

# **SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**OCTOBER 9, 2014**

---

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, October 9, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Center Public Assembly Room, 200 North Main Street, Southington, Connecticut with Executive Session scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. Terri Carmody, Vice Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present from the Board: Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Pat Johnson, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mr. Zaya Oshana, and Mrs. Patricia Queen. Absent was Mr. Brian Goralski, Chairperson.

Present from the Administration: Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools; and Mrs. Karen Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

**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 a possible consulting contract and personnel matters, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 8 – 0.**

#### **2. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE CONSULTING CONTRACT AND PERSONNEL MATTERS**

Mrs. Carmody declared the Executive Session ended at 7:18 p.m. and the Board returned to public session.

#### **3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION**

The regular session was reconvened at 7:30 p.m. by Mrs. Terri Carmody, Vice Chairperson. Board members present were Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mr. Zaya Oshana and Mrs. Patricia Queen. Absent were Mr. Brian Goralski, Chairperson, and Mr. David Derynoski.

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

Student representatives present were James Brino and Christopher Iverson.

There were approximately 15 people in the audience.

#### 4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mrs. Carmody called for a moment of silence in memory of Mike Donahue, former teacher at Kennedy Junior High School who started the ALTA program; Carol Beatson, former school nurse, and Paul Clements, former head custodian at Southington High School.

#### 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ September 25, 2014

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

**“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of September 25, 2014, as submitted.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 7 – 0.**

#### 6. COMMUNICATIONS

##### a. Communications from Audience

Arthur Cyr, 103 Berlin Avenue, thanked the Board for recognizing the passing of dedicated school staff especially Paul Clements who worked for the school system for 30 years and whom he knew since the 1980s when Mr. Clements was first a custodian at Plantsville School and Kennedy Middle School before he became Head Custodian at the high school. He stated that Mr. Clements was an asset to the school system.

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

##### Communication from the Board Members:

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

**“Move to move agenda item 10.c “Approval of Overnight / Out of State Field Trips” to agenda item 6.d, agenda item 10.a “SAT / AP / College Report” to agenda item 6.e, and agenda item 10.b “Southington High School Profile 2014-2015” to agenda item 6.f.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 7 – 0.**

Mrs. Notar-Francesco reported that she attended a Flanders PTO meeting where teachers, Mr. Murdzek, Mrs. Padroff and Ms. Raposa, gave a presentation on PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports) that they had developed which was a creatively designed program of positive reinforcement for students. She felt that it was an interesting concept for her fellow Board members to observe and that it could be used as a model for the other schools.



Mrs. Lombardi reported on the Kelley School after school programs. She noted that Mrs. Kahl [Kelley School Principal] was extending the school day through enrichment activities. Programs offered are an Art Club, Writing Club, Fit Kids Club, Karate Club, Unified Sports Team, Robotics, and Yoga, and they are going to start a Drama Club and a Math Olympiad Team. Teachers and parent volunteers are involved in these programs.

Mrs. Johnson added that Derynoski Elementary School is also involved in similar activities after school with numerous clubs for the students. She thought that many of the schools offer fabulous after-school activities for the students.

Mrs. Johnson reported that she marched in the Apple Harvest Festival parade alongside the Kennedy Middle School mascot, which is an eagle. She publicly thanked Mrs. Pamela Aldi, former Kennedy Assistant Principal, who donated a new eagle costume for the mascot.

### **Communication from Administration:**

Mr. Connellan reported on the following:

1. Report on Bus Cameras: Mr. Connellan stated that they originally started with cameras on three buses and that there were not many violations and that they only have one bus with a camera this year. In the 2013-2014 school year, there were only 11 incidents with eight tickets issued. The RedFlex Traffic Systems Company stated that they would put the cameras back on the buses for a 5-7 day test period and that they would need to capture one incident every two days in order for the cameras to remain on the vehicles. Mr. Connellan noted that the cameras will not remain on the buses if not enough tickets are issued, which is a good thing.

2. Water Department Booster Pump: Mr. Romano spoke of issues that the Town Water Department was having with water on the east-side of town and that, as part of their Capital Improvement Plan, they need to put in a booster pump, and town property between Flanders School and the high school were the best places. Mr. Romano and Mr. Rogers walked the grounds and it appears the best place to put it would be behind the high school. The Water Department wants to do some test borings to see if the area entering off of Flanders Street onto school property by Annelise Avenue would be an adequate area to put the pipes. Mr. Romano distributed the attached handout (*Attachment #1*).

Mr. Romano introduced Mr. Frederick Rogers, Superintendent of the Southington Water Department, who stated that they needed to create an east-side pressure zone that entails a tank located on Smith Street with a right-of-way through Chesterwood. As a result of that tank being in place, it will alleviate some hydraulic issues that they have on the east-side of town and improve fire flow conditions. The pump would be pulling from one hydraulic zone into the east-side pressure zone and improving the hydraulic conditions. They are in the preliminary stages and need to do test borings.

Mrs. Lombardi asked what she would see if she was standing at Southington High School looking out and what the timeframe would be. Mr. Rogers replied that the borings would take place immediately on the westerly side of the high school so if she was standing in front of the high school at the corner of Flanders and Pleasant Streets and looked to the far corner on the right she might see a piece of the structure that they would like to erect for a pump station. It would be a brick façade with a standing metal-seam roof. It would house a couple of pumps and



a back-up generator inside to reduce noise. The size could be 10 feet by 20-30 feet and would be 300 feet off the road. The outside finish would match the school and blend in. Mrs. Clark visualized it behind the auditorium on the grassy knoll and asked if it would change the driveway to the VoAg buildings. Mr. Rogers replied that it would not change any current condition, but they would probably need to put in a driveway for the water department vehicles to reach it. Mrs. Clark questioned the borings.

Mr. Oshana questioned when the construction would take place. Mr. Rogers replied that they hoped to start in the spring and when school closes. They would run two lateral water mains out to Flanders and connect to an existing water main, bring a water main in and then pump it back out and up to the new pressure zone. He hoped that it would be done before the school opens.

Mrs. Johnson questioned about the noise the pumps would make as well as the back-up generator because they would be close to the auditorium. Mr. Rogers responded that the pumps and backup generator would not be heard because they would be inside, which reduces the decibels. Mrs. Johnson asked if the structure would be the same as the one on Meriden-Waterbury Road. Mr. Rogers stated that it would be more up-to-date.

Mr. Romano stated that his only concern, besides safety, was that they would not be increasing the pressure so much that it would create problems for the water devices inside the school. He noted that Mr. Rogers agreed that, if there were a problem, the water department would put pressure-reducing valves to protect the school.

3. School Safety and Security Plan: Mr. Connellan gave a brief update that this plan was underway with Mr. Frank Pepe, DePaolo Middle School Principal, leading the team with an aggressive timeline. Mr. Connellan noted that he e-mailed a template from the state to the Board members. Some initial training will begin for faculty and staff in January 2015, and in June of 2015 a final plan will be presented to the Board.

**c. Communications from Student Representatives**

Mr. Iverson reported on the following:

- The PSATs are scheduled for October 15 at the high school. He thanked the Board for continuing to fund the PSATs for the students to practice in order to do well on their SATs. He noted that the AP potential letters are derived from the scores that students receive on their PSATs. The College Board website, My College QuickStart, helps students review the score that they received on their PSAT and also addresses how to correct the things that they did wrong to improve on their weaknesses.
- SSP Advisory occurs every month where a group of students meet with a designated teacher who is their advisor for the four years that they are in high school. He noted that seniors worked on creating resumes and college safety. Juniors learned about the community outreach program called "Training for Tomorrow" regarding internships.
- The Red Ribbon Rally will be held on October 15, 2014.
- Mr. Iverson spoke to his bus driver regarding cameras on school buses and he was told that they don't work. The camera takes a picture of a driver violating the law



who receives a ticket. It is more of a reaction than being proactive, and it is not necessarily effective. His bus driver told him that it was the bus driver's responsibility to ensure the safety of the students. When his bus driver stops, she strategically places the bus in the road so that no one can pass the bus and she won't open the door until all the traffic has stopped. He noted that the true responsibility of student safety lies with the bus drivers. He also noted that the students' respect of their bus drivers was a key component. He felt that the bus drivers in Southington were excellent drivers.

Mr. Brino reported on the following:

- The Southington High School Marching Band is hosting "Music of the Knight" on October 18 at 3:00 p.m. which is the major fundraising for the Band Backers.
- The high school Robotics Team is participating in the first off season event on October 18 at Old Lyme High School called, "Bash at the Beach." They take the previous year's robot and play the same game with a spin because they do not need to follow all the rules set by FIRST Robotics.
- Both the football and swimming teams are undefeated.
- On October 22, the students have a half-day for teacher professional development.

Mr. Oshana was very impressed with the articulation of both the student representatives. He asked Mr. Iverson if he talked to his bus driver regarding cameras inside the bus. Mr. Iverson stated that he did not, but would like to look into it. Mr. Brino stated that he thought it would be valuable because the bus drivers always have to look in the rear view mirror to see what is going on in the back of the bus and having a camera would make it safer for the students and the driver to keep his/her eyes on the road at all times. Mr. Oshana noted that the exterior camera violations were supposed to help fund putting some cameras inside the buses. He thought that the Board needed to discuss how to handle that going forward.

**d. Approval of Overnight / Out of State Field Trips** *(formerly Agenda Item 10.c)*

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

**"Move that the Board of Education approves the field trips for Southington High School DECA to attend Power Trip in Washington, DC and the International Competition in Orlando, Florida and the Agricultural Science FFA group to attend the National FFA Competition in Louisville, Kentucky."**

DECA Co-Advisors Sandy Spinello and Theresa Brooks introduced students Devin King, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Southington DECA, and Brenna Sarantides, Vice President of Public Relations, who gave their viewpoint on the benefits of attending these trips. Miss Sarantides mentioned that her sister was President of their chapter last year and attended the DECA Conferences and made connections networking with other students from other states. The DECA officers distributed DECA T-shirts to Board members for their support of the program. Ms. Spinello added that in Washington two of their officers are actually State of Connecticut DECA officers who could not attend tonight because they ran the Fall Leadership Conference that day in Meriden.



Mrs. Queen thanked the teachers for their willingness to take the students on the field trips that are above and beyond their normal scope of work. Mr. Oshana mentioned that he was in FBLA and to this day he is still in touch with people whom he had met at state and national conferences.

Mrs. Carmody asked the co-advisors to ask all the Board members to be judges when they have their competition at Aqua Turf in February.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES ~ Mrs. Queen, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mr. Oshana, and Mrs. Carmody. **Motion carried unanimously 7 – 0.**

Mr. Patrick O'Keefe, teacher of Ag-Science at the high school, noted that they will be taking eight students this year to Kentucky for their national convention. He pointed out that FFA [Future Farmers of America] is the largest student organization in the country with 600,000 members. This is a recurring field trip. Mrs. Queen asked if they would be touring the horse stables at Churchill Downs and Mr. O'Keefe replied that they would.

**e. SAT / AP / College Report (formerly Agenda Item 10.a.)**

For the fifth year, Dr. Semmel presented a PowerPoint presentation on all the work of the teachers and students and what the whole district has been working toward. He reviewed the 2014 ACT comparative results, Class of 2014 SAT comparative results in mathematics, critical reading and writing, 2014 Advanced Placement Report and 2014 College Acceptance Report.

ACT Report:

Dr. Semmel noted that this year they added the ACT Report because in New England it is beginning to grow. He pointed out that the test takers in the state of Connecticut had grown from 2010 of 10,453 to 2014 of 12,044. He pointed out that the Benchmark Score is the minimum score needed in an ACT subject-area test to indicate a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in the corresponding credit-bearing college course. He noted that the high school scores exceeded the state scores in mathematics. He noted that the high school and state scores both dropped in reading in the years 2013 and 2014. In science, the scores consistently improved. Dr. Semmel pointed out that the ACT is curriculum-based and the SAT is reasoning-based. Colleges look at both ACT and SAT scores. Approximately 20% of seniors at Southington High School currently take the ACT.

SAT Report:

Dr. Semmel pointed out that the Connecticut average score was 1525 and Southington High School's average for 2014 was 1574 and the national average was 1497 which is the combined score for critical reading and math. Dr. Semmel noted that the new SAT test coming out will be downplaying or eliminating the writing test because not all colleges pay attention to the writing score. Dr. Semmel pointed out that the percentage of test takers had increased to 80.6% with 409 students taking the test in 2014. He noted that the percentage of Southington High School test takers scoring above 600 had increased in critical reading and mathematics. He was pleased that the high school's average scores increased over the years surpassing the state and national average scores in mathematics and critical reading. Dr. Semmel was not overly disappointed in the drop in the writing score in 2014 compared to 2013 because it was still higher than the previous years before 2013, and it was still higher than the state and the nation.



Advanced Placement Report:

Dr. Semmel noted that Advanced Placement is a notable success for the high school and district. They offer 18 courses in 2014-2015, and continue to be recognized by the CEEB for consistent improvement in both enrollment and scores. In the next year, they will be looking to add more AP classes. The highest score on an AP test is a five (5) and the lowest score is a one (1). The number enrolled in AP courses in 2014 was 559, which is the number of seats, and there are plenty of students enrolled in more than one seat. For this school year, there are 733 seats taken with about 350 students. The total number of AP students in 2014 was 254. The biggest success is that the students have the opportunity to take a college level course in high school. Dr. Semmel noted that the percentage of AP students with scores of three or more (3+) for 2014 was 80.7. He pointed out that the College Board states that, even if a student gets a one (1) on the test, they are still better prepared for college than if they did not take the class at all. Dr. Semmel pointed out that the AP tests are global and taken all over the world.

College Acceptance Report – Class of 2014:

Dr. Semmel stated that 88.5% of Southington High School students in 2014 attend four-year or two-year colleges, which is consistent with past years.

Next Steps:

Dr. Semmel wants to make sure that they provide the AP training to the teachers that they need. If they are going to continue to add students, they want to make sure their teachers are very well prepared to work with a more diverse group of students. They may need to differentiate more with their AP classes. He also wants to make sure that those teachers that have been trained for AP classes get some refresher training. He also wants to work with the students that are below the basic level. He is going to request at budget time more resources because he still has students who are reading at the fifth or sixth grade level who are entering the high school. They also need math specialists, as well. Additionally, if they are going to be a 21<sup>st</sup> Century district, they are going to need science equipment that meets that criterion.

Mrs. Carmody thought that the teachers have to have special training for all of the AP courses. Dr. Semmel replied that it was not a requirement by the College Board or AP testing for that to be the case. By de facto, they made it a practice in the district that they send the AP teachers to the Taft School training in the summer on the teacher's own time. The district picks up the \$900 cost.

Mrs. Johnson asked about the ACT scores and why more students take the SATs. She asked for the comparison of scores; what kinds of students are taking the ACTs and what kind of students take the SATs. Dr. Semmel replied that he could not answer that right now. He pointed out that the SAT has been predominantly the test in New England that has been taken and the ACT was a mid-western type of test. The ACT is making its way northeast over the last decade. He stated that he does not have demographic information regarding this.

Mrs. Lombardi asked for a breakdown of the SAT and ACT by the three levels. Dr. Semmel requested more clarification of the question. Mrs. Queen thought that, after changing the levels, the data is showing the bar is being raised with the participation in the AP courses; 350 students compared to 250 the year before are taking AP classes, which should be applauded. She continued that what Mrs. Lombardi is asking for is if we can see that happening if a student is taking a CCP class versus an honors class versus a CP class; do they see that kind of growth happening? Mrs. Queen did not know if they would have that comparison because they did not



see those levels before. Mrs. Lombardi replied that she wanted to move the middle and raise the bar. She asked how they are moving that middle level, which is the CCP. Dr. Semmel thought a different way to reframe it is by looking at it in terms of class rank. He could find the middle of a class rank and do some averages. He would have to look at the data and see if they can do that. Mrs. Lombardi asked Dr. Semmel to find a way to show how that middle level is moving in the SATs and ACTs. Dr. Semmel stated that he would rather start with the SATs because they have more data on that.

**f. Southington High School Profile 2014-2015 (formerly Agenda Item 10.b)**

Dr. Semmel felt that this was an area for celebration because every high school has a school profile; however, Southington High School's was outdated. He thought that it was a wonderful initiative by the Curriculum and Instruction Committee to develop the new profile. He noted that the new profile makes Southington High School proud. The main purpose of it is to send to colleges so the college representatives can understand what is being done at Southington High School when they compare students. He recognized Julie Robertson, Director of Guidance, for her role in making sure all the information was correct. She worked with Board members, and Sherry Russman, Guidance Counselor, on this profile. It is also a marketing document and people in the community need to see this as well. Ms. Robertson stated that she thought giving the profile this year to colleges will make a significant difference with the updated information. Dr. Semmel pointed out that Mrs. Michelle Passamano did all the formatting and layout of the profile. It is impressive and it looks very professional. It was done with our own in-house talent. He also noted that Mrs. Queen had significant input with the editing. Mrs. Notar-Francesco was so pleased with the School Profile and thought it was spectacular.

Mrs. Carmody hoped that the press and community would view the new Southington High School Profile. Mrs. Queen requested that the profile be put in the minutes as an attachment (*Attachment #2*). She noted that Stephanie Lawlor [Language Arts Coordinator] wrote the curriculum section with some editing by the guidance department. Mrs. Queen pointed out that the Curriculum Committee looked at six other school profiles and took the best of what they saw and the best of what they currently had. The guidance department and Dr. Semmel added new pieces. Mrs. Michelle Passamano did the design and layout and the end result is that the Southington High School Profile is very different than all the other high school profiles; it is a very unique document. She thought that the design and formatting was very important. Mrs. Carmody thanked everyone involved in the process.

**7. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**a. Personnel Report**

**MOTION:** By Mrs. Notar-Francesco, seconded by Mrs. Clark:

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

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 7 – 0.**

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**



**a. Finance Committee Meeting ~ October 6, 2014**

Mrs. Notar-Francesco reported that there was three action items for Board approval that came out of the Finance Committee meeting.

**a. Snow Removal / Sanding Bid Award ~ Bid #2015-BID-16:**

Mrs. Notar-Francesco reported that four sites, J. F. Kennedy Middle School, South End, Strong and Thalberg Elementary Schools, went out to bid and the results coming back were that Green Meadows was the low bid vendor on all four sites. Ultimately, Green Meadow decided to retain only the DePaolo site in which they are currently under contract with us. The second low bidder on all four sites was Evergreen Nursery. Administration recommended awarding Evergreen Nursery with the South End School site because Evergreen acknowledged that they cannot take on additional sites based on their workforce.

As for the other three sites, administration recommended rejecting the bids and rebidding Kennedy Middle School, Strong and Thalberg and the Finance Committee agreed. In addition, administration was notified by Total Maintenance that they are not willing to continue the remaining two years of their contract at Derynoski Elementary School. The Committee agreed that they should also then add Derynoski to the rebidding document along with the other three sites. The sites were rebid on Monday and a recommendation from administration for awarding these four sites will be brought to the full Board at the next Board of Education meeting.

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

**“Move to award Bid #2014-BID-16 for snow removal and sanding services at South End School to Evergreen Nursery for one year.”**

Mr. Oshana noted that one-year ago they added some language to the bid about researching the vendors that were bidding regarding lawsuits, potential liabilities both inside and outside of town, and he asked if it was done for this bid. Mrs. DiNello replied that Ms. Lisa Jones [Accounting / Purchasing Manager] made the request of the selected vendor and there were no issues.

Mr. Oshana questioned background investigations of the people who come onto school property. He did not think there was current language in the bids requiring background investigation. Mrs. DiNello replied that they did not have any requests in prior bid documents requesting, as part of the bid document, that background checks be done on individuals bidding snow or lawn maintenance. She noted that, at previous Board meetings, there was conversation regarding the middle school projects and the people entering the building during construction. It was determined that needed to happen, along with appropriate identification badges. She noted that, through research done by Ms. Jones, contracted custodial individuals who are working within the school systems buildings are required, by contract, to be interviewed and screened for security and medical conditions, fingerprinted, and that state and national criminal history records are checked.

Mr. Oshana asked that this be carried over to the Policy Committee to discuss whether this should be ongoing language in contracts because background investigations and knowing who is working on school property is very important.



ROLL CALL VOTE: YES ~ Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Queen, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, and Mrs. Carmody. **Motion carried unanimously 7 – 0.**

**b. Electricity Purchase Contract:**

Mrs. Notar-Francesco reported that the Finance Committee discussed this item at great length. Mrs. DiNello explained that the Southington Public Schools has been involved in a contract for the generation of electricity for the past three years, which expires in December 2014. They are interested in entering into another contract to get generation rates lower than the current CL&P rates. The committee chose not to participate with the consortium over the summer because of the unknowns which would impact the long-term utilization with the performance contracting, as well as the credits for solar in several sites; therefore, they wanted to hold off. At a September Board meeting, they discussed that the Town was conducting a Request for Proposal (RFP) to hire a vendor to assist in managing the overall utilities, commodities, purchasing, etc., and the Board agreed to allow the administration to follow the recommendation of the selected vendor. However, the timing would not work out for the school system because the RFP is still in the process of being written. In the interim, the Business Office is moving forward with getting prices and sample draft contracts, and having an attorney from Shipman & Goodwin who specializes in electricity review those contracts to be prepared in the event that the RFP would not work for the school system. She brought to the committee the pricing received and during this week the prices have been dropping. The recommendation from the Finance Committee was that they would like to enter into a three-year contract with Constellation who has agreed and acknowledged that they are willing to have the pricing include that solar would be in effect and it is a minimal amount of the overall kilowatt usage. The Board's attorney was happy with Constellation's e-mail; however, it was not binding as part of the contract, so he is now in the process of tidying up that language because the contract that he reviewed basically stated that everything within the agreement was contained in that document. The pricing is such that they would pay approximately \$68,000 less annually if they were to lock into a three-year contract versus a one-year contract. The Town is currently going to be in the same three-year cycle with a three-year electricity contract. If the Board was to do the one-year and wait until we had an Energy Manager onboard to look at utilization and make recommendations, they still would not be in a position to combine with the Town to enter into any type of a contract together. Based on that information the Finance Committee's recommendation to the Board would be to enter into a three-year contract once it is approved through Attorney Matt Ranelli at Shipman & Goodwin.

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

**“Move to approve the signing of a contract for the generation of electricity for all school sites for a period of three (3) years once the language is approved by the law firm of Shipman & Goodwin.”**

Mr. Oshana asked if the rates went down since the Finance Committee meeting. Mrs. DiNello replied that the rates dropped this morning; therefore, the 36-month rate right now is .0986.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES ~ Mrs. Lombardi, Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Queen, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, and Mrs. Carmody. **Motion carried unanimously 7 – 0.**



**c. Natural Gas Update**

Mrs. Notar-Francesco reported that the committee heard from administration that there were four different vendors who suggested that we return to Yankee Gas at the end of our Metromedia contract in November. Yankee Gas, by far, has the best rate currently, and we would need to stay with them for a 12-month period. The Town also plans to return to Yankee Gas and, when the RFP process hires our energy consultant, the Town and the Board of Education can then make decisions beyond the next 12 months for a natural gas contract commitment.

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

**“Move to purchase the natural gas needs for the Southington Public Schools from Yankee Gas for a period of 12 months beginning December 1, 2014.”**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES ~ Mrs. Queen, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mr. Oshana, and Mrs. Carmody. **Motion carried unanimously 7 – 0.**

**b. Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting ~ October 6, 2014**

Mrs. Carmody reported that the committee met this week and discussed cursive handwriting that has been a controversial topic in some schools. In Southington, by the end of fifth grade, the students will be able to write legibly and read cursive writing. Grade 3 teachers have a curricular responsibility to teach and to assess cursive writing informally. Teachers at all the schools are putting the morning message and date in cursive on the board. The students are using computers and are not exposed to cursive; however, Southington is exposing them to it. The Board discussed whether a legal signature has to be written in cursive.

Mrs. Oshana thought that it was good to go back to some of the basics. He noted that to read the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, or the Declaration of Independence, which are written in script, the students would need to know cursive. He wholeheartedly disagrees with the people who think cursive does not need to be taught to the students.

Mr. Iverson was happy cursive was coming back and wished that he had retained that from elementary school. He asked the Board to continue teaching cursive.

Mr. Carmody reported that the committee also discussed spelling and how it needed to be taught in a consistent manner within the elementary classrooms. At the next Curriculum and Instruction meeting the committee will be visiting South End School to review the pilot World Language Program.

Mr. Brino added that his English teacher still writes in cursive on the Board every day in class, and he can read it. He noted that some students ask the teacher to read it to them. He also was happy that cursive was being brought back into the school system.

Mrs. Queen asked if fine motor skills were discussed at the Curriculum meeting. Mrs. Smith replied that it was not discussed. She added that fine motor skills embedded into Kindergarten and Grade 1 is very evident. They noticed it in the artwork of full-day Kindergarten students last year where they are seeing an improvement.



Mrs. Lombardi likes the focus on spelling because in the business world she notices the lack of correct spelling and grammar. Mrs. Carmody emphasized the consistency across all the schools and grades with the teachers working out of the same teacher manuals. Mrs. Lombardi added that, for non-English language learners, spelling is critical because English is not a phonetic language. Mr. Oshana added that grammar was important too. He added, when the power goes out and the computers, iPads, cash registers and calculators are not working, that is when the basics come in handy.

## 9. OLD BUSINESS

### a. Town Government Communications

There was no communication.

### b. Construction Update

Mr. Romano reported that the middle school construction is ongoing. The mini phase is still scheduled for completion at the end of November and some of the new furniture, fixtures and equipment that have been purchased will be brought in at that time. The kitchens are going to be opening on October 20, 2014. On October 14, the Health Department will do their final inspection.

## 10. NEW BUSINESS

### a. SAT / AP / College Report *(Moved to Agenda Item 6.e)*

### b. Southington High School Profile 2014-2015 *(Moved to Agenda Item 6.f)*

### c. Approval of Overnight / Out of State Field Trips *(Moved to Agenda Item 6.d)*

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** by Mr. Oshana, seconded by Mrs. Clark:

**“Move to adjourn.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 7 – 0.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Linda Blanchard*  
 Recording Secretary



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS  
Robert M. Berkmoes, PRESIDENT  
Michael S. Domian, VICE PRESIDENT  
Thomas J. Murphy, SECRETARY & TREASURER  
Gregory Klimaszewski  
Angelina Santa Maria  
Erik E. Semmel



Frederick W. Rogers, SUPERINTENDENT  
William M. Casarella, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT  
Ann Marie Anop, OFFICE SUPERVISOR  
605 West Queen Street  
P. O. Box 111  
Southington, CT 06489-0111  
(860) 628-5593 • Fax (860) 621-0491

## Attachment #1

September 30, 2014

Mr. Peter Romano  
Director of Operations  
Southington Public Schools  
200 North Main Street  
Southington, CT 06489

Dear Mr. Romano:

The Southington Board of Water Commissioners has recently completed an extensive Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for its water system. The purpose of this plan is to identify and prioritize infrastructure improvements focusing on buried infrastructure, wells, storage tanks, pumping stations, and treatment facilities. Recommendations in the CIP include improvements to mitigate hydraulic deficiencies (water supply) in the eastern portion of town by creating an "East Side Pressure Zone" (PZ).

The new PZ project includes a pump station, water storage tank, and connecting water main. The new PZ is needed for the following reasons:

- Increase pressures
- Improve fire flow
- Increase storage
- Improve reliability
- Expand the service area in the future

It has been determined that the preferred location for the new pump station is in the vicinity of the west side of Southington High School. Additionally, a new water main connecting the pump station to existing water main at the intersection of Annelise Avenue and Flanders Street is needed. The attached figure shows the approximate location of the proposed pump station and water main. Preliminary design of the new pump station and connecting water main includes advancing soil borings, location of site utilities, and a site survey. It will be necessary to mark out the soil boring locations using stakes and/or white paint. The attached figure also shows the approximate location of the proposed soil borings.

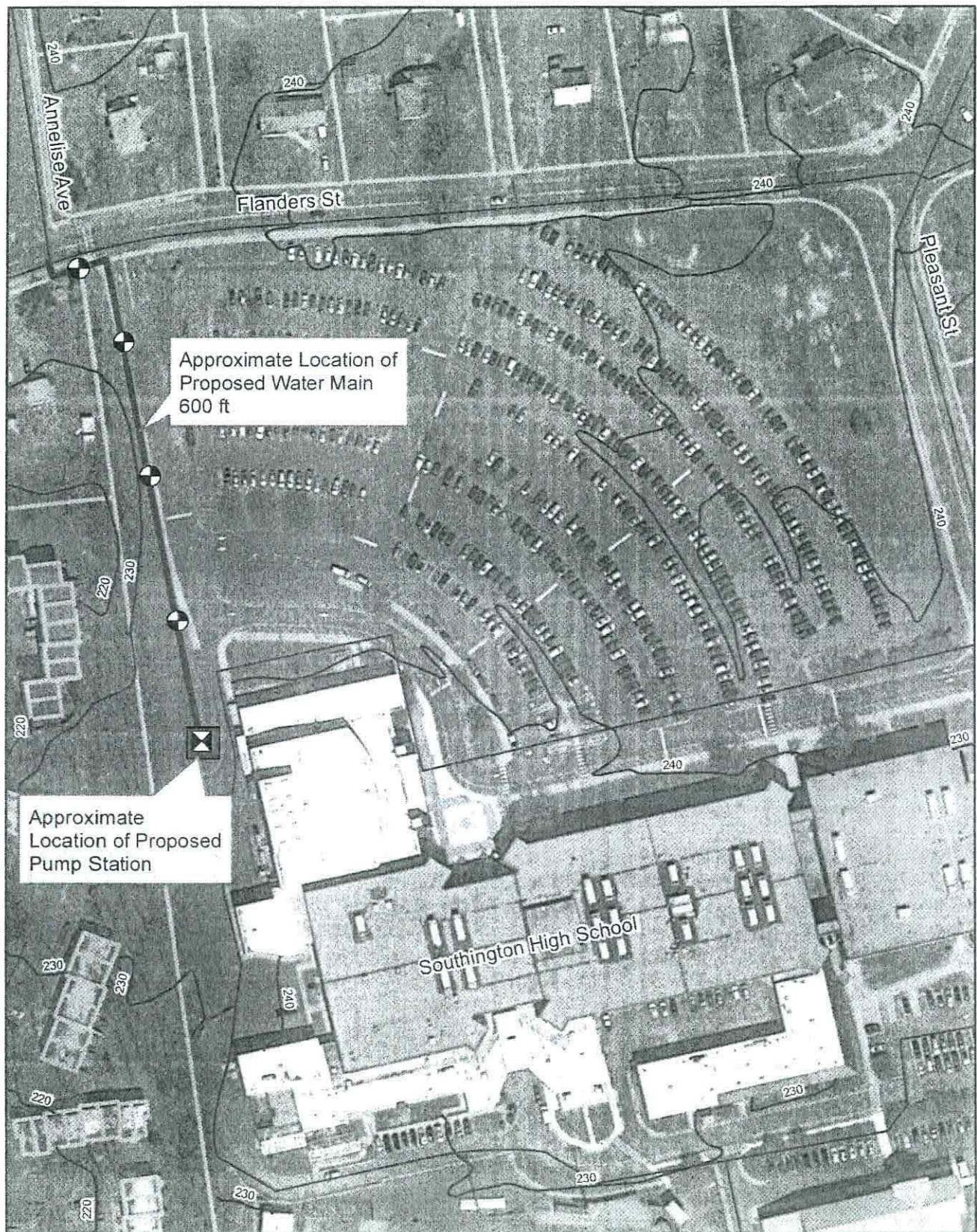
At this time, the Board of Water Commissioners is requesting permission to perform the preliminary engineering to identify the appropriate site for the pump station and if conducive to the project goal we would seek approval to move forward and locate the pump station at the proposed site.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thank you,

Frederick W. Rogers  
Superintendent  
Southington Water Department



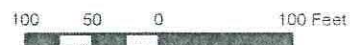


# Legend

- Contour (NAVD 88 FT)
- Existing Water Main
- Parcel Boundary
- ⊠ Deep Boring
- ⊕ Shallow Boring

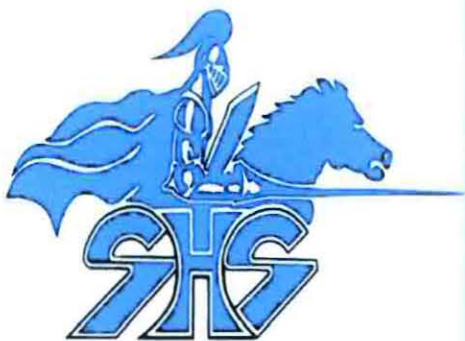
## Proposed Pump Station and Boring Locations

Southington  
Water Department



**Tighe & Bond**





# SOUTHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

## Profile 2014-2015

Southington High School, with approximately 2,000 students, is a four-year comprehensive public high school offering curricular and co-curricular programs to students in grades 9-12. Accredited through the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, the school offers an extensive range of courses in college and career preparation. Southington High School has been steadily raising academic standards for all students. In 2012-2013, course levels were reduced from four to three, honors classes were expanded to all core subjects and world language, grades 9-12. Southington High School prides itself on its record of outstanding student achievement and rigorous academic standards.

### Mission Statement

Students engage in a range of educational experiences to become informed, adaptive problem solvers who effectively communicate, rise to challenges, and are committed to improve themselves and their community.

School Code: 070690

720 Pleasant Street, Southington, CT 06489

\* Phone 860.628.3229 \* Fax 860.620.1509 \*

[www.southingtonschools.org](http://www.southingtonschools.org)

## Principal's Message

As one of the largest public high schools in Connecticut, Southington High School has the capacity to provide an unparalleled range of educational, athletic, career-oriented, extra-curricular opportunities for our students. Despite its size, Southington High School's singular priority is to discover the individual potential of each one of our students, fostering their ability to simultaneously become an intrinsically motivated worker and a lifelong learner. In order to succeed in college and beyond, we feel that we must equip our students with the attributes of world competitors: technological awareness; empathy and compassion; leadership; tenacity; global literacy; problem solving; speaking and listening skills. Therefore, we consistently engage our students in rigorous academic experiences to prepare them for the challenges that await them, from Advanced Placement classes to UConn Early College Experiences to our articulation agreements with Tunxis Community College. We are confident that a graduate of Southington High School will be an asset to any student body of any university.

Dr. Martin Semmel, Principal

## District Officials

### Superintendent of Schools

Timothy F. Connellan

### Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Karen L. Smith

## School Officials

### Principal

Martin J. Semmel, Ed.D

### Assistant Principals

Michael Halloran

Brian Stranieri

Diane Holst-Grubbe

Richard Terino

### Athletic Director

Eric Swallow

## School Counseling

### Director of School Counseling

Julie Robertson

### School Counselors

Mark Bugnacki

Ana Napolitano

Geoffrey R. Davis

Sherry Russman

David Gleba

Elizabeth Viens

Bethany Ingriselli

Jessica Wallace

LeeAnn Miller



## School Highlights

US News & National Report  
"One of America's Best High  
Schools" Award - Silver Medalist  
2013

Named to 4th Annual Advanced  
Placement Honor Roll

World renowned Robotics  
Team—National Placement;  
Southington District Champions

#1 in Pre-Engineering on  
Connecticut Technical Education  
assessments

#1 in Animal Science on  
Connecticut Technical Education  
assessments

Three active foreign exchange  
programs with sister schools in  
France, Italy and Spain

Marching Band - 5th place in  
nation in national competition  
at MetLife Stadium

State championships in softball  
(2013,2014), gymnastics (2012,  
2014) and football (2013)

FBLA, Key Club, DECA, and FFA  
students highly active in state  
leadership roles

Connecticut Regional Art  
Scholastic Award 2013-2014

Halo Award—student recipient  
for Best Leading Actress in a  
musical

National Honor Society ~  
Minimum of 30 hours  
community service post  
induction

## The Community

Southington today is a growing suburban community. The town is located in Hartford County, within 20 miles of Hartford and 9 miles of Waterbury, and includes the sections of Plantsville, Milldale, and Marion. The geographic area of the town is 36.8 square miles, ranking it 40th out of 169 Connecticut towns and its population is approximately 43,000. A modern residential, commercial, and industrial community, Southington is proud of its history.

## The Staff

Southington High School employs 188 faculty members including 10 school counselors, 13 department chairs, one principal, 4 assistant principals and one athletic director. Faculty members have been recognized among their peers with professional awards and publications.

## The Curriculum

The Southington Public Schools strive to provide students with an extensive educational experience by empowering students to develop the skills to become life long learners. Advance Placement, Honors, Competitive College Prep, and College Prep level courses are offered in English, Fine Arts, Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, Technology, Music, Family and Consumer Science, Business, Agricultural Science, and World Languages. In addition, opportunities for learning beyond the classroom meet a wide range of student needs and interests. Students are advised as to the most appropriate course levels on the basis of achievement and teacher/counselor recommendations. Through an engaging curriculum and nurturing environment, students will leave the Southington Public School system with the knowledge and skills necessary to become responsible, productive citizens in an ever changing, global society.

## GPA and Class Rank

Southington High School provides exact weighted GPA and class rank on transcripts. The GPA is based on final grades in all subjects with the exception of PE, Health, The Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts, Independent Study, and Pass/Fail classes. Our GPA scales range from 0 to 120. The point value are based on the course level and final grade received. Our minimum passing grade is a 60.

## Course Levels

H	Honors/Advanced Placement/ECE	→	Numerical Grade x 1.20
CCP	Competitive College Preparation	→	Numerical Grade x 1.10
CP	College Preparation	→	Numerical Grade x 1.00

## Weighted Factors\*

### \*WEIGHTED FACTORS 2011-2012 and prior years

Level 4 (Honors/AP)	Numerical Grade x 1.15
Level 3 (Accelerated College Prep)	Numerical Grade x 1.10
Level 2 (College Prep)	Numerical Grade x 1.05
Level 1 (All other courses)	Numerical Grade x 1.00

New courses that were offered in 2012-2013 included Honors Earth Science, Honors Biology, Honors Civics, Honors World History, and all second and third year Honors level Foreign Language classes. These courses were unavailable to students in the class of 2015 in their freshman year.



# Graduation Requirements

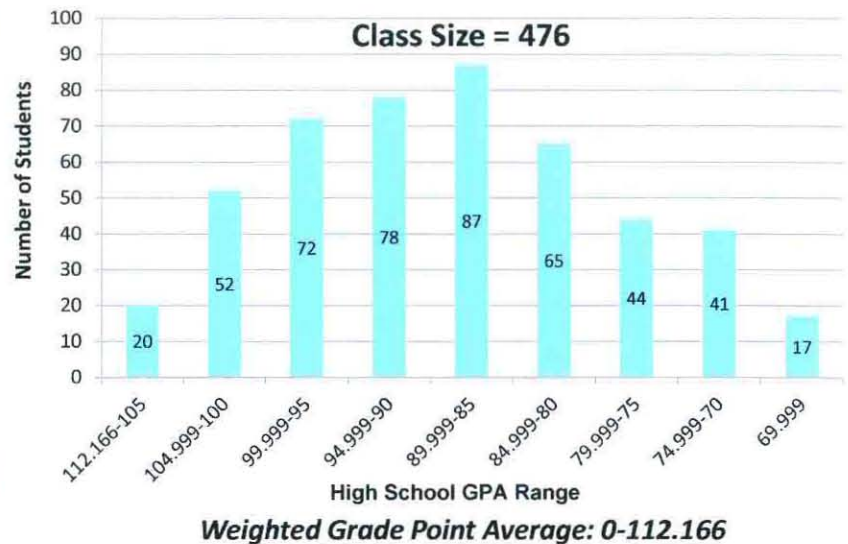
Successful completion of 22 credits including:

4.0	English
3.0	Math
2.0	Science
3.0	Social Studies
1.0	Arts or Vocational
1.0	Health
1.0	Physical Education
7.0	Electives
<hr/>	
22.0	Total

*State Literacy and Mathematical Performance Standards demonstrated*

# Profile for the Class of 2015

as of July 2014



## Advanced Placement

### Courses

- |                            |                                      |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Biology                  | • Physics                            |
| • Calculus                 | • Psychology                         |
| • Chemistry                | • Statistics                         |
| • Computer Science         | • Studio Art (2D Design and Drawing) |
| • Environmental Science    | • U.S. History                       |
| • English Literature       | • U.S. Politics & Government         |
| • German                   | • UCONN/AP French                    |
| • Language and Composition | • UCONN/AP Italian                   |
| • Music Theory             | • UCONN/AP Spanish                   |

### Exam Participation

In May 2014, 254 students sat for 450 AP Exams, 80.7 % scored 3 or higher.

### Scholars ~ May 2014

National AP Scholar	1
AP Scholars with Distinction	20
AP Scholars with Honors	14
AP Scholars	27

## SAT Scores

### Mean Scores ~ 2013-2014

	Southington	Connecticut	National
Critical Reading	518	507	407
Mathematics	536	510	513
Writing	520	508	487

### SAT I Score Distribution ~ 2013-2014

Score Range	Critical Reading	Mathematics	Writing
700-800	8	20	14
600-690	71	97	69
500-590	165	146	150
400-490	143	127	144
300-390	18	14	29
200-290	4	5	3

### SAT II Score Distribution ~ 2013-2014

Test	Number	Mean
Biology – E	1	N/A
Biology – M	3	N/A
Chemistry	4	N/A
Literature	6	650
Mathematics Level 1	3	N/A
Mathematics Level 2	8	701
US History	6	647
World History	1	N/A

### University of Connecticut Early College Experience

Courses offered in French, Italian, Spanish, Agricultural Science, Family and Consumer Science for UCONN credit.

### Rochester Institute of Technology

Courses offered for RIT credits through Project Lead the Way.

### College & Career Pathway and High School Partnership Programs

Tunxis Community College, Naugatuck Valley Community College, Gateway Community College, and Wesleyan University High School Scholars. Students may earn community college credits.



# Special Programs

## Project Lead The Way

An engineering program which is a partnership with higher educational institutions and the private sector intended to increase the quantity and quality of engineers graduating from our colleges and universities. Students are selected for this competitive program and required to complete five sequential courses (grades 9 – 12).

## Agriculture Science and Technology Program

A regional four year program that consists of organized instruction for students who wish to prepare for a career in agriculture science and other related careers such as landscape architecture, veterinary science, forestry, environmental careers, agribusiness, horticulture, and aquaculture.

## Greater Hartford Academy of Math & Science and Greater Harford Academy of Performing Arts

Students may be dually enrolled at SHS and GHAMAS and GHAA. The day is split between the two schools.

## Future Plans ~ Class of 2014

89%	Graduates attending post-secondary institutions
62%	• Number attending 4-year colleges
25%	• Number attending 2-year colleges
2%	• Number attending vocational-technical schools
2%	Military
9%	Workforce

## Colleges Attended by Southington High School Class of 2014

Adelphi University  
Bay Path University  
Benjamin Franklin Institute of Tech  
Bentley University  
Bismarck State College  
Bloomsburg University of PA  
Bridgewater State University  
Brigham Young University  
Bristol Technical Education Center  
Bryant University  
Capital Community College  
Central Connecticut State University  
Clemson University  
Coastal Carolina University  
College of Charleston  
Converse College  
Daniel Webster College  
Dean College  
Duke University  
Eastern Connecticut State University  
Elmira College  
Elms College  
Emerson College  
Endicott College  
Fairleigh Dickinson University  
Felician College  
Fordham University  
Framingham State University  
Franciscan University of Steubenville  
Full Sale University  
Goodwin College  
Hallmark Institute of Photography  
High Point University  
Iona College  
Johnson & Wales University  
King's College

Liberty University  
Lincoln College of New England  
Lincoln Culinary Institute  
Lincoln Technical Institute  
Louisiana State University  
Loyola University New Orleans  
Lynchburg College  
Lyndon State College  
Manchester Community College  
Marist College  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Mass College of Pharmacy & Health  
Meredith Manor International Equestrian  
Middlesex Community-Tech College  
Mount Ida College  
Naugatuck Valley Community College  
North Carolina State University  
Northeastern University  
Northern Kentucky University  
Norwich University  
Nova Southeastern University  
Pace University, New York City  
Paul Mitchell The School - North Haven  
Pennsylvania State University  
Post University  
Quinnipiac University  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Ringling College of Art & Design  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Roger Williams University  
Sacred Heart University  
Saint Anselm College  
Saint Vincent College  
Salem State University  
Salve Regina University  
Southeastern University

Southern Connecticut State University  
Southern New Hampshire University  
Springfield College  
St. John's University  
Suffolk University  
SUNY Maritime  
Syracuse University  
Temple University  
Three Rivers Community College  
Towson University  
Tufts University  
Tunxis Community College  
United States Military Academy  
Unity College  
University of Alaska  
University of Connecticut  
University of Florida  
University of Hartford  
University of Massachusetts  
University of New England  
University of New Hampshire  
University of New Haven  
University of Rhode Island  
University of Saint Joseph  
University of South Carolina  
Utica College  
Villanova University  
Virginia Polytechnic Inst. and State U  
Wells College  
Wentworth Institute of Technology  
West Virginia University  
Western Connecticut State University  
Western New England University  
Wheelock College  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Yale University