

# **SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 12, 2013**

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The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, September 12, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Municipal Center Public Assembly Room, 200 North Main Street, Southington, Connecticut.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS SOUTHWINGTON ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION NEGOTIATIONS, CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS, PERSONNEL AND SCHOOL SAFETY ~ 6:30 P.M.**

An Executive Session was held 6:30 p.m. through 7:26 p.m.

Board members present were: Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Patricia Johnson (*arrived at 6:50 p.m.*), Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mr. Zaya Oshana, Mrs. Patricia Queen, and Mr. Brian Goralski. Board member excused absent was Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco. Administration members present were: Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Jr., Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Karen Smith, Assistant Superintendent, and Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance.

**3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION**

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

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

Student representatives present were Abigail Harris and Gabrielle Baker.

There were approximately 17 people in the audience.

**4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was observed for Mary Znosko, a 30-year paraprofessional at Southington High School, and Ruth DeVito, a former teacher at West Ridge School (now known

as U. T. Kelley Elementary School) who recently passed away and in memory of those who tragically lost their life on 9/11.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ August 15, 2013**

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

**“Move to approve the Board of Education minutes of August 15, 2013, as submitted.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**6. COMMUNICATIONS**

**a. Communications from Audience**

Arthur Cyr, 103 Berlin Avenue, was concerned that the DePaolo Middle School buses, and subsequent elementary school buses, ran 20-25 minutes late the first Friday that students returned to school. In the future, he requested that an all-call be made to parents in order to allay their concerns. Mr. Cyr addressed the replacement costs for the Southington Community Turf Field at Southington High School. He asked if all the Board members were in agreement that Board of Education funds would not be used. One year ago, when he advocated for the turf field, he believed that \$32,000 of net savings would be used for the replacement costs. He stated that he addressed his concerns at both the Town Council and Board of Finance meetings and questioned the integrity of the Board of Education.

Heidi Matusik, 235 Budding Ridge, asked the Board of Education to take a stance against allowing Bread for Life to build on property next to Derynoski Elementary School. She thanked the Board for always putting the safety of children first. She felt that there would inevitably be a sex offender, someone struggling with substance abuse or mental illness on the grounds. She understood that not all patrons of Bread for Life have these issues; however, it would only take one person. She asked the Board of Education not to support this knowing that the children, faculty and staff could potentially be in danger. She thought that Bread for Life was a wonderful organization that provides much needed services to people in the community. She is grateful that they provide the schools with Breakfast Programs; however, they do not provide school safety.

Mr. Goralski remarked that the Board of Education was interested in hearing the public's opinion regarding Bread for Life building on the property next to Derynoski Elementary School. He encouraged anyone who has issues with this to share their opinions with the Town Planning and Zoning Board. He noted that safety is always the Board of Education's priority regarding children.

Mr. Goralski addressed Mr. Cyr's concern and pointed out that the Board of Education took action on the turf field on March 22, 2012 with a motion that supported the project and that it would be funded outside of the operational plan, which passed 8-to-1.

**b. Communications from Board Members and Administration**

**Communications from the Board Members:**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mrs. Queen:

**“Move Agenda Item 10.b “Enrichment Proposal” to Agenda Item 8.a.1.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

Mrs. Queen submitted two e-mails that she recently received regarding Bread for Life building next to Derynoski School. She requested that they be included in the minutes (*Attachments #1 and #2*).

Mrs. Queen pointed out that on the CAFE website [www.cafe.org](http://www.cafe.org) there is a link under the “Professional Development” tab regarding “Common Core State Standards” that she felt would be a great resource for parents.

Mr. Oshana distributed page 10 from the Board of Education minutes of April 11, 2013 (*Attachment #3*) regarding the Board’s discussion on interior cameras on school buses. He noted the representative from Student Guardian stated that, “*Student Guardian is the only company in the industry that is able to provide internal cameras to the entire bus fleet at no cost.*” Mr. Oshana pointed out that there was direction to go forward and do some research on it. He requested to move that item forward now. Mr. Goralski asked the administration to follow-up on the interior cameras and report to the Board.

Mr. Oshana addressed the Bullying Policy that was put into place over one year ago. He noted the recent horrible incident that was in the news where a student committed suicide because of bullying. He asked for data on where Southington stands regarding bullying incidents last year and how those cases were handled. Dr. Erardi replied that as recently as last week administration has met every letter of the legislation regarding bullying. Mr. Oshana requested clarity regarding privacy on who is identified as a bully. Dr. Erardi will bring this to the Board as an agenda item at their September 26, 2013 meeting.

Mr. Oshana addressed the leveling program at the high school and asked if the Board would have a formal presentation on its implementation and the results. Mrs. Carmody replied that the Curriculum and Instruction Committee will have a report and a presentation regarding leveling by high school administration at a Board meeting in October.

Mr. Derynoski acknowledged that the opening of school for 2013-2014 went very well. He attended the Derynoski and Plantsville Elementary Schools Open Houses and noted that the attendance by the parents was amazing. He hoped that the parent participation continues throughout the year.

Mrs. Lombardi was happy to see that the kitchens were back in the Kindergarten rooms. She thanked the staff at both middle schools for their efforts in organizing their classrooms for the opening of school.

Mrs. Clark stated that she and Mr. Oshana attended the Open House at Kennedy Middle School as parents and noted that the teachers and parents had a positive attitude and that learning was happening in spite of construction. She thanked the staff and administration at both middle schools for doing a terrific job.

Mr. Goralski reported that he received correspondence from CABA regarding nominations for awards and requested that Mrs. Blanchard send it electronically to the Board members.

**Communication from Administration:**

Dr. Erardi addressed Mr. Cyr's remark regarding DePaolo Middle School buses running late last Friday. He believed that the buses had the opportunity to leave on time; however, the buses ran late on Thursday and Friday due to the lack of success that administration has had with over 200 walkers and bus students who are being driven to school by their parents, which is causing enormous congestion. Some of the congestion will go away with the onset of middle school sports in the afternoon. He noted that administration has worked hard with safety officials to resolve the issues and it is getting better every day.

Dr. Erardi noted that there is a lot of conversation around STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and that he met with high school teacher Justin Mirante and Mr. Derynoski whose company has opened up their facility in Cheshire where the Project Lead the Way students will be making a site visit in October.

Dr. Erardi reported on the following:

1. Middle School – Neighborhood Meetings: Dr. Erardi welcomed all neighbors of the two middle schools to attend project updates at the respective middle schools. The DePaolo neighborhood meeting will be held on September 17 at 5:30 p.m. The Kennedy neighborhood meeting will be held on September 24 at 5:30 p.m.
2. Veterans' Partnership: Dr. Erardi noted that the veterans in Southington are very giving of their time to our students. The Veterans' Speakers Bureau plans to speak in every school on the Thursday and Friday before Veterans' Day.
3. Southington Education Foundation (SEF) Partnership: Dr. Erardi reported that the SEF has awarded approximately \$100,000 in grants to our teachers since 2010.
4. Assistant Principal of the Year: Dr. Erardi invited Board members to join administration in celebrating the CAS Assistant Principal of the Year, Christopher Palmieri, on Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at Saint Clements Castle.
5. State Department of Education Teacher of the Year: Dr. Erardi was proud that for the last three years the Southington Teacher of the Year has advanced as a semi-finalist to be the Connecticut Teacher of the Year. He announced that Linda Bass Reilly is moving forward as a semi-finalist this year.

**c. Communications from Student Representatives**

Miss Abigail Harris reported on the following:

- There is no Homeroom this school year, which results in 21 hours of additional instructional time.
- The Blue Knights football game against Glastonbury was postponed due to rain and rescheduled to Friday, September 13 at 3:00 p.m.
- The Marching Band's first competition will be at Maloney High School on September 21, 2013.

Miss Gabrielle Baker reported on the following:

- The College Fair is scheduled for Wednesday, September 18, 2013 with 130 colleges to be represented.
- An Essay Workshop is offered now to help with the college process.
- The high school Open House is scheduled for Thursday, September 19.

## **7. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

### **a. Personnel Report**

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

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

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

## **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **a. Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting ~ August 19, 2013 and September 4, 2013**

Mrs. Carmody reported on the September 4, 2013 meeting and that Julie Robertson, Guidance Director at the high school, shared the following with the committee:

- The process that students were experiencing when searching for a college that is a “good fit.”
- This year, the guidance counselors have been assigned a college to build a rapport with the admissions office to help promote our students.
- The use of Naviance, which is being used by the middle school and high school students and guidance counselors.
- A concern of the committee was the frequency of the guidance counselors meeting with the students to get to know the student.
- A letter is included with a student college application, which describes our courses, AP courses, grading system, weighting factors, and what Southington High School offers in order to familiarize the college with our high school and help with the acceptance decision.

Mrs. Carmody reported that the Curriculum and Instruction Committee met on August 19, 2013 and reviewed the identification criteria of gifted students and the special education laws in Connecticut. She gave a PowerPoint presentation and discussed the following (*Attachment #4*):

- Gifted students criteria are based on OLSAT, CMT and DRP results.
- Grade 3 students are administered the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) in the fall and have to attain a score of 130 or above. Parents will be notified when the students will be taking the test.
- Students have to receive scores at goal or above on the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT). The CMT will be replaced by another form of state testing in 2014-2015.
- A score that exceeds grade-level expectations will be used for the Degrees of Reading Power (DRP). The DRP is administered to all students.

- All of these criteria will offer enrichment opportunities for a wider range of students than in the past.

#### **8.a.1 Enrichment Proposal (formerly Agenda Item #10.b)**

Dr. Erardi explained that the Administrative Aspirant cohort comprised of Jonathan Cop, Mark Hughes, Kim Kalat, Dea Laviero, Erin Natrass and Melissa D'Orazio worked on an Enrichment Proposal this summer for the 2013-2014 school year. He noted that over the last several years, the district has lost the high school, middle school and then the elementary school enrichment programs. Dr. Erardi explained that the aspiring administrators looked at Like Learner opportunities, which are students who would qualify with the criteria in place in the 2012-2013 school year. This school year, the Grade 4 and 5 students were qualifiers as Grade 3 and 4 students. The cohort looked at how to embed this in the school day and considered the extended day and weekend opportunities. They looked at: 1) how far they could go; and 2) how they could find alternative funding and stay away from direct costs to the operational plan. Dr. Erardi pointed out that each Administrative Aspirant will have dedicated 250 hours of volunteer time by the end of the school year. He noted that Mark Hughes currently works at East Haven High School and his background includes programs that he has put into place in the Meriden school district.

The Administrative Aspirant Cohort gave a PowerPoint presentation on the proposal that they worked on during the summer and the pilot program that started this school year.

- Jonathan Cop, special education teacher at Thalberg Elementary School, explained the pilot Enrichment Program at Thalberg Elementary School on Personalized Learning that involves core time, which is a block of 30-minutes at each grade level, where no new instruction will take place. This allows teachers to get involved with students and find out what they want to learn about and research. The core time will take place in all grade levels and is not removing any instruction time from the students.
- Dr. Erardi noted that the concern of teachers is the pull-out of students from the classroom for occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech and language, and special education. The children who require those services will have them during the 30-minute block. Around November 1, this model will be introduced to the other elementary schools to see if it can be replicated throughout the district.
- Melissa D'Orazio, special education teacher at Kelley Elementary School, explained that Kelley School will pilot the program where they are allotting 30-minutes for Like Learners, once a week, in order to provide them with enrichment opportunities.
- Erin Natrass noted that they had some challenges and obstacles that needed to be worked through. Once they looked at their schedules this year, and thought outside the box, they were able to come up with this time spot by utilizing the highly-qualified and wonderful paraprofessionals in their building.
- Dea Laviero explained that for the 30-minutes in Grade 5, they are going to be working in conjunction with Talcott Mountain Science Center as an enrichment piece for Like Learners. The students will be able to study areas of Earth Science, Space Science, Life Science and technology and advance those ideas that they are already doing in the classroom.
- Dr. Erardi explained that the Talcott Mountain Science Center is in addition to the elementary school Science Fair and will be embedded as an opportunity for every

fourth and fifth grade student in the district. Dr. Erardi explained that the Invention Convention will be offered to everybody and that the opportunity will come within the classroom. He explained that there is a proposed PTO Partnership. The PTOs role would be sponsoring the local Invention Convention Fair at each elementary school, adjudicating, and making decisions on who will move on to the state convention.

- Jonathan Cop explained the brand new Talcott Mountain Virtual Science Academy. He distributed a handout (*Attachment #5*) that he received from Talcott Mountain regarding what is going to happen at the student level, parent level, and staff level in terms of the Talcott Mountain Virtual Learner. It is an opportunity for students to experience Talcott Mountain Science Center activities and modules without having to be onsite at Talcott Mountain. A software program named, "Canvas" will be used. He noted that Like Learners in Grade 5 will qualify for this program and each building already has those students assigned.
- Kim Kalat, Grade 7 Social Studies teacher at DePaolo Middle School, explained a "Pay to Participate" opportunity and partnership with Meriden Public Schools for elementary and middle school students. It will be located in Meriden. She explained that Middlesex Community College will send their professors to Meriden at a location where parents can bring their children. It will cost \$200 per student, per session. There will be two sessions offered per year, five weeks each session on Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Any Southington child in Grades 4, 5, and 6 can attend this program.
- Mark Hughes, Dean of Students at East Haven High School, explained that Meriden is offering this program to Grades 7 and 8 and will be adding Grade 6. The partnership with Southington is being offered because there are empty seats in each of the sessions. The lessons are hands on, engaging, and align the Common Core and STEM.

Dr. Erardi explained that the target date of notification was August 1 and everyone has been notified including the Commissioner of Education. The frustration is that they wrote what they thought was a terrific grant to be in partnership with the YMCA to extend the elementary school day for those students who want that extended day in all eight schools. Six of the eight elementary schools presently have an afterschool program with the YMCA. This is a program that would offer opportunity to two focus groups: 1) an enrichment focus, and; 2) youngsters in need of remediation. The cost is approximately \$250,000. Administration is waiting to be notified because this is a grant that has yet to be awarded. Dr. Erardi noted that sometimes target dates are for everyone but the State Department of Education.

Dr. Erardi explained that enrichment for Grade 4 would be completely sponsored and funded by the Southington Education Foundation. All Grade 4 students will have multiple opportunities to go to Camp Sloper for the Discovery program. In addition, there was a \$44,000 grant proposal for art that will have an artist in residency for six weeks in Grade 3 in all eight elementary schools. He will inform the Board of Education when he receives a determination on this award.

Dr. Erardi read a message that he received from a parent of a middle school student. The parent thanked administration at Kennedy Middle School for teachers who challenged her sixth grade daughter and for offering exceptional learning opportunities afterschool with programs such as the Stock Market Club, Science Bowl Team, Math Counts competition, Improv/Comedy

Club, and the STEM Academy. Dr. Erardi noted that this was an exemplar of what is already in place. What has been presented to the Board tonight continues to be a work in progress. Dr. Erardi believed that this proposal trumps what has been lost and that it had been shared with the former enrichment teachers who were excited about the program.

Mrs. Carmody thought that having personalized learning for each child was a win-win situation because it connects their interests, talents, passions and aspirations all in one. She thanked the Administrative Aspirant Cohort for taking care of the identified gifted children and also looking at all of the children in the school system.

Mr. Derynoski questioned if November 1, 2013 was enough time to receive feedback on how well the pilot program was progressing. He liked the proposal but wanted to make sure there was enough time to have it take hold. Dr. Erardi felt that it was enough time. He noted that Kim Kalat would be the facilitator for both middle schools with administration. The four elementary school aspiring administrators will each take two elementary schools. There will be a point person in every building to work with administration.

Mrs. Lombardi liked the way that they have expanded the scope of enrichment. She hoped that the arts piece will develop. She noted that the gifted and talented learners were a small group of the whole student population. She felt that there were students who were not being enriched because they have a high science or math ability, but not in writing, language or reading, and did not make these programs. She will have a conversation with Dr. Murdica to see if there is any way to identify these other children to include them in these programs. Mrs. Lombardi asked for a report on the success of these different components and to identify what the measurement and metric would look like. Dr. Erardi explained that the cohort will give a report to the Board three more times, including a summary in June, of what went well, what did not, where there might be funding, and how to continue what has been started because what they start this year has to be renewable.

Mrs. Johnson thought this was an exciting proposal and was happy to see people thinking outside the box to do these necessary things without a lot of money. She pointed out that she has been a proponent of gifted education since 1970. She noted that the Curriculum Committee discussed the means of identification that are being sent to the state, which are different from what they had been previously. The component that is not going to be sent this year is the teacher recommendation, which has her very concerned. She thought it piggybacked with Mrs. Lombardi's concern about a student who may not fall within the exact criteria that was being reported to the state, but is absolutely someone who should be included in this particular program. She felt that there had to be a way for this kind of student to be addressed; otherwise, the Board is not fulfilling their role of educating Like Learners.

Mrs. Smith explained that the goal of studying what did exist versus what is being proposed for this year was to enhance a program that has been in existence for many decades that they, most recently, did not feel was as effective or far reaching as it could be. For this year, in transitioning, there will be limitations. At Thalberg School, all students across all grades, regardless of any criteria, are going to be participating. Mrs. Smith explained that what is being proposed this evening, and what is actually being implemented, does not preclude enrichment that should be happening, and is happening, in the course of the new curriculum called Common Core State Standards and Differentiation. She pointed out that they are talking about new identifications. Therefore, Grade 3 students are the students who are taking the Otis-Lennon



Test of Basic Skills. The results will be shared at the first parent-teacher conference. Should there be a student who meets all criteria, except in one category, the principal of that school will then contact Dr. Murdica and Mrs. Smith who, together with administration, can make an exception. Mrs. Smith stated that because this was the first year, they want to go slow to make sure that they successfully can implement something new. The ultimate goal is to expand the successes so that more students are able to participate. They have been brainstorming about other programs that will reach wider populations; however, they are not ready yet to be formally presented. She noted that this was a work in progress and was a great first step transitioning from where they were to where they want to be.

Mrs. Queen asked the administration to keep track of how many exceptions needed to be made so at the end of the year they can reassess the identification process to see if they are missing a component that they need to add. Mrs. Smith noted that another category would be the child who may be new to our district and did not come from a district that administered any type of test or qualifier that would present them with a formalized program.

Mr. Goralski thanked the aspiring administrators and Mr. Hughes for their time. He noted that the Board's goal is to provide better professional development to make differentiated instruction a reality.

**b. Policy & Personnel Committee Meeting ~ August 19, 2013**

Mrs. Clark reported that the committee discussed the ABA Therapist and BCBA job descriptions with Dr. Murdica that are now supporting the new Autism program at Hatton Elementary School. The committee completed the review of the 2000 Series, Concepts and Roles in Administration, and found that they need to make some minor changes in terminology at their next meeting. The committee reviewed the job descriptions for the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent and agreed that the administration should research the CABA policies to see if there were any comparable descriptions.

Mr. Goralski requested that when the Policy and Personnel Committee reviews the policies, they provide the Board with the strikethroughs and edits in the first read so they can see what changes were made. As done in the past, a clean copy should be provided for the second read.

**c. Finance Committee Meeting ~ September 4, 2013**

**8.c.a Transfer of Funds**

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

**“Move to approve the Transfer of Funds, as submitted.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**8.c.b. External Evaluator – Elementary & Secondary Counseling Program Grant (ESSC)**

Mrs. DiNello reported that they are required to hire an external evaluator, which will be paid from the ESSC grant funds. She noted that Theresa Bruckerhoff, from Curriculum Research and Evaluation, assisted Christine Boulanger, our Grant Writer, in writing this grant. She pointed out that Mrs. Bruckerhoff comes highly recommended from Mrs. Boulanger and the Cromwell Superintendent of Schools. The committee was looking that the Board approve waiving the bid process, hire Mrs. Bruckerhoff because of her expertise, and approve a one-year contract, not to exceed \$35,000. Mrs. DiNello would like to leave that as the recommended motion. However, she shared that since the Finance meeting there was follow-up information regarding the grant. The grant was approved as written with the \$35,000, but there is a cap for contracted services of \$25,000. She noted that administration has contacted Mrs. Bruckerhoff and explained the situation to her.

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Lombardi, seconded by Mrs. Carmody:

**“Move to waive the bid/RFP process and contract with Theresa Bruckerhoff from Curriculum Research and Evaluation, Inc., for a one-year contract not to exceed \$35,000 paid from the counseling grant funds.”**

Mr. Oshana questioned as to why make the motion for \$35,000 if the grant stated that \$25,000 could not be exceeded. Mrs. DiNello explained that the grant revision has not been done yet. The initial approval was for the \$35,000; however, in the notes received from the Grant Revision Committee they acknowledged that there was a \$25,000 cap. Mrs. Bruckerhoff is willing to take the \$25,000; however, there was also a fee of \$2,000 for work previously done as part of writing the grant. Mr. Oshana suggested amending the motion for paying \$25,000, subject to review if the grant changes.

Mr. Derynoski stated that the other option was to table the motion until the Board gets clarification and something firm in writing. Mr. Goralski asked if the Board wanted to delay starting this counseling program or to revisit it if the grant changes. Mrs. DiNello explained that this was a new grant from the federal government and she did not know the speed of getting final revisions approved. She preferred the Board move on the \$25,000.

**AMENDED MOTION:** by Mrs. Lombardi, seconded by Mrs. Carmody:

**“Move to waive the bid/RFP process and contract with Theresa Bruckerhoff from Curriculum Research and Evaluation, Inc., for a one-year contract not to exceed \$25,000 paid from the counseling grant funds.”**

Mr. Derynoski indicated that they were looking at a three-year grant for approximately one million dollars and he had difficulty approving monies when they don't have anything firm in writing. Mrs. DiNello stated that they have the grant award with the line items. The line item for this service was \$35,000; however, administration was asked to send in a revision because of the cap of \$25,000. Therefore, they don't have the finalized grant, but do know that they are getting the money. She was concerned with the timing because the grant was written that the additional counselors would be hired by the end of October.

Mrs. Lombardi noted that Mrs. Bruckerhoff developed the grant, would be responsible for tracking the grant, creating the reports, reporting to the federal government, and that she has the direct line to the federal government. She thought it would be a risk if they tabled this item.

Mr. Derynoski thought this person would be doing an audit and had oversight of the implementation of the grant. Mrs. DiNello pointed out that Mrs. Bruckerhoff was part of the implementation because she is going to assist the project director on determining the data elements and data collection. Mrs. Smith pointed out that it is a partnership. She noted that Phyllis Scattergood, who is the liaison in Washington, D.C., was extremely clear with the committee, and very stringent in her opinion, about the external evaluator who she routinely would be interacting with. The external evaluator is mandated to be a part of all those committee meetings and the federal liaison will be on a conference call with the committee. Mrs. Smith noted that part of her salary and job description is going toward the implementation of this because of the work required. Ms. Scattergood is technically a liaison; but, she has loyalty to the federal government to make sure that their money is being used wisely. Mrs. Smith noted that the implementation would start before the staff is hired.

ROLL CALL VOTE – YES: Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Lombardi, Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Queen, Mr. Goralski. **Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **8.c.c. Transportation Efficiency Study – Transportation Advisory Services (TAS)**

Mrs. DiNello reported that administration made a recommendation to the committee to look at how to move forward with the New Britain Transportation contract that expires at the end of June 2014. The Board of Education has been in a long-term contract with them and there have been numerous extensions to the contract. The administration wanted to work with the Finance Committee to assure that they are safely transporting students at a reasonable cost to the taxpayers of the community. She stated that Mark Walsh, partner of Transportation Advisory Services, gave a presentation at the Finance Committee meeting on performing an efficiency study of the current busing services and contract. He informed them who he would be talking to, the data points that he would be collecting and the comparison data that he would provide from his company. Mr. Walsh informed the committee of the possible outcomes that they could expect from the study. He shared that there are times, after completing an efficiency study that their company may recommend that the Board go out for an RFP. Oftentimes, they feel there is a good working relationship with the current vendor and that they would help renegotiate the contract and make some modifications to the language that could be beneficial to the district. The committee hoped that this work would be completed by the end of October.

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

**“Move to hire Transportation Advisory Services (TAS) to perform a transportation efficiency study at a cost of \$9,250, plus out of pocket costs not to exceed \$1,250.”**

Mrs. Lombardi reminded the Board that currently there is an approximately \$4 million transportation contract. She felt that spending \$9,250 for an efficiency study on a \$4 million contract made good business sense to her.

Mr. Derynoski noted that the presentation was very specific and concise and that Mr. Walsh was not trying to sell the process just to make a sale. He appreciated the effort that Mr. Walsh put into the presentation. He thought it was a wise move to do and at worst they will find out if they already have a good bus service to do the best for the town, the students and safety. Regardless of the outcome, he thought that the district will be in a better place with this study.

Mrs. Johnson appreciated and respected the business expertise of Mr. Derynoski and Mrs. Lombardi; however, she felt that this was money not well spent. She believed that New Britain Transportation has done an exemplary job and that spending approximately \$10,000 for a study that is extraneous is money that could be better spent. She noted that the Board's Attorneys at Shipman and Goodwin were hired for their numerous areas of expertise, including transportation, and that they would be able to write a new contract for the Board at half the amount. She has faith in the abilities of the people on staff who have already been advising on transportation and would prefer to request that Shipman and Goodwin provide the transportation data that is needed.

Mr. Oshana felt that to do this study was a good idea because the Board has never evaluated the transportation system. He felt that they would be negligent in never doing an evaluation or efficiency study on a \$4 million budget item. He pointed out that the Board needed to know if they are spending this money wisely on transportation and for the safety of the children.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES ~ Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Lombardi, Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Queen, and Mr. Goralski. NO ~ Mrs. Johnson. **Motion carried with seven in favor and one opposed.**

## 9. OLD BUSINESS

### a. Town Government Communications

Mr. Goralski explained that he is a member of the Turf Advisory Committee representing the Board of Education. He addressed Mr. Cyr's comments made earlier. He explained that the Turf Advisory Committee was an advisory board appointed by the Town Council to give advice. His role on the Turf Advisory Committee is to represent the Board of Education. Mr. Goralski explained that the original PowerPoint presentation came from the appointed Turf Advisory Committee and was presented to the Board of Education with great discussion on March 22, 2012. He noted that pages 7 through 14 of the March minutes contain the motion of how the Board supported the turf field and supported the Advisory Committee to help oversee the functions and operations of the field. As a member of the Turf Advisory Committee, he has heard nothing but praise on how Mr. Swallow [Athletic Director] and Mr. Lapreay [Parks and Recreation Director] work in great partnership and coordinate the activities. He noted that they also had the advantage of having a great secretary at the high school in the athletic department who does the recording of these activities.

Mr. Goralski addressed that one of the revenue generated ideas that Mr. Cyr referred to was the savings from Board of Education dollars that was in the PowerPoint presentation given by Dr. Natelli on March 22, 2012. The other piece of the Advisory Committee's presentation was that the revenue generating ideas were not new. He noted that the Board of Education wanted to do everything that they could without hitting the taxpayers' pockets. He explained that the Board of Education's motion on March 22, 2012 included that the project would be funded outside of the operational plan of the Board of Education.

Mr. Goralski stated that he looked forward to the Board of Education, Town Council and Board of Finance talking about the future, not the past, not the PowerPoint presentation or the integrity and honesty of the Board of Education members. He stated that he would defend the

integrity of all the Board members and that he was proud of all the members that he served with over the years. He hoped that this cleared up any miscommunication and concerns of the public.

Mr. Goralski stated that in preparation for next year's budget, he would talk to the other Boards. If the other Boards want to use taxpayers' dollars, and they want it to come from the Board of Education, then there is a maintenance line that is town-controlled and untouched by the Board that can be given consideration. He felt that this year's budget was articulated very well. He thanked Mrs. DiNello for providing him with an e-mail that he gave to the Turf Advisory Committee. Those minutes and explanations of that expense were very clear and will be in the minutes of the Turf Advisory Committee. It breaks it all down, where the expenses are, responsible planning, and that it was also shared with the Board of Finance during the budget discussions. He noted that Mr. Cyr will have access to it when he reads the Board of Finance minutes and the Town Turf Advisory Committee minutes because they included those comments with the details from Mrs. DiNello in their minutes.

Mr. Derynoski commented about changes enacted in the ticketing. He asked for the final number that the Board anticipates on the revenue generated. Mr. Goralski replied that in the original PowerPoint presentation, they estimated that the dollar charged for tickets would probably generate \$13,700 a year. Multiply that by 10 years, it would be \$137,000, which is one-third of the cost of replacement. He noted that the Board endorsed it and made it a reality. Mrs. DiNello explained that the only other action that has taken place was that the Board added a \$10 surcharge to the family passes, which will go to the Turf Replacement Fund and an additional \$5 amount on the adult passes. The Board did not increase the student fee in order to encourage the students to buy the passes. The Board will be giving \$5 of each student pass sold to the Turf Replacement Fund. Mr. Derynoski thought that the \$14,000 was low. Mr. Goralski noted that for soccer scrimmages they are pulling in 250-300 people. If they start selling tickets, then that is \$500 a game. Mr. Goralski noted that the Board members took the advice of the Turf Advisory Committee and made the recommendation a reality. Mrs. Carmody noted that Knightvertising has been turned over to the Turf Advisory Committee. Mr. Derynoski stated that it could be \$35,000-\$40,000 a year of non-taxpayer dollars that is going into this account so that in 10 years, which was the plan, the Board would be where they wanted to be.

Mrs. Carmody took offense to Mr. Cyr's accusations of Board members. When the Board took that vote, she could distinctly remember that she asked, and made certain, that it was made very clear that in no way, shape, or form would there be any money for the turf field coming out of the Board of Education operating budget. She thought it was wonderful that they have the turf field; but, she was offended by the misinterpretations that are going around town. She clarified that so the press will know where and how the Board members voted. She emphasized that it was very important that her integrity was not being questioned.

Mrs. Clark remarked that she heard rumblings about the turf field and she distinctly remembered saying that the Board of Education would not put forth any money from the operating budget. She noted that the turf field was mentioned in the Board of Education minutes of May 26, 2011 on pages 14-19, the June 9, 2011 minutes on pages 15-16, and March 22, 2012 minutes on pages 7-14. She pointed out that sometimes they have a problem when somebody says something at a podium that the press might pick up on or somebody may spread verbally and that because it is said in public, people believe it is true. If somebody took a number and said this number is what the Board of Education promised and said it out loud to someone else, they played the game of telephone and it does not necessarily make it true. If people look back

on those Board meeting minutes where the turf field was discussed, and then voted on, they would see that the Board of Education never said they were going to take any money out of their operating budget. She recalled that she said that “in perpetuity they would not use Board of Education money.” She did not know how much clearer the Board could be and hoped that tonight they can clarify this matter.

**b. Construction Update**

Mr. Cox reported that the middle schools opened on time and were ready for staff and students. He commended the staff at both middle schools for coming in the Friday before the start of school and working into the evening hours on Monday and Tuesday. He noted that the custodial staff spent Saturday and Sunday at the middle schools before the opening of school and Monday and Tuesday evenings to assist in getting the schools ready. They worked along with the Maintenance Department and Technology Department in getting equipment hooked back up so they would be ready for the first day of school on Thursday. Mr. Cox felt that the parent meetings on Tuesday and the open house the following afternoon helped to defuse parents and students concerns. He stated that these were very smooth openings compared to the other projects.

*Mrs. Clark left the meeting at 9:20 p.m.*

Mrs. Queen noted that the Board members received the all-call messages from Mr. Madancy and Mr. Pepe and she felt that there was excellent communication from the principals to the school community. Mr. Goralski stated that the building committee was meeting bi-weekly on Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. in the Library at DePaolo Middle School and receives monthly reports.

Mr. Oshana questioned when air testing was taking place. Mr. Goralski replied that all the testing was done during and after remediation to meet the standards. The standard that they met exceeded all federal guidelines for middle schools and the guidelines for elementary schools. He stated that air testing would be done annually. Next summer, when abatement is done again, they will go through the entire area and sample test. He noted that there will be air quality testing in the schools into the future beyond the project. Dr. Erardi replied that the Hazmat materials have all been removed for Phase I and there will be no Hazmat materials removed at all during the course of the school year so they do not need to test for PCBs. They will test for dust particles and the cleanliness of the air. Mr. Oshana thought that it was important that they inform the public because his impression was that there was going to be periodic testing throughout the year regardless of what is happening and that the results would be reported back to the public. Dr. Erardi's intention is that once the Public Building Committee drills down to some specificity with dates, he would send a voicemail to every parent at both schools to read his blog about what will be taking place. Mr. Goralski noted that Mr. Palmieri [Town Councilor and Assistant Principal at DePaolo Middle School] updates the town's website with all information that comes out of the Building Committee. Dr. Erardi noted that the prevailing issues with parents were air quality and the safety of their children with the adults in the building.

Mr. Oshana was concerned with the open ceilings and the pipes covered with insulation with capped ends and any hazardous materials that might come out of them during the construction. Mr. Goralski replied that there was not any construction happening inside the school and that there was not anything exposing any risks to students with construction

happening outside the building. Dr. Erardi replied that on Friday he would contact Hygenix, Inc. in order to assure the Board that they should not have any concerns regarding air quality safety.

- c. Administrator Evaluation Plan Update**
- d. Teacher Evaluation Plan Update**

Dr. Erardi credited Mrs. Smith for doing an extraordinary job in preparing the administrative team for teacher evaluations and their own evaluations. The evaluation process has started and administrators are meeting with teachers to begin to talk about their objectives for the school year. Dr. Erardi and Mrs. Smith have started their administrator evaluations and this will be an ongoing conversation throughout the school year. He pointed out that they are where they want to be, and need to be, with the process.

Mrs. Smith stated that the partnerships continue despite the reality of life and that they are now living the plans. A major plus is the fact that the teachers are going through the Teacher Evaluation Committee to provide feedback and they are meeting on September 23 to process how they are doing so far and to come up with a list of questions and concerns. This will be done monthly or twice a month.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Policy 2000 Series ~ First Reading**

Mr. Goralski noted that this was a first read.

- b. Enrichment Proposal (*Moved to Agenda Item 8.a.1*)**
- c. School Opening 2013-2014**

Dr. Erardi thanked the Board members who gave up their day to travel to all 12 of our schools on opening day.

Dr. Erardi shared the following statistics on Project Choice:

- The Project Choice program has grown to 56 students in 2013-2014.
- There are 14 Project Choice new students at DePaolo Middle School.
- There are five new students in our All-Day Kindergarten program.
- There are open seats in Kindergarten and CREC is doing their best to fill those seats on or before October 1, 2013.

Dr. Erardi reported on the CREC Magnet Schools:

- There were 103 students attending part-time or full-time for 2013-2014.
- With the wide breadth of CREC schools, 55 students of the 103 were attending either the Hartford Academy of Performing Arts or the Academy of Math & Science.

Dr. Erardi stated that the Board members worked very hard to stay in front of the middle school projects. Many Board members attended the informational sessions for the middle school parents with nearly 600 parents attending. To stay proactive, they are continuing to look at cooperation with fire, police, and town government. There are some hot spots that they are

looking at such as the traffic flow at DePaolo Middle School. Dr. Erardi was very pleased with the leadership at both middle school buildings.

Dr. Erardi distributed an updated class size grid (*Attachment #6*). He recommended that the grid stays as presented and that administration reports to the Board on September 26 regarding the four classes that supersede the holding number of 18 students at Kelley and Thalberg Schools. There is not a request for an additional staff member at this time; however, there may be a request for additional paraprofessional support in one or two of those classes.

Mrs. Johnson asked for the schools and grade levels that the 56 Project Choice students attend. Dr. Erardi stated that he will share this information with the Board over the weekend and include the breakdown per grade level.

Mr. Oshana was amazed at Mrs. Smith's ability to walk into a school and have a rapport with the teachers, students and parents on the first day of school. He thought that the Board of Education was very lucky to have Mrs. Smith as the Assistant Superintendent. After watching her in action, he now sees why she is so good at what she does and that she loves what she does. It proves to teachers and administrators that this is not just a job, it is a passion and Mrs. Smith exudes it. Mrs. Smith stated that it was delightful to be able to do what one loves and it is not about the salary. She spoke for the passionate educators and employees in Southington and noted that they have veteran status because staff does not leave. She noted that it was rare in most districts' to even have Superintendent's stay longer than three years.

**d. Hiring Protocol Pre-K through Grade 12 Science Coordinator**

Dr. Erardi reported that on or around November, administration will bring to the Board a starting date of January 1, 2014 for a new K-12 Science Coordinator of high quality.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**"Move to adjourn."**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Blanchard*

Recording Secretary



**Attachment #1****Bread for Life next to DES**

Casie Messina [casie.messina@cox.net]

Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 9:46 AM

To: SBOEADMIN

Cc: JOSEPH ERARDI; KAREN SMITH; JAN VERDERAME

September 11, 2013

Members of the Southington Board of Education,

My name is Cassandra (Casie) Messina, and I live at 132 Panorama Drive in Southington. I am strongly opposed to the proposed Bread for Life building immediately next to Derynoski Elementary School. I am asking that as a board, you formally and publically stand against the building of this facility on next to DES. There are many aspects of the facility that would be to the detriment of our students and staff, not the least of which is safety. Please see below, as I have outlined specific objections.

**Traffic:** There will be a lot of stress on an already congested traffic area. The town run food pantry out of the social services building on Norton Street, services at least 60 families a day. Last Wednesday, they served 72 families. Each family arriving in a separate vehicle to pick up groceries. It is not uncommon to have 10-12 cars parked in front of social services at the three o'clock hour, and many more in and out throughout the day. There would also be traffic from the meals on wheels service and the many volunteers who give their time to BFL. As you know, Derynoski is a school of over 600 students and over 100 faculty. That is a lot of traffic on a regular basis. There is also current traffic from the Pyne center, which houses Alta students and faculty and the maintenance offices with their staff. There is a lot of traffic in this section of Main Street between the hours of 7 AM and 4 PM. The additional traffic that BFL would create would be a burden on an already high traffic area.

**Loitering:** There is already an issue of loitering in the downtown area. It is only a matter of time until the patrons on the soup Kitchen loiter on DES property. Nothing has been able to stop the current loitering issues on DES property. This issue will only increase as the homeless population is drawn to the area for meals at Bread for Life, at which point it will become a Board of Education problem.

**Walker safety (Traffic/drainage basin):** The additional traffic in the area during the same hours as school will be a safety risk to students of DES walking to school. Student safety at drop off and pick up time is already a big problem at DES and will only add to the burden of the school's administrators and ultimately the BOE if the BFL building is allowed. Additionally, the current BFL site plans show a 70 foot long drainage basin on the south side of the property extending from close to the sidewalk. This basin will be 2 feet deep and 3 feet wide. The basin will hold water until it settles into the ground. Posing a definite safety risk for children walking to school.

**Already safety issues on DES grounds:** Dr Erardi can be quoted as saying that he feels one of his biggest failures during his time as Southington School Superintendant has been the situation behind Derynoski and its lack of any improvement. I, myself, have sat at safety meetings with administrators and at times members of the police department to discuss the concerns of safety behind DES. The janitor at DES has to go outside every morning and check for broken glass, drug paraphernalia (including syringes), used condoms and inappropriate graffiti on the blacktop and playground. The Derynoski cub scout pack, of which I am a leader, does an annual trash pickup on the DES grounds. The adults have to make a point of staying 10 steps in front of the scouts so that we can get to these illicit items before the kids do. There are long standing issues here that the addition of a homeless population will only add to.

**Statistics of homeless population:** I fear that those of us opposed to the BFL building are being looked at as over reactive parents with a bias against the homeless population and therefore, no basis for our objections. A simple 15 minutes Google search on the internet will give you statistical facts about the homeless population. I have listed some of them here. Please note that the sources for many of the facts are from organizations that work to help the homeless.

- According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 20 to 25% of the homeless population in the United States suffers from some form of severe mental illness. In

comparison, only 6% of Americans are severely mentally ill. According to the same Administration...Mental illness was the third largest cause of homelessness for single adults.

- According to the national alliance to end homelessness: Chronically homeless people are among the most vulnerable people in the homeless population. They tend to have high rates of behavioral health problems, including severe mental illness and substance abuse disorders, conditions that may be exacerbated by physical illness, injury or trauma.
- According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2003) estimates, 38% of homeless people were dependent on alcohol and 26% abused other drugs. Alcohol abuse is more common in older generations, while drug abuse is more common in homeless youth and young adults (Didenko and Pankratz, 2007). Substance abuse is much more common among homeless people than in the general population.
- According to a survey by Hidden Homelessness, "a fifth of those questioned said they had avoided being given bail or committed 'an imprisonable offence with the express purpose of receiving a custodial sentence as a means to resolving their housing problems'."

I purposefully did not include statistics on sex offenders and homelessness because I do not want to cloud the issue. But if you do your own Google search you can see the very frightening statics yourself.

**Background checks:** During the parents meetings at JFK and JAD before school started, Dr Erardi and the chairman of the board of education went to great lengths to explain, in detail, the background checks that were done on everyone who would be working on site at either middle school. This was done to ensure the safety of all of the students at the schools. It was thorough and necessary. Bread for life's slogan is "that no one may go hungry". They are not doing background checks. They shouldn't have to. Anyone who needs a meal, should get a meal. However, everyone who needs a meal is not appropriate to be in the building directly next to an elementary school.

**School safety is top priority:** Since the horrific events at Sandy Hook Elementary School, Dr. Erardi and the Southington BOE have made the safety and security of their students and staff a top priority. The manner in which everything was handled makes me believe that the Southington Board of education does put the safety of its students and staff in high priority. So in making your decision on where you stand on this topic, please consider the following. It does not need to be argued that mental illness played a huge role in the events at Sandy Hook. It also does not need to be argued that the homeless population has a much higher rate of mental illness than the general population. These are basic facts. So why would any town official feel that it is in any way appropriate to put a soup kitchen that serves the homeless, next to an elementary school? Please put our children's safety first.

Again, I ask that as a board, you formally and publically stand against the building of this facility on next to Derynoski Elementary School.

Please include this email in the meeting minutes for tomorrow's BOE meeting.

Casie Messina  
132 Panorama Drive  
860 628-7061  
860 919-6723

**Attachment #2****Bread for Life and DES**

Tina Asido [tina.asido@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 9:48 AM

To: SBOEADMIN

Cc: JOSEPH ERARDI; KAREN SMITH

Hi All,

I am writing as a concerned parent. As I heard of the news that Bread for Life is attempting to build a 4-5,000 square foot facility for serving meals (among other services) on the piece of property immediately next to the DES cafeteria parking lot. While I can appreciate the homeless need to eat. I am all for feeding the homeless, but I do not feel that a building of this type should be next to Derynoski. It concerns me to think of having a facility like bread for life directly next to an elementary school. It is a statistical fact that many members of the homeless population suffer from mental illness and drug and alcohol abuse.

**Already safety issues on DES grounds...** Dr Erardi can be quoted as saying that he feels one of his biggest failures during his time as Southington School Superintendant has been the situation behind Derynoski and its lack of any improvement. The janitor at DES has to go outside every morning and check for broken glass, drug paraphernalia, used condoms and inappropriate graffiti on the blacktop and playground. There are long standing issues here that the addition of a homeless population will only add to.

**Statistics of homeless population...**

- According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 20 to 25% of the homeless population in the United States suffers from some form of severe mental illness. In comparison, only 6% of Americans are severely mentally ill. According to the same Administration...Mental illness was the third largest cause of homelessness for single adults.
- According to the national alliance to end homelessness: Chronically homeless people are among the most vulnerable people in the homeless population. They tend to have high rates of behavioral health problems, including severe mental illness and substance abuse disorders, conditions that may be exacerbated by physical illness, injury or trauma.
- According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2003) estimates, 38% of homeless people were dependent on alcohol and 26% abused other drugs. Alcohol abuse is more common in older generations, while drug abuse is more common in homeless youth and young adults (Didenko and Pankratz, 2007). Substance abuse is much more common among homeless people than in the general population.
- According to a survey by Hidden Homelessness, "a fifth of those questioned said they had avoided being given bail or committed 'an imprisonable offence with the express purpose of receiving a custodial sentence as a means to resolving their housing problems'."

We have to consider the safety of our children and I hope that you do as well.

I do ask that my email be included in the minutes for the next meeting of the organization(ie..PTO Meeting, BOE Meeting, PZC Meeting and Town Council meeting.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Concerned parent

Tina Asido

290 Pin Oak Drive

Southington, CT 06489

Sent from My iPhone

Tina Asido

background of Student Guardian, which has been in Connecticut since 2011, and explained how the program works. Ms. Meinke explained that there is no cost to the Board of Education. Currently, there are three buses in Southington with the cameras. She has videos of violations captured in Southington for viewing; however, Mr. Goralski did not feel it was appropriate to view at this time. However, if this is approved, he would be happy to publish the names of violators.

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

**“Move to approve the implementation of the School Bus Camera Program and direct the Superintendent of Schools to sign on behalf of the district.”**

Mr. Oshana questioned if internal bus cameras were also available for free. Ms. Meinke replied that Student Guardian is the only company in the industry that is able to provide internal cameras for the entire bus fleet at no cost. They redirect the fine distribution and take slightly more of the revenue that goes back to the town to put towards the internal system. Mr. Goralski directed administration to look into that option. Ms. Meinke believed that the contract included the opt-in for the internal solution, which can be added at any time.

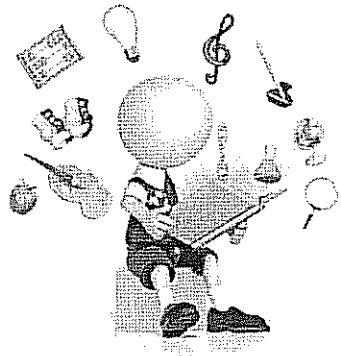
Mr. Derynoski questioned the breakdown of costs. Ms. Meinke replied that the fine for passing a bus in the state of Connecticut is \$465 and of that there is a \$15 court processing fee with the percentages based on \$450. Therefore, 20% or \$90 goes to the state, 80% or \$360 goes to the municipality and Student Guardian would quarterly invoice for the number of tickets issued using their system. She explained that it would be \$125 for the municipality after program costs and \$234 for the vendor. Mr. Derynoski anticipated that if the Board went with the internal camera then the \$125 would be reduced. He believed that the Board would like to know that number before they add the internal cameras.

Mr. Goralski summarized that for the \$234 Student Guardian would be providing the cameras, doing all the work, and would fix broken cameras. Ms. Meinke replied that was correct.

Dr. Erardi thanked Dean Barns of New Britain Transportation for being an active participant with this program pilot.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** YES – Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Lombardi, Mr. Goralski.

Attachment #4



# Identification Criteria of Gifted Students

*Special Education Law  
in Connecticut*

Southington Public Schools  
Curriculum and Instruction Committee Report

OLSAT  
Results

CMT  
Results

DRP  
Results

Criteria of Gifted Students

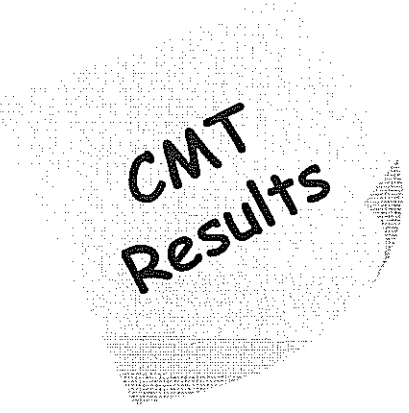
A graphic of a folded piece of paper with the text "OLSAT Results" written on it in a bold, sans-serif font.

## OLSAT Results

### *Attain a score of 130 or above*

All students in Grade 3 will be administered the OLSAT each fall. The OLSAT is a group-administered test that measures verbal, quantitative, and spatial reasoning ability. The results will be shared with parents at the first parent-teacher conference.

## Otis-Lennon School Ability Test

A graphic of a folded piece of paper with the text "CMT Results" written on it in a bold, sans-serif font.

## CMT Results

### *Receive scores at Goal or Above*

CMT results were received for students entering Grades 4 and 5 during the summer of 2013. The CMT will be replaced by another form of state testing beginning with the 2014-2015 school year.

## Connecticut Mastery Test



*A score that exceeds grade-level expectations*

The DRP is a reading assessment (comprehension, fluency, decoding, and vocabulary) that will continue to be administered to all students.

**Degrees of Reading Power**

## Southington Schools - Talcott Mountain Cooperative Enrichment Project

**Enrichment** will be a combination of “local” in-school hands-on work, and “remote” extra-curricular online collaboration and research. This uses what’s called a “blended learning” model with both inperson and online work as well as a “flipped classroom” model where the minds-on and hands-on stuff is done in the classroom and reading / research is done outside the classroom.

**Students** will start by brainstorming online with Talcott staff on possible topics and projects. These will be projects in the broad areas of Earth science, Space science, Life Science and Technology (computers, media, robotics).

**Staff** will start by in-person sessions with Talcott staff to get familiar with the resources at the schools and at Talcott, so everyone knows what realistic time and space are available.

**Local work** on this project can happen several ways:

**Pull-out:** where students meet in their building for a set time during the week. They meet with the local teacher, who facilitates their use of local equipment to do some hands-on work - either exploratory, skill building or project creation.

**In class:** based on teachers’ assessment of the students ability in science, and if they can safely work on enrichment if they can demonstrate mastery of the current classroom science content.

Or a **mixture** of both, as appropriate, based on the best fit for the building, teachers, and students.

Some students may **visit** the Talcott mountaintop facilities as needed (telescopes, weather station, etc.) by arranging visits to the mountain, in small groups.

**Online work** can happen anywhere / anytime, including:

At school during study / science / enrichment time as appropriate and available;

At home evenings or weekends in whatever chunks of time make sense and fit best.

Wherever the students happen to be that fits what they need to do - third party locations, partners, labs, etc.

The TalcottOnline system built on Canvas works on any current browser on Mac, Windows, Linux, iOS and Android.

They can ask questions, brainstorm solutions with teachers and students, share data, write collaboratively and see and use resources from around the globe.



**What the Southington student sees:**

Students attend school as usual plus go to an enrichment session during their school week, and may work on these projects in science class if they have “passed” what’s needed in science class. They get online with a computer or handheld as needed to plan and create a project of their choosing, with a mentor at Talcott.

The result is a science project of their choosing,

**What the Southington teacher sees:**

They lead an enrichment session during the week, where students have time and space to work on hands-on science, troubleshoot what students are doing, and are in touch with Talcott staff for mutual support.

They manage the on-site materials and lab space.

**What the Talcott teacher / scientist sees:**

Students reach them via TalcottOnline, they mentor students and groups, provide new science topics and demos, training in procedures, and guide students through the development and completion of their projects.

**What public/ Southington parents see:**

Students work during out of school time to create original small group and individual science and technology projects - the results are at science fairs, competitions, and on an online showcase at [tmssc.org](http://tmssc.org)

**ELEMENTARY ENROLLMENT  
2013-2014**

As of 9.6.13

**Attachment #6**

SCHOOL	KDG	Gr. 1	Gr. 2	Gr. 3	Gr. 4	Gr. 5	TOTAL
Derynoski	16	18	18	20	20	22	
	16	18	18	20	20	22	
	16	19	19	20	20	23	
	16	19	19	20	20	23	
	16	19	19	21	21	23	
	16	19		21			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>637</b>
<b>FTEs</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>33</b>
Flanders	17	19	17	16	23	17	
	17	20	17	17	23	18	
	18		18	17		18	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>292</b>
<b>FTEs</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>
Hatton	18	19	21	22	16	23	
	18	19	21	22	16	24	
	18	20	21	22	17	24	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>361</b>
<b>FTEs</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>
Kelley	18	17	18	20	21	23	
	19	17	18	21	22	24	
	19	17	18	22	22	24	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>360</b>
<b>FTEs</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>
Plantsville	14	16	21	23	23	23	
	14	17	22	24	23	24	
	15	18					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>277</b>
<b>FTEs</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>
South End	14	17	19	21	23	23	
	14	18	19	22	23	24	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>237</b>
<b>FTEs</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>
Strong	16	20	21	18	17	23	
	16	21	21	18	18	23	
	16		21	18	18	23	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>328</b>
<b>FTEs</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>
Thalberg	18	18	19	20	23	20	
	18	18	19	20	24	21	
	19	18	20	21	24	21	
	19	19		21			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>420</b>
<b>FTEs</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>ENROLLMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>2912</b>
<b>FTE TOTALS</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>149</b>