamwork. The teachers, administration, office staff, maintenance, contractors, and town building officials worked together for the students of the community. The students are the ones who are benefiting from all the hard work.

Mrs. Lombardi publicly thanked Mrs. Marilyn Kahl, Principal at Kelley Elementary School, and Mr. Fred Cox for following-through with the installation of a fence on the blacktop at the school. This was an additional measure of safety for the students.

Mrs. Queen shared an update from the library advisory committee. While the library advisory committee has not met since June, she received word from Stephanie Patterson, librarian at Southington High School, that over the summer, Ms. Patterson received approval from the administration for district-wide participation in the first cohort of the "Reimagining Your Library" program that is provided by Connecticut Educational Services. This program is a systematic process for transforming the traditional school library into a Learning Commons, a 21st Century library and digital learning literacy center. Southington Public Schools was invited to participate, partly based on the work of the library advisory committee to date and the work of Ms. Patterson in leading the effort to transform the Southington High School library. Beginning in October 2014, a team of five will represent Southington Public Schools. There will be three from the high school and two from the middle and elementary schools. This group will embark on what will be a two-year program.

Mrs. Johnson commented that on the first day of school, the Board of Education met at the high school, then divided and visited all schools in the district. She and others spent time at the middle schools, which were fabulous. Everyone involved did an outstanding job. She also went to South End Elementary School and had the opportunity to visit one of the kindergarten classes during their world language program that was instructed by Mrs. Tina Riccio. Mrs.

Riccio was working with puppets during her lesson and Mrs. Johnson found this to be a wonderful experience and opportunity for those students who are involved with this program.

Mrs. Johnson also attended a professional development for Google Docs. This training has been offered and is ongoing for teachers and students. Google Docs is a wonderful tool for teacher and student communication, as well as all departments throughout the district.

Communication from Administration:

Mr. Connellan reported on the following items:

1. Opening of School:

Mr. Connellan commended all staff throughout the district. Overall, he stated that everything went very smoothly. He recognized that it was the hard work and dedication of many staff that are responsible for making this happen.

- Central Office worked very hard. The payroll and personnel departments were very busy and worked late hours and weekends.
- Technology staff were there getting the job done to ensure that technology was in place and available for teaching staff and students.
- Custodians and maintenance staff were amazing. Mr. Romano gave great directions so all resources were in place.
- Teachers were fantastic. Prior to the first day of school, there were some rooms that did not look like classrooms; yet, teachers were so happy to be in their classrooms and opening boxes and setting up. They also were there working late in the day and evenings prior to the opening to prepare their classrooms.
- The front office staff in both middle schools was phenomenal.
- Building Committee members were available and onsite in the evening ensuring that the schools would be ready to open.
- While much of the focus has been on the middle schools, it's important that the administration and staff at the high school and all elementary schools are recognized as well. They spent countless hours in their buildings ensuring that they were ready to welcome all Southington students. All buildings were beautiful. This was a true team effort on behalf of faculty and staff.

2. Transportation:

- Mr. Connellan and Mr. Romano are working together to develop new procedures that will enhance and improve communication.

3. Strong Elementary School Playground

- Mr. Romano is developing a committee that includes parent representatives to assist with a plan moving forward. The district also has contractors who are willing to work with us to determine some solutions.

4. Common Core In-District Coaching Days 2014-2015

- We were awarded an allocation for technical assistance for in-district coaching days. Southington was one of 66 districts to be included in this program which is a great opportunity.

5. Connecticut Center for School Change (CCSC) ~ Systemic Instructional Improvement Program:

- Mrs. Smith reported that work done in the district with the CCSC is not new. Southington has been part of this collaboration over the past few years. This year, there are approximately 14 districts participating. Each district is represented by a team of three that includes the Assistant Superintendent and two members of their administrative team. From Southington, Mrs. Smith is joined by Mrs. Stephanie Lawlor and Ms. Dale Riedinger. The focus topic this year is the importance of Developing Human Capital. There are five essential questions:
 1. How is talent recruited?
 2. How is talent selected?
 3. How is talent deployed?
 4. How is talent grown and developed?
 5. How is collective capacity enhanced?

Discussion will include how to apply these questions to any organization. Mrs. Smith is excited and will share an update with the Board of Education as they continue with their program.

Mrs. Lombardi asked about the Common Core In-district Coaching Days and what the level of funding was and if there was any criteria or specifics pertaining to that grant. It was explained by Mrs. Smith that the award is given in the amount of days. There are 1,200 days that will be divided among the 66 districts. The focus surrounds the Common Core State Standards and where the districts are with the implementation. The administration is hoping to use this time during their scheduled professional development days. Additionally, there will be some smaller groups that will meet throughout the year.

Communication from Student Representatives:

Mr. Goralski thanked the student representatives for volunteering. He explained that they represent their class and, if there are any agenda items that are important to them, they need to contact the Board. He shared that they are part of the team and that the Board appreciates what they have to offer.

Ms. Veilleux reported that it's the start of the school year and the many clubs and sports are beginning. The students are adjusting back into the routine of school. She spoke with some freshmen and the general consensus is that, through getting involved in the clubs, they are able to meet people, make new friends, and feel more comfortable. They are thankful for all the opportunities that are offered at Southington High School because it makes them feel like they are part of a family.

Mr. Iverson shared that the district made an extraordinary decision when they gave MacBook's to the teaching staff. The faculty is using the Macs to the fullest and they are posting

assignments for students. The students see this fusing into a more paperless district. Mr. Iverson shared that by using Google Docs and students receiving their own Gmail accounts, this is another way that they can get connected. Another item teachers are using is Schoolology.com. This is similar to Face Book but it's specifically for schools. Teachers are already posting homework assignments on their Webpages. In addition, he hopes that the teachers will be able to connect their new Macs to the SmartBoards. He stated that the SmartBoards are amazing academic tools, and he's confident that this will be a great year.

Mr. Brino agreed that the teachers' use of technology is exciting. He shared that the class is thrilled with the Board of Education's decision to adopt a Bring Your Own Device policy and regulation to the district. The class describes this as an amazing opportunity. On the first day of school, the class heard that they can use their devices in the cafeteria and library. Mr. Brino shared that this is outstanding. He explained that, when they are at home, they don't use a dictionary to look up word spellings, they use their electronic devices. This is a great opportunity for students. At home, you're not going to use a dictionary. You can go to your phone and get the information you need.

Ms. Veilleux added that she also spoke with other students and they are all thrilled with the presentation of BYOD in school. She shared that the students have a great deal of homework, and "It's 2014! They [students] need to be able to use these devices to help organize themselves."

Mrs. Queen asked that the student representatives review the policy before the next meeting and see if they have any suggestions or recommendations. She shared that the Board values their input.

Mrs. Lombardi stated how happy she was to hear the input from the students pertaining to technology. It makes a difference when you hear the student representatives share their excitement. Mrs. Lombardi acknowledged Karen Veilleux, Director of Technology, who was instrumental in making this happen.

Mrs. Clark reiterated to the student representatives that the Board would like to know if the committee missed anything in this policy. If so, she asked that they notify the Board as soon as possible.

Mr. Goralski took a moment to thank Mrs. Veilleux for leading the Board with technology. Mrs. Veilleux is starting a new position in Wallingford, and the district will certainly miss her. The Board wished her their very best as she continues her career in Wallingford.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. Personnel Report

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

"Move to approve the Personnel Report, as submitted."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 8 – 0.

Mr. Goralski acknowledged that the Personnel Report was very lengthy and he thanked Mrs. Kim Hunt, Personnel Manager, and her department for their hard work throughout the summer.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Policy and Personnel Committee Meeting ~ August 26, 2014

Mrs. Clark reported that the committee met on August 26, 2014 and discussed the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy. The main concern of the committee was that they wanted to incorporate a policy that provides equal opportunity for all students. It's important that they are able to make available equipment to students in need. The administration will continue to explore this idea. In addition to BYOD, the committee scheduled upcoming meeting dates.

b. Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting ~ September 8, 2014

Mrs. Carmody reported that the committee met on September 8, 2014. The proposed Southington High School Profile was revised and reviewed. It will be professionally printed and will be sent to universities to promote Southington students. In addition, copies will be made available to the community so they can see what the high school has to offer. Dr. Semmel will be in attendance at a future meeting to present the document.

Mrs. Carmody shared that she appreciated the work of the committee and, especially, Mrs. Queen who took this upon herself and provided thorough work on this project. She also thanked Mrs. Passamano for assisting with the layout of the Profile.

The committee also discussed topics for future meeting dates. Mrs. Carmody welcomed the Board to share with her any topics they would like to see discussed and the committee will include them on a future agenda. Mrs. Carmody mentioned that the committee would address the concerns shared by Mr. Landry pertaining to homework.

c. Finance Committee Meeting ~ September 8, 2014

Mrs. Notar-Francesco reported that the Finance Committee held a lengthy meeting with 11 agenda items, six of which are action items requiring Board approval.

a. Transfer of Funds

The Finance Committee thoroughly reviewed and questioned the short list of transfers. The Central Office transfers have been discussed at previous meetings over the past few months. The transfers include the oil heat account to the gas account, and transferring funds to cover the SchoolNet purchase.

The high school is requesting a transfer for 25 student desks and the e-licenses that need to be purchased for the continuing use of existing texts. As a point of information, Mrs. DiNello will create a separate line item in next year's budget for these e-license fees.

Lastly, the science coordinator requested a transfer of funds to purchase sensors / probeware to better support and enhance the devices used in science classrooms. Members of the Curriculum and Instruction Committee had discussed this during one of their past meetings. The science coordinator is also requesting a transfer for supplies to support instruction for the increasing enrollment in Physics classes.

The Committee recommends approval of all of these transfers.

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

“Move to approve the Transfer of Funds as presented.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 8 – 0.

b. Snow Removal and Sanding Services 2015-BID-16

This is the standard snow bid, with updated information and schematics. They are going out to bid for services at Kennedy Middle School, South End, Strong, and Thalberg Elementary Schools.

Committee members requested that changes be made in two places to provide completeness to the document. Those revisions were satisfactorily made, and the Committee recommends approval.

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

“Move to approve the Snow Removal & Sanding Services Bid #2015-BID-16, as revised by the Finance Committee.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 8 – 0.

c. Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Update

Hoops for Heart recently donated three AEDs to the district. The five AEDs being requested for purchase through the Finance Committee will be placed within Alta, Strong, Flanders, the Agricultural Science building, and the Maintenance Department building. With the purchase of these remaining five, AED capability will be available in all of the Board of Education buildings.

The funds (\$7,000) will come from the Equipment Contingency Account. The Committee recommends approval.

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

“Move to approve the purchase of five (5) AED units for Alta, Strong, Flanders, the Agricultural Science Building, and the Maintenance Building.”

Mrs. Johnson asked if the administration was aware of the date of delivery. Mrs. DiNello will get the information and notify the Board of the anticipated arrival. Mrs. Queen asked about

training for use of AEDs. Mrs. Smith explained that, when the training was held at Central Office, it was provided to those who volunteered. She spoke with Mrs. Bordonaro who indicated that there are nurses who are trained and the opportunity will be made available for administrators and staff.

Mr. Goralski stated that a great thing about the AEDs is that they are built for everyone to use. He thanked Ryan Gomes and Hoops for Heart Health for giving back to the community. He mentioned that they will send a thank you note from the Board to Mr. Gomes.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 8 – 0.

d. Contract Elementary Counseling Grant Evaluation – Year 2

The Finance Committee recommended that the Board approve the agreement to utilize Ms. Paula Quinn as the external evaluator for Year 2 of the Counseling Grant. Ms. Quinn was the evaluator last year and the committee supports utilizing her services again in Year 2. The funds come from the grant.

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

“Move to approve the agreement to contract with Paula Quinn as the External Evaluator for year two of the Counseling Grant at a cost of \$25,000.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 8 – 0.

e. Gas & Electricity Contract Update

The Board is in the midst of many good and worthy projects, such as school construction, the NORESCO project, and solar installations. These, however, make estimating and projecting future budgets for energy usage not just challenging, but incredibly complex and uncertain.

The town, under Mr. Brumback’s direction, held an Energy Summit the previous week. The consensus at the Summit focused on the benefits that would be realized from hiring an energy management consultant. This consultant would guide the Town and Board of Education’s future energy needs.

The Committee sees this as a wise, overarching strategy and direction, and as a perfect opportunity for collaboration with the town. The Committee supports and recommends that the Board of Education participate with the town in an RFP for hiring an energy consultant.

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

“Move that the Board of Education will participate in the Request for Proposal for an energy management consultant and that the Director of Business & Finance has the authority to follow their recommendations moving forward.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 8 – 0.

f. Year End Close-out 2013-2014

The Committee approved the year-end budget closeout for the 2013-2014 school year, as submitted.

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

“Move to approve the year-end close-out for 2013-2014.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 8 – 0.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco stated that the Committee had a discussion about the use of the remaining Knightvertising funds. It was requested that the funds be used to assist in the funding for equipment improvement at the Concession Stand. There was no will on the part of the Finance Committee to move this request forward at their meeting; however, there has been additional conversation pertaining to this since that meeting. The Committee asked that Mrs. DiNello gather some information around the Knightvertising balance to determine why there is a remaining balance. It seems that, through this preliminary inquiry, some different information may be forthcoming that the Committee didn't have. Therefore, once the information is gathered and, if it appears appropriate, it may come back to the full Board for further discussion.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

Mr. Goralski reported that the Town Council met on Monday with a public hearing. The item that was on the agenda that pertained to the district was tabled.

The middle school presentation has been keeping everyone connected to the process.

b. Construction Update

Mr. Romano reported that both schools opened on time. He congratulated all involved who made this happen and stated that this was a team effort and they all did an amazing job.

Mr. Romano personally thanked the custodial staff from all schools that worked together to get things ready. They were at the middle schools until 11:30 p.m., then back at work the next morning for their regular shifts. The DePaolo and Kennedy kitchens will be returned to the district in October and the auditoriums will also be returned in the upcoming months. The FF&E will be brought in during the next phase.

Mr. Romano continued that the police department stated that the schools still need to work with the parents to get them in the habit of following the drop-off / pick-up plan that is in place at both schools. When parents don't follow the plan, it causes delays to the drop off of students at the middle schools which then affects the elementary routes. What would work best is if parents worked together and considered carpooling.

Mr. Goralski took a moment to publicly correct a statement he made at the last Board of Education meeting. The information that he provided was incorrect pertaining to the rooftop at DePaolo Middle School. There will not be anything added to the building to disguise the rooftop piece. In order to cover the equipment, there would have been extensive cost associated to secure screening of that caliber. This cost was taken out during the abatement. Therefore, the structures on the roof will be visible. The Board will look at low screening to take some of the awkwardness away from the large structures. Mr. Goralski apologized for misspeaking to the topic. However, he did assure the Board that the functionality of the equipment is top-notch.

Mr. Derynoski felt strongly that the architect should have been aware of how this structure would look and should also have recommended using two smaller units. He stated that they should have been aware of the consequences with that type of design.

c. Administrator Evaluation Plan Update

Mrs. Smith reported that she is looking to the Board of Education to support the Administrator Evaluation Plan that was recently updated to ensure we are in compliance with the State Department of Education. The state made changes to the plan that they adopted, which then required districts to review and revise their plans. The Administrator Evaluation Committee met over the summer and they made the necessary adjustments to the plan. Attached is an overview of how the district plans to roll out the administrator plan, as well as a copy of the full plan. Prior to Board of Education approval, the district needed approval from the State Department of Education. The state approved the plan on September 3, 2014. A notable change was the assignment of the administrators evaluating administrators. They felt that the lead administrator does have summative responsibilities for his / her assistant and then Mr. Connellan and Mrs. Smith are identified as the secondary evaluators. However, this requires more training. Mrs. Smith contacted the Connecticut Association of Schools to request training.

Additionally, she is happy to report that the “number” system is not being used for evaluating. Mrs. Smith shared that this document is something that will be reviewed continually by the committee at their monthly meetings.

Another focus for the Committee is to align their professional development with the lead of teachers and administrators. Mrs. Smith commended Rick Terino and the Administrator Evaluation Committee for their hard work.

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

“Move that the Board of Education accept the revised copy of the Administrator Evaluation and Support Plan that was presented and approved by the State Department of Education on September 3, 2014.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 8 – 0.

d. Teacher Evaluation Plan Update

Mrs. Smith reported that the Teacher Evaluation Plan had more changes. Mr. Rick Terino provided the attached document which is a two-page summary of the changes. Mrs.

Smith reviewed the changes in that document with the Board of Education. She indicated that 100 percent of the teaching staff is now part of the Teacher Evaluation Plan. There are now three teacher leaders, and one of their responsibilities is to offer support to building administrators to meet, discuss, and process information. The amount of time that an administrator needs is the same as last year.

Mrs. Carmody asked how the evaluations were received by staff. Mrs. Smith invited Ms. Rita Stearns to the podium. Ms. Stearns stated that in the beginning it was overwhelming. The committee was well developed and included many teachers. This was extremely beneficial because they all received and relayed the same information. They explained to the faculty that this plan would be rolled out slowly and they would have support along the way. The key was that they understood this was not a “gotcha” plan. The majority of the plan included everything that the teaching staff was already doing. The only difference was that it looked different. Ms. Stearns supports the plan and stated that the support throughout the district was amazing. The teachers are doing well and understand that everyone is in this together.

MOTION: By Mrs. Lombardi, seconded by Mrs. Clark:

“Move that the Board of Education accept the revised copy of the Teacher Evaluation and Support Plan that was presented and approved by the State Department of Education on September 3, 2014.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 8 – 0.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Appointment of Director of Pupil Services

This agenda item was moved to item 5a.

b. 2013-2014 School Resource Officer Annual Report

Mr. Goralski requested that this item be tabled until the next meeting.

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

“Move that agenda item 10b., 2013-2014 School Resource Officer Annual Report, be tabled until the next Board of Education Meeting.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 8 – 0.

c. School Opening 2014-2015

Mr. Connellan stated that this item was discussed in earlier conversations. Mrs. DiNello did take a moment to recognize the school lunch and food service staff. They have been working without a cafeteria and have made the temporary changes to the school lunch program seamlessly. She recognized Nya Welinsky, Debbie Brown, and Kim Palmieri.

d. Summer School 2014 Presentation

Introduced to the podium was Mr. David DeStefano, Summer School Program Director, who shared the attached PowerPoint presentation pertaining to the summer school program. The presentation included the following:

Calendar dates of the program, highlights, redesign of the program on the website, introduction to the twelve courses that were offered (seven courses ran), enrichment data, and photos of students. Additional information included an update of the middle and high school programs. The information provided was the organization of the program and enrollment data.

Mrs. Carmody thanked Mr. DeStefano and gave credit to Mr. Terino and the Ninth Grade Academy. The enrollment for summer school was lower than in past years which indicated that the high school administration and teaching staff are doing an amazing job with our Grade 9 students.

Mrs. Clark asked if there has been any thought to adding some enrichment programs at the middle and high school level. Mr. DeStefano stated that he does have some plans for future programming.

Mr. Goralski thanked Mr. DeStefano for meeting his goals with the program and offering enrichment programs for the students in Southington.

e. Camp Invention Update

Mr. DeStefano and Ms. Stearns shared the attached PowerPoint presentation pertaining to a new enrichment opportunity that was offered this summer, Camp Invention.

Program highlights:

- This was a full-day program which appealed to parents.
- The minimum number of students needed to run the program was 35; Southington reached 110 which was the maximum number.
- The program was a huge success.
- Program titles included: Energized, Amplified, Densing Studio: Morphed, Super Go, I Can Invent, and Pinbug.
- Students in middle and high school participated and assisted.

Mr. DeStefano shared the highlights and included some suggestions that they may consider for next year. Both Mr. DeStefano and Ms. Stearns worked very well together and they look forward to offering the program during the 2014-2015 summer.

f. Approval of Music Specialist K-12 Stipend

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

“Move that the stipend for the Music Specialist K-12 position be approved based on the bargaining unit negotiated increases for stipend positions. The stipend will be \$7,027 for the 2014-2015 school year and \$7,153 for the 2015-2016 school year.”

It was explained that this request was a formality. Mrs. Smith shared that this does relate to the teacher evaluation plan. Mr. Jeff Shaw took on the responsibility and has done a great job. The administration appreciated that the Board was considering making this a two-year commitment.

Mrs. Johnson shared that a concern of hers has been the evaluation review of the unified professionals. Mrs. Smith stated that the committee is meeting on September 17 to further discuss evaluation responsibilities.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 8 - 0.

g. Draft BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) Policy ~ First Reading

Mrs. Clark thanked the district technology committee for their help in developing the policy. The Committee added verbiage to the *student roles* section that same day to help ensure that it's something that makes sense. On page three, under Student Roles, the concern was that this was not a rule the Board of Education could enforce. Therefore, they added the verbiage, "during the school day" to that statement which seemed to make more sense. For example, if a student records another student afterschool on the athletic field, then uploads that recording on YouTube, the district cannot enforce that. Mrs. Clark stated that she would be interested to see what the student representatives come back with for suggestions to the policy and regulations.

Mr. Derynoski thought that it was very thorough. His only concern was if a student brings a fully charged device to school and at the end of the day, the device is running low on the battery and cannot use the device for the last period of the day. Mr. Derynoski would hate to see a student not be able to use his device because his battery didn't make it through the day.

Mrs. Veilleux explained that the students would be required to come to school with a fully charged device. This is no different than being prepared for class and having a notebook and pencil. She further discussed the minimum outlets in the classroom and the need for extension cords if they allowed students to bring their chargers and charge their devices. In addition, the cords could present a safety hazard. The goal is to have the students incorporate "smart use" of their devices.

h. AFSCME Local 1303 of Council #4 Custodial, Maintenance, Secretarial, Food Service Employees Contract

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

"Move to approve the contract between AFSCME Local 1303 of Council #4 Custodial, Maintenance, Secretarial, and Food Service Employees and the Southington Board of Education."

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES ~ Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Queen, and Mr. Goralski.

Motion carried unanimously 8 – 0.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Passamano

Recording Secretary