

SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT

REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 12, 2012

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, January 12, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the Southington Town Council Chambers, 75 Main Street, Southington, Connecticut.

At 7:10 p.m., for the Celebration of Excellence, Dr. Erardi introduced Jonathan Kryzanski and Jonathan Pierson and recognized them for organizing the Toys for Tots Drive. They were presented with plaques by Board Chairperson, Brian Goralski. The Gulf Shrimp Company was also recognized for their partnership and support in assisting the Southington Public Schools during the October snowstorm.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

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 Representatives present were Leon Peschel and Whitney DiMeo.

There were approximately 20 individuals in the audience.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The student representatives led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Goralski called for a moment of silence in memory of Jordan Hughes, a student at Kennedy Middle School who passed away this week, and Joseph Fiorente, a retired Southington High School biology teacher who recently passed away.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

“Move to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 8, 2011.”

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

4. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience

Mr. Leonard Marcheselle, 108 Sandra Lane, Plantsville: He came before the Board to give his reaction to a meeting with Dr. Erardi, Mrs. Smith, eight teachers and seven Veterans of various branches of the service with different experiences from different parts of the world and different wartime adventures. The Veterans came up with several suggestions and there was one word that summed up their work: “partnership.” He hoped that the Board would listen to Dr. Erardi’s summary of the meeting when he gives his report because the Veterans left the meeting feeling proud and satisfied that their “mission was accomplished.” He suggested that the Board look at other days to meet the 180-day state mandated requirement instead of Veteran’s Day. He suggested Martin Luther King Day, Presidents Day, Columbus Day or the Friday after Thanksgiving. In summary, he stated, “Don’t try to fix the clock if it ain’t broke.”

Mr. Harold Bacon stated that he was a Southington High School graduate, Class of 1966, and served in the Marine Corps from 1968 to 1970. He stated that he lost many of his fellow classmates, who are honored on Memorial Day; however, he felt that they do not celebrate people who are alive and served the community at-large. He asked the Board not to forget that in their deliberation about Veteran’s Day. He spent 25 years in education in West Hartford and his principal, Dr. Donald Slater, a Major in the Army, went to Iraq for 18-24 months and served his country. He set a motto for their school to “serve the community,” and showed his students and staff what it meant to “serve the country.” He thought that the Veterans who are alive today, who served their country, needed to be appreciated. It took him 40 years to get back into the fold because of the way Veterans from the Vietnam era were treated when he came back. He stated that there is a celebration in Southington on the Town Green on Veteran’s Day that should be respected.

Mr. Goralski thanked the Veterans for sharing their thoughts as well as the Veterans who served on the committee.

b. Communications from Board Members and Administration

Communication from the Board Members:

Mrs. Queen stated that the most profound moment of her year spent as a member of the Board of Education was the moment at graduation last June when Dr. Erardi asked the graduates who had enlisted in the military to stand so the Board could honor them. He then asked all the parents to stand and all the Veterans in the audience to stand. The applause was phenomenal. She looked at their young faces, and noticed how tall they stood. She knew that they truly did not understand in that moment the sacrifice they were making, but she also knew that, in that moment, they felt honor. She spent a lot of time thinking about Veteran’s Day and about how to

best honor our Veterans. She did not think that there was anyone on the Board who wanted to do anything but honor the Veterans. She felt that it is not enough that they intend to honor Veterans; the Veterans have to feel honored. She thought that was a lesson of the Vietnam War. What they heard at the last meeting was that November 11th is the date of significance, specifically, the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. With the 2012-2013 calendar, this happens to fall on a Sunday, so it becomes a moot point for the weekday calendar of that year. Most importantly, she heard the message that the Veterans shared about examining how we teach about Veteran's Day, but also how we teach what it means to be an American throughout the school year. She thought that the partnership that Mr. Marcheselle spoke to, which will be part of the Administrative Report, is exactly going to address that. She thanked the Veterans for coming to the last meeting, not only because of what she learned from them, but for the example of citizenship that they set for us all by coming to a public meeting of an elected body of government and expressing their views. She encouraged everyone who has something to say to have the courage to do exactly that.

Mr. Goralski announced that the Polar Plunge was an event that was coming up, which was an opportunity to give back to children in Southington. He has jumped on behalf of the Board of Education. Mr. Lasbury and Dr. Erardi have been captains and now Mrs. Queen has volunteered to jump into the frozen lake. Anyone who would like to make a donation for this worthy cause of sending children to camp can contact central office to make that donation to Team Board of Education. He noted that Mrs. Passamano, on behalf of Team Board of Education, is doing a district-wide event in which children have the opportunity to give back to other children. The Polar Plunge is on January 21, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at Sloper's Pond.

Mr. Goralski reported that on January 19 there is a Southington Education Foundation grant reception at 3:45 p.m. at Kennedy Middle School. He thought that it was exciting to see the opportunities presented to children through these grant awards that the Board cannot afford in the budget.

Mr. Goralski announced that the Board Retreat would be held on February 4 from 8:30 a.m. through noon at The Orchards. They will discuss paperless meetings, scheduling at the high school, and conduct a self-assessment.

Communication from Administration:

Dr. Erardi discussed the following (*Attachment #1*):

1. Board of Education Retreat: Dr. Erardi stated that there will be a complimentary breakfast at The Orchards starting at 8:30 a.m. There will be a paperless presentation by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE). They will host instructional leadership at the high school through Mrs. Smith's office to talk about changing time periods and the length of time periods at the high school. The Board will have the opportunity to raise issues and to talk about ongoing work for the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years.
2. AED Update: Dr. Erardi reported that this is a conversation that began last year. The attainable goal is to have an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) in every school and every town building. There will be an update at the February 9th Board meeting.

3. Board of Education Meeting Location – February / March: Dr. Erardi reported that there was a calendar change for the location of Board meetings. When the calendar was first put together, they anticipated being in the North Center Government Center, but that has been delayed. The February and March meetings will be held in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

4. Digital Learning: Dr. Erardi reported that this revolves around students' personal use of their own technology with a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) initiative. The committee will consist of students, staff, administration and central office administrators. They will report to the Policy and Personnel Committee and the School Board on present practice and with any recommendations. They will examine if they continue to have cell phones that can do just about anything or if it is a device that can offer some assistance in teaching and learning. Many districts are looking at using iPads and desktop computers for students' use throughout the school day.

5. Veterans and Staff Partnership Meeting – January 9: Dr. Erardi reported that the ongoing work includes the willingness of the Veterans to coordinate into a speaker's bureau for the schools. The Veterans who are reluctant or unable to get to the schools will be able to "Skype" into the classrooms with the schools providing that technology. They discussed doing a flag survey to ensure an American flag is where it should be located in the schools. Mr. Shaw, Southington High School Band Director, was part of that conversation and offered support to help celebrate the Veterans work through music. Administration will be doing a scan of their own staff to find out how many Veterans are employed and if they would be willing to participate. They talked about two meaningful programs to Veterans, The Wounded Warriors and The Connecticut Fisher House, with the school district participating next year by putting an additional 25 cents or 50 cents on every ticket sold in partnership with the Veterans to create a donation from the Southington Board of Education. He will keep the Board informed on this initiative.

6. Bus Safety: Dr. Erardi reported that they have been looking at installing cameras inside and outside the buses. There is a potential opportunity, without Board funding, to put external cameras outside the bus for those cars that violate the safety stop sign. Mr. Cox is working on that initiative. Dr. Erardi announced that the community could call the 24-hour / 7-days-a-week Safety Tip Line at 860.637.2006. The Safety Tip Line has been up and running since Monday, January 9, 2012.

7. STEPS / BOE Partnership: Dr. Erardi reported that on May 15 and 16, at no cost to the Board, there is an opportunity for all elementary school fifth grade students who are going to the middle schools to have a day of bonding at Camp Sloper. The elementary school principals thought that it was a terrific idea. At Derynoski and Kelley Elementary Schools, those fifth graders split between the two middle schools; however, he felt that it would be accomplished.

Dr. Erardi shared that he had a terrific dissertation, written by Dr. Perri Murdica, if there was any Board member who would like to know further information on "third-grade teachers' reports of their instructional decision-making for those students at risk for poor reading outcomes." The Board congratulated Dr. Murdica for receiving her doctorate.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco noted that the Board had been recently invited to consider holding a meeting at the Marion Schoolhouse. She asked if there was anything decided on it. Dr. Erardi replied that the conclusion was perhaps the warmer months would be the best time; ideally, they will move the last meeting in April or the meeting in May to the Marion Schoolhouse.

Mrs. Queen addressed the “Skype” capability and noted that a project was done a couple of years ago by Connecticut Public Radio on oral history. She asked if they would have the technology to record what the Veterans have to say and create a Southington oral history of the local Veterans. She thought that it could be a project with some students. Dr. Erardi thought that it was a great thought. He stated that there was actually a project going on right now through the Historical Society of a living history of Southington Veterans. Steve McCarty, a Veteran and a graduate of Southington High School in 1966, took the podium. He stated that the Southington Historical Society were filming oral histories and concentrating on World War II Veterans. His full time job is Recreation Director at Southington Care and he has arranged for some of his Veterans to participate. He knows a Veteran who flew night missions off an aircraft carrier with no lights and no radar, and he had to vector to get back. He received the Navy Cross. He stated that the Veterans were more than willing to participate with the filming of the oral history.

Mr. Goralski stated that he would like to work with the Veterans Committee on what the Board does moving forward with Veteran’s Day and the significance of November 11th. He hoped that, through the work of this committee, in the 2014 school year they will not be rehashing this issue again. He would like the collaborative work of that committee to help the Board moving forward. He asked Dr. Erardi to add that to the Veterans Committee agenda.

Communications from Student Board Representatives:

Miss DiMeo reported the following:

- Midterms were starting Wednesday, January 25 and ending on Friday.
- During midterms, hot chocolate will be sold to benefit the organization called Hope for Haiti, which is affiliated with a water filter organization to help purify the water in Haiti. This is the third year of participation.
- Due to the calendar change, the senior activities of Class Night and Class Day will be changed from June to late May because of exams.

Mr. Peschel reported the following:

- At the high school tonight, there is a girls’ basketball game with an initiative for breast cancer. The girls’ basketball team today in school wore pink uniforms in support of breast cancer. The team has been selling pink wristlets for \$1.00. At tonight’s game, they will have pink balloons.
- The College Basics 101 was held last week, which was a great opportunity for juniors and seniors to ask the seniors of last year about their college experiences and what they found helpful. They gave valuable information on college life, such as with whom students should talk if there is a problem with a dorm roommate.

- After midterms, there will be an informational session for seniors on potential scholarships and the process of applying.
- They were excited when Dr. Erardi said they were considering integrating technology. The Student Council has been looking into the idea because it has been prevalent, especially in English classes where students come in with Kindles all the time. Kindles have been extremely helpful because they have built-in dictionaries and they are a lot lighter than school books.

Mr. Goralski addressed the comment on the school calendar made by Miss DiMeo about the potential impact on senior activities. He asked Miss DiMeo for clarification. Miss DiMeo replied that, because Class Night or Class Day are usually held in June and the last week of school is during finals, they may have a calendar change for those events in 2013. Mr. Goralski asked if there was a recurring date reserved for these activities. Mr. Peschel replied that the events are scheduled for the first week of June; they have not been scheduled for next year yet because of the potential scheduling conflict. Mr. Goralski appreciated that the students mentioned that senior activities might have to be moved to the last week in May. It was something Board members may not have thought about in planning the calendar next year.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting ~ December 16, 2011

Mr. Goralski stated that he would like to have the Curriculum and Instruction meeting report from January 9, 2012 (agenda item d) follow the December 16 committee report, which would change the agenda item line up.

Mrs. Carmody reported that at the Curriculum and Instruction Committee meeting on December 16 they discussed the middle and high school transition. She noted that Mr. Germano attended and explained how the transition team meets every other month. They monitor students' progress and work on methods to intervene for those who are having problems. They meet with all the teachers of these students. They will collaborate with staff to improve student performance. The committee also discussed two concerns with rigor at the middle schools and the homework expectations. The question was raised whether the students at the middle schools were being prepared for their transition to Southington High School. Both the middle schools and the high school agree that they must continue further discussions surrounding these issues. At some point, the Policy Committee will be looking at the homework policy. The committee will continue to monitor these concerns with both groups.

d. Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting ~ January 9, 2012 (Agenda item moved)

Mrs. Carmody reported the committee discussed the leveling at Southington High School and that Dr. Semmel gave a presentation. They have concentrated on professional development training at the high school focusing on the quality of teacher instruction and differentiated instruction. SERC has done an excellent job in providing this training, as well as the literacy specialist. Mrs. Carmody noted that continuing training and teacher collaboration is still needed; therefore, SERC training will continue for the next school year at the high school. She noted that

change requires a lot of training, so they are putting more money in professional development training at the high school. To ensure that differentiated instruction is taking place, the high school administration is tracking data from their frequent walk-throughs. She noted that the high school staff has done a thorough job of informing all students and parents of what is happening at the high school. They are using the website, phone messaging, PTO meetings and the new Program of Studies. Mrs. Carmody noted that an integral part of the leveling is the guidelines that they are using for placement of students, i.e., the CMT and DRP scores. Students, whom the administration and staff feel need extra assistance, are going to be in smaller groups and given the assistance that they need. All of the scheduling and timelines of these programs can be found in the Program of Studies that the students will receive. The committee is pleased that this planning is happening and is very proud of the job that the high school administration and staff are doing. She noted that change is difficult and that the high school is doing an excellent job in planning it through.

Mrs. Clark asked for what the acronym SERC represents. Mrs. Smith replied that it stands for the State Education Resource Center.

Mrs. Queen stated that one of the constructs of the middle school approach was the team philosophy in which the team of teachers focuses on the student and student achievement, and they address students who are at-risk and struggling. She stated that some of this approach is shifting to the ninth grade. She noted that Mr. Germano referenced that as one of the approaches they are taking in trying to create a team aspect around students at-risk.

b. Finance Committee Meeting ~ December 19, 2011

Mrs. Notar-Francesco reported that the committee met on December 19, which was their first meeting with the reconstituted Board. She stated that Mrs. DiNello provided an overview of the budget process for new committee members.

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

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

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

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

“Move to approve the Lawn Mowing and Trimming Bid #2012-BID-01 for Thalberg, Strong, Flanders and Hatton Elementary Schools, as amended.”

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

Mrs. Notar-Francesco reported that Mrs. DiNello provided a financial update and that the Board of Education budget is at a breakeven point. She asked Mrs. DiNello to explain the Excess Cost reimbursement cap. Mrs. DiNello updated the Board on the uncertainty of what the reimbursement would be for the Excess Cost Grant this year. Because it is unknown for the

current year, budgeting out for next year is more difficult. The state is supposed to reimburse the Board of Education for the cost of special education students once the district spends four-and-one-half times the per pupil expenditure. The state has not increased the funding for that grant and, based on the expense submissions from all the towns, they then cap the reimbursement amount. Last year, Southington received between 82%-84% of the grant amount that Southington was due. One of her concerns that she has shared with the Board over the past two years is that, when the IDEA ARRA grant funding became available, many districts throughout the state were using those grant monies for special education tuitions. The unknown of the grant (no longer available because it expired over the past summer) is that many communities that had used those funds to pay for students will now be using their own Board of Education funding. The state is anticipating an increased dollar cost submission for special education tuition reimbursements. Last Friday, she heard the Commissioner speak, and Brian Mahoney from the State Department of Education was present. Although the special education departments have filed their reports in December, they have yet to determine how much the increase would be because of lack of ARRA funding. The district gets the first payment in February and the second payment in May. The first payment in February is a good indication of what that cap will be. The district budgeted between 70%-72% for the current year and for next year as well. She noted that it is one of the uncertainties. The financial update that she gave, based on the best information she had at that time, shows Southington is at breakeven. If the cap comes in much less than what she had anticipated, she will then update the Board on the 25% holdback of all the location budgets.

Mrs. Queen noted that Mrs. DiNello did not structure the spending of the grant money in that way, and Southington is not one of those towns. Mrs. DiNello added that they used limited dollars for tuitions and were able to use some of the ARRA funding for new special education placements, specifically in the ABA Program last year. She knew that they would no longer have the money available for the current budget. The budget did increase because of lack of ARRA funding and the expenses did go up, but it is minimal in comparison to what some communities may have done with those funds.

c. Policy & Personnel Committee Meeting ~ December 20, 2011

Mrs. Clark reported that the committee reviewed Policy #6154, Instruction ~ Homework. This meeting was an introduction to the policy as well as the regulation. She noted that Mrs. Smith provided the committee with preliminary information for the committee to move forward. There are many misconceptions as to what the expectation at each grade level is regarding homework. The committee would like to spell it out so that everyone is on the same page with it. The committee will be meeting monthly.

Mrs. Johnson commented that the Board's usual process was to review each of the series every year. This year will be the 6000 series that they will be reviewing. Some of the policies are ones that they can look at quickly, but this policy is a big one, and they will be taking their time with reviewing this particular policy.

6. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

a. Personnel Report

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

“Move to approve the Personnel Report.”

Mrs. Clark asked Mrs. DiNello to explain the administrative assistant for STEPS under the classified section. Mrs. DiNello replied that the Board of Education Business Office was asked to administer the STEPS grant. This employee is working in the town Youth Services Department and the position is funded by the STEPS grant. Because of the way the grant was written, she is actually an employee of the Board of Education; however, there is no cost to the Board of Education. The Board runs the payroll and the cost is reimbursed by the STEPS grant.

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

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

Mr. Goralski pointed out that Mrs. Lombardi apologized for her absence this evening because she is out of state. Prior to her election to this Board, she had plans in place. He noted that she shared her strong belief about Veteran’s Day as a day to honor Veterans. Mr. Goralski stated that Mr. Derynoski was absent due to a personal situation.

Mr. Goralski reported that he and Mr. Derynoski serve on the Turf Committee, which is a labor intensive Board, with one meeting lasting six hours. This committee is also involved in taking field trips. He and Dr. Natelli will be going to Fairfield and other towns in Connecticut to look at turf. The Turf Committee is wrapping up their work and planning a public hearing.

Mr. Goralski noted that the budget season is in full steam, with the Board of Education holding workshops on January 17 and 19.

Mr. Goralski pointed out that the Board of Finance was sent an appropriation request, which is a typical procedure and practice. The Board of Education’s request for appropriations are typically on the Board of Finance consent agenda and, this particular time, they had some concerns, which tabled the item. He and Mrs. DiNello plan to attend the next Board of Finance meeting to address their concerns.

Mrs. Clark stated that the Blue Ribbon Parks Committee held their first meeting in December. They discussed how the town utilizes the open space, parks and fields. They also heard from the town Maintenance Department, which has a staff of nine employees. They do a terrific job in keeping the parks in great shape. She will keep the Board informed on how the town will be going forward. Mr. Goralski stated that, potentially, there could be some impact on the Board’s space when the middle school projects start.

b. Construction Update

Mr. Cox reported that the actual construction at Plantsville Elementary School is complete. It is the last 1% of the work that has to be done, which is the paperwork with the state.

The Construction Manager and the state are still wrestling with what is identified as eligible reimbursement items versus non-eligible items.

Mr. Cox reported that they are working on some roofing structural cosmetic issues with South End School, but nothing concerning safety. They want to make sure that it is taken care of before they accept the building, and then they will continue with the paperwork. For the most part, the projects are done.

Mrs. Johnson had read in the newspaper about a solar array being placed on the roof of South End School. Mr. Cox replied that the town, through the Connecticut Energy Commission, had a number of people who signed up for renewable sources of power and obtained the 200 points. The town Energy Committee, which he served on, applied for it. It is a two-kilowatt system that could be put on any municipal building. Although it still has to be audited by CL&P, they were convinced to put it on one of the schools. There is a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town Manager and, once it is signed off, it will be coordinated with the roofing contractors to make sure they don't void any warranties on the new roof at South End School. It is going to have a kiosk to show how much power is being generated from solar energy. The intent is to put it in the front lobby so it is there for anyone who visits the site.

Mrs. Johnson was concerned because they are discussing irregularities in the roof right now. She asked if the school would be using the electricity that is provided by these solar panels or is the power going to be dissipated to somewhere else. Mr. Cox replied that it would be fed back into the school for our use. It is a small system, a great learning experience, and a start.

c. Project Update – Middle Schools

Dr. Erardi stated that this week he and Mr. Cox met with Mr. Edward Pocock, II, and talked about moving forward with the Public Building Committee. They gave the Education Specifications to him. The first Public Building Committee meeting will take place the last week in January.

Mr. Goralski pointed out that he and Mrs. Clark were named to that committee and will do their best to report back to the School Board. He felt that the expert for the Board and the town is Mr. Cox. Once that committee starts to meet, he will move that agenda item to Construction Update.

d. School Calendar Update ~ 2011-2012

Dr. Erardi reported that at the December Board meeting the Board members asked him to give an update to students, parents and staff, and Dr. Erardi felt that his Blog posting of December 14, 2011 was understood by all. He received a number of phone calls from parents and staff. His ending comment with all conversations was the same: this was a proposal to the Board of Education and the Board could move in a different direction. However, if the Board chooses to move in a different direction, it would be counter to the notice we have given everyone in December. He stated that superintendents look at winter as four months starting November 15 and ending March 15; they are half way there. There is no change between the December meeting and this evening. Administration continues to represent the majority of the Board in December and the direction given.

Mr. Goralski noted that this item was before the Board as promised to the community after the odd start of the school year and then the October storm that shut down the State of Connecticut. There has been no additional snow since that time. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting. At the Brown Bag Lunch today, a few parents said that, if the Board intends to impact February vacation, they would like the Board to do it at the next meeting in January and not wait until February 9. Mr. Goralski noted that April vacation is still on the table if there are storms in March.

e. Proposed School Calendar for 2012-2013 ~ Second Reading

Dr. Erardi stated that the 2012-2013 calendar tries to reflect what has been the weather pattern for the past couple of years. It is an earlier release than in the past. It compromises the February break to a long Presidential weekend. One year ago, he reported to the Board that parents spoke loudly about maintaining a February and April break. Through the Brown Bag Lunch, they had a similar conversation this year and he thought that parents' opinion has weighed-in differently on the February break because there are a number of schools that have yet to be air-conditioned and June has been a very warm month. The calendar for 2012-2013 has a different look for February.

Dr. Erardi spoke on his position for Veteran's Day. He did not think there was a superintendent who has greater respect for the men and women who have allowed our freedoms that we enjoy every day. It was his personal belief that they would be more respectful to the Veterans by celebrating in every school building on November 11 at 11:00 a.m. a meaningful program for grades K-12 rather than students having the day off. Veteran's Day for November 11, 2012 falls on a Sunday. There are three areas of focus by Veterans. There are those who, no matter when the day falls, prefer to celebrate it with students and allow students to understand the greater meaning. There are a number of Veterans who feel that November 2012 is a non-event and that the true meaning of November 11 is a Sunday and there is no school on Sunday. There are other Veterans who feel that, no matter when that day falls, it would compromise the integrity of what it means for students to be in school. With those three camps, Dr. Erardi's personal feeling is that the students would have a well-meaning program on Veteran's Day when that day falls outside of Saturday/Sunday.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco addressed the start of the school year. The SEA and SAA were very clear in their belief that the start should be moved by three days, with Monday August 27 being the start date for their work year and the first day of school for students would be Thursday, August 30. She supports this approach for several reasons. The overwhelming majority of surveyed SEA representatives had requested that in the letter to the Board. Additionally, over the past two years, when the first week of school was five full days, parents expressed concerns that the students were exhausted by the end of the week. However, the reason the Board did that over the past two years was mainly because Labor Day had fallen so late on the calendar. On this calendar, it is not the case. She stated that sending staff back to school on August 22 seems to be too early.

Mrs. Johnson asked what the rationale was of the groups Mrs. Notar-Francesco spoke to. Mrs. Notar-Francesco pointed out that her information comes from the letter from the SEA and SAA that were attached to the agenda item.

Mr. Goralski asked if any Board member received correspondence or e-mails from faculty because he received a couple. He noted that there was no consistency in the messages that he received.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco also noted Miss DiMeo's point about the June 7 ending date. If they were to move that start day, school would be ending around June 11, which is later and the high school would not have to push back their activities into May.

Mrs. Johnson stated that the letter from the SEA does not give a rationale for why they do not want to start school on August 22. Mr. Goralski replied that his understanding is they simply had a survey where they were given choices. Mrs. Notar-Francesco noted that every year the Board asks staff for their opinion and often doesn't take it. Since it is such an overwhelming majority of teachers wanting change, she did not think there was hardship or harm in the Board accommodating it.

Mrs. Clark was concerned for parents of young children whose first experience at school would be a full week. Sometimes August can be hot and our elementary schools are not air-conditioned and they are going back for an entire week. She agreed with Mrs. Notar-Francesco that the first three days be for the staff and to ease the students back into school.

Mr. Goralski wanted to take a consensus on the start date. Mrs. Johnson wanted to hear from the administration as to the rationale for the start dates of the proposed 2012-2013 calendar. Dr. Erardi replied that two years ago the Board supported the return of five full days. It was due to a late placed Labor Day. Two years ago, there was a lot of chatter around how tired students and staff were after the first full week of school. Last year, there was much less chatter. This year, when putting the calendar together, there were two thoughts with the early return. They tried to frontload as many days as possible prior to CMT testing in March. The second piece is a proposed June 6 last school day; last year they had seven no-school events. This year, there have already been six no-school events. Dr. Erardi stated that he wanted to do the absolute best work for whatever 181 days they decide.

Mr. Goralski had an opinion on temperature. For the last three years, they have heard about how hot it was on the second floors of the middle schools. No one is use to the heat in June because it is coming on for the first time. Everyone is used to the heat in August because they lived it in June, July and August. He liked the schedule as it was presented, with getting out early and that they don't have to deal with the February and April vacations and the snow days added to the end of the school year. However, it is hard to ignore 87% of the faculty, so he is torn. If the heat in the buildings is what impacts the Board members' thought, it is going to be hot whenever they do it.

Mrs. Clark envisions her graduating nursery school class moving up to Kindergarten five straight days in the heat and she has sympathy for them. She felt that the high school and middle school students could handle it.

Mr. Goralski took a consensus. Mr. Oshana agreed with Mr. Goralski and thought that there comes a point where this current schedule gives an opportunity to settle a bunch of issues and present others from happening that they will be dealing with later tonight.

CONSENSUS: Mr. Goralski explained that “Yes” means staff starts August 27 and “No” means to leave it as is.

YES:

Mrs. Queen
Mrs. Notar-Francesco
Mrs. Carmody
Mrs. Clark

NO:

Mr. Oshana
Mrs. Johnson
Mr. Goralski

Mr. Goralski stated that the start date would be August 27 for teachers, with August 28 and 29 as Professional Development Days. The students’ first day of school would be August 30.

Mrs. Carmody noted that next year is no problem for Veteran’s Day; however, after listening to the Veterans and attending one of the meetings, she is not in favor of allowing students to go to school on Veteran’s Day. She sincerely believes that day must be put aside to honor the Veterans for all they have done for this country. It is a change for her because one year, when she taught, students were in school on Veteran’s Day and she thought that what the students learned in class that day was significant. However, she cannot with clear conscience take that day away from the Veterans for all that they have done for the country. Mrs. Carmody stated that next year November 11 is on a Sunday and she agreed with going to school on Monday, November 12 because the Veterans celebrate Veteran’s Day on November 11. For future dates, she does not believe that they should touch Veteran’s Day.

Mr. Goralski wanted to take a consensus confined to next school year whether to hold school on November 12.

Mrs. Clark explained that she is the daughter of a World War II Veteran who was stationed in the Aleutian Islands. She is the sister of a retired Lieutenant Colonel who served in Desert Storm. At graduation she always cries when Dr. Erardi mentions the students who are joining the military. She has a very soft spot in her heart for Veterans. She had been under the assumption that the best way to honor the Veterans would be to have the students in school and have that entire day set aside to learn about the Veterans. Her opinion has since changed because of the Veterans who have spoken before the Board. She would never seek to do anything to dishonor what the Veterans have done for our country. If the opinion of the majority of Veterans is that children should be off from school, she would say that it should be a day off. If the Veterans do not have a problem with the actual day for the next calendar year, she has no problem with the students being in school on November 12.

Mr. Oshana thought that, as we continue to get older, we are losing more Veterans and he thought that it was the Board’s responsibility to make sure the students learn and don’t forget what the Veterans have done for us. They have allowed us to be where we are today by fighting for us and our country. It was his strong opinion that they don’t take Veteran’s Day away. He was not in favor of taking Veteran’s Day away this year on November 12. He thought that it was their responsibility to make sure the students recognize what the Veterans have done. In addition to the day off from school, he felt that it was the Board’s responsibility to make sure there is some strong degree of education taking place either the day before or the day after so the students understand. He stated that, when you forget history, you are condemned to repeat it.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco noted that the Board visited this topic a few years ago and the Veterans were very passionate with the Board about this being a day off for students to honor and be respectful to Veterans. She would not be willing to have students go to school on Veteran's Day; however, with the way the calendar falls on 2012-2013 and November 11 falling on a Sunday, many of the Veterans have expressed to the Board that this is fine. With that, she was in favor of having the calendar remain as it is for 2012-2013.

Mrs. Queen thought that there was another issue around Veteran's Day that they should discuss. She asked Mrs. DiNello to address contract implications with Veteran's Day being a paid holiday in some of the contracts. Mrs. DiNello confirmed that it was a paid holiday in some of the contracts. They will need to work with a couple of the unions to come to an understanding of what that would look like. With one union, in particular, there would be no financial impact because they are going to get the same pay with the number of days that they work. There is another union with year-round employees that they will have to work with. That would be an additional work day in their work year and still a paid holiday that they would be expecting to get. They would negotiate to see if they are willing to exchange a different day during the course of the year. If they do not come to an agreement, it could potentially be a financial impact of an additional pay day for some individuals.

Mr. Goralski believed that there were far too many middle school and high school students staying home playing video games who are not honoring Veterans. He found it disrespectful that this community has a celebration every year on Memorial Day and Veteran's Day with very few youth on the Town Green, other than bands and boy scouts. He thought that they would better serve honoring the Veterans by educating the students if they were in school. He was not saying that Southington families don't do their own celebrations, but he thought that the Board would better serve the Veterans if the children were in school. Referencing a powerful e-mail that he received from a Veteran, he would never look at any other day other than November 11, Armistice Day, as Veteran's Day. It is celebrated in France because they buried a soldier on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. In the United States, the Unknown Soldier was buried on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. Veteran's Day will always be only November 11. He would never approve going to the school on November 11. He would not even consider giving the students November 12 off from school.

CONSENSUS: School on November 12 is "Yes" and the day off is "No."

YES:

Mrs. Johnson
Mrs. Clark
Mrs. Carmody
Mrs. Notar-Francesco
Mrs. Queen
Mr. Goraski

NO:

Mr. Oshana

Mr. Goralski noted that Veteran's Day stays as it is on the calendar for 2012-2013.

Mrs. Clark proposed that the Wednesday before Thanksgiving be a half-day instead of a full day off from school. She knows that is the highest day of student absenteeism. Mrs. DiNello added that instructional learning hours were also the driving factor for why they went to

a full day off. Mrs. Clark could not see the need for a full day off from school. Mrs. Queen noted that, if they add that back in the calendar, the last day of school would be June 10. Mrs. Notar-Francesco agreed with Mrs. Clark that it should be a half-day of school.

CONSENSUS: “Yes” is a half-day; “No” is a day off from school.

YES:

Mrs. Notar-Francesco
Mrs. Carmody
Mrs. Queen
Mrs. Clark
Mr. Oshana
Mrs. Johnson

NO:

Mr. Goralski

Mrs. Johnson wanted to know how the administration felt about that. Dr. Erardi replied that the administration is always concerned about instructional hours and the Board in the past took a position to either mitigate or eliminate four-hour sessions.

Mr. Goralski reiterated that the Convocation / Work Day would be August 27. August 28 and 29 are Professional Development Days, and August 30 is the start date for students. November 21 is early dismissal and the rest of the calendar remains as is, with June 10 being the last day of school.

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

“Move to accept the 2012-2013 calendar, as amended.”

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

Mr. Goralski called for a recess at 9:05 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 9:10 p.m.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Mid-Year Report on Superintendent’s Objectives

Dr. Erardi stated that the report was the work of the Board of Education, the cabinet, parents, staff, and the administrative team, and he had the privilege of putting his title on top of it. He was proud of this work. It was a mid-year update with ongoing work.

Mrs. Carmody was extremely proud of the mid-year report, Dr. Erardi’s goals for the 2011-2012 school year, and all that is going on in the school system. She sees how hard central office, administrators, and staff are working to accomplish programs to better promote the students’ success. She thanked Dr. Erardi.

Mr. Goralski stated that this was part of the process to publicly see the work that is done in the district. He noted that the superintendent always says it is a team process, but the bottom line is that the superintendent is the captain of the ship. The superintendent presents his goals, the Board approves his goals, which are always ambitious, and midway through the year he presents the movement of these goals. It is a formal document in which the public reviews where the district has been, and where the district is going. Under Dr. Erardi's leadership, the goals have always been met.

Mrs. Queen thought that the partnerships that the administration creates with different community groups were extraordinary. She commended the administration for those partnerships.

Mr. Goralski stated that some communities would view the Veterans in attendance tonight as adversarial. However, the Veterans have become partners in education. Any opportunity to create a partnership occurs across the administrative team.

b. Board of Education Review of North Center School Meeting Room

Dr. Erardi reported that central office administrators toured the meeting room site with Mr. Cox a few days ago trying to visualize what the template shows. The building is clearly under demolition and construction, and you really have to be creative to visualize it. This is a partnership with the town and with Borghesi. He assured the Board that their voice and recommendations would be shared immediately with those who need to know. They did invite the government side to be part of this conversation and, unfortunately, the Borghesi group was unable to attend. He noted that for specific pieces regarding the furniture layout, Mr. Cox will do his absolute best because he attends weekly meetings and represents the Board and Dr. Erardi. He noted that Karen Veilleux, Technology Director, was in audience in case there are technology questions. She has been involved in the partnership with the town on what they want to be a first-class meeting room for all boards and commissions.

Mr. Cox reviewed the layout proposed by the group who attends the Thursday meetings representing the town government and the Board of Education. It was presently being priced out logistically by Borghesi. The seating arrangement was on a one-step elevated platform for 16 chairs with handicapped accessibility. The seating was for 128 members of the public, which was greater capacity than the Town Council Chambers (74 plus four handicapped seats). There are serving tables for refreshments. The arrangement now was in a state of flux, the furniture has been chosen, and it will be flexible seating. The chairs will not be bolted in place and there is a storage area for additional chairs, portable tables, etc. It can be easily rearranged for government or Board of Education use at the site. This room will be frequently used.

Mrs. Clark noted that the audience will have to turn their heads and now people just have to look straight ahead. The Board has to turn their heads and she wanted to know if there was a way around that. Mr. Cox explained that the platform can be rearranged to give it a more crescent look. Dr. Erardi noted that the number of chairs on the platform was solely due to the Board of Education. Mrs. Queen asked if the chairs on the platform were moveable or locked in place. Mr. Cox replied that everything was flexible. Mr. Cox replied that they looked at modular and, after looking at the price of that versus the traditional casework and knowing the

modular would be electronically hooked up and would not move anyway, it made more sense to go with something like this. It is built on-site.

After seeing other meeting rooms, Mrs. Johnson felt that a crescent-shaped table would be preferable. She thought 128 seats were really excessive because she can't remember when they have ever had that many people. Mr. Goralski replied during budget time, Planning and Zoning meetings, and Town Council meetings. He noted that all the Boards and Commissions would be holding their meetings there. He believed that the North Center Government Center meeting room would be the new Town Council Chambers and that the current Town Council Chambers would be converted to office space. Mr. Goralski stated that the initial design was that Planning and Zoning and the Board of Education would use the new meeting room. Since that time, there has been discussion of the Water Commission using it, all land use meetings using it, and some discussion of the current Town Council Chambers being converted to a smaller meeting room and office space. The new meeting room should be built state-of-the-art to accommodate any public meeting that needs to take place. He hoped that people would be consulting with Mrs. Veilleux, Technology Director, for advice on technology. The microphones should become fixed; there should not be wires all over the place, etc. He asked Mrs. Veilleux to speak to the role that they are allowing her to play.

Mrs. Veilleux replied that she has attended meetings with Lieutenant Pocock [Town Council Chairman] and Mr. Lapotosky from the town, and they have met a few times. This week, they would be getting proposals from vendors within the design phase. They desire a state-of-the-art system that will bring the town into the future, not just addressing only the present needs. Mr. Goralski asked her to speak to some of the features because he is envisioning a camera in the ceiling, etc.

Mrs. Veilleux shared that the pricing is not available yet and the town was going to pursue a grant for funding. Some of the ideas were having multiple cameras, even a system where you can press a microphone and that person would be on the camera. The chairperson would have the overriding button to mute someone and put the focus back on the chairperson. They would have a DVR system, so it would be able to digitally record and could be streamed live. The podium would have computer access or even a stationary computer for presentations. There would be a mounted projector so the Board would not be blinded when a presentation is given. Mrs. Johnson asked where the screen would be. Mrs. Veilleux replied that the screen was difficult because of the size of the room; however, they are proposing that the screen would be kitty-corner in the far corner, so the Board would not have to move and the audience would just have to turn slightly.

Mrs. Queen asked if the public hearings would have to take place in a larger venue. Mr. Goralski replied that would be the decision of the Board holding that hearing.

Mr. Oshana assumed that it was going to be a wireless room. Mrs. Veilleux replied that it would be. Mr. Oshana stated that, if they have the ability to put the seats in now, he would rather do it now than reconfigure it later when they need the seats. He liked the idea of a crescent-shape or arch with the podium in the middle.

Mrs. Veilleux stated that they were not sure where the podium would be placed because they have to be careful they are not jackhammering the floor to get wires from the platform to the

podium. It will have to be placed where it will not be a tripping hazard. They are still working on that.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco noted that the chairs were not going to be fixed and asked where they would be stored when the space is needed. Mr. Cox replied that they would be out the majority of the time. He stated that one-third of the chairs would be redistributed around the exterior walls with some tables brought out. Two-thirds would always be stationary but not bolted in place. Dr. Erardi stated that they actually made the decision and felt strongly on the School Board side because they would want to use this room during the course day for professional development. Mrs. Notar-Francesco stated that she was concerned about the manpower needed to keep changing the configuration. Dr. Erardi did not see that as an extraordinary amount of labor time. He noted that 6 to 12 times a year this could be a perfect place to do whatever needs to be done, and they would be unable to do it if chairs were fixed.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked about the acoustics in this room for sound, particularly for Mrs. Blanchard's purposes of the minutes. The space is essentially a cafeteria. She asked if there would be carpeting and what the ceiling would be like. Mr. Cox replied that the flooring would be carpeting throughout. The acoustical treatment on the ceiling would be acoustical tiles at an elevation of about 14 feet off the finished floor so ductwork can run up above for the heating and the air-conditioning. The ceiling line would be about eight inches above the top of the existing windows.

Mrs. Carmody summarized that the seating could be changed to the crescent. Mr. Cox replied that he would bring that to the developer if that is the direction of the Board. Mr. Goralski stated that the Board is the biggest Board in town with nine people. He did not feel the current configuration as presented was an issue, nor did he feel it should hold up the project and raise costs. He agreed that crescents are the best, but he did not want to lose space either.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco pointed out that this is a professional building that would become the Town Government Center; it should be done right with people not having to turn heads. Mr. Goralski noted that a crescent-shape will require heads turning. Mrs. Carmody asked if it was going to cost a lot of money to make the change. Mr. Cox replied that it would not. He understood their concerns and his suggestion is to take the four seats closest to the exit and kick them at a slight angle.

c. Paperless Board Meetings

Dr. Erardi stated that the paperless Board meetings would be a discussion of the retreat. Mr. Goralski stated that he was not in favor of Mrs. Veilleux having to give up a weekend, but if her expertise is necessary, he would like her to attend. Dr. Erardi replied that Mrs. Veilleux was excited about attending, but he was sure with Mr. Goralski's pardon that she will find time with her family on that Saturday morning. Dr. Erardi noted that she is always necessary, but they will work around her.

d. Wellness Policy ~ Second Reading

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

“Move to accept the Wellness Policy as presented.”

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

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. AFSCME Negotiations**
- b. Discussion Regarding Security Strategy – Southington High School**
- c. Real Estate – 49 Beecher Street**

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

“Move that the Board go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing AFSCME Negotiations, Discussion regarding Security Strategy at Southington High School, and Real Estate – 49 Beecher Street Property, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Blanchard

Recording Secretary
Southington Board of Education

**SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION
JANUARY 12, 2012**

Mr. Brian Goralski, Board Chairperson, called the Executive Session to order at 9:37 p.m.

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

Board Members Absent: Mr. David Derynoski and Mrs. Terry Lombardi.

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

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

“Move that the Board go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing AFSCME Negotiations, Discussion regarding Security Strategy at Southington High School, and Real Estate – 49 Beecher Street Property, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

MOTION: by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mrs. Clark:

“Move that the Board return to public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The board reconvened public session at 10:02 p.m.

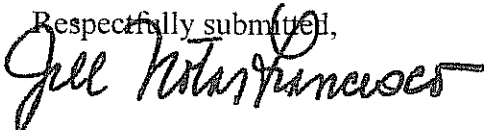
MOTION: by Mrs. Clark, seconded by Mrs. Johnson:

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Board adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

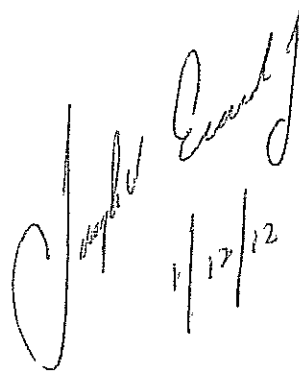
Respectfully submitted,



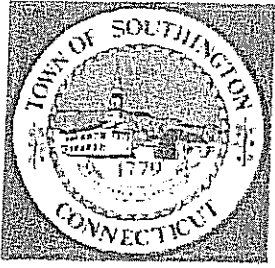
Jill Notar-Francesco, Secretary
Southington Board of Education

Administration: Board of Education Update January 12, 2012

1. **Board of Education – Retreat** (Attachment #1)
 - a. Saturday, February 4th
 - b. The Orchards of Southington
 - c. 8:30 – 12:00 noon
 - d. Paperless Presentation; SHS Learning Block Study; Open
2. **AED Update** (Attachment #2)
3. **BOE Meeting Location – February / March** (Attachment #3)
4. **Digital Learning – BYOD - Committee Work** (Attachment #4)
5. **Veterans – Staff Partnership Meeting – January 9th** (Attachment #5)
 - a. Speakers Bureau
 - b. Living History Skype Project
 - c. American Flag Survey
 - d. Music Partnership
 - e. Internal Scan – SPS Employees – Service
 - f. Wounded Warriors / CT. Fisher House
6. **Bus Safety** (Attachment #6)
 - a. School Bus Guardian Safety Program
7. **STEPS / BOE Partnership** (Attachment #7)
 - a. May 15 / 16



Handwritten signature and date: 1/17/12



SOUTHTINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

JOSEPH V. ERARDI, JR., Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

KAREN L. SMITH
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR
INSTRUCTION AND LEARNING

BOARD OF EDUCATION

BRIAN S. GORALSKI
BOARD CHAIRPERSON

TERRI C. CARVOLY
VICE CHAIRPERSON

JILL NOTAR-FRANCESCO
SECRETARY

COLLEEN W. CLARK

DAVID J. DERYNOSKI

PATRICIA P. JOHNSON

TERRY G. LOMBARDI

ZAYA G. OSHANA

PATRICIA A. QUEEN

January 10, 2012

Leslie Cotton, Town Clerk
Southington Town Hall
75 Main Street
Southington, CT 06489

Dear Mrs. Cotton:

The Southington Board of Education will hold a workshop on *Saturday, February 4, 2012*, for the purpose of conducting a Board of Education Self Evaluation.

The workshop will be held in the conference room at *The Orchards at Southington, 34 Hobart Street, Southington* from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

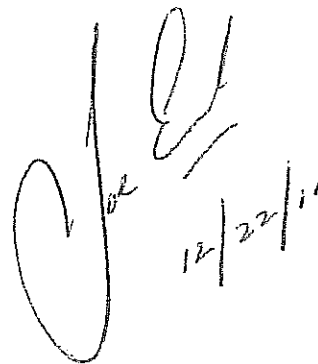
c: Board of Education
Karen Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
da/cotton/2012workshop wd

AED Exploratory Meeting

Thursday, December 22, 2011

Central Office

1. Introduction of Committee Members
2. Charge of the Committee
3. Sub-Committee Work
 - a. Research Funding Stream
 - b. Research School Need / #'s / Schools
 - c. Research Launch Platform: Partner with Town to outfit all Town Buildings
4. Report Back to PTO Executive Council – January 12th / February 9th



Handwritten signature and date: 12/22/11

**SOUTHINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

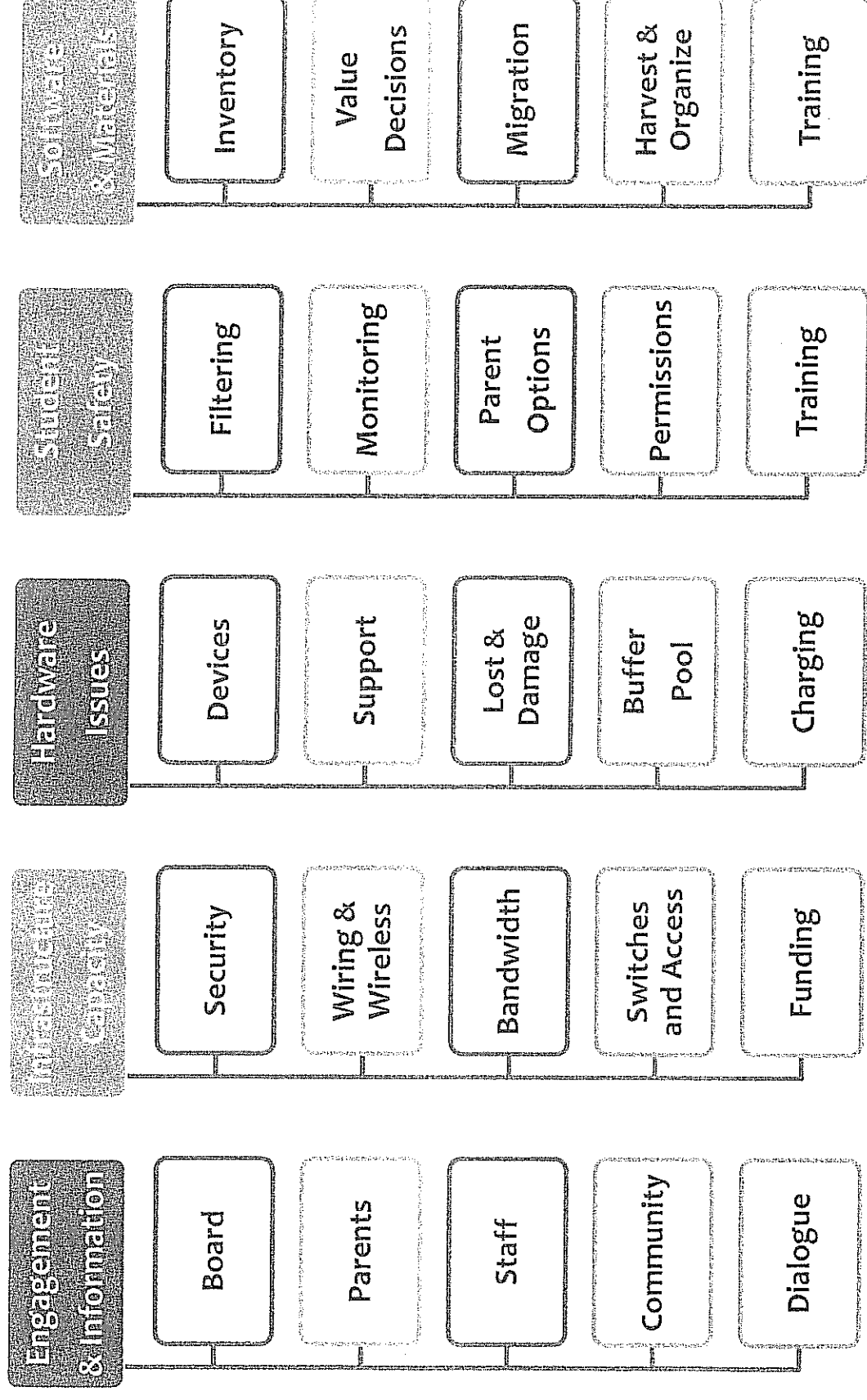
**BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING DATES
ROTATING SCHEDULE
2011-2012**



Board Meeting Date	Location
August 18, 2011	Carl M. Small Vo-Ag Center
September 8, 2011	Town Council Chambers
September 22, 2011	Town Council Chambers
October 13, 2011	Town Council Chambers
October 27, 2011	John F. Kennedy Middle School
November 10, 2011	Town Council Chambers
December 8, 2011	Flanders Elementary School
January 12, 2012	Town Council Chambers
January 17, 2012 (Budget Workshop)	William H. Hatton Elementary School
January 19, 2012 (Budget Workshop)	William H. Hatton Elementary School
January 26, 2012	William H. Hatton Elementary School
February 9, 2012	Town Council Chambers
March 8, 2012	Town Council Chambers
March 22, 2012	Town Council Chambers
April 26, 2012	North Center Municipal Building
May 10, 2012	North Center Municipal Building
May 24, 2012	North Center Municipal Building
June 14, 2012	North Center Municipal Building
June 28, 2012	North Center Municipal Building
July 12, 2012	North Center Municipal Building

Rev. 1/12/12

BYOD Critical Decisions Framework



Digital Learning for ALL NOW! - Implementation Timeline

Months

Quarters

YEARS

- Phase One - Decision Making

Getting to One-To-One

- Goal and Vision Clarity
- Stakeholder Engagement & Information
- Infrastructure Capacity
- Hardware Issues
- Student Safety
- Software & Materials

Systems

- Self-Analysis for Strengths and Weaknesses
- Learning Goal Clarity
- Explore Success Metrics

Culture

- Policy Identification and Review
- Walking the Walk

- Phase Two - Planning

Getting to One-To-One

- Implementation Timelines
- Infrastructure Upgrade Execution
- Software and Resource Inventory
- Migration Planning and Execution
- Device Standards
- Device Support Strategies
- Device Management

Systems

- True North 21
- Core Systems Alignment
- Curriculum and Resource Migration/Phase-In Planning
- Success Metrics Articulation
- Faculty and Parent Training/Engagement

Culture

- Policy Revisions
- Leadership Modeling
- Change Leadership Understanding
- Common and Special Cause Understanding

- Phase Three - Implementation

Getting to One-To-One

- Monitoring and Adjusting
- Device Replacement and Enhancement Strategies

Systems

- True North 21 Evidence
- Core & Support Systems Alignment
- Success Metrics Reporting
- Systems Improvement and Integration
- Faculty and Parent Feedback
- Just-In-Time Training

Culture

- Policy Implementation and Monitoring
- Leadership Modeling
- Change Leadership and Support
- Common and Special Cause Leadership
- Reflection and Mission Alignment
- What is Next?

Veterans Day 'Throughout the Year'

The Southington Public Schools promote patriotism, good citizenship and civic pride by including the following activities within their programs:

High School and Middle Schools

1. Daily pledge to the flag
2. Required Civics course
3. AP US History, US History, AP Government and Politics courses
4. Partnership with the Social Studies Department and the American Legion to produce the Oratorical contest
5. WWII Veterans invited into classrooms
6. Student participation in Boys and Girls State and the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizenship Award Program
7. Clubs such as Interact, Young Republicans/Young Democrats, Key Club, and Student Council promote good citizenship
8. National Honor Society sponsors many and varied community service projects
9. Comparisons between the American culture and that of the Spanish speaking countries
10. Multicultural holiday celebrations
11. Letter writing to servicemen and servicewomen
12. Research conducted by teams on the Library of Congress Veteran's History Project site
13. Veteran's Day research projects
14. 9/11 10th year anniversary – student interviews conducted with family and friends
15. Discussions about nationalism related to historical events.
16. Learning about the Constitution and implications for today
17. Mini lessons on Pearl Harbor, Presidents' Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and Thanksgiving
18. Star Spangled Banner connection to the war of 1812, Francis Scott Key and the Battle of Fort McHenry
19. The Builder's Club – selling yellow ribbons

Elementary Schools

1. Care packages to service members in war zones
2. Pen Pal writing to members of the military
3. Honoring staff who have served in the military
4. Invitations to veterans to share their experiences and to help us understand life in the military
5. Daily morning announcements with pledge and patriotic song
6. Social studies curriculum that incorporates all historical and national events
7. Good character identified, studied and celebrated in all schools
8. Special programs for Veteran's Day, Presidents' Day, and Flag Day
9. 'STAR' project that identifies names of family members who either serve or have served in the military



MAKING A SAFER WORLD.

September, 17 2011

Mr Fred Cox Transportation Director
Southington Public Schools
49 Beecher St
Southington, CT 06489

Dear Mr Fred Cox,

Unfortunately, with most Connecticut school districts being faced with growing budget constraints, it is all too easy to see how school and student safety programs can suffer. This is why it is more crucial than ever to follow the lead of a few innovative CT communities who are actually increasing the safety of their students and the communities they serve with a truly curb-to-curb and beyond approach that:

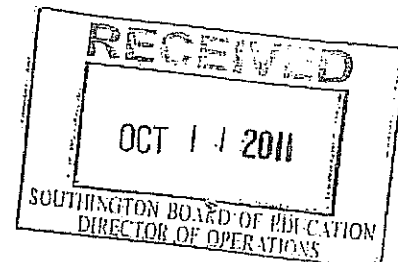
- Requires NO Upfront Capital Investment
- Provides a Substantial Reduction in Exposure To Liabilities
- Offers the Potential To Generate Surplus Funds By Programs That Are Truly 100% Violator Funded

Sadly according to the National Center for Education Statistics today in the United States the school related violent crime rate is holding at 22 per 1,000 students and yearly nearly 30 children are killed each year while getting on or off the school bus by drivers who illegally pass a stopped school bus.

Fortunately, in this year's session our State legislators took a large step toward assuring the safety of our children with the passage of HB6449. This forward thinking legislation allows for School Bus Guardian Safety Cameras to begin protecting our most precious members of the community. Since July 1st 2011 Connecticut school districts are allowed to automatically cite drivers who illegally pass a stopped school bus through the use of Redflex's School Bus Guardian Safety Cameras while allowing the city to retain the majority of the fine.

With lives at stake and budgets growing even tighter the time to lead is now. To learn more about the effectiveness of Redflex's Student Guardian Curb-to Curb Safety Solutions and how they can aid your community, please feel free to contact me via phone at (480) 406-7375 or via e-mail at dkolack@redflex.com.

Sincerely,
Darren T. Kolack
Vice President Student Safety Division
(480)-406-7375



5th Grade Asset Building Day

Description of Activities:

Caring School Climate – External

- **Description:** This activity will focus on building a school philosophy. We will ask the students to describe their ideal middle school (i.e.: fun, enthusiastic, friendly, etc.) and we will help the students create an action-plan to create their ideal school culture. We will then ask them to work on a school slogan or philosophy that embraces their thoughts.
- **Outcome:** Students will have a hand in identifying the type of school they want, and develop the sense that they have the ability to create a new culture.

Community Values Youth – External

- **Description:** We will have the students define community, value, and youth. Then, the students will have to fit the pieces together to determine how they get to the point where our community truly values them. Their notes will be compiled and e-mailed to Town Manager, Gary Brumback and the STEPS board.
- **Outcome:** The students will have input into our community's issues, and a platform to be heard by their superintendant and town manager.

Positive Peer influence – External

- **Description:** Students will play The Friendship Game. Students will be named either a "positive influence" or a "negative influence" and asked to invite other students to their side.
- **Outcome:** We will discuss how both positive and negative influences can spread through a group of people quickly, and how sometimes a negative peer influence is more powerful than a positive one.

Planning and Decision Making – Internal

- **Description:** In this activity students will pretend to be in a plane crash, and they will be presented with two lists of supplies. The two lists are similar, but one subtly implies short-term planning and the other implies long-term planning.
- **Outcome:** Students critically think about which supply list is better for survival and come to a group decision. We will debrief about the importance of thinking and planning for the long-term, not just the short-term.

Cultural Competence - Internal

- **Description:** Students will receive a worksheet that they will fill out separately with a facilitator asking the questions. Questions will be thought provoking and honest. For example: In what ways are people different at your school? How are *you* different/unique? Have you experienced a time when you felt different? Describe a time when you realized someone else was different.
- **Outcome:** To get the students to think critically about diversity, why it is important, and what they can learn from people who are different.

Resistance Skills - Internal

- **Description:** An activity called The Danger Zone. Facilitator will give students various situations that they may/may not have been involved in. We will ask them how many times they have been in this situation in the last week/month/year and assign a value to certain answers. The values will correspond to one of 3 zones: the Safe Zone, the Risk Zone, and the Danger Zone.
- **Outcome:** To get students to think about times they have been put in risky situations, how to avoid getting into those situations, and how to avoid putting others in those situations.