

# **SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**JANUARY 26, 2012**

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The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, January 26, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the William H. Hatton Elementary School Library/Media Center, 50 Spring Lake Road, Southington, Connecticut.

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 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 Representatives Leon Peschel and Whitney DiMeo were absent.

There were approximately 21 individuals in the audience.

#### **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Goralski asked Mr. John Myers from the YMCA to lead the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Goralski explained that the two student representatives apologized for their absence due to midterm exams. He was happy that they chose to study rather than to attend the meeting.

#### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**“Move to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 12, 2012, as amended.”**

Mr. Goralski pointed out that on page nine the word “Fairfield” should have been “Springfield, Massachusetts.”

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Queen, Mr. Goralski. ABSTAIN: Mr. Derynoski. **Motion carried with eight in favor and one abstention.**

#### **4. COMMUNICATIONS**

##### **a. Communications from Audience**

###### **Mr. John Myers, Executive Director, Southington-Cheshire Community YMCA:**

He gave a report on the Polar Plunge and thanked those from the Southington Public Schools who plunged and supported the event from which children benefit. They raised over \$21,000 and the total received from the Southington Public Schools was approximately \$5,100. He thanked the Board of Education for their continued partnership and support with the YMCA, and noted that all the money goes back to the children. Mr. Myers stated that, for those who do not like to go into the cold water, they are having a “Solar Plunge” this summer. He noted that they had great press coverage and the Board of Education made the front of the New Britain Herald and Bristol Press. Mr. Myers announced that their annual meeting is on Wednesday, February 1. He noted that on Wednesday, March 7 at the Aqua Turf at 7:00 p.m. STEPS is having a Community Forum. The Search Institute did an Attitude and Behavior Survey; they recently received the results and are tabulating them. They will report back to the community showing the results of how they have improved in areas, and there are other areas that instill a call to action that they may still need to work on. Mr. Myers distributed a flyer to the Board members regarding the March 7 Forum.

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

###### **Communication from the Board Members:**

Mrs. Notar-Francesco reported that the CREC Council met last week and that she distributed two documents to the Board members (*Attachment #1*). The first document is a legislative update, compiled by CREC’s lobbyists Rome, Smith and Lutz, on the Governor’s various task forces that are now at work at the State Capitol. The second document is CABA’s legislative agenda so the Board can see before their own Legislative Breakfast what is being presented by CABA. Other discussion at the CREC Council meeting was that the Legislative Session was about to begin, and it will be a short session. The work that they do will happen very quickly during this time. Boards of Education were strongly urged by the CABA representatives in attendance at the CREC meeting to consider testifying at the public hearings on education issues. They could also submit written testimony as well, but they pointed out that it was a very effective way to be heard and that it very often makes a difference. When the session begins, Mrs. Notar-Francesco stated that she will keep everybody informed as she gets information from CREC. She also noted that the CREC Legislative Breakfast will be held February 16, 2012 and that four Southington Board of Education members will be attending that breakfast and that the entire Southington delegation will be there also.

Mr. Goralski announced that the National School Board Association Conference is being held in Boston, Massachusetts. He announced that Mrs. Notar-Francesco would be representing the Board there. Mrs. Notar-Francesco stated that CREC was going to pay for her registration

and hotel to go as a CREC representative from Southington. She attended the convention last year and it is a mega-conference with tremendous professional development. She urged Board members to consider attending, especially since it is so close to home this year. Mr. Goralski announced that it will be held April 21 – 23, 2012 in Boston; last year it was held in San Francisco and Mrs. Notar-Francesco attended that as well. He thanked Mrs. Notar-Francesco for representing the State and Southington at that conference. He informed the Board that, if anyone wanted to join Mrs. Notar-Francesco, they have professional development funding that is available to the district.

Mr. Goralski reminded Board members that they have a residency hearing scheduled for January 31, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. and that there is another event that night that Board members will be attending as well.

Mr. Goralski asked the Board to share thoughts about days of the week that are best for the Legislative Breakfast. The session begins on February 8 and the Board will have to work around the availability of the five-member delegation.

Mr. Goralski stated that the Southington Education Foundation recently announced their second annual Spelling Bee on Thursday, April 19 at 7:00 p.m. Last year, the Board was represented by two teams. It costs \$100 per person and \$300 per team. He asked Board members to attend and support the organization that supports the Board's work so well.

Mr. Goralski announced that the SOAR Fair (Southington's Opportunities, Activities and Resources for Total Talent Development) is taking place on Monday, January 30 for the fourth grade Inventor's Fair and Monday, February 6 for the fifth grade Independent Student Project (ISP) Fair. He noted that one of the students is doing a study on world hunger. She is asking everyone who is attending the fifth grade fair to bring a food item that she would donate to Southington's Food Pantry as part of her studies. He thought that it was great that a fifth grader is not only doing an educational project, but at the same time helping the community.

Mr. Goralski pointed out three other events: Young Author's on Tuesday, April 24 at 6:30 p.m. at South End Elementary School; the district Spelling Bee on Tuesday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m. at Thalberg Elementary School; and on February 9 the Southington Library is having a virtual ribbon cutting for Southington News Online, with more than 150 years of newspaper media coverage in Southington.

### **Communication from Administration:**

Dr. Erardi discussed the following (*Attachment #2*):

1. Board of Education Retreat: Dr. Erardi distributed a binder to the Board members to prepare for the Saturday, February 4 retreat. He asked that the Board members review the information prior to the retreat.
2. Next Steps Parent Group: Dr. Erardi reported that on Tuesday, January 24 he spoke at the Next Steps Parent Group, which is a new group to the Board's partnership program. Approximately 40 parents attended. It is open to all parents, grandparents or

guardians in Southington with a special focus on exceptional learners. He was pleased to be a part of this group. He enclosed their meeting schedule in the packet.

3. SOAR Student Demonstration: Dr. Erardi stated that Mr. Goralski reported on this, so he would not address it again.
4. Board of Finance Presentation: Dr. Erardi reported that the presentation is scheduled for Thursday, February 23 at 7:00 p.m. He noted that this date was within the February break; however, the time worked for the Board of Finance, as well as himself, Mr. Goralski, and Mrs. DiNello.
5. Administrative Hiring Timeline: Dr. Erardi reported that he enclosed the administrative hiring brochures that were distributed that day. He was very pleased with the work that took place out of the Personnel Office. The applications include the two days the Board has already reserved for Board interviews.
6. Safety Updates: Dr. Erardi reported that he has a partnership meeting with the Mothers Against Drunk Driving of which he is a member of the Executive Board. They are anxious for him to hear their story and how they could be a part of the ongoing safety at Southington High School. Dr. Erardi stated that he and Mr. Cox would continue to meet with vendors that are moving forward with exterior cameras to enhance bus safety for students. He will have a full report in February.

Dr. Erardi stated that he will have Mrs. Albaitis, his Executive Assistant, poll the Southington delegation on Friday and Monday for their availability and then go forward on the Board's availability for a Legislative Breakfast. They will stay away from Mondays and Fridays and it will be in a format that has been very productive and effective in the past, starting about 8:00 a.m. It will be an opportunity for our legislators to share their thoughts and the Board to have a conversation. He felt that the informal format last year was terrific.

Dr. Erardi thanked the Board for spending an extraordinary amount of time on the budget and he also thanked the cabinet members who had been a part of the two budget workshops to share their expertise. He acknowledged Philip Goodwin [Purchasing Agent], Kim Hunt [Personnel Manager] and Karen Veilleux [Technology Director] who are part of the central office cabinet. They were equal contributors to the budget work that was presented, and have sat many evenings in the audience just in case there was a question.

### **Communications from Student Board Representatives**

There was no report.

## **5. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **a. Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting ~ January 18, 2012**

Mrs. Carmody reported that at the Curriculum and Instruction Committee meeting on January 18 they discussed the Extended Kindergarten Program and began the meeting with a tour of the Derynoski School Extended Day Kindergarten. They went into the classroom and sat with

the students at the different stations. She stated that it was a wonderful experience. Some of the goals of the program were to provide early intervention to those students that demonstrated a need for skills building based on teacher assessments. The enrollment now is 60 students and they hope to add 10 more Open Choice children next year. She distributed information regarding the Choice Program Funding (*Attachment #3*). The program is totally funded by the grant. The early data showed excellent growth and the teachers are constantly assessing the children. A typical schedule was presented and the teachers shared that they are in constant communication with each other (Mrs. Verilli and Mrs. Gorham) and they are also communicating with the home school Kindergarten teacher. In February, they are going to hold their own first conferences. Mrs. Carmody mentioned that there are students who are not in this Extended Day Kindergarten, but each of the elementary schools provides programs for those students who need assistance. The committee was very impressed with the program and with what the teachers are doing. She added that Southington was very fortunate to have this program. She pointed out that research demonstrates that, when a child has a successful school experience, they are more likely to be productive, successful citizens.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

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

Mrs. Clark attended a meeting of the Blue Ribbon Parks Commission. The Commission had sent out a survey to all athletic groups, such as baseball, football, basketball and lacrosse, who use the parks and schools. The bottom line was that they need more space. She stated that it was interesting to listen to the different leagues, and how they use and schedule the fields and schools. They talked about space constraints because of the number of children who are involved with town sports. They will be gathering the data and will discuss it at their next meeting.

Mr. Goralski noted that another important Board of Finance meeting is February 8. Mrs. DiNello shared with the Board the presentation that she will give regarding the appropriation requests that were tabled at the last Board of Finance meeting. He planned to attend along with Dr. Erardi. He thanked Mrs. DiNello for all her work on that.

Mr. Goralski reported that he attended the last Turf Committee meeting and went on a couple of field trips. There is another meeting on Monday, January 30. They are in the process of putting together the recommendations of the committee, based on the facts gathered, and it will then become a Town Council matter. The Turf Committee is a sub-committee of the Town Council. He noted that Mr. Derynoski serves on that committee with him and that they represent the Board. He noted that there has been some public input lately, which is expanding their charge, but they had to present the pros and cons because that was the charge.

### **b. Construction Update**

Mr. Cox reported that there is really nothing new to add regarding the Plantsville and South End projects. He continues to meet on a weekly basis with Borghesi Developers on the North Center project. He toured the facility that morning and noted that ductwork was being roughed in for the heating and ventilation. The roof was watertight at this point and they have

actually started a couple of the rooftop units to keep the building at 50 degrees. Last week, the permanent power was brought into the building.

Mr. Goralski asked if the intent was to still line up Hobart Street with the entrance to North Center. Mr. Cox replied that was correct and they were waiting for some additional information from the Department of Transportation. Mr. Goralski asked if the fencing along North Main Street was going to be removed. Mr. Cox replied that the fencing all along Route 10 and back to the building would come down.

**c. Project Update – Middle Schools**

Dr. Erardi stated that he was pleased with the partnership with the Public Building Committee. He met with the Chairman of the Public Building Committee two weeks ago and last evening he stopped by to thank the committee members. The meeting was publicized in the local newspapers and he thought that the composite and leadership of the committee has this project moving in the right direction at this particular time.

Mr. Goralski noted that he, Mrs. Clark and Mr. Christopher Palmieri [DePaolo Assistant Principal] attended last night's meeting and he noted that the Chairman of that committee, Mr. Ed Pocock, was in attendance at tonight's meeting. He stated that Mr. Cox presented the timeline from which the committee would work. He also presented the Educational Specifications to the rest of the committee who did not have it. Mr. Goralski stated that Mr. Cox presents all the facts and figures and he appreciates the skill with which Mr. Cox represents the Board. It appears that the entire committee followed the Board's work through the process. Attorney Mark Sciota, with the help of Mr. Cox, will prepare a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Construction Manager and then the Architect. He noted that their other piece of business was getting a stenographer to make their work real. They will meet again in the beginning of March.

Mr. Goralski requested that this agenda item no longer be a freestanding item under Old Business. He would like to roll it into the Construction Update agenda item from this point forward. The Board members agreed.

Mrs. Johnson asked if, as the project is completed, Mr. Goralski would, once again, have it as a freestanding agenda item. Mr. Goralski replied that it would be on the Construction Update form. He noted that, ever since Mr. Derynoski put this form in place in 2000, they put all of their construction projects on it, and he would like to maintain that practice.

**d. Curriculum Initiative ~ Report Card Update**

Mrs. Smith thought that this would be a perfect time to give the Board a very brief update on the elementary school Standards-based Report Card progress. As such, she invited Sally Kamerbeek, Principal of South End Elementary School, who chaired this committee, to come to the podium and give an overview.

Mrs. Kamerbeek reported that they rolled out the report card last year and that South End Elementary School piloted the report card the year before. Last year, they received a lot of feedback from parents and staff, and during the summer they spent some time tweaking the report card. They are proud that a committee this summer worked to produce a handbook for

both teachers and for parents to use as a guide as they navigate through the new Standards-based Report Card. A big concern last year was the indicator of “2”. Parents felt that this was just too broad. This summer, they spent time refining the indicators and they feel that this did a nice job of explaining what it looks like in the classroom. She gave an example: This year, the indicator of “1” is that *“The student demonstrates minimal progress and/or understanding toward grade level expectations.”* Some of the things that you might see are that the child may need academic support, guidance and understanding to demonstrate these skills. The academic indicator of “2” demonstrates that *“The student is progressing as expected toward grade level standards.”* This means that the student is developing and has skills and some application within the grade level range. The academic indicator of “3” means that *“The student is consistently demonstrating these skills.”* She thought that, with this new guide to help them, the parents and the teachers, as well, have a much better understanding of the standards. She noted that the report card conferences went very well.

Mrs. Kamerbeek reported that they also changed the format of the report card. They changed it from landscape to portrait and gave all the parents envelopes that are returned to school, so their management system has improved as well this year. She noted that it is a working document; they are moving along and continue to receive feedback. However, the feedback was very positive after the first conference.

Mrs. Carmody remembered that there was a concern that the teachers were not going to have enough time for conferences with the new report card. She asked how that was progressing. Mrs. Kamerbeek replied that they surveyed staff. This year there are several classes that have over 24 students, so they allowed those teachers to have extra release time to meet with parents. They also discussed the need for a longer period of conference time (15 minutes); however, this seemed to work out fine.

Mrs. Lombardi understood that the middle schools have a hybrid report card, the new standards and the old grades. Mrs. Smith replied they are in an interim stage with report cards and progress reports at the middle schools. They have not yet adopted a Standards-based Report Card system at the middle school level. They have a committee that is studying it. There has been discussion about presenting a Standards-based Report Card, balanced with a grading system. The core curriculum is being rolled out currently in all curricular areas, including middle school. They feel that the merging of the core curriculum standards with a Standards-based Report Card for middle school, which combines more of a traditional system as well as standards-based, is what is called for. This is the year that they are waiting to see about common core standards and how they will be reflected in a report card. Next year, the committee will be off and running in the middle school.

Mrs. Lombardi asked about the high school. Mrs. Smith replied that it is the same thing and that the high school would be the last level that addresses standards-based reporting systems. Mrs. Lombardi thought that the movement was towards that. Mrs. Smith replied that it was.

Mrs. Clark asked Mrs. Kamerbeek how close they were at getting this done electronically. Mrs. Kamerbeek replied that they are progressing one step at a time. Initially, Mr. Thiery’s theory was *“let’s get this down right before we add another layer to it.”* Mrs. Smith added that, as of that afternoon, she attended a Professional Development district-wide meeting and the topic of the Standards-based Report Card going electronic came up. It is a goal

this school year; it may be a pilot opportunity with one grade in one school. It is feasible and possible, with a lot of man hours, but it can be done internally. The hope would be that, within a year, they would have Standards-based Report Cards online.

Mrs. Johnson asked Mrs. Kamerbeek if she expected that they are never going to have a report card that is written in stone, and they are going to keep developing it as the need arises. Mrs. Kamerbeek replied that the common core, new standards would be changing in terms of the rigor of our curriculum. She knew that Ms. Riedinger this year in Kindergarten and Grade 5 added two pieces to the current report card that go along with the new standards that are coming. She stated that will always drive the curriculum and their program.

#### **e. School Calendar Update ~ 2011-2012**

Dr. Erardi reported that they have been in a holding pattern with the calendar because the winter has been mild with no lost days of school with the actual start of winter. They maintain a present June 19 graduation date. The district has responded and reacted with a December 14 memo that went to staff and parents explaining the potential protocol moving forward. He noted that the memo addressed that, on the second snow day prior to February 9, he would strongly be recommending the cancellation of the February break. It would mean that Monday would be Presidents' Day and that Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday would be a return to school day. Presently, there has been no change. He recommends to the Board either to stay as it is or, if the Board feels inclined, to make the February break a definitive moving forward from either tonight or February 9.

Mrs. Carmody noted that this was extremely controversial and that she was certain that she would make many enemies with what she was going to say, but she thought that they needed to reach a decision soon on what they are doing for February. She noted that parents and staff members have called her because people need to make plans. They have lucked out so far with no snow days, but she thought that, living in New England, they have to be cognizant that they may have snow. She strongly suggests that they cancel the February school vacation because she felt that most people would rather lose the February vacation than the April vacation. She also knows that getting out of school later in June presents many problems for the graduates. During the April vacation, she believed that there were two school trips to Europe planned. She favored cancelling the February vacation.

Mr. Derynoski respectfully disagreed. He stated that they put a plan in place and he thought that the plan was well received, although there were pros and cons on both sides of it. The weather can't be controlled, but in looking at what the Board has done and how they have done it, he thought that they should stick to the plan they agreed upon and what everybody is fully aware of.

Mrs. Queen felt that, one year ago they set a calendar for this year, which incorporated a February break, and at that point people probably made plans. They are still in a position where they can hold the February break, and they have a system in place in case they have additional snow days moving forward. She did not think that they should change the February break unless they have to because there are people who have already made plans.



Mrs. Lombardi stated that in December this was how she felt too because she was hearing from parents that they wanted to make plans. However, the Board, as a group, decided through a consensus to look to Dr. Erardi to give them some flexibility and options, which he did. He noted the two snow days and that they will wait until February 9. She was of the opinion to stay with the plan as Mr. Derynoski noted. She noted that the parents that she has heard from are anxiously waiting, but they had already made changes to their plans back in December.

Mrs. Johnson added that she believed that it was inappropriate for the Board to keep people hanging like this. She thought that the Board should have made its decision back in December. She felt that using all these stopgap plans was unfair to everyone. She was not crazy about students and teachers going to school at the end of June; she would prefer to eliminate the February vacation except for Presidents' Day. She thought that they should make that decision this evening.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco stated that, when they talked about this plan, never in her wildest dreams did she think that they would be sitting there tonight with no additional snow days. She thought that the Board needed to let everyone know at this point in time what they are doing. However, she believed that they should keep February vacation intact and not cancel it.

Mr. Oshana agreed with Mrs. Notar-Francesco. They laid out a plan and said what was going to happen. They identified it to the community, so they could make plans in December. He agreed that it was time for some decisions because February was not a long way away. If they want to be able to allow people to make and finalize their plans, he thought that they should decide tonight and move forward.

Mrs. Clark thought that they should keep the plan as the Board made it. People understand that this is an extraordinary year. The Board has a plan in place, people are fully aware of the risk of making plans for February and, in some cases, plans they made last year. She knows of a church that is having a retreat in Florida during February vacation, and parents were fully aware of what they were doing when they signed their children up at the end of December for it. She thought that they have advised the public. She felt that they should stay the course and not cancel anything until they absolutely have to.

Mr. Goralski could not justify cancelling a day until they have snow. They have seen years that it does not snow, and he hoped that this was one of them. He was comfortable if the Board would like to make a decision tonight one way or the other regarding February. The public needs to be on notice that April vacation is fair game. He would be much more comfortable with June 20, 21, 22 becoming school days before they touch April. He would not go beyond June 22 because that is a Friday, and he has a very strong opinion about Mondays being the last day of school. He believed that they had three days to work with already. He felt that enough of the Board members had an interest in making the decision tonight, rather than waiting until February 9. If they decide on February 9 to change the vacation, they are giving people less than 10 days. He saw the benefit of the Board making the decision tonight.

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

**“Move that the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent as of his December letter and utilize that plan going forward.”**

Mr. Goralski clarified that motion means the Board will review the February vacation again on February 9, 2012. The vote would be to stay the course that they have right now.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Queen, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Goralski. NO – Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Carmody. **Motion carried with five in favor and four against.**

Mr. Goralski stated that they would review this matter at the next Board meeting.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

### a. Review / Adoption of the Board of Education Budget 2012-2013

Mr. Goralski thanked the audience and stated that many of them attended all the workshops. He thanked the administration for all their work, including principals, central office cabinet, administrative aspirants and everyone who played a role in the creation of this budget. He recognized Mrs. DiNello, who answered their questions in breakneck speed, given the tight schedule that they have with the budget workshops. He thought that they all labored through certain difficulties, but he knows that all questions have been answered. The understanding he had prior to the first workshop is even better today.

Dr. Erardi had one update for the Board of Education and it came from a question that was asked by Mrs. Johnson regarding the Learning Academy instruction and the cost of instructors. He has learned that this is contractual, and we are obligated to cost out the instruction that was presented. Unfortunately, at this time the cost presented would be the cost incurred if the program does move forward.

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

**“Move to approve the 2012-2013 School Budget in the amount of \$82,652,600.”**

Mr. Derynoski thanked Mrs. DiNello for getting him the information that he was looking for. He knows that it was very confusing trying to disseminate the data. He thought that he confused himself trying to find the data, but Mrs. DiNello pointed him in the right direction. He supported the motion.

Mr. Oshana commented on the State funding. He noted that this was his first budget; however, he raised the fact that they were counting on 72% funding from the State to help fund a mandate that was supposed to be funded at 100%. Because of that, they are coming in short about \$683,035 based on what they should actually be receiving. If he did the math in his head, that comes up to a lot of teachers. He knows that this has been an ongoing issue and an ongoing concern, not just for Southington, but across the State of Connecticut and he knows there have been discussions with our legislators. He thought that they could continue to push that harder because something has to be done with these mandates if they are being required to do something. He was fully in favor of moving forward with this. They need to educate everybody; however, the State told us they were going to give us 100%, and then tells us it is 72%. Yet, it might not be 72%, it might be 60%. He noted that the Board has no idea and is running blind.

He felt that it was quite frustrating. Mr. Goralski noted that he was excited to have the new voice with them at the Legislative Breakfast.

Mrs. Lombardi thanked Mrs. DiNello who has been extremely helpful in getting the rookie Board members through the budget process and providing so much information. She also thanked Mrs. Karen Smith and all the staff. She supported the direction that they set at the last workshop with the flexibility of relooking at the elementary staff level of teachers and at the high school scheduling and leveling. She felt that she still did not understand the VO-AG revenue situation. She asked if there could be further conversation between the Board of Education and the Board of Finance regarding that line item.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco echoed what Mrs. Lombardi said about the staff. She was still very concerned about the elementary level, but she was encouraged that, with flexibility, they can figure out how not to cut so much from the elementary level. She made mention that they just approved a 3.82% overall budget, but one and one-half percent of that is the federal "Jobs" funding from last year. In actuality, this budget request is 2.31%. She thought that the Superintendent and the administrative team had worked hard to bring in a very conservative budget, respectful of the community and these financial times. She thanked them for that.

Mr. Goralski appreciated, respected and supported the motion, and, for him, it was always an honor to speak and serve. He thanked his colleagues and said that some people look at this as the Board endorsing someone else's work, but this is the Board's work. Dr. Erardi, his cabinet, and this Board worked collaboratively throughout the year and, when the budget process begins, it is the work that they have done over time. He noted that Mrs. DiNello puts the budget on paper and explains it, but the facts within it and the presentation moving forward after tonight is the work of the Board.

Mr. Goralski shared that he was incredibly uncomfortable with reducing 22 staff members, 14 of whom are teachers. Presently, there are only eight retirements. In his mind, they are adding to the decline of the economy with this motion because they are putting six people out of work right now. He stated that no one in this community should be at ease with this, including students and parents, or the Board of Finance and Town Council. Putting people out of work is absolutely not the way to fix the economy, and it is certainly not the way to prepare the next generation for the future. He believed that they are lessening the quality of education. However, he respected the process of how they got here, and looked forward to defending it in every form possible. If the State funded their mandates, they would not have any of these concerns. The unknowns would be gone and they would be talking dollars and cents. The Board is not simply endorsing this work because we want the easy way out; when we are losing teachers, there is no easy way out.

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

Mr. Goralski thanked his colleagues because, when they vote unanimously, they send a strong message. Although they reduced staff with their action tonight, they are still hopeful that through retirements layoffs would not happen.

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

**“Motion to adjourn.”**

Mrs. DiNello stated that she appreciated the praise, but wanted to reiterate Dr. Erardi’s comments that there is a team of individuals who put this document together. She is one of the public voices who responds to questions during the meetings, but truly there is a team at central office. All administrators have input into this document. She felt that the praise should be shared.

**Motion carried by voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Blanchard*

Recording Secretary  
Southington Board of Education



Government Relations

## ATTACHMENT #1

Capitol Place  
21 Oak Street, Suite 207  
Hartford, CT 06106  
p. 860-527-5477 • f. 860-525-9979  
[www.romesmithlutz.com](http://www.romesmithlutz.com)

### Legislative Update: Revised January 2012

- **Education Funding Task Force**

- **Chairs:** Ben Barnes, OPM Secretary and Senate Chair of Education Andrea Stillman
- **Charge:** Study the ECS distribution, including consideration to magnet and special education funding.
- **Reporting:** The committee will be issuing interim recommendations on January 2, 2012, and final recommendations in October 2012.
- **Background, Notes, Recent Activity:** This language creating this task force was originally proposed by the governor to study just ECS. Rep Fleischmann and Sen Stillman inserted language to also take into consideration magnet school and special education funding as well. The administration is very focused on the ECS component. Senator Stillman has expressed that she would like to engage in conversation on the magnet and special ed portion of the charge as well. Stefan Pryor is not an official member, but he has attended meetings, and it is expected that he will continue to attend and weigh in. An interim report will be available at their next meeting later this month. The main issue other than lack of funding to fully fund the current formula, have been updated wealth data and how best to quantify that equitably.
- **Future Meeting Dates:** They will be meeting at the LOB on January 19<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.  
**Website:** <http://www.cga.ct.gov/ed/CostSharing/taskforce.asp>

- **Municipal Funding Task Force**

- **Chairs:** Appropriations Co-chairmen Senator Harp and Representative Walker
- **Charge:** Study the distribution of state aid to municipalities including ECS, Public School Transportation, Non Public Transportation Grants, PILOT, and Mohegan Pequot Fund.
- **Reporting:** Current statutory requirements of the task force requires a report to the General Assembly by January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2012. However, the task force members made and approved a motion to request a delay on the deadline for the report for "at least a year".
- **Background, Notes, Recent Activity:** This task force has only met once thus far. They will be examining the Pequot-Mohegan Fund first. The chairs indicated that part of their charge overlaps with the Education funding task force with respect to ECS, so they will at the very least communicate with the leadership of that task force as well.
- **Future Meeting Dates:** The past several meetings have been postponed. New dates TBD.

- **High school graduation task force**

- **Chair:** Joseph Cirsuolo, CAPSS
- **Charge:** Study issues arising from the enhanced high school graduation requirements and mandatory courses taking effect with the class of 2020. Must address special programming needs, requirement waivers, and appropriate placements for courses under the required subject areas.

- **Reporting:** Final report with recommendations due to the Education Committee by January 1, 2013.
- **Future Meeting Dates:** January 2012
- **CT Tech High School Task Force**
  - **Chair:** Mark Ojakian, Office of Policy and Management
  - **Charge:** Study the cost benefit analysis of the CT Technical High School System (CTHSS) as status quo, strengthening the system, transferring the system to the districts or the RESCs.
  - **Reporting:** Task force findings are due to the Governor and the Education Committee by January 15, 2012.
  - **Background, Notes, Recent Activity:** This task force was created in response to the Governor's budget proposal to transfer the CTHSS to the districts or the RESCs. There was some opposition from a number of legislators. In response, this task force was created to study the cost benefit analysis of the system in both scenarios. Since the budget was resolved, there was not recommendation to transfer the CTHSS to the districts or RESCs. The final report is linked here: [January 10, 2011 - OPM Releases CT Technical High School Task Force Report](#)
  - **Future Meeting Dates:** CONCLUDED.
  - **Website:** <http://www.cttech.org/task-force/>
- **Achievement gap task force**
  - **Chairs:** Miguel Cardona, principal of Hanover School in Meriden
  - **Charge:** Develop a master plan to close the achievement gap in the state by 2020, and monitor the progress of implementing the plan through 2020.
  - **Reporting:** Development of a master plan to close the achievement gap due by July 1, 2012. Annual progress reports due every January 1<sup>st</sup> beginning in 2013 and continuing until 2020.
  - **Background, Notes, Recent Activity:** This committee was extended from the Achievement Gap Task Force that met last year. They held a hearing from invited speakers and stakeholders interested in presenting on January 9<sup>th</sup>. The common themes were early childhood education. They will be reaching out to the interagency council to get a status update after they meet later this month. Senator Harp would like to examine more closely what has already been accomplished or underway in early childhood, and to also look into what measures should be taken beyond 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. She felt the focus is very strongly Birth to 3 and K-3.
  - **Future Meeting Dates:** A date to be determined in February.
- **Special education regs (burden of proof)**
  - SDE is in the process of revising the special education regulations, which have not been done in nearly 3 decades. The state board reviewed the proposed changes at their last meeting. Burden of proof was not addressed in the current revision, and it is not likely to happen for this round because they would have to go back and reopen public comment. The vast majority of changes in the current revision are to bring to date references to Federal IDEA. Legislation that passed last session included language that directed the SDE to study changing the burden of proof in their regulations, along with other costs associated with the state going above and beyond Federal IDEA.

## Guiding Principles

**CABE urges Legislators to analyze each piece of legislation by asking “How will this legislation promote student achievement?” and “What is the fiscal and administrative impact on local communities?”**

Strong school districts, urban, suburban and rural, are critical to Connecticut’s economic future. Each child must have equal access to effective free public education.

Local and regional boards of education play a key role in promoting public education as a public policy priority.

## 2012 Legislative Priorities

### Funding

- Establish and maintain a funding system that supports equity and adequacy, including funding mandates. The immediate need is to maintain the Education Cost Sharing grant at least at its current level and to fund the Special Education excess cost grant.

### Achievement Gap

- Support a system where achievement is the constant, and time the variable
- Increase access to early childhood programs and kindergarten

- Align educator evaluation and placement systems with multiple measures of student achievement and school district reform needs

- Provide support to low performing students, utilizing research based best practices

### Maximize Resources

- Reduce constraints on the delivery of education and remove mandates that fail to promote student achievement

- Place the burden of proof in special education due process hearings on the party challenging the placement

- Raise the dollar threshold for school construction projects subject to prevailing wage

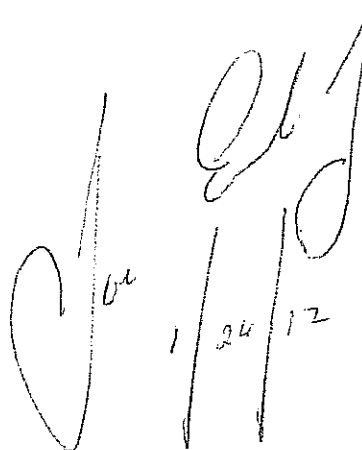
- Enhance local capacity to manage labor expense through modification of collective bargaining statutes

- Include performance based pay in the teacher retirement board calculations for purposes of retirement

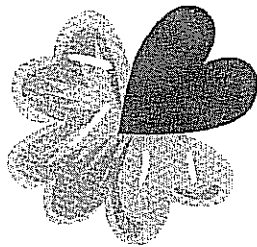
- Refocus the State Department of Education resources on support to local districts rather than enforcement of instructional mandates

## **Administration: Board of Education Update January 26, 2012**

1. **Board of Education – Retreat** - Binder
  - a. Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>
  - b. The Orchards of Southington
  - c. 8:30 – 12:00 noon
  - d. Paperless Presentation; SHS Learning Block Study; Open
2. **Next Step Parent Group** – (Attachment #1)
3. **Soar Student Demonstration** – 1/30/12 - (Attachment #2)
4. **Board of Finance Presentation: Thursday, February 23, 7:00 p.m.**
5. **Administrative Hiring Timeline** - (Attachment #3)
6. **Safety Updates:**
  - a. Mothers Against Drunk Driving – Partnership Meeting
  - b. Bus Cameras – Exterior Mounted - Continued Conversation

  
1/26/12





## NEXT STEPS PARENT GROUP MEETING DATES

February 28; March 27, 2012; April 24  
and May 29, 2012. The spring dates  
will be announced in April, 2012.

Welcome to Next Steps, a Southington  
support group for parents!

We meet:  
6:00p.m.-8:00p.m.

**The Summit**  
**Summit Street Plantsville, CT 06021**

Please RSVP to [tnt510@cox.net](mailto:tnt510@cox.net) or  
[stevelori@cox.net](mailto:stevelori@cox.net);  
Dorothy Contrastano 860-563-3232x102



Greater Bristol Farmington Valley  
Community Collaborative

Paula Knight  
Jackie St. John  
Enrichment Resource Teachers  
Southington Public Schools

Flanders Elementary School  
100 Victoria Drive  
Southington, CT 06489  
860-628-3298

## Congratulations, You Have Been Invited to Share your Invention at the Inventor's Fair

Your child has been participating in a SOAR simulation called "Invent", and is ready to share their great idea at an Inventor's Fair.

All participants have shared their inventions at their schools and are ready to showcase them to you.

Details of the invention fair are as follows:

What: Invention Fair (4<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012,  
(Snow Date... Tuesday, January 31, 2012)  
Time: 3:30-5:00pm. Student Inventors  
5:00-5:30...Invited guests, teachers, and administrators  
5:30-6:30pm...Parents and Friends  
Where: Hatton School Gymnasium  
Why: Showcase & Defend student research

Please enter the school through the Community Door entrance. There will be signage helping you identify where to enter.

Parents will provide transportation from their home school to Hatton School. If parents decide to arrange car pools, please follow your school's protocol.

## About Our Community

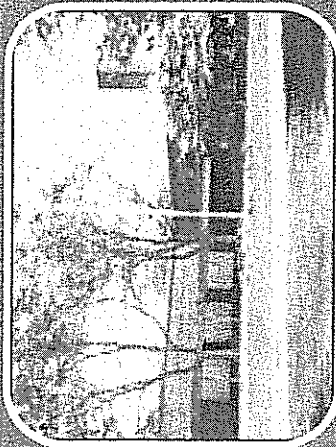
Southington, Connecticut located in the geographic center of the state with over 20,000 people, has shopping centers, industrial parks and a well developed downtown. Yet it retains a rural character of farms, orchards and woodlands.

Easy access from Route 10 and the following major Interstates: 84, 91, 691 and the Meriden Parkway.

Approximately 20 minutes from Hartford, 30 minutes from New Haven.

## About John F. Kennedy Middle School

- Enrollment for 2011-2012  
Grades 6 to 8 844 students
- New Building Project - November 2011 - \$42.5 Million renovate to new building project approved by the Southington Community.
- Student achievement meets or exceeds State of CT standards



## Southington Public Schools

Joseph V. Brandt Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
 Karen L. Smith, Asst. Superintendent & Instruction  
 Sherri J. DiNallo, Director of Business and Finance  
 Frederick G. Cox, Director of Operations  
 Peter S. Mordica, Ed.D., Sr. Chief of Staff (Personnel Services)  
 Karen G. Vailleur, Technology Director  
 Philip W. Goodwin, Purchasing Agent  
 Kimberly D. Hunt, Personnel Manager

### Elementary Schools

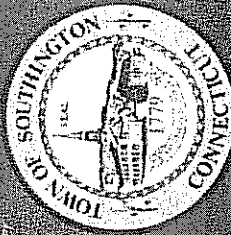
Walter A. Degroski School  
 Flanders School  
 William H. Hatton School  
 Urban T. Kelley School  
 Plantsville School  
 South End School  
 William Strong School  
 Reuben F. Thalberg School

### Middle Schools

Joseph A. DePaolo School Middle School  
 John F. Kennedy School Middle School

### High School

Southington High School  
 The Alternative Education Program

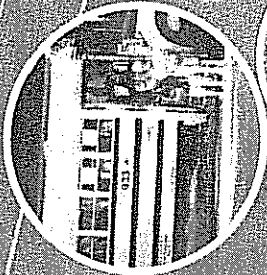


Phone: (860) 628-3200 Fax: (860) 628-3205

49 Beecher St.

Southington, CT 06489

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



# Southington Public Schools

Southington, CT

Invites you to apply for  
the position of

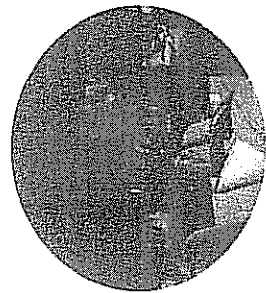
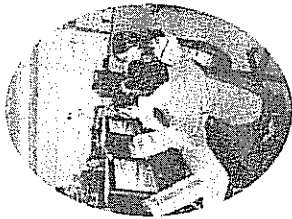
Principal

John F. Kennedy Middle School



# Our Mission Statement...

The mission of the Southington Public Schools is to have students engage in a range of educational experiences to become informed, adaptive problem solvers who effectively communicate, rise to challenges, and are committed to improve themselves and their communities.



## About Our Schools

- Over 6,500 students in Grades Pre-K thru 12.
- Twenty-eight certified administrators, 562 teachers.
- Eight neighborhood elementary schools serving students in Grades K - 5; two middle-schools (Grades 6 - 8) that serve approximately 800 students in each school, and Southington High School, a designated *Blue Ribbon School of Excellence*, serving approximately 2,000 students in Grades 9 - 12.
- Southington's schools have been recognized by *School Match*, a national firm that assists corporations and individuals in identifying high quality school systems, as one of its "What Parents Want" award winners.
- Southington employs a five-year cycle for curriculum review, allowing systematic planning and evaluation of all course offerings.
- Small classes and specialized programming ensure individual attention to student needs.
- Strong community involvement, active parent/teacher organizations and school volunteer programs.

For additional information go to:

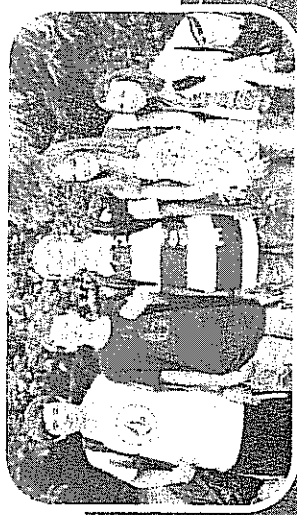
[www.southingtonschools.org](http://www.southingtonschools.org)

## The Position

*Seeking a qualified individual to provide leadership in the administration and supervision of a Southington middle school.*

## Qualifications

- Connecticut certification for Intermediate Administrator and Supervisor (#4097)
- Able to articulate a clear vision of the social and academic needs of the middle school student. Strong knowledge of current practices and theory in middle school education.
- Preference will be given to principal candidates who have middle school teaching experience.



## Application Process

Please apply online via our applicant portal at:  
<http://www.appltrack.com/southingtonschools/onlineapp>

Salary Range: \$127,506 - \$137,843

Application

Deadline Date: March 21, 2012

Position Start Date: July 1, 2012

Interviews

Committee: March 28 or 29, 2012

Superintendent: April 5, 2012

Board of Education: April 18, 2012

## About Our Community

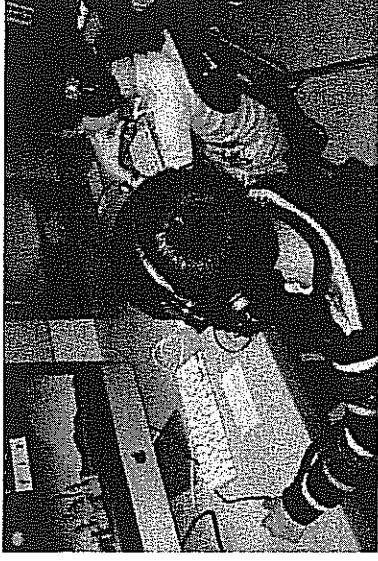
Southington, Connecticut, located in the geographic center of the state with over 50,000 people, has shopping centers, industrial parks, and a well developed downtown. Yet it retains a quiet character of farms, orchards and woodlands.

Easy access from Route 10 and the following major Interstates 84, 91, 691 and the Merritt Parkway.

## About These Schools

South End Elementary School  
Enrollment: Grade K-5, 274 students

Thalberg Elementary School Enrollment:  
Grade K-5, 222 students



Joseph V. Eardi Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
Karen L. Smith, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction  
Sherril-Lyn Dineley, Director of Business and Finance  
Frederick G. Cox, Director of Operations  
Perr S. Murica, Ed.D., Asst. Comm. of Pupil Personnel Services  
Karen G. Valleau, Technology Director  
Philip W. Goodwin, Purchasing Agent  
Kimberly D. Hunt, Personnel Manager

### Elementary Schools

Walter A. Deryniski School  
Henders School  
William H. Hutton School  
Urban T. Kelley School  
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Joseph A. DePaolo School Middle School  
John F. Kennedy School Middle School

### High School

Southington High School  
The Alternative Education Program

Phone: (860) 628-3200 Fax: (860) 628-3205

49 Beecher St.  
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[www.southingtonschools.org](http://www.southingtonschools.org)

# Southington Public Schools

Southington, Connecticut



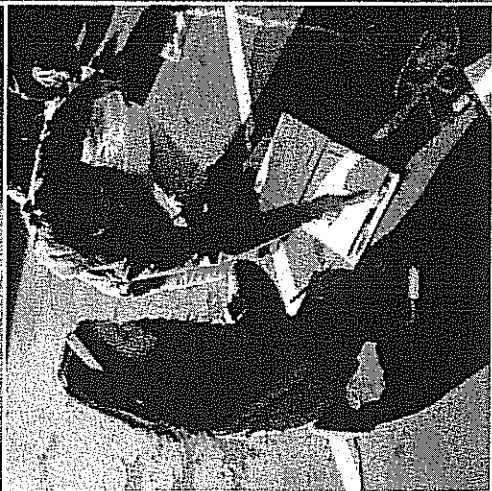
Invites you to apply for the  
position of

Principal  
South End Elementary School  
or  
Thalberg Elementary School  
(Two positions available)



# Our Mission Statement...

The mission of the Southington Public Schools is to have students engage in a range of educational experiences to become informed, adaptive problem solvers who effectively communicate, rise to challenges, and are committed to improve themselves and their communities.



## The Position

*Seeking a qualified individual to provide leadership in the administration and supervision of a Southington elementary school.*

## Qualifications

- Connecticut certification for Intermediate Administrator and Supervisor (#092).
- Able to articulate a clear vision of the social and academic needs of the elementary school student.
- Strong knowledge of current practices and theory in elementary school education.
- Preference will be given to principal candidates who have elementary school teaching experience.

## Application Process

Please apply online via our applicant portal at:

<http://www.applitrack.com/southingtonschools/onlineapp>

Salary Range: \$118,324 - \$127,517

Application Deadline Date: March 7, 2012

Position Start Date: July 1, 2012

Interviews:

Committee: March 14, 01 15, 2012

Superintendent: March 21, 2012

Board of Education: April 4, 2012

## About Our Schools

- Over 6,500 students in Grades Pre-K through 12.
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For additional information go to:  
[www.southingtonschools.org](http://www.southingtonschools.org)

### Choice Program Funding

- \$3000 per student
- \$4500 extra per kindergarten student
- \$400 extra per student for schools that enroll 10 or more Choice students
- \$15,000 Academic Support Grant (\$575 per student based on October 1 enrollment (funds literacy tutors)

### Allocations

- \$112,000 for 2011-2012 School Year
- Supports 1 Kindergarten Teacher and 1 paraprofessional
- Supports 3 FTE literacy tutors

### CREC Support Early Beginnings Program

- CREC facilitator -2 days a week (1 day at DES and 1 day at SEES)
- CREC Resource Specialist-contact person for kindergarten families