

**SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**OCTOBER 25, 2012**

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The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, October 25, 2012 at William M. Strong Elementary School, 820 Marion Avenue, Plantsville, Connecticut.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR SEA CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS**

An Executive Session meeting was held 6:25 p.m. through 7:03 p.m. (*Minutes attached*).

**3. BOARD RECOGNITIONS**

**a. Retirees of the Southington Board of Education**

At 7:12 p.m., Administration recognized the distinguished retirees from 2011-2012 and gave a brief history of each of the retirees in attendance. They were presented with a clock and a box of Fascia chocolates by Mr. Goralski, Chair, Mrs. Carmody, Vice-Chair and Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Secretary. The retirees in attendance were:

Name	Facility	Position	Yrs. of Service
Elaine Ainsworth	SHS	World Language Teacher	10
Angelo Campagnano	JFK	Principal, JFK	34
Lucyann Carbone	JFK	Math Teacher	32
Lois Carrier	JFK	Guidance Office Secretary	28
Dolores Castiola	JFK	Paraprofessional	7
Diane Countryman	Plantsville	Grade 2 Teacher	32
Deborah Francis	Derynoski	Grade 5 Teacher	35
Anita Holtz	ALTA	English	25
Martha LaBrie	SHS	Paraprofessional	19
Beecher Lajoie	Thalberg	Principal	38
Ann Lorenzo	Flanders	Paraprofessional	38
Kathleen Marsan	Hatton	School Nurse	13
Sharon Mirisola	SHS	Paraprofessional	26
Arlene Mobarak	Derynoski	Kindergarten Teacher	32
Maureen Murphy	Strong	Grade 1 Teacher	32
Mary Niezgorski	Plantsville	School Secretary	25
Ann Pleva	JFK	Language Arts/Social Studies	35
Marcia Riccio	SHS	Health & PE Teacher	36
Christine Ryder	JAD	Social Studies Teacher	26

Elizabeth Scirpo	JFK	Science Teacher	38
Marica Smedley	JFK	Art Teacher	25
Edward Szydowski	Maintenance	Carpenter	34
Sandra VanValkenburgh	JAD	Literacy Specialist	31
Lucy Wasserback	Plantsville	Grade 1 Teacher	15
Carol Welch	Strong	School Nurse	26

Retirees unable to attend were:

Name	Facility	Position	Yrs. of Service
David Germano	SHS	Assistant Principal	38
Roberta McAloon	Hatton	Principal	39
Regina Wolak	Thalberg	Paraprofessional	36

**4. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION**

The regular session was called to order at 7:50 p.m. by Chairperson, Mr. Brian Goralski. Board members present were Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mr. Zaya Oshana, and Mrs. Patricia Queen.

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 Special Education Coordinator.

Student Representative present was Miss Whitney DiMeo.

There were approximately 35 people in the audience.

**5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Miss DiMeo led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ October 11, 2012**

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

**“Move to approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting of October 11, 2012.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**7. COMMUNICATIONS**

**a. Communications from Audience**

**Dr. Mary Yuskis, 74 Valley View Court** spoke of her support for All-Day Kindergarten in Southington in 2013. She has three daughters who attended Preschool and did very well interacting with other children and learned rules and behavior expectations from authority figures other than herself and her husband. Her children thrived in Preschool and looked forward to going to Kindergarten. As great as it was to go to elementary school, they were not enjoying their experience as much as they did Preschool because they were only going to school for a half-day, and had no time to play and spend time enjoying the camaraderie of their peers because they were constantly working. Her youngest daughter will be attending Kindergarten next year and she worries that being there half-day will limit her opportunities to further develop the foundational skills that she learned in Preschool as the curriculum requirements intensify and the creative interaction with her peers is virtually non-existent. Dr. Yuskis felt that All-Day Kindergarten would only continue to enhance these experiences of being a child making friends and enjoying the camaraderie and respect of a teacher. Continuing half-day Kindergarten makes these things virtually impossible because every moment is taken up by the academic and district requirements that are being put forth on the children. They have so much more opportunity to discover and make mistakes and learn when given the gift of time. She and her husband were in 100% support of All-Day Kindergarten.

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

**Communication from the Board Members:**

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

**“Move to move Agenda Item 10.a ‘Overnight and Foreign Field Trip Approvals’ to Agenda Item 7.d and Agenda Item 10.d ‘Short Term /Long Term Capital Improvement Plan’ to Agenda Item 7.e.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

Mrs. Carmody spoke about the student mock election held at Southington High School on Tuesday, October 24 that was sponsored by the Social Studies Department. The results for President of the United States were: Barak Obama received 827 votes (55%) and Mitt Romney received 684 votes (45%). For Senate: Linda McMahon received 830 votes (55%) and Christopher Murphy received 692 votes (42%).

Mrs. Carmody reported that last week the first Business Advisory meeting was held regarding DECA and FBLA. She thanked the Southington businesses who support the Southington High School Business Department.

Mr. Derynoski reported that the Technology Advisory Board, co-chaired by Nancy Chiero and Justin Mirante, held their second meeting of this year. It is supported by local businesses who offer help to the students regarding careers in business, manufacturing and construction. He felt that it could be a model for the state.

Mrs. Lombardi attended the Vision 2020 Strategic Planning Committee that is doing the work of what learning will look like in the year 2020 and the skills that would be required and how to prepare the students for 2020. She was impressed by the work that has already been

undertaken by the Administrative Cohort. These future administrators are participating in shaping their own future on what Southington would look like in 2020.

Mr. Goralski stated that he had information about conferences and workshops through CABA and the National School Board Association for any Board member who was interested. He received a letter from Senator Richard Blumenthal who was responding to Mr. Goralski's letter on behalf of the Board about Sequestration. Senator Blumenthal was the only person from the federal delegation who responded. He will have Mrs. Blanchard e-mail the letter to the Board members.

#### **Communication from Administration:**

Dr. Erardi reported on the following:

1. CREC / Magnet Southington Public School Enrollment: Dr. Erardi thanked Mrs. Notar-Francesco, who serves as Chair of the CREC Council this year, for providing him the CREC packet so he could look at their work. One item of interest was student enrollment by towns in the magnet schools in the state. He thought that it would be good information to compare and contrast with Southington.
2. SEA Recommendation - Calendar: Dr. Erardi reported that the Southington Education Association (SEA) Union President, Mr. Bob Brown, sent him a letter expressing a concern of the SEA to leave the April school vacation intact. This would come before the Board for discussion at their December Board meeting.
3. Music of the Knight: Dr. Erardi announced that the Music of the Knight will take place at Cheshire High School on Saturday, October 27 at 3:00 p.m.
4. Ladies Auxiliary – Gift Giving SHS: Dr. Erardi stated that Ms. Rachel Wache from the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary presented Dr. Semmel [Southington High School Principal] a gift of \$1,800 for an intensive reading program that a high school Literacy Specialist offers to high school students.
5. Adult Education: Dr. Erardi introduced the new Adult Education Director, Jen Discenza, to the School Board. Ms. Discenza thanked Dr. Erardi for establishing the Southington Administrative Cohort program in which she was able to expand her leadership experiences and to work with outstanding administrators and mentors in the Southington school system. She stated that she looked forward to identifying the continuing education needs of Southington. She has already met with some of the Adult Education staff.

#### **c. Communication from Student Representative:**

Miss DiMeo reported on the following:

- She congratulated the retirees.
- A Blood Drive, sponsored by the National Honor Society, was held at the high school two weeks ago. They collected approximately 46 pints of blood.

- The PSATs were held with the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders taking the test in their homerooms. It is mandatory now and increases the participation.
- Tuesday, October 23 was Financial Aid Night at the high school.
- The mock election sparked a lot of political debates within the school and was integrated throughout the disciplines.
- The Student Council is hosting a Food Drive that ends mid-November. If you bring in the most food, you get a breakfast by Fancy Bagels.
- She noted that the students were sad but supportive of moving the Music of the Knight to Cheshire.

**d. Overnight and Foreign Field Trip Approvals (formerly Agenda Item 10.a)**

Mrs. Smith reported that there were three overnight field trips. The first overnight foreign field trip was to Rome and Sicily in April of 2014. She invited Mrs. Maureen Waldron [Southington High School Latin Teacher] to speak on behalf of this trip. This is the fourth time that Mrs. Waldron will be taking students to Italy. Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked how many days of school would the students miss. Mrs. Waldron replied that this particular trip was for 11 days with two days of travel back and forth. It depends on whether or not Good Friday falls into the vacation time. Mrs. Johnson asked how particular sites were chosen for students to visit. Mrs. Waldron responded that the sites they will be visiting are integrated into what the students are learning in their classes and connected to the curriculum.

Mrs. Smith asked Antoinette Delfino [Spanish Teacher] and Christopher Conant, Earth Science Teacher, to come forward to speak on the field trip to Costa Rica. The trip will combine the disciplines of Earth Science with the Spanish culture. The students will be learning in their classes about the sites that they will be visiting. Mrs. Lombardi thought that the combination of the two disciplines was great. She questioned the safety perspective of horseback riding and kayaking that was on the itinerary. Ms. Delfino replied that students will be wearing helmets and have a training lesson before they go kayaking on the calm waters of the river. Last year, it was one of the highlights of the trip for the students. The horseback riding is optional to the students with parent consent. The kayaking is part of the itinerary and the horseback riding is optional and not part of the trip. Mrs. Lombardi was nervous about the horseback riding piece of the trip. Mrs. Johnson asked if Mr. Conant planned on instructing the science part of the trip in Spanish. Mr. Conant replied that he knew enough Spanish to understand it and get by. In conjunction with the travel guide, he planned on teaching the students specifically about the volcano and hot springs.

Mrs. Smith asked Renate Ringstad [German Teacher] and Karen Cavanaugh [Special Education Teacher] to speak on the field trip to Germany and the Czech Republic. This trip will take place on April 13-20 of this school year. Ms. Ringstad pointed out that Ms. Cavanaugh was very familiar with Prague and had been a great chaperone on previous trips that they have taken with students. Mr. Derynoski stated that Ms. Ringstad picked a great travelling companion because he knows how well that Ms. Cavanaugh works under stress having been stuck in Paris [the year the volcano erupted in Finland resulting in an ash cloud throughout Europe]. Mrs. Queen asked them to talk about the LEAP activities. Ms. Ringstad replied that LEAP is a hands-on activity provided by the travel vendor. One of the LEAP activities is a culinary experience in Berlin at a culinary institute with a chef. Another LEAP activity is interactive where they will be talking about *Ich bin ein Berliner*. There will also be a debate to keep the students engaged.

Dr. Erardi pointed out that the Board has three stipulations regarding foreign field trips:  
 1) The Board of Education has the right to rescind up to the day of the trip. 2) If the trip is cancelled, the staff is expected to return to work. 3) If the trip is rescinded, it is at no cost to the Board of Education.

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

**“Move to approve the Foreign Field Trips, as presented, with the stipulations.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**e. Short Term / Long Term Capital Improvement Plan ~ Town Proper**  
*(formerly Agenda Item 10.d)*

Dr. Erardi introduced Town Manager, Garry Brumback, who shared with the Board of Education a very important question that will be presented to the community within the November 6<sup>th</sup> Referendum. Dr. Erardi had the privilege to co-develop the Capital Plan with Mr. Brumback and noted that the Southington Public Schools administration sees the Pavement Management as a plus for the Board of Education and the opportunity to provide safe roads and walkways for the students. He felt that it was an opportunity to show partnership between the Town Proper and the Board of Education.

Mr. Brumback gave a PowerPoint presentation on Pavement Management that will be on the November referendum. His purpose was not to advocate for one way or the other but to educate. He gave an overview of the public referendum regarding Phase I, which would cost \$11 million to repair and restore Southington’s roads. Southington has 202.9 miles of roads at a cost of \$500-\$600 per mile to replace. A study was commissioned on all 202.9 miles of Southington roadways to determine what shape they are in right now, what it would take in order to repair them to a reasonable standard and how best to approach that going forward to get the most value out of the dollars to be spent. He spoke about the pavement management concepts, pavement deterioration, roadway conditions and the Pavement Condition Index (PCI), funding scenarios, an annual maintenance cost comparison and timeframe with construction to begin by April 2013 and completed by 2015, if approved.

Mrs. Johnson had asked what the cost would be for the average citizen. Mr. Brumback replied that it was equated to a \$100,000 value of a home to what the increase in the mill rate would be. It would be about \$30 per \$100,000 worth of value or \$2.50 a month.

Mr. Brumback stated that, if the referendum was successful, the names of the streets to be repaired under Phase I could be found on the Town of Southington website and the Town Highway Department’s website.

Mrs. Queen asked how economic development would be tied to the road maintenance. Mr. Brumback replied that transportation as a form of economic development ranks right behind quality of schools for attracting businesses. They want people to want to come to Southington but businesses can only come here if they can transport their goods and services out of here.

Mrs. Lombardi asked what the state would provide to the town as far as reimbursement. Mr. Brumback replied that they right now get about \$600,000 a year toward the \$1 million to \$1.5 million that they are currently spending. He expects that would remain; however, it was not adequate.

Mrs. Clark was a big proponent of taking care of what one already has. She was glad to see that the Town was taking that direction as well with the roads. She felt that they have been neglectful of the infrastructure in Southington. She thanked Mr. Brumback for his leadership and initiative in this effort.

Mr. Oshana asked if sidewalks would be put in where they don't currently exist. Mr. Brumback replied that it would not happen with this money. However, today the Town had a kick-off meeting on Safe Routes to Schools where they would put sidewalks in where they had not been previously. This would be a long-term process; however, the first priority is to restore the roads. The secondary priority would be alternative transportation about five to 10 years out.

Mrs. Queen asked if bicycle lanes would be put in as part of this project. Mr. Brumback replied they would be put in where possible. A lot of the roads are narrow and don't have the capacity. They are not looking to expand the existing roads; they are looking at restoring what we have.

## **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **a. Policy & Personnel Committee Meeting ~ October 15, 2012**

Mrs. Clark reported that the committee discussed Policy #3324, Preferential Bidding Procedures, and the first reading will be brought to the Board later on the agenda. The committee also continued discussion of the 2000 Series. She thanked Mr. Oshana for his work with the Organizational Chart. A title change for the Senior Coordinator of Pupil Personnel Services was discussed as well as the role of Middle School Facility Managers and PTO calendars to be updated online. The next committee meeting will be November 26 at the Municipal Center.

## **9. OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. Town Government Communications**

Mr. Goralski stated that he and Mrs. DiNello attended the Town Board of Finance meeting and again the Board of Finance asked them to share the procedure of returning funds to the Board of Education. He noted that Mrs. DiNello found her previous explanation to them and will share it with the Board of Finance once again. Mr. Goralski stated that Mr. Leary [Board of Finance Chair] is looking to finally make this process seamless and smooth. He noted that Mr. Leary asked Emilia Portelinha, Town Finance Director, to attach the procedure, reasoning and understanding to the agenda each time the Board of Education makes this request and it will remain on their consent agenda.

Dr. Erardi announced that the dedication of the Municipal Center will take place on Sunday, December 2, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. The Board of Education will be taking responsibility for the program and the invitation. He will work with Mr. Brumback to create the invitation list.

**b. Construction Update**

Mr. Cox reported that the Municipal Center casework has been completed and the furniture arrived last Friday and is in place. The wireless was completed; however, the only thing that will be lacking at the next Board meeting will be the permanent audio system. They will be using the “road show” equipment for the next Board meeting. The permanent audio will be in place and completed just before Thanksgiving.

Mr. Cox reported that the Building Committee continues to meet on the middle school projects. Newfield Construction gave a report on the findings of the oil tank testing and the soils around DePaolo Middle School. The estimate was slightly over \$121,000 to remedy that particular situation. Newfield Construction will continue working with Fletcher Thompson’s estimators in order to present the design document estimates for both projects at the November 6 meeting. Hygenix, the hygienic company, was in both schools over the Columbus Day weekend and took 250 samples with the test results to be reported at the November 6 meeting.

**c. Air Quality Testing ~ Derynoski / Flanders / Kelley**

Dr. Erardi reported that the testing would take place on Sunday, October 28, at all three schools. The test will be collected prior to the start of the Monday school day and the usual lab return time is less than two weeks. The update will be on or before the next Board of Education meeting. Mr. Goralski noted there has been very little talk about this in the community other than the appreciation for the Board of Education for being proactive in addressing safety.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Overnight and Foreign Field Trip Approvals (*Moved to Agenda Item 7.d*)**

**b. Return 49 Beecher Street Property over to Town Proper**

Dr. Erardi thanked Mr. Cox who had oversight for emptying Beecher Street. Everything that was needed has been taken, and if not needed it has been removed and discarded. Beecher Street is in move-in condition with carpets vacuumed and the interior presentable for any new prospective buyer. The use of Beecher Street has ended and the protocol in Southington has been for the School Board to take action to allow the Board of Education Chair to send a letter to the Town Manager returning the building back to the Town Proper.

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

**“Move that the Board of Education return the facility at 49 Beecher Street back to the Town and request that the Board Chair write a letter in that regard.”**

Mrs. Johnson noted that the contract with the realtor has expired. She asked what people should do if they were interested in buying it. Dr. Erardi replied that they should contact



Attorney Mark Sciota. Mr. Goralski felt that there was a clear understanding through Mr. Brumback that the Town Council knows this vote was coming. Dr. Erardi replied that it was expected.

Mr. Derynoski asked at what point the Board of Education relinquishes any maintenance or costs incurred. Dr. Erardi replied that, when the letter is sent forward, the Board of Education would no longer be responsible for energy management of that building. Mrs. Johnson suggested that this letter be sent certified mail so that there is a time, date stamp on it. Mr. Goralski was comfortable with a standard delivery and electronic delivery so there is a date correspondence. He was opposed to incurring the cost for the certified mail. Mrs. Johnson noted that her concern was the liability issue in formal notification because there is a time lag between when it is mailed and received. Mr. Goralski stated that he would contact Attorney Sciota first thing Friday morning. Dr. Erardi replied that he could hand-deliver the letter to which the Board agreed.

Mr. Derynoski was concerned about liability insurance that covers the facility. Mrs. DiNello pointed out that the Board of Education and the Town were together in the policy and she did not see any change in the overall insurance coverage. Mr. Derynoski asked if they would maintain some form of liability coverage if they were to walk away from a building. Mrs. DiNello replied that she would work with Attorney Sciota on that; however, she believed all the buildings were on one policy and the cost of the bill was split.

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

**c. Policy #3324, Preferential Bidding Procedures ~ First Reading**

Mrs. Clark reported that Mrs. DiNello brought to the committee's attention that they had no options in the event of a tied situation. The committee added language in Section B and Section C to address that.

**d. Short Term / Long Term Capital Improvement Plan ~ Town Proper**  
*(moved to Agenda Item 7.e)*

**II. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**“Move to adjourn.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Linda Blanchard*  
Recording Secretary

SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT

EXECUTIVE SESSION  
OCTOBER 25, 2012

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

**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 meeting to order at 6:25 p.m.

2. **EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR SEA CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS**

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

**“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.**

*The Board went into Executive Session at 6:25 p.m.*

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

**“Move to reconvene into public session.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

*The Board reconvened into public session at 7:03 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Jill Notar-Francesco, Secretary  
Southington Board of Education