

SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT

REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 13, 2012

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, September 13, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers, Southington Town Hall, 75 Main Street, Southington, Connecticut.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR SEA CONTRACT

An Executive Session meeting was held 7:00 p.m. through 7:32 p.m. (*Minutes attached*).

3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

The Regular Session was reconvened at 7:45 p.m. by Chairperson, Mr. Brian Goralski. Board members present were Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mr. Zaya Oshana and Mrs. Patricia Queen. Absent was Mrs. Patricia Johnson.

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, Senior Coordinator of Pupil Personnel Services.

Student Representatives present were Miss Whitney DiMeo and Miss Abigail Harris.

There were approximately 12 people in the audience.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the student representatives.

Mr. Goralski called for a moment of silence in memory of former faculty members Lois Jardine and Loella Paradis who recently passed away and also in remembrance of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ August 16, 2012

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

“Move to approve the Board of Education minutes of August 16, 2012, as submitted.”

Motion carried by voice vote with Mr. Derynoski abstaining.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience

Mr. Arthur Cyr, 103 Berlin Avenue, spoke about free money to the school system from Stop & Shop, Price Chopper, Shop Rite and Target through programs that they offer. He also spoke to the Executive Board of the PTOs about these programs. He explained that people need to register and designate their store cards to a particular school in order for the school to get credit for the free money, similar to a grant. He noted that last year, the local Stop & Shop gave checks to various Southington schools for a total of \$10,000.

b. Communications from Board Members and Administration

Communication from the Board Members:

Mrs. Lombardi noted that Ms. Lucy Leach, Apple Harvest Volunteer Coordinator, requested that she ask the two student representatives to get the word out that there were opportunities to have some of the students participate as a volunteer during the Apple Harvest Festival this year.

Mr. Goralski announced that the Southington Education Foundation Gala was October 5, 2012 at the Aqua Turf. He also had professional development opportunities to share with the Board members if they were interested.

Communication from Administration:

Dr. Erardi reported on the following:

1. School Opening 2012-2013: Dr. Erardi stated that in August they registered 112 students. Last year on opening day they had registered 429 Kindergarten students and this year there were 439 Kindergarten students. Last year, there were 109 students who registered that were part of the ELL (English Language Learners) program and this year there were 119. For staffing, the Board hired four new administrators to start the school year, 24 teachers were hired or transferred within, 10 new paraprofessionals, one custodian, one secretary and two nurses were hired. For technology, the school district opened with 351 new computers, four new servers and 114 wireless access points with many at Derynoski School, which is now a full WiFi school. Southington has the capacity to educate 47 students from Hartford for Project Choice; however, presently there are 38 of those 47 seats filled. Other school districts share the same scenario with Project Choice vacancies.

2. Veteran's Partnership: On Friday, October 5, 2012 at 3:30 p.m. the Boys' Soccer team will be dedicating the proceeds of their game to the Wounded Warriors Project.
3. STEPS Partnership: September 17-23, 2012 is STEPS Week with an activity planned for every day for Asset #2, Promoting Positive Family Communication.
4. CABE Awards: Dr. Erardi asked for direction on whether the Board of Education wanted to participate in the opportunity for CABE recognition.
5. Concussion Data: The information provided was for 2009-2010, 2010-2011 with the 2011-2012 information to be provided at the next Board meeting.
6. Ribbon Cutting – Municipal Center: The ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Municipal Center will most likely be on a Sunday at the end of October. They are waiting for the Assembly Meeting Room to be completed.
7. Breakfast Program: Mrs. DiNello announced that seven of Southington's schools qualified for the Breakfast Grant from the state this year and the school district will be receiving \$21,000 to help with the cost of the Breakfast Program. Last year, four of our schools were eligible and we received \$12,000. Ms. Welinsky, Food Service Director, applied this summer for four schools to be eligible for the "Fuel Up to Play" grant, which also supports the breakfast programs and was successful at each of the middle schools to get an additional \$1,000. There will be a total of \$23,000 in grant funding to help offset the cost of the Breakfast Program that is running in all of the schools. Mrs. DiNello shared this information with Bread for Life who has donated to this program in the past.

Mr. Goralski noted that Mrs. Johnson was absent from the meeting because she was out-of-state.

Communication from the Student Representatives:

Miss Harris reported on the following:

- The Welcome Back Dance was sponsored by the Class of 2014 with 300 tickets that were sold.
- The Southington High School Open House will be September 20, 2012 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. with parents following their student's schedule and learning about curriculum and academic expectations.

Miss DiMeo reported on the following:

- There will be a College Writing Workshop on September 19 with Miss Miller from the Guidance Department from Period 2 to Period 3. Some Admissions staff from Quinnipiac University will be attending to give students an idea of what colleges were looking for in writing a college essay.
- The College Fair will be held on September 19, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. with 120 colleges participating.
- On September 25, 2012, there is a College Planning Assembly for seniors to discuss the college process.

7. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Policy & Personnel Committee Meeting ~ August 20, 2012

Mrs. Clark reported that the committee reviewed Policy #3323, Business, Soliciting Prices (Bids and Operations) on August 20, 2012 with Mrs. DiNello attending their meeting. They were asked to review the policy in the event of a tie vote with preference given to a Southington business vendor. The committee continued their review of the 1000 Series. They will be completed with their review after Mrs. Smith contacts Lieutenant DePalma for clarification on a question and gets back to the committee. The committee began their review of the 2000 Series with the district's organizational chart, which was last reviewed in 2003. The next meeting will be September 24 at Kennedy Middle School.

b. Curriculum & Instruction Meeting ~ August 21, 2012

Mrs. Carmody reported the committee reviewed the CMT/CAPT data and noted that the district has continued with good growth. They are preparing for the new Common Core State Standards and will be working closely with the teachers and administrators on that for the new testing that will take place in the 2014-2015 school year, which will be named the “Smarter Balanced Assessment.” The committee discussed the New Accountability System and School Performance Index, which replaces the No Child Left Behind. The next meeting is Tuesday, September 18.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

There was no report.

b. Construction Update

Mr. Cox reported that he spoke with Newfield Construction this past Tuesday. They continue to contact the state and receive the same answer that the state is overwhelmed, short-staffed and they are still working on the change orders that were originally denied and resubmitted for the Plantsville and South End School projects.

Mr. Cox reported that all central office employees have moved from Beecher Street to the Municipal Center with the exception of Steven Lee, Production Room/Mail Clerk, whose room at the Municipal Center is not ready. The only things left are a collection of odds and ends in the old conference room and the basement archived items. The Administrative Office sign in front

of 49 Beecher Street was taken down this afternoon. In three to four weeks, he anticipates coming before the Board of Education for discussion about turning back to the town the 101 year old Beecher Street building. This weekend, the final pavement of the Municipal Center parking lot will be completed. The traffic light on Route 10 is anticipated to be functional at the end of next week.

Mr. Cox reported that the committee continues to meet weekly on the middle school projects and are through the schematics and working on design documents. By the end of September, they anticipate enough of the design documents available for Newfield Construction to complete their second round of estimates on the project. Currently, Mr. Cox is working with the state on setting up PCT, which is a construction task for the documents for January.

c. Update Southington High School: Fontana Field - Turf

Mr. Mike DeFeo, Chair of the Turf Project, gave an update to the Board of Education. The excavation of the field started on September 4, 2012. Eight inches of soil was scraped across the field and disposed of in the back field behind the old football field with work being done seven days a week. The crew dug a three-foot trench around the whole track for the high tech system that will be put in there. A six-inch curb was put in around the inside of the track. The drainage system is high tech, which will be started the end of this week and finished by next Friday. Weather permitting, the following week they will start installing the carpet. In the past, there have been drainage issues, but with this new system water should never be a problem. The track will be repaired and resurfaced with two coats of poly-resin on top. The track will stay at six lanes. He noted that a safety plan is a major priority and has been activated. With the excavation completed, trucks will no longer be going onto the back field. He noted that Mr. Cox and Mr. Eric Swallow [Athletic Director] have done a tremendous job monitoring that plan. The three-man crew from Ohio has a tremendous work ethic and they are doing a fantastic job. The target date is still October 31, 2012.

Mrs. Clark noted that, with the October 31 target date, the band would not be able to have their Music of the Knight on October 27 and the football team would not be able to have their game on October 26. She was under the impression that the project was supposed to be completed by October 25. Mr. DeFeo replied that right now they are two-days ahead of schedule and they are keeping their fingers crossed with the weather. If the weather continues to be good, they will have no problem being done by October 26; however, the target date has always been October 31 by contract.

Mrs. Lombardi questioned the safety of the students participating in physical education. Mr. DeFeo replied that Mr. Cox and Mr. Swallow implemented a safety plan prior to the excavation with fencing and signage.

Mrs. Queen questioned if the track would be new. Mr. DeFeo stated that it would not be because, when the committee met with Dalton Track from Cheshire, they were told that the track foundation was in very good shape; however, it will be resurfaced.

Dr. Erardi explained that Mr. Swallow has concurrently been working with the Director of Parks and Recreation because the administration will soon be coming before the Board with a proposal regarding rental of the field.

Mr. Goralski noted that at Monday night's Town Council meeting they officially named the Turf Advisory Committee comprised of the Chair, or designee, of the Town Council, Board of Education, Board of Finance, the minority representation of the Town Council, and Mr. Mike DeFeo, with three ex-officio members Eric Swallow, Dave Lapreay and John Fontana.

Mr. DeFeo pointed out that the soccer field meets the CIAC and the National High School Federation guidelines so they will be able to play tournament games on the field.

d. K-5 Class Size Update 2012-2013

Dr. Erardi reported that there were five focus areas in enrollment: Grade 5 at Flanders, Hatton and Kelley Schools; Kindergarten at Derynoski and Strong Schools. The recommendation to the Board of Education, if this is endorsed, would be to begin the hiring process on Friday to add a full-time Literacy Tutor in all three of the fifth grade hotspots and a half-time tutor in Kindergarten at Derynoski and Strong Schools.

Mrs. Lombardi expects that these highly skilled tutors are dedicated to these classrooms so that every child receives the instructional time our curriculum requires. She thought that it was a win-win situation for the students and the teachers for getting more instruction time.

Dr. Erardi explained that the Literacy Tutors are grant-funded. From the Title I and Title II funds, Mrs. Smith will over time bring onboard 10 to 11 Literacy Tutors, who will all be grant-funded. The five recommendations are enrollment driven and the next five recommendations will be academic driven.

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

“Move to approve the hiring of the four (4) FTE grant-funded Literacy Tutors to help alleviate class sizes.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

e. Southington Public Schools ~ 2020 Vision: Long-Term Planning

Mrs. Karen Veilleux, Director of Technology, showed a video that was provided by Dr. Martin Semmel, Principal of Southington High School regarding the long-term vision of technology. Dr. Erardi stated that the data collection has begun through parents, administrators, faculty meetings, community forums in September and October. The team of Aspirants, who are now credentialed administrators, are still with the district as educators and will become the Steering Committee for this initiative. At the September 27 Board of Education meeting, Dr. Erardi will be asking for a Board liaison for this committee. They will be reporting to the School Board every two weeks on their status, and on or around December 1 they will come before the Board with a long-range plan of equipping today's learners for tomorrow's world.

Mrs. Queen asked Dr. Erardi to put this video on the school system's website.

Mr. Goralski appointed Mrs. Lombardi and Mrs. Queen who volunteered to serve on this committee.

f. Relocation of Board of Education Central Office to Municipal Center

Dr. Erardi explained that the Municipal Center is handicap accessible and sub-committee meetings can now be held there. On Monday, September 17 at 10:00 a.m. the Central office staff will be hosting a simple "Meet and Greet" with the town employees at the Municipal Center. It will take place in the hallway. There will be a Beautification Committee who will be keeping a very professional look and taking care of some walls in the hallways. His latest conversation with Borghesi indicates that the first meeting of the Board of Education at the Municipal Center will be in November.

Dr. Erardi pointed out that, for the past one and one-half years, Mr. Cox's representation on the building committee and the number of hours that he has put in very quietly and professionally has allowed him to step away and do other things. He was very appreciative to Mr. Cox for his stewardship and leadership which has led the entire central office to a beautiful place that they are proud to call the Board of Education.

Mr. Derynoski added that he attended a meeting in the conference room at the Municipal Center today and it was very well laid out, roomy, not cramped, and people did not have to squeeze between chairs in order to sit. He commended Borghesi for the quality and work put into it. Even though there were some scheduling issues, it was worth the wait. At some point, Mr. Derynoski would like to invite Borghesi to one of the Board of Education meetings to personally thank them for their efforts. He added that Mr. Cox has done a lot more than people realize in representing the Board of Education working with the town and Borghesi. He thanked Mr. Cox for his hard work.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco thanked Mrs. Karen Veilleux [Director of Technology] and her team for their work in setting up the technology end because central office was disconnected on Thursday and, without skipping a beat, on Friday contact was reestablished. Mrs. Clark added that it is always hard to move when construction is going on. When she stopped in on Friday she noted that everyone was smiling and had a sense of humor as they were unpacking and getting settled. She thanked the staff.

g. Obsolete Textbooks

Mrs. Smith reported that Mr. Cox, Mr. Philip Goodwin [Purchasing Agent] and herself came up with a plan regarding obsolete textbooks. All of the obsolete textbooks that have been approved are located in one area in each of the buildings. A representative from Follette will visit each school and buy the obsolete books that he feels he can use. If books are left behind that he cannot use, he has arranged within three to seven days after his visit for the Holyoke News Company to pick up the remaining obsolete books for recycling purposes. This should all be completed by October 5, 2012. Every obsolete textbook should either be resold, repurposed or recycled. This process will be reviewed annually.

Mrs. Carmody asked how much was collected from lost books at Southington High School this year. Mrs. DiNello did not have the figures with her; however, she knew that at the

end of last school year money was actively collected in order for students to participate in end of the year activities. She will get updated information for Mrs. Carmody.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. K-12 Technology Update 2012-2013

Dr. Erardi pointed out that he would be very hard pressed to find anybody who cares about and does more as a Technology Director than Mrs. Karen Veilleux. He was proud to have Mrs. Veilleux give a PowerPoint presentation on what took place with her technology staff this summer. Mrs. Veilleux noted that this past spring she asked the Board of Education to continue with the leasing program that has been very successful in refreshing an entire elementary school at a time. Leases were restructured and a new lease was entered into. They were able to completely refresh the technology at Derynoski Elementary School. With dollars from grant funding and e-rate funding, they were able to concentrate on WiFi at the high school. A new WiFi system was ordered and the old one was taken to Derynoski to create a WiFi network there. She thanked her staff who worked very hard in getting everything up and running for the first day of school.

Mrs. Veilleux noted that the next steps in technology are Bring Your Own Device (BYOD), finish the high school WiFi, continue the leasing program, and budgeting equitable technology access for all, which will be coming before the Board in the fall.

Mrs. Lombardi noted that this was the pace that the Board has been waiting for and she hoped that this would be continued. She asked what percentage of the high school WiFi infrastructure they were at right now as a result of the summer work. Mrs. Veilleux replied that they were actually almost done. They only have 16 access points left to do and they installed around 80.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco heard on the first day of school that there were a few classrooms without SMART Boards because some brackets were on backorder. Mrs. Veilleux replied that SMART had a special offer of buy-five-and-get-one-for-\$1.00 that was only available during the month July. She placed many orders, along with many other school districts, which created a six to eight week backorder. She is still waiting for the ship date. She is waiting for approximately 15 brackets.

Mrs. Lombardi asked how the SMART Tables were working out because she does not hear anything about them anymore. Mrs. Veilleux replied that SMART had a problem with those tables because the laminate was curling up. During the last week in August, SMART replaced every tabletop that we have. The tables are great for individual instruction.

Mrs. Queen was in awe of everything that the technology department accomplished over the summer and with the move to the Municipal Center. She was excited to see all the big changes that will be coming with the 2020 Technology Vision.

b. Special Education Outplacements, June 2011-June 2012

Dr. Murdica gave a review of the June 2011-June 2012 outplacements, which are students who are placed in approved private educational facilities or in magnet schools. She shared a similar report last year. The report was a comparison of the outplacements in June 2011 compared to June 2012. Outplacements are settings that are allowable by law.

Mr. Goralski appreciated the clarity of the document and felt that each year at budget time a document like this will be presented to the Board of Finance to explain how and why the costs are what they are. He felt that this document was very valuable for that purpose.

c. UPSEU ~ Contract for Paraprofessionals

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

“Move to approve the agreement between the United Public Service Employees Union and the Southington Board of Education.”

Mr. Goralski appreciated the work of the representatives for the Board of Education team along with Mrs. DiNello who put in long hours.

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

d. Staffing Security ~ Southington High School

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

“Move to support the elimination of the 1.0 FTE Matron to enhance the security at Southington High School by 1.0 FTE for the 2012-2013 school year.”

Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked what they would be losing by the elimination of the matron. Dr. Semmel [Principal of Southington High School] replied that the matrons make sure that the female bathrooms are stocked with products and cover the physical education rooms for supervision. The security guard would actually be able to do that same function of covering the physical education rooms when necessary, but they will not be restocking the bathrooms. Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked if it would be a female security guard. Dr. Erardi replied that they have a female security guard already on staff. They will be hiring the best security guard that they can and the female security guard that they already have could be reassigned to cover that. If the new security guard happens to be a female, then there will be two who can do it.

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda S. Blanchard

Recording Secretary

SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT

EXECUTIVE SESSION
SEPTEMBER 13, 2012

Board Members Present: Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mr. Zaya Oshana, Mrs. Patricia Queen, and Mr. Brian Goralski.

Board Members Absent: Mrs. Patricia Johnson.

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Brian Goralski, Board Chairperson, called the Board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR SEA CONTRACT

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

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

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.


MOTION: by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mr. Oshana:

“Move that the Board come out of Executive Session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jill Notar-Francesco, Secretary
Southington Board of Education