

SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT

REGULAR MEETING

October 23, 2014

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, October 23, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Municipal Center Public Assembly Room, 200 North Main Street, Southington, Connecticut with Executive Session scheduled for 6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Brian Goralski, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Present from the Board: Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark (arrived at 6:25 p.m.), Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Pat Johnson, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mr. Zaya Oshana, Mrs. Patricia Queen, and Mr. Brian Goralski.

Administration Present: Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Karen Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance; and Ms. Lisa Jones, Accounting/Purchasing Manager.

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

"Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of a discussing personnel matters, student matters, and snow removal and sanding bids, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS, STUDENT MATTERS, SNOW REMOVAL/SANDING BID

The board went into executive session at 6:05 p.m.

Mr. Goralski declared the Executive Session recessed at 6:35 p.m. The Board agreed to return to Executive Session upon completion of the regular meeting agenda.

3. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE ~ RETIREES OF THE SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

At 6:37 p.m., in Celebration of Excellence, the Board of Education and administration recognized the following retirees of the Southington Board of Education who were in attendance:

Joan Abt, ELL Tutor at Southington High School
Sandra Albrycht, Grade 4 Teacher at South End Elementary School

Pamela Aldi, Assistant Principal at Kennedy Middle School
Robert Beeney, Technology Education Teacher at Southington High School
Marcy Bonola, Grade 1 Teacher at South End Elementary School
Antoinette Carey, Family & Consumer Science Teacher at DePaolo Middle School
Gloria Colonero, Library/Media Paraprofessional at Derynoski Elementary School
Kathleen Conway, Social Studies Teacher and Department Chair at Southington High School
Patricia Corvello, Principal at Plantsville Elementary School
Frederick Cox, Director of Operations at Central Office
Janice Cox, Purchasing Secretary/ 9th Grade Academy Secretary at Southington High School
Helen Crowley, Assistant Principal at Southington High School
Judith Cutler, Paraprofessional at Flanders Elementary School
Pamela Czaja, Grade 4 Teacher at Kelley Elementary School
Connie Dabrowski, Business Teacher at Southington High School
Cynthia Gagliardi, Paraprofessional at Kennedy Middle School
Paula Knight, Kindergarten Teacher at Hatton Elementary School
Nancy Maigarie, Grade 7 Social Studies Teacher at Kennedy Middle School
Donna McBride, Grade 1 Teacher at Kelley Elementary School
Elizabeth Olson, Secretary at Flanders Elementary School
Robert Riccio, World Language Teacher at Southington High School
Maureen Roth, Grade 5 Teacher at Strong Elementary School

The celebration concluded at 7:05 p.m. and Mr. Goralski called for a recess.

4. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

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

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

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

There were approximately 8 people in the audience.

5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. Goralski requested a moment of silence in memory of Mrs. Sally Scanlon. Ms. Scanlon was a secretary at DePaolo Middle School when she retired. Prior to working at DePaolo, she worked at Milldale School, which is no longer a school in Southington.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ October 9, 2014

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

“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of October 9, 2014, as submitted.”

Motion carried by voice vote, 7-2. YES: Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mr. Oshana, and Mrs. Queen. ABSTAINED: Mr. Derynoski and Mr. Goralski.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience

Arthur Cyr, 103 Berlin Avenue, shared that he saw a report on NBC about the number of people who pass school buses. In that report it stated that people pass stopped school buses 70,000 times per day. He stated that he understood that the company that was providing the district with cameras on buses has scaled back; however, he personally feels that it happens quite often and it’s something that the district should review. Mr. Cyr found the report to be frightening and has a great deal of concern for the safety of the students in Southington. He has seen reports on social media of people passing buses and believes that this needs to be a priority for the Southington School district. Mr. Cyr asked that we communicate to all bus drivers the importance of getting a license plate and reporting any time a car passes their bus illegally. He believes that would make a difference and asked that the Board of Education revisit installing cameras inside and outside of buses.

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 8 c, Southington High School Library Update, to 7 d.”

Motion carried by voice vote, 9-0.

Mrs. Queen reminded the Board of Education that on Monday, November 10, 2014, there will be a concert in the auditorium at Southington High School in honor of Veterans Day.

Mrs. Johnson shared that it’s her understanding that the Board might be thinking of discussing an honorary designation during the public session of the meeting. She requested that Mr. Goralski consider waiting so the Board can have further discussion pertaining to the request. Then, after the Board has a discussion, they can bring the recommendation to public session. Mr. Goralski stated he would consider her advice.

Mrs. Carmody shared that she’s always proud of the school system and following a visit with her grandchildren, she was extremely impressed when she got a first-hand look on consistency of instruction throughout the district. She has four grandchildren who attend different Southington schools. When they were together, the students were comparing what they were learning in school. The fourth graders were doing the same thing in their classes and the two middle school students were comparing their work as well. Mrs. Carmody has been on the

Curriculum and Instruction Committee for seven years and that is something the committee has worked very hard to accomplish, consistent instruction. She wanted the public to know how proud she is of this accomplishment.

Mrs. Lombardi appreciated the updates from Mr. Connellan pertaining to Ebola. There is a great deal of work happening in the medical community and she looks forward to receiving additional updates.

In addition, at the last Board of Education meeting, the Board received a presentation from the high school pertaining to SAT and CAPT scores. Mrs. Lombardi asked when there would be a follow-up to that presentation as requested at that meeting. Mrs. Smith stated that Dr. Semmel has been working on several ways to collect, desegregate, and make common sense of the data. Dr. Semmel recently shared his draft with Mrs. Smith and she anticipates this being on the next Board of Education Meeting agenda.

Mr. Derynoski shared that he attended the ACM Annual Conference/Job Fair. This was an opportunity for companies to share their product and meet with prospective employees. This year, students from area high schools and middle schools attended. It gives exposure to the types of opportunities that are available for careers in the manufacturing sector, primarily with aerospace companies. There were in excess of 70 companies represented and there were approximately 950 students, including students from Southington. All comments were very positive. The amount of interest from the students that expressed their interest in attending a technology school and operate the more sophisticated equipment that is available was impressive. The company that Mr. Derynoski works for invited students to visit and see the engineering aspect. Their company recently signed an agreement with Tunxis Community College to offer a college-setting classroom in their building as well as a work cell area. This would allow students to get hands-on experience. There was a great deal of interest from the Southington High School faculty. The interest statewide in manufacturing is alive and well and he hopes that the enthusiasm continues.

Mr. Oshana shared that Music of the Knight was exciting. He had the privilege of handing out trophies with Dr. Semmel. The passion was amazing and he thanked Mr. Johnson and Mr. Shaw for their amazing work.

Mr. Oshana expressed how impressed he is with the teachers of Southington. Teaching is not a job, it's a passion. Something is going very well in Southington to keep such amazing teachers.

Mr. Goralski thanked Mr. Bob Brown for another successful Wall of Honor Celebration at the high school. It's a great event that recognizes some well-deserved people who have done wonderful things after graduating from Southington.

Mr. Goralski was notified that the Board of Education will have the capability of streaming their meetings live and they plan to begin this at the next meeting. This will allow the community to watch town meetings live, over the Internet.

Mr. Goralski responded to a question raised by Mrs. Johnson earlier in the meeting. He stated that he had a request to name an item after an individual. It's a legitimate request that has been discussed in executive session over time. Following the regular meeting, the Board will return to Executive Session to wrap-up this meeting.

Mr. Goralski also welcomed Ms. Margaret (Meg) Walsh, Director of Pupil Services.

Communication from Administration:

Mr. Connellan reported on the following items:

1. Director of Pupil Services: Mr. Connellan also welcomed Meg Walsh to the district. She started this week and is ready to do some good work. The district is excited to work with Meg.
2. Director of Technology: Mr. Connellan stated that the search for a director is still in progress. They have taken the next step and believe that they will have some candidates return. They are reforming the committee and have been keeping the technology department aware of the progress.
3. Personalized Learning ~ League of Innovative Schools: The work session has begun and administration from both middle schools and the high school were in attendance. They have a great, ambitious group and he looks forward to continuing and reporting out that work.
4. CAS First Year Principal Award: Mrs. Smith stated that at the end of the last school year, she was delighted when a group of teachers at Kelley Elementary School asked that she share information with them about their principal, Marilyn Kahl. They were interested in submitting her name to CAS to be considered in a statewide competition for *First Year Principal of the Year*. Mrs. Smith was pleased to report that Mrs. Kahl was named one of the finalists in the State of Connecticut. The administration plans to recognize Mrs. Kahl at a future meeting.

c. Communication from Student Representatives:

Ms. Veilleux reported:

- The PSATs for sophomores and juniors can now be taken at the high school. Ms. Veilleux stated that PSATs are a great opportunity for students and they help tremendously to prepare students for taking the SATs. She shared that the SAT is unlike any other test and having the chance to take a dry-run through the PSAT is a huge benefit.
- On the same day that students in the lower grades were taking PSATs, the seniors were offered mini workshops to learn more about Naviance and other topics that helped in preparation for college. There was a presentation from a representative at Central Connecticut State University pertaining to College Safety. The seniors also took their class photo.
- Financial Aid night was held and it was eye-opening and somewhat overwhelming. Having the information session was very helpful.
- The end of the first marking period is on October 31.
- The fall band orchestra concert for the freshmen is being held on October 28.

Mr. Brino reported:

- The First Robotics Team competed at Bash at the Beach, which is an alliance with three teams: Southington, New Haven, and a team from Colchester. During this competition, you use the robot from the previous year and play the

same game as you did the previous year. The team won the Gracious Professionalism Award which is a good sportsmanship award.

- January 1, 2015 is when the game is being announced this year. They have some time to prepare for the kick-off.
- Music of the Knight went well, in spite of the rain. There were some really great bands that performed on the turf.
- The marching band is headed for the state competition this upcoming weekend in New Britain.

Mr. Iverson reported:

- The DECA/FBLA Halloween Party. Both are business organizations at the high school. DECA focuses in management and marketing and FBLA is a more broad business organization for students who think they have a future in that field. The Halloween Party is a joint effort of both clubs. It's scheduled for October 28. It will be held in the cafeteria at the high school. There are games and a haunted house for their enjoyment. It's a safe environment and should be a lot of fun.
- Another event at the high school for students is Coffee House. They hold this 3-4 times per year. It's for students who are musically inclined and talented. There are auditions in the auditorium on October 30.
- Training for Tomorrow is a volunteering/internship program that is established through the Chamber of Commerce for high school students. This allows juniors and seniors to intern with businesses throughout the community. Students can see if they like their career of choice. Ms. Veilleux shared that she participated in this program last year and Mr. Iverson stated that he will be interning with a local injury attorney this year. It's another great opportunity offered in Southington.
- Fill the Van will be held at the Southington High School varsity football game at the high school. It's a food drive organized by the cheerleaders to collect non-perishable foods for local organizations.

d. SHS Library Update (previously agenda item 8 c.)

Mrs. Smith shared that this would be an update surrounding the Southington High School Library Media Center and bringing it to the 21st Century. Mrs. Queen stated that Ms. Stephanie Patterson, Southington High School Library Media Specialist, has been leading the transformation in making this library media center relevant for the 21st Century. Some of the highlights of this journey include the NEASC accreditation process, visit from a library consultant from the state, the works of the Library Advisory Committee, visits to other school libraries, research, and currently participating in the CES Reimagining Your Library program. Acceptance into this program was based on the work Ms. Patterson has done so far. There have been incremental, systemic changes to have a library media center to serve the students and teachers of Southington.

Mrs. Patterson began her presentation by stating that 21st Century Learning invites us to change. One change is adding the Common Core State Standards to the curriculum. Purposeful change is powerful, meaningful, and sometimes difficult. The district is changing and transforming to meet the needs of the students.

Ms. Patterson thanked Mrs. Smith for the invitation to share her presentation with members of the Board of Education, as well as Mrs. Queen for her time and effort as the liaison for the Library Advisory group.

There have been incremental changes at the high school since 2008. The hope is that the adults responsible for the library program have the strength, the support, as well as the resilience and persistence needed to continue the process and move the library programming throughout the district, from good to great. The Library Learning Commons professional development program provides an ideal framework for this and it presents an unparalleled opportunity to accomplish the goal. The rewards will be phenomenal; yet, there is a lot of work that needs to be done in order to get there.

The most common action word embedded in the Common Core State Standards is *research*. The second most common word is *reading*. Research and reading are the pillars of the standards for the 21st Century learner, adopted by the American Association of School Librarians in 2007. As the national standards changed, the conceptual view of the school library media center changed as well. This evolved into the concept called Library Learning Commons. Learning Commons describes a school library that is a physical and virtual center of the school characterized by learning, collaborating, researching, reading, studying, and more.

The presentation included the following information:

- Defining the Learning Commons to highlight the conceptual differences. You can change the name on the door, but they are defined by the activity within.
- Changes in resources for learning. Changes are significant; yet, they have remained within a fixed budget with no additional costs.
- Changes in the physical space. Ms. Patterson thanked Mr. Chris Longo and Mr. Victor Baldwin who work in the district facilities department. They rebuilt the bookcases and completed the painting.
- Ms. Patterson thanked Dr. Semmel for his support and helping making this plan possible.

Ms. Patterson believes that if you build the room, the students will utilize the room. Already, with some of the updates, many students are now using the space. She would like to see more database usage and expects that, as elements of the research process are built into assignments and assessed in the rubrics, these numbers will increase.

Ms. Patterson stated that the priority goals are to move from good to great and she acknowledged the hard work and dedication of the following people: Dr. Martin Semmel, Mr. Richard Terino, Ms. Laura Abed, Ms. Kate Wakefield, Ms. Debbie Mauro, Mr. John O'Neill, and Mrs. Debbie Miller. Additionally, she thanked the former superintendent, Dr. Joseph Erardi, for bringing this Library Advisory work group together.

Dr. Semmel stated that Ms. Patterson has been pushing this to happen since he started his tenure at the high school. In order to go from good to great, they will need to continue to make sure that the library/media center is the learning hub of their building. Mrs. Carmody shared that Ms. Patterson has done an amazing job and she's happy to see what she's done. She also agrees that the library media center should be the hub of the school.

Mrs. Lombardi thanked Ms. Patterson for a great presentation. She asked what would be the highest priority on her wish list and Ms. Patterson stated that technology is on top. She asked that the Board have an open mind and heart and keep the goal in mind. Her initial vision has changed over time. The library belongs to the community and students and she would like to see it be bigger and better than she imagined.

Mrs. Lombardi questioned if the high school has a research course that would include utilizing the Internet that would help the students conduct valuable research that would assist in their careers. Mrs. Smith stated that through the computer and technology classes they have this as part of the learning units. Dr. Semmel shared that students are getting additional research experience in both English and social studies. It's often stated that, "You can't Google everything." An example of using research is becoming familiar with formal MLA style writing. Research is needed and is being added. Dr. Semmel believes they have a solid base that they will continue to build upon. Ms. Patterson agreed that, historically, there has been an overreliance on Google. It's a common occurrence and they are taking affirmative steps to change that. Students need to be in a database to do the research that is needed. They are encouraging students to use professional journals. They are taking the necessary steps to get there.

Mrs. Johnson asked about the availability of laptop usage and if they can use their own devices. Ms. Patterson stated that students can bring their own devices and the high school also has laptops that they can borrow.

Ms. Patterson explained that the district's approval to participate in the Learning Commons program requires that the district act on the recommendations of the facilitator once the program is complete. They will need the support of the community to engage and implement the district plan. The facilitator will evaluate the space and help formulate a plan. Following, the district will take action to put that plan in place. It will require financial support from the district.

The Board thanked Ms. Patterson for her commitment and dedication.

8. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

Mrs. Queen had a Facility Advisory Committee meeting prior to this meeting. Her notes included the following information:

- Concession stand. Mrs. Helen Henne had many of the same questions that were discussed at a previous Board of Education meeting. Any group who uses the stand must have a certificate of insurance on file and they currently do have one on file for all the leagues and booster clubs. They are looking into health permits. Previously, the information was in the name of the Gridiron Club and they are looking to make it more general so every group would fall under the same category.
- Mr. Swallow suggested implementing a security deposit and if there are any issues following usage of the concession stand, he would be the person to notify.
- There were other leagues that have contributed financially. The \$25,000 from the Board of Education toward the maintenance line has been delivered to the town.

The lacrosse league has contributed over \$1,625; travel soccer \$1,030; recreational soccer \$2,535; there are two football leagues that will be sending their checks in the near future; and on Columbus Day weekend, there was a soccer tournament that cleared \$1,100. Another rental brought in an additional \$200. There are potential events coming up that will earn additional dollars.

- Phase One of the *Buy-a-Brick* campaign is complete and 41 bricks have been ordered. There are still questions pertaining to the installation of the bricks that need to be resolved. Once the bricks are installed by the turf field, the community will get a visual of the final product which will help with future sales.
- Mrs. Queen distributed a Sign-up/Usage document that represents how often the field is being used. The document represents the past four months. This schedule of events is posted on the Southington Public Schools Website under the Southington Sports section.
- They are financially on track and future fundraising to be forthcoming.
- Safety with bleachers was also addressed and Mrs. Queen thanked Mr. Romano for coordinating the painting of a yellow stripe on each step on the bleachers.
- Mrs. Queen shared that they have not officially started the rules and procedures plan for the concession stand, but the rules pertaining to rental of the turf field are posted on the Website. They are in a transition stage and this is a work in progress.

Mr. Goralski stated that the budget season has begun and the Board plans to schedule a meeting with the other town committees that will allow the Board of Education to answer some recurring questions pertaining to their budget. Mr. Goralski will follow-up with Mr. Leary on this meeting.

b. Construction Update

Mr. Romano reported that on Monday, they opened the kitchens at both middle schools. It was a soft opening, which allowed them to work through any glitches. He thanked the building and health departments, Newfield Construction, and especially, Nya Welinsky and her staff for keeping everything going. The current phase of construction will be completed in November and the next phase will begin.

Mr. Goralski commented that the Building Committee is a fine example of collaboration and shared services. There are relationships being built throughout the community and he believes it will improve the end product. Mr. Romano has been a major asset at the Owners Meetings, along with Mr. Cox.

c. Southington High School Library Update

This agenda item was moved to 7 d.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Snow Removal/Sanding Bid Award – Bid #2015-BID-18

Mrs. DiNello shared that there was a recommendation for a bid award at four school sites: Kennedy Middle School, Derynoski, Strong, and Thalberg Elementary Schools.

Mr. Oshana stated that he has passion surrounding snow removal, sanding, and safety. School safety begins in the parking lot. The selection of someone to do this project is very important and the district needs to be cautious when choosing the right company. He mentioned that conducting a background check on companies should be a priority and past lawsuits should be considered when hiring. Mr. Oshana took a few moments to share some photos of what a slip and fall means because it is serious. He asked that the Board be cautious. He asked that the Board remember the photos presented when voting for a company. Mr. Oshana mentioned that they will be reviewing the policy pertaining to background checks at an upcoming Policy and Personnel Committee meeting. The concept of background checks for vendors who will be working on any Southington Public School site is critical. The Board had received advice from attorneys; however, he doesn't agree with that advice. Therefore, when reviewing the bid documents, it's important to remember the consequences of not having a good process in place. He plans to ask more questions and, if there are issues at the school, he would like feedback.

Mr. Goralski commented the language that Mr. Oshana spoke of was added through Finance Committee and will now have another review from the Policy and Personnel Committee. Mr. Romano will build from the practices that are currently in place. The current practice is that Mrs. DiNello handles the research pertaining to vendors who have submitted bid documents. The information brought to the Board of Education is based on references and known situations. Mr. Romano will continue to build a process based on school based observations and safety will remain the number one priority.

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

“Move that the Board of Education approve Bid #2015-18, Snow Removal and Sanding Services at J. F. Kennedy Middle School for three years at the per season bid price to ADC Enterprises contingent upon inspection of equipment by the Director of Operations, as presented.”

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES ~ Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Queen, and Mr. Goralski. Motion carried unanimously, 9 – 0.

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

“Move that the Board of Education approve Bid #2015-18, Snow Removal and Sanding Services at Strong Elementary School for three years at the per season bid price to ADC Enterprises contingent upon inspection of equipment by the Director of Operations, as presented.”

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES ~ Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Queen, Mrs. Carmody, and Mr. Goralski. Motion carried unanimously, 9 – 0.

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

“Move that the Board of Education approve Bid #2015-18, Snow Removal and Sanding Services at Thalberg Elementary School for three years at the per season bid price

to ADC Enterprises contingent upon inspection of equipment by the Director of Operations, as presented.”

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES ~ Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Queen, Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, and Mr. Goralski. Motion carried unanimously, 9 – 0.

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

“Move that the Board of Education approve Bid #2015-18, Snow Removal and Sanding Services at Derynoski Elementary School to Schmidt Lawn Care for one year at the season cost, as presented.”

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES ~ Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mrs. Queen, Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, and Mr. Goralski. NO ~ Mr. Oshana. Motion carried with vote of 8 – 1.

b. Superintendent’s Proposed Goals for 2014-2015 ~ First Reading

Mr. Connellan stated that he asked for feedback from the Board of Education and he did receive some valuable suggestions. It was explained that the document presented is a draft.

Transition. They are undergoing a tremendous amount of change and there are key positions that are part of this process. He tried to develop this in the organizational piece of his document. Mrs. Lombardi shared her feedback that included a request for Mr. Connellan to provide a report to the Board on his first six months in the same way he’s expecting a report from his administrative team. Mr. Connellan explained that, prior to his starting in Southington, he provided the Board with a draft of a transition plan. He confirmed that many of the items listed in his plan are well underway. Mr. Goralski requested that Mr. Connellan update that draft of his transition plan and include it in his mid-year reflection with the Board.

Teaching and Learning. There are many initiatives on the table and some fantastic things happening in the district. Mr. Connellan stated that it’s critical that they continue working on those initiatives. What’s important is that he is able to support those initiatives and continue to move forward and be successful. Included with teaching and learning, they still have the implementation of School Net. This will be a priority when the new Director of Technology is hired.

Literacy Initiative. This initiative is one they talked about and is underway. The Board has discussed a district level professional learning community that will help facilitate this process. They’ve done work recently with CREC and Mrs. Smith received feedback from the consultant and the administration plans to move forward with a series of meetings that are to be determined.

Personalized Learning. This is going to take a huge amount of work. Mr. Connellan stated that Vision 2020 will be the end goal. The administration started working with League of Innovative Schools at the elementary level on standards based reporting. All the work they’re doing is preparing students for what they need to know when they graduate from the high school. As they move forward, they need to embrace the concept that changes need to be made. As they listen to the library conversation, one item that came up was the idea of changing the *constant*

and the *variable*. The *constant* is still time; however, that needs to be the *variable*. Think of the library media center as a learning center. When you think about when college students use the library media center and the answer is at all times. The idea of flexible time and uses is much in line with personalized learning. Somewhere down the road, they will need to have the discussion about what that means for students. This is the beginning of the conversation and it's an exciting time. When the administration attended the work session with League of Innovative Schools there was a lot of good information. Mr. Connellan worked with both the middle and high school teams. The high school team was talking about why they can't layout the program for students beginning in preschool through college. There are programs that exist. They are doing the work and helping students think more critically and enhance their writing skills. The work is being done, now they need to put it in the right framework. This is exciting but it's also a tremendous amount of work.

Mrs. Queen was happy to see this as a goal for the district. She was at the parent executive council meeting when Mr. Connellan launched the concept to the group. She said this was the first time that she heard it ties to the standards based elementary education in that way. She felt the parents grasped the concept and it was very well presented.

Mr. Connellan stated that he was at his four district collaboration meeting and there were two representatives meeting with them from CAPSS. They brought to the table a partnership for them through the Great Schools Partnership. There is funding from Ellie Mae. Mr. Connellan stated that the Great Schools Partnership is looking for four districts to run a pilot. The idea behind this is that it shouldn't matter who is sitting in the chair, if you want to sustain change over time, it's about the will of the community. What does the community want of the school district?

Mrs. Lombardi commented on *Item A, Ongoing Follow-up of Initiatives*. She shared with Mr. Connellan that one of the initiatives that the district started was half-day professional development each month. The Board would appreciate a report on that item.

Additionally, it was stated that the utilization of technology by the high school teachers was very low. There was going to be some effort to perhaps increase the usage with the professional development. Mrs. Lombardi requested that the administration provide the Board with some follow-up to this item.

Facilities and Technology. Mr. Connellan mentioned that there was a partnership across the board and they need to add shared services.

Mr. Goralski explained that following this first reading, the Board should initiate individualized conversations with Mr. Connellan as they see appropriate.

School Safety and Security. Mr. Connellan explained that the district is working very hard on this topic. Mr. Frank Pepe is doing a great job moving forward with a group from the district. He has taken this on and Mr. Connellan is very appreciative of his work. It's important work and in the end, there will be a much different plan than they have right now.

Mr. Derynoski stated that the items are very good and some have dates that show the item as completed. Mr. Connellan will identify the items as action items that are related to his goals that have already been completed.

Mr. Derynoski mentioned that the Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Plans are not included in the document. Mr. Connellan will add this in the Teaching and Learning section.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco mentioned that an item within the scope of ongoing work is fiscal planning. Mr. Connellan will be working very closely with the Board, staff, and the community prioritizing and balancing operational and capital needs. Therefore, she recommends that *Budget and Fiscal Planning* be added to the document.

Mr. Goralski stated that this is an excellent document and although it is called the Superintendent's Goals, they are the district goals.

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

“Motion to return to Executive Session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote, 9-0.

At 9:29 p.m. the Board returned to Executive Session.

At 10:00 p.m. Mr. Brian Goralski declared the Executive Session ended.

The Board returned to public session at 10:00 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote, 9-0.

The meeting adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Passamano
Recording Secretary