

SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT

REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 9, 2012

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the Southington Town Council Chambers, 75 Main Street, Southington, Connecticut.

From 7:07 p.m. through 7:15 p.m., a Celebration of Excellence was held. The following students were presented with plaques by Board Chairperson, Brian Goralski, and congratulated for receiving recognition by the Connecticut Art Education Association for their artistic talents: Sawyer Alix, Honorable Mention in Photography; Elena Babineau, Gold Key and Silver Key in Drawing; Shannan Colon, Gold Key in Drawing and Honorable Mention in Painting; Amanda Russman, Silver Key in Photography; Yulia Vasilenko, Honorable Mention in Painting; Heath Wang, Gold Key and Silver Key in Drawing; Tiffany Zysk, Silver Key in Drawing; and Rachael Liquindoli, Honorable Mention in the Drexel University High School Photography Contest.

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, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, and Mrs. Patricia Queen. Absent was Mr. Zaya Oshana.

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 present.

There were approximately 17 individuals in the audience.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Goralski asked a Boy Scout in the audience to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

“Move to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 26, 2012.”

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

4. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience

There was no communication from the audience.

b. Communications from Board Members and Administration

Communication from the Board Members:

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

“Move to add an Executive Session to discuss Transportation Safety, and Certified and Non-certified Personnel Issues.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Derynoski reported that he attended a technology meeting that morning at the high school and noted that there would be a Technology Forum on March 6, 2012 at the high school from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. He explained that they will address a good cross-section of areas from manufacturing to marketing and communications. He noted that it would be a prelude to the Manufacturing and Construction Expo to be held on April 26, 2012. Mr. Derynoski felt that it was very successful last year and this year they are trying to bring it up a notch. They received donations for an iPad as part of a raffle prize for students only. He stated that a card would be distributed to students and there would be a mailer to advertise the event. Mr. Derynoski remarked that the technology they are using was amazing.

Mr. Goralski reminded the Board that on March 7, 2012 there will be a STEPS Community Forum.

Communication from Administration:

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

1. Board of Education Legislative Breakfast: Dr. Erardi announced that the entire delegation was planning to attend on February 10, 2012 at Plantsville Elementary School, with the Continental Breakfast starting at 8:00 a.m., followed by an hour of dialogue from 8:30 through 9:30 a.m. He felt that it was a tremendous commitment from the delegates to clear their calendars to attend at their busiest time.
2. Student STEPS Safety Survey Results: Dr. Erardi reported that there would be an STEPS rollout of the safety information from the Grades 7, 9, and 11 surveys. It will take place at the Aqua Turf. They will have longitudinal data because they have done

this survey three times. On March 7, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., the STEPS Executive Committee will be presenting the information.

3. Medication Return Partnership: Dr. Erardi reported that the Southington Public Schools will continue to partner with safety officials for medication return that will take place on Saturday morning, April 28, 2012.

4. Mentor Program: Dr. Erardi reported that the “one student at a time” mentoring program would be spotlighted with a Connecticut State presentation on March 14, 2012.

5. Southington Education Foundation: Dr. Erardi announced that the Southington Education Foundation anxiously awaits the School Board’s Spelling Bee team on April 19, 2012.

Mr. Goralski pointed out that last year the Board had two teams that represented the Board of Education.

Communications from Student Board Representatives

Mr. Peschel congratulated all the artists who received awards for their outstanding artwork. He noted that people don’t see artwork being presented and rewarded a lot. He noted that it was great to go into the auditorium at the high school and where there is always artwork displayed. He remarked that an art show would be held later in the year where people can appreciate the talent of the students at the high school.

Mr. Peschel announced that Megan Bowes, who is a senior, was selected to sing the National Anthem at the Connecticut Association of Schools Performing Visual Arts Banquet that will be held at Aqua Turf. Mr. Peschel reported that the scholarship process started last week and the seniors were invited to a class meeting where they received a booklet of all the scholarships that are offered. The scholarship application forms can be picked up in the Guidance Office. This year, the deadline to submit scholarships is after February break, rather than before, so the seniors have that week off to work on the scholarships. He noted that most of the students were excited about the February break still being upheld. Mr. Peschel reported that last week DECA hosted a Movie Night, and the National Honor Society was holding a Movie Night tonight featuring *The Lion King* for elementary school students. The proceeds will go to Bread for Life. On Friday, February 10, there will be a Valentine’s Day dance for the underclassmen. The Surround Sound fundraising performance by the band will be held March 2 and 3 with the band playing a wide selection of music in the auditorium. The price is \$8.00 per ticket for students. He noted that they missed the Music of the Knight because of the weather and they wanted to have one more occasion in which the seniors could perform for an audience.

Miss DiMeo reported that, along with the scholarship extension, the parent portal is being extended for class registrations from February 8 to February 29. She announced that the Spanish Exchange is all set, with the Americans now going to Spain. This is the first time that Southington High School is offering this opportunity. Many of the students had to get their passports because it is the first time they are going outside of the country. They are leaving February 17 and returning February 28, and they will not miss much school because of the February break. She reported that CAPT testing is starting the first week of March; this

timeframe provides an opportunity for AP classes to meet, manage their progress in those classes, and communicate with their teachers. The AP exams start in May.

Mrs. Lombardi understood that they were registering for courses now and asked how the students were responding to the new leveling. Miss DiMeo replied that it follows the same criteria, except with new names, and students are choosing their own level. It is about pushing oneself. Level 3 English students may want to try AP English in their senior year to give themselves that extra push. She noted that now a Level 3 student would go into CCP and, if the student wanted to try a harder class, they are granted that opportunity.

Mr. Goralski wished Miss DiMeo a safe trip to Spain, and he looked forward to hearing about her visit abroad.

Mr. Goralski announced that Mr. Oshana apologized for not being at the meeting because he had an out-of-state business trip.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Policy and Personnel Committee Meeting ~ January 23, 2012

Mrs. Clark reported that the committee met on January 23 and that the committee was still reviewing the Homework Policy and the Regulation recommendations. They have been reviewing other towns and hope to be pulling that information together at their next meeting.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked if the committee was going to incorporate some of the things that were in the Avon school district's policy. Mrs. Clark replied that they were looking at all the towns, including Avon, Cheshire, Cromwell, etc., and there were a lot of commonalities in their Regulations and they are looking to incorporate that into Southington's. Mrs. Notar-Francesco thought that the bulleted items from Avon were very interesting and very spot-on for homework. She really liked what they said, and she hoped that Southington's would look similar. Mrs. Clark stated that they were trying to take the best of the best and put it all together for Southington.

b. Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting ~ January 31, 2012

Mrs. Carmody reported that the committee met on January 31 to discuss Common Core Standards, which has been adopted by 48 states and that its purpose is to get students across the country on the same page as they prepare for college and beyond. Later this evening, there will be a presentation on the Common Core Standards from Ms. Riedinger and Ms. Chester.

6. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

a. Personnel Report

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

“Move to accept the Personnel Report.”

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

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

Mr. Goralski reported that he and Mr. Derynoski continue to serve on the Turf Committee and are happy to announce that the last meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 13 at Beecher Street. February 13 is President Lincoln's birthday, which is a holiday, and the Southington Town Hall is closed. They hoped to finish the plan that will be presented at the Town Council meeting on February 27 by Mike DeFeo, Chairman of the Turf Committee. He asked Dr. Erardi to have Dr. Semmel and Eric Swallow communicate with the Booster Clubs that a couple of them have been misrepresenting information regarding the Turf Committee's actions and next steps. The committee is wrapping up their work that it is going to be presented to the Town Council. Any information beyond that is simply rumor, and he would like the Booster Clubs to be connected to fact. Dr. Erardi replied that it would be communicated to coaches and to Booster Clubs.

Mr. Goralski thanked the Board for the respectful budget process. Last night at the Board of Finance meeting, it was no different and many of the Board of Education members were in attendance. He thought that it sends a very strong message to the community and Board of Finance, and he believed that the budget presentation was well received last night. He noted that the Administrative Aspirants Cohort attended in very strong numbers, which speaks well for the work of the administration and the example that the cabinet sets for them.

Mr. Goralski announced that, besides the Town Council meeting on February 27, there was also a meeting on February 14. He invited any Board member who was not busy on Valentine's Day to feel free to attend. Because Lincoln's Birthday was on February 13, it prohibited the Town Council from meeting, and that was why they are meeting on Valentine's Day. He noted that Mr. Pocock suggested that the Board of Education has numerous meetings to attend and to enjoy Valentine's Day with their families.

b. Construction Update

Mr. Cox reported that work continues on the interior of the building at North Center, primarily on above ceiling duct work and sprinkler systems. The Building Committee met regarding the two middle schools on January 25, 2012 and their next meeting is scheduled for February 29, 2012. In the meantime, Attorney Mark Sciota has prepared and completed the RFPs for Construction Manager and for the Architect. He noted that Attorney Sciota told him today that the RFP for Construction Manager would go out two weeks earlier than the Architectural firm RFP, so the Construction Manager could be part of the interview process for the Architect.

Mrs. Queen asked if it was decided that there would be one Architect and one Construction Manager for both school projects. Mr. Cox replied that would not be decided until the interview process is completed, but the committee has discussed that and is leaning toward the same Architect and the same Construction Manager for both projects.

c. School Calendar Update ~ 2011-2012

Dr. Erardi stated that administration was prepared to inform the students, staff, parents, grandparents and guardians on Friday that the directive from the School Board in November has held and that the February break will remain as it shows on the calendar.

Mr. Goralski noted that they will continue to let the community know that April vacation is still available to them should an emergency situation arise. The last day of school is June 19, which is a Tuesday, and there are three days in June at their disposal as well.

d. Curriculum Initiative ~ Common Core Standards & Overview

Mrs. Smith stated that the Common Core Standards were aligned with the national standards and this evening Ms. Dale Riedinger [Math and Science Coordinator] and Ms. Betsy Chester [Language Arts Coordinator] would give a brief overview of what the Common Core means statewide and to Southington, both now and in the future.

Ms. Chester pointed out that an international committee developed the Common Core State Standards and Connecticut adopted them as of July 2012. Toward the second half of last year, they started to discuss what was going to happen because the state had not taken any initiative on where we were going or what was going to happen.

Ms. Chester and Ms. Riedinger gave a PowerPoint presentation (*Attachment #2*) followed by questions and answers by the Board after the presentation.

Mrs. Smith thanked both Ms. Riedinger and Ms. Chester for their PowerPoint presentation. She noted that the Curriculum and Instruction Committee had heard a lengthy and comprehensive presentation from them as well. The Curriculum and Instruction Committee will reconvene in April to specifically talk more about the movement in assessment and the connections between CMT and CAPT and what they believe will be a new assessment model in 2014-15. She pointed out that they are currently instructing with the curriculum that is presently in place. As they are changing and updating the curricular areas, they are clearly including the Common Core Standards. A teacher still needs to prepare the students for the current method of assessment known as CMT and CAPT. Mrs. Smith explained that Ms. Riedinger's professional development focus this year has specifically been in fifth grade on fractions, multiplying and dividing. Even though our students will not be assessed on CMT in fifth grade in those areas, she is beginning the professional development with the adults. They are going to have a couple of years when the curriculum is not completely matched with the Common Core Standards and the new assessment model. She noted that is true with all communities within Connecticut. For a couple of years they will be sticking with what the CMT and CAPT are requiring, but the focus of instruction is going to be tweaked in some areas to better match Common Core. Mrs. Smith pointed out that Common Core is just another way of talking about 21st Century Skills. There is much more information to learn that they will be sharing with the Curriculum and Instruction Committee and with the Board.

Mrs. Carmody thanked Ms. Riedinger and Ms. Chester for their PowerPoint presentation. She thought about what they were doing at the high school in trying to increase the instructional

time, which is going to be vital to these Common Core Standards. She noted that it was also extremely important that they continue professional development, and she knows that it is in the budget for next year. She stated that teachers need that very desperately because it is a whole change in content area teaching. She noted that this is a very difficult concept because they are going away from the textbook. Mrs. Carmody explained that the students in Southington will be on the same page with all the children in the United States and globally, and that is the ultimate goal of Common Core Standards. There is a lot of work ahead of them and the teachers are receptive to it, but it is change and change takes time. The end result will be wonderful if they start with Kindergarten and get these students prepared so they can compete on a global level. She appreciated everything that was being done.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked what the cost implications were for the budget. She noted that there has been talk of professional development, but questioned if there was something else that they were not taking into consideration. Ms. Chester replied that technology was the biggest piece. She noted the resources for language arts were going digital. She stated that they need time to practice. In addition to the actual artifacts of technology, starting early, the children are going to need to learn how to keyboard to be able to access. Some of the assessments are very complex, and students have a certain amount of time to be able to access multiple resources, cull information, and organize a well-written essay for submission.

Mrs. Lombardi thanked Ms. Riedinger and Ms. Chester for spending time one-on-one with her. She saw that this was a transformation in depth, scope, and volume across the curriculum and, as such, she wondered about the need for increased instructional time. Today, the average child is often having difficulty with the current pace. With the current instruction time, she wondered how they were going to do this and what this was going to look like in the classroom. Are they going to be rushing the children because of the lack of instructional time? In terms of the global standards, they are competing with global entities whose instructional time is much longer. Their school days are longer, their blocks of time are longer, and their whole structure is very different. She understood that the technology is needed in writing, research, testing and presentation of data in order to be successful. They are approximately 29 months away from implementation, and she wanted to see a technology plan to get to the Common Core Standards. For example, the Library Specialists are teaching keyboarding when they have time, and our kids are not practicing keyboarding at the elementary level. She felt that needed to be addressed because they are going to be required, not only to test, but to learn and apply in those areas. Ms. Riedinger replied that they are currently developing a technology plan. Mrs. Lombardi stated that she would like to see this integrated as a result of the context of the Common Core Standards. How are we going to get there?

Dr. Erardi responded that they have oversight from Karen Veilleux, Director of Technology, and the charge of that committee is to do that; however, he has to come back to the Board to make sure that there is a dollar connection to the next two operational budgets. He reassured the Board that in less than two and one-half years they would be ready with the K-12 infrastructure as far as instruction in following Common Core. He will meet with Mrs. Veilleux on Friday and get a better sense of where that committee is with dollar connection going forward because that is a huge issue. Mrs. Lombardi pointed out that this was another “story” they need to tell the Board of Finance and Town Council because they do not have enough in the budget today for technology. Dr. Erardi replied that was the reason why they used the word “untouchable” on that technology line item.

Ms. Chester stated that it was also imperative that they address the Preschool and Kindergarten experience for all.

Mrs. Carmody mentioned that Ms. Chester and Ms. Riedinger gave the committee the new Bloom's Taxonomy of Learning and asked if they could get a copy to all Board members because it was a great guide. Ms. Chester replied that in the Common Core Standards it is referred to as DOK, the Depth of Knowledge. Mrs. Carmody noted that it was a great chart and she would like to share it with the rest of the Board. Ms. Riedinger stated that of significance is the "create" piece and that is what is different from the old Bloom's Taxonomy. Students have to be creative and innovative to keep us moving forward and competitive.

Mr. Derynoski noted that it was the State of Connecticut that adopted the Common Core Standards and asked if there was an end date in which the Board had to implement it. Ms. Riedinger replied that there was. Mr. Derynoski pointed out that this was another unfunded mandate that should be number one on their docket for Friday morning's Legislative Breakfast. He stated that Mrs. Lombardi brought up a very good point regarding the classroom time. He remarked that a teacher does not have enough time in a course of a 44-minute cycle and noted that the Board had some discussions in the past about block scheduling. Mr. Goralski interjected that the Board talked about that on Saturday at the Board Retreat. Mr. Derynoski continued that it was something on which the Board needs to focus. Mr. Goralski explained that Dr. Semmel has a committee in place addressing instructional time and usage. He noted that Mrs. Carmody represents the Board on that committee and will bring the information back to the Board. They are visiting existing block schedules within other districts. During the Retreat, Dr. Semmel discussed the professional development piece of how to maximize the usage of that extended block.

Dr. Erardi remarked that in the Board's weekend update they will have an attachment from Dr. Semmel that addresses professional development and time, which was requested from the Saturday retreat. He commented on the concern of time with the information that was presented this evening. The beauty of the Common Core is that it not only tells us what we have to do, it tells us what we don't have to do any longer. He felt that was very important because they are good at adding on and they are not great at subtracting from. What that will mean in the classroom is that the breadth of what we teach will be marginalized, but the depth regarding certain topics will be maximized. The key is how much and how often, and that was why he was glad that Ms. Chester and Ms. Riedinger are on our team.

Ms. Riedinger agreed; especially, in the mathematics at the elementary level, it is going to be a lot less for them to teach when they are used to 25 content standards.

Mrs. Smith stated that, for the last few years, teachers have been hearing a phrase, "weeding your garden." For example, in Kindergarten with their short two-hour 40-minute day, how can you possibly "weed the garden" so you can fit more in? She noted that small, effective things are happening, and they are giving the teachers permission to think that way. For example, how much time do you need in circle time every day? Some days they may need more time than other days. Rather than following a prescribed road map, they are encouraging the teachers to think outside of that box. Mrs. Smith explained that 21st Century Skills apply to adults as well as children, but that it has to start with adults. On Monday, they are having a

meeting with Grade 8 and 9 language arts teachers, not only around the common topic of language arts, which is the vehicle for the discussion, but she hoped to address the expectations. How will Common Core fit into eighth and ninth grade? Where can they weed? Where does eighth grade have to focus in order to promote a healthier ninth-grade-prepared student? Is ninth-grade instruction of 10 years ago the same as ninth-grade instruction today? She noted that beginning those dialogues with professionals, not with her or Ms. Chester leading it, but with teachers talking to one another and facilitating, was long overdue. The teachers are the professionals and that is where they are going to see 21st Century Skills beginning. If they don't have teachers who are currently well-versed in how to weed their own gardens, they are not going to be able to do everything that they are being asked to do. Every initiative that they have been talking about is connected to the next one.

Ms. Chester summarized that what every district in every state is working on is the "pathway" of getting there. As a comprehensive team with administration and curriculum specialists, they are working on a vision of how they will scaffold the learning to teachers this year and what next year will look like for final implementation two years from now.

Mrs. Queen had a question about AYP [Annual Yearly Progress]. She believed that was attached to No Child Left Behind. Ms. Riedinger replied that was correct. Mrs. Queen noted that they still have those laws to abide by and she knows that there have been many issues. She noted that the Common Core Standards would be assessed differently than AYP. Ms. Chester remarked that they did not know if AYP would continue to exist. Ms. Riedinger thought that they all recognized now that No Child Left Behind with the AYP did not make the kind of gain that they thought it would. The initial design is not showing the effects.

Mrs. Lombardi noted that tomorrow President Obama was declaring approximately 10 states that no longer need to abide by No Child Left Behind. Ms. Chester explained that Connecticut has petitioned, but she did not know if they received a response yet. Mrs. Lombardi replied that Massachusetts got it. Dr. Erardi replied that they have to be very careful of the regulatory relief that will follow. Ms. Riedinger added that there were always strings tied to it; they have to demonstrate student achievement in some way.

Mrs. Queen questioned if Grade 8 Algebra was currently a ninth grade class. Ms. Riedinger replied that the standards show that half of Algebra I would now be in eighth grade. A major focus of the eighth grade math will become Algebra I, but it is half of the course. Ms. Riedinger noted that at the high school level they still have Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II, but they need to incorporate more Trigonometry and include Probability and Statistics. Those standards would be woven into current classes at the high school level, so they will be redesigning those courses. Mr. Goralski stated that, if they were going to split Grade 8 Algebra in half, he would hate to think that there are students now that are highly capable of doing the whole package. He stated that they definitely better not be "dumbing down" curriculum. Ms. Riedinger replied that they were not "dumbing down," but instead making it more rigorous every year. She stated that they are actually getting more students to take Algebra earlier; they are just changing the way it is designed and where they put it. The intent is to get in as much mathematics as they possibly can which would tie-in with the High School Reform Act.

Mrs. Queen noted that there was research supplied in a packet about students who take Calculus in high school. Studies show they have a higher rate of completing a four-year college

program than students who don't take Calculus in high school. To reach the point in which they can take Calculus, they have to get through a lot of other math, which pushes Algebra to eighth grade. Mrs. Queen thought that the instructional time was going to change to where there is more active student work during the course of a day. Ms. Riedinger replied that it was not the time; it was the process and what is happening in the classroom.

Mrs. Lombardi understood that, besides the high school instructional time, more instructional time was going to be needed at the elementary level too. She noted that they don't even have enough time today. Ms. Riedinger thought that the time may look different and current practices would be different. She hoped that they would be more efficient at using the time. She was pleased that there is less to do at the elementary level in mathematics and that they are going to go much deeper so that they have a really solid foundation. Not that we did not have that before, it is that the State of Connecticut's frameworks were so broad. Ms. Riedinger thought that it was problematic across the country in mathematics that we are a "mile wide and an inch deep." She thought that they have learned the lessons of other countries that are superior in international testing. She thought that instruction is going to change and that professional development and technology are so important.

Mrs. Lombardi thought that the Literacy Specialists will play a big role in the transition to Common Core, and perhaps we will need Technology Specialists to assist in the transition as well. Mrs. Smith stated that it ties in very nicely with the promotion and encouragement of teacher leaders in buildings and an entirely new design of teaching, evaluation, supervision, and administration.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Leonard and Gladys Joll Scholarship Committee Appointment

Mr. Goralski asked for volunteers to serve on this committee. Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Notar-Francesco and Mr. Derynoski stated that they would be happy to serve on that committee.

b. Natural Gas Contract

Mrs. DiNello explained that Mr. Philip Goodwin [Purchasing Agent] was bringing forward a recommendation that she is endorsing regarding extending our current contract with Metromedia for natural gas. The price has come down considerably. She noted that Mr. Goodwin received a quote from another provider, but his recommendation was that they extend our current contract for two years with Metromedia based on the potential savings or cost avoidance.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco asked if there was any chance that, within the two-year proposal, they could get Metromedia to come down to the 0.625 cost per therm. Mrs. DiNello explained that the reason why the price goes up when they look at the two-year proposal versus the one-year is that Metromedia is now assuming the risk that the price could change and actually increase over that two-year period. The fact that they are taking on the risk is why the price goes up. The other option is that we take on the risk in getting the better price and lock in for one year in the hope that, at some point over the next 12-18 months, the price remains the same or possibly goes down. She stated that trying to forecast what is really the best decision is difficult,

but they were comfortable with the cost savings over two years. She added that the price was changing daily, and they could not hold off for a Finance Committee meeting to then bring it to the Board next month.

Mr. Derynoski stated that in December he attended the Power-Gen Conference in Las Vegas and the global natural gas pricing was a hot topic. There was a tremendous amount of gas that has been discovered. It is market-driven and over the last six weeks there has been notification that 10-12 coal-fired facilities are converting to natural gas within the next 12-24 months. He thought that would have an impact on Wall Street that actually buys futures for gas just like they do with gasoline and fuel oil. He did not think that they would be lucky enough to sustain this type of pricing over the long period. He thought that, if they had an opportunity for a two-year lock-in, they should grab it. He agreed that a cost reduction in 2013-14 is more of cost avoidance, but he thought that it was a positive one.

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

“Move to accept the two-year extension with Metromedia Energy for the purchase of natural gas demand.”

Mrs. Lombardi questioned the contract on the usage based on January to December. If our usage goes up considerably, will this cost come down appropriately? Mr. Goodwin replied that we were committed to our usage; however, in the past two years we have been accurate with our contracted price compared to our usage numbers. They are consistent with that same contracted price. Mrs. Lombardi assumed that this year the usage would be down because of the weather. Mr. Goodwin replied that was correct. What they will do is, based on the unused therm, they will sell it and if there is a profit, we would get it. If it is an additional cost, we would have to incur that cost. Over the past two years, we have averaged out to an actual price that is consistent with our contracted price.

Mr. Goralski anticipated that with the new middle school projects they would go to natural gas because we have come away from oil. Mrs. DiNello replied that Kennedy Middle School is on gas now when they installed the line last year. Mr. Goralski felt that, as they replace boilers, they are moving away from oil because gas is more efficient and cleaner.

Mrs. DiNello thanked Mr. Goodwin for moving in this direction and reaching out to Metromedia with the change in pricing. However, this is just one of a number of things that will come before the Board as they continue to look for potential savings with efficiencies in the budget.

Mr. Derynoski asked what number was reflected in the budget. Mrs. DiNello replied that this number was not reflected in the budget, it is at the higher price. This is a 12-month price; however, the price would not kick-in until September so she would have to pro-rate that from September through June versus 12 months. When they work through their future budget conversation, it will be a factor of that number.

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

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

“Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing Transportation Safety, Certified and Non-Certified Personnel Issues, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session.”

Motion carried by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Blanchard

Recording Secretary
Southington Board of Education

**SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION
FEBRUARY 9, 2012**

Mr. Brian Goralski, Board Chairperson, called the Executive Session to order at 8:57 p.m.

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

Board Members Absent: Mr. Zaya Oshana.

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

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

“Move that the Board go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing Transportation Safety, and Certified and Non-certified Personnel Issues, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move that the Board return to public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The board reconvened public session at 9:14 p.m.

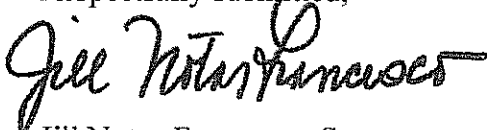
MOTION: by Mrs. Clark, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Board adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jill Notar-Francesco, Secretary
Southington Board of Education

Administration: Board of Education Update February 9, 2012

1. **Board of Education – Legislative Breakfast**
2. **Student STEPS Safety Survey Results**
March 7th – 7:00 p.m. (Attachment #1)
3. **SPS / Medication Return Partnership**
Saturday, April 28th (Attachment #2)
4. **SPS Mentor Program – CT Spotlight**
March 14th (Attachment #3)
5. **SEF Partnership**
April 19th (Attachment #4)

John E. Edwards
2/9/12



"Growing Great Kids"

ADVISORY BOARD

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Nancy Chiero
Sgt. Lowell DePalma
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HONORARY BOARD

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Chief Jack Daly
Dr. Joseph Erardi
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Edward Pocock III
Clarence Silva

STAFF

Evelyn Ciaburri
Administrative Assistant
Kelly Leppard
Prevention Coordinator

We're excited!

So much so, that we want to share the excitement with you and everyone in our community.

STEPS is successfully "on the move".

Many of you know, but more need to find out that "STEPS" is a new way of life in Southington. STEPS is working every day to promote viable and lasting alternatives to risky behavior in young people, e.g., drug and alcohol abuse, bullying and other negative social interaction.

STEPS proactively develops healthy activities among kids, opening new doors to family, community and worthwhile social activities in an environment that is caring and nurturing,

STEPS is compelling, calling all townspeople to active participation in creating a rite of passage to positive cultural change as we move more swiftly into an ever-changing world.

We invite you now, students, parents, grandparents, educators, healthcare providers, religious leaders and their congregations, law and safety enforcement, town leaders, the media, civic, service and non-profit groups, businesses and professionals to be with us for our

STEPS FORUM

Wednesday, March 7, 2012 at 7 pm at the Aqua Turf

***Learn the results of our second round of surveys
showing that our community efforts are working!***

***Find out more about precisely how STEPS is making
a difference in our community, one kid at a time!***

**Complimentary refreshments to be served at the STEPS FORUM
sponsored by the Calvanese Foundation.**

RSVP at ForumSTEPS@gmail.com to reserve your seat today!

93 Main Street • Southington, CT 06489

PH: 860.276.6281 FX: 860.276.6277

Free Disposal of Your Unwanted Medication

Keep dangerous medications from entering
our water supply AND out of the
hands of our children.

- Expired or unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medicines, including vitamins and veterinary medications
- Medications that don't work for you, a family member or pet
- Medications that are no longer used
- Medications from deceased family member
- Unknown tablets or capsules

Location

Date: Saturday, April 28, 2012

Time: 10:00am to 2:00pm

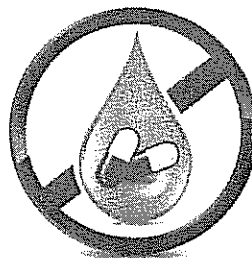
Location: Southington Water Dept.
605 West Queen St., Southington

Form more information contact:

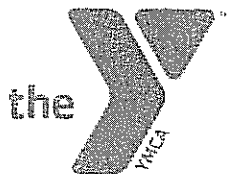
Tom West at (860) 628-5593

Rob Longo at (860) 582-7431

Do NOT bring thermometers,
Needles or medical waste of any type!



MEDICATION RETURN PROGRAM



*Parents 4
A Change*



**Southington
Drug Task Force**

*Southington
Public Schools*



CMHA
Community Mental Health Affiliates

Substance Abuse Action Council (SAAC)

270 John Downey Drive | New Britain, CT 06051 | P 860.826.1358 | F 860.229.6575

You Are Cordially Invited to
Substance Abuse Action Council
Annual Full Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 14th, 2012
(Snow Date: March 15th)
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
270 John Downey Drive, New Britain, CT 06051

Featured Presentations:

"The Making of a Successful Mentor"
Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, Southington

**"Everything Is Local: The Role and Importance of the
Local Prevention Council"**
Dr. Anthony Distasio, Superintendent of Schools, Plymouth

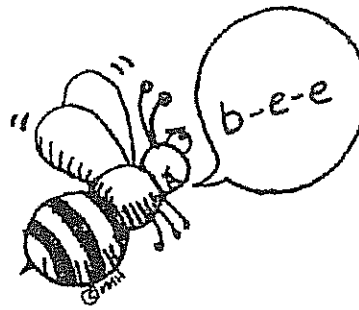
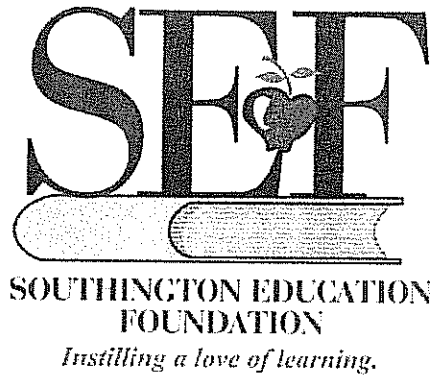
Please join us and your other DMHAS Region IV constituents at our Full Council meeting to:

- Meet your Local Prevention Councils
- Discuss Upcoming SAAC Prevention Workplan Initiatives

Attendees will have the opportunity to network and share resources with key stakeholders from other Region IV towns.

Please bring informational brochures about your programs to share with others.

Registration is required. Please RSVP via email to Evelyn Jacobs at ejacobs@cmhacc.org on or before Friday, March 2nd.



The SEF Challenges
You to Spell
Excellence for
School Children!

2nd Annual Community Adult Spelling Bee

Help the Southington Education Foundation spell excellence for the community's school children. The 2nd annual SEF Adult Spelling Bee will convey bragging rights to the team that wins the coveted title of SEF Spelling Champion. Last year, the "Bee-lievers" from the Plantsville Congregational Church won that honor. It is now time to put them to the challenge. Who will win the trophy this year?

On Thursday, April 19, 2012, at 7 p.m. teams made up of local citizens, politicians, educators, police, fire, and other public officials will compete. The event will be held at the Southington High School Auditorium and the proceeds will help foster educational excellence for our town's public school children. Admission is free. Judges are Dr. Joseph Erardi, Superintendent of Schools, and Ms. Betsy Chester, Language Arts Coordinator.

Each team will consist of three spellers and costumes, themes, and mascots are encouraged! Participation is \$100 per person or \$300 per team. Entry fees are fully tax deductible. Participants will write their words on a white board. There will be no microphone in use for participants.

Since its inception in 2009, the Southington Education Foundation has awarded nearly \$50,000 in grants to classrooms throughout the K-12 school system. Monies available for grants are generated through several fundraisers over the course of the year. The Spelling Bee will help the SEF meet the growing needs of our schools in this era of tight school budgets.

So organize your team today! Be part of the fun!! Entry forms are available online at:

www.southingtoneducationfoundation.org

Common Core State Standards

Overview

**PREPARING AMERICA'S STUDENTS FOR
COLLEGE & CAREER**

THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS ARE...

- Consistent ~ providing a clear understanding of what students are expected to learn
- Relevant to the real world ~ reflecting the knowledge and skills our students need for success
- Aligned with college and work expectations
- Focused and coherent
- Rigorous in content and application of knowledge through high-order skills
- Based on evidence and research
- Internationally benchmarked so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

**PREPARING AMERICA'S STUDENTS FOR
COLLEGE & CAREER**

STANDARDS FOR

**English Language Arts
AND**

**Literacy in History/Social
Studies, Science, and
Technical Subjects**

DESIGN AND ORGANIZATION

THREE MAIN SECTIONS

- K-5 ~ Cross-disciplinary
- 6-12 ~ English Language Arts
- 6-12 ~ Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects

**Shared responsibility for students' literacy development*

THREE APPENDICES

- A ~ Research and evidence; glossary of key terms
- B ~ Reading text exemplars; sample performance tasks
- C ~ Annotated student writing samples

FOUR STRANDS

- Reading – Literature, Informational Text, Foundational Skills
- Writing
- Speaking and Listening
- Language

**An integrated model of literacy*

**Media requirements blended throughout*

READING

COMPREHENSION (STANDARDS 1–9)

- Standards for reading literature and informational texts
- Strong and growing *across-the-curriculum* emphasis on students' ability to read and comprehend informational texts
- Aligned with NAEP Reading framework

national
NAEP
Language
Proficiency

RANGE OF READING AND LEVEL OF TEXT COMPLEXITY (Standard 10, Appendices A and B)

- “Staircase” of growing text complexity across grades
- High-quality literature and informational texts in a range of genres and subgenres

WRITING

WRITING TYPES/PURPOSES (Standards 1-3)

- Writing arguments
- Writing informative/explanatory texts
- Writing narratives
- Strong and growing *across-the-curriculum* emphasis on students writing arguments and informative/explanatory texts
- Aligned with NAEP Writing framework

PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION OF WRITING (Standards 4-6)

- Developing and strengthening writing
- Using technology to produce and enhance writing

RESEARCH (Standards 7-9)

- Engaging in research and writing about sources

RANGE OF WRITING (Standard 10)

- Writing routinely over various time frames

SPEAKING & LISTENING

COMPREHENSION AND COLLABORATION

(Standards 1-3)

- Day-to-day, purposeful academic talk in one-on-one, small-group, and large-group settings

PRESENTATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND IDEAS

(Standards 4-6)

- Formal sharing of information and concepts, including through the use of technology

LANGUAGE

CONVENTIONS OF STANDARD ENGLISH

KNOWLEDGE OF LANGUAGE (Standards 1-3)

- Using standard English in formal writing and speaking
- Using language effectively and recognizing language varieties

VOCABULARY (Standards 4-6)

- Determining word meanings and word nuances
- Acquiring general academic and domain-specific words and phrases

KEY ADVANCES

STANDARDS FOR READING AND WRITING IN HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES, SCIENCE, AND TECHNICAL SUBJECTS

- Complement rather than replace content standards in those subjects
- Responsibility of teachers in those subjects

**Alignment with college and career readiness expectations*

LANGUAGE ARTS INSTRUCTION

BIG IDEAS

- Increasing volume of reading and writing and building stamina
- Pushing students to transfer and apply the practices of reading and writing into independent practice
- Providing students with the opportunities to *Read and Write* and *Speak and Listen* using a wide variety of text types for a variety of authentic purposes
- Increase of nonfiction and informational reading and writing
- *Opinion and Argument* writing with support and evidence
- **Key Features** ~ Text Complexity, Responding and Research, Communicating and Presenting Ideas, Understanding Conventions and Effective Use and Vocabulary
- **Key Verbs** ~ *create, cite, determine, analyze, integrate, compare and contrast, evaluate, trace and evaluate, delineate and evaluate, demonstrate and apply*

Implications for Teaching and Learning:

- Technology use and practices
- Aligning all curriculum with student learning outcomes of CCSS
- Moving content area teachers towards an understanding of instructional practices that incorporate CCSS as part of their content units ~ **Professional Development**
- Monitoring student time-on-task and tightening up on explicit and focused instruction ~ longer blocks of learning time on secondary levels
- Increasing 'research' opportunities to ensure multiple repetitions of practice for students
- Preschool and Kindergarten ~ experience for all; TIME

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

**PREPARING AMERICA'S STUDENTS FOR
COLLEGE & CAREER**

STANDARDS FOR

Mathematics

DESIGN AND ORGANIZATION

Standards for Mathematical Practice

- Carry across all grade levels
- Describe habits of mind of a mathematically expert student

Standards for Mathematical Content

- K-8 standards presented by grade level
- Organized into domains that progress over several grades
- Mastery is expected at each grade K-8
- High school standards presented by conceptual theme (Number & Quantity, Algebra, Functions, Modeling, Geometry, Statistics & Probability)

CCSS K-12 STANDARDS FOR MATHEMATICAL PRACTICE

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others
4. Model with mathematics
5. Use appropriate tools strategically
6. Attend to precision
7. Look for and make use of structure
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS FOR MATH

K-5 Domains

- CC = Counting and Cardinality
- OA = Operations and Algebraic Thinking
- NBT = Number Operations in Base Ten
- NF = Number and Operations – Fractions
- MD = Measurement and Data
- G = Geometry

6-8 Domains

- RP = Ratios and Proportional Relationships
- NS = The Number System
- EE = Expressions and Equations
- F = Functions
- G = Geometry
- SP = Statistics and Probability

9-12 Conceptual Categories

- N = Number and Quantity
- A = Algebra
- F = Functions
- G = Geometry
- SP = Statistics and Probability
- M = Modeling (Modeling standards appear throughout the high school standards rather than in one set).

PRIORITIES IN K-8 MATH

GR	Priorities in Support of Rich Instruction and Expectations of Fluency and Conceptual Understanding
K-2	Addition & subtraction, measurement using whole number quantities
3-5	Multiplication and division of whole numbers and fractions
6	Ratios and proportional reasoning; early expressions and equations
7	Ratios and proportional reasoning; arithmetic of rational numbers
8	Linear algebra

MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTION BIG IDEAS

- FOCUS – Fewer concepts (Less focus on data, statistics, and probability in elementary math ~ More focus on number, operations, and algebraic thinking)
- COHERENCE – One year builds to the next
- FLUENCY – These standards expect speed and accuracy
- DEEP UNDERSTANDING – fewer standards allow for *Mathematical Practices* to occur
- APPLICATION – deep understanding will provide students the ability to apply what they know

Implications for Teaching and Learning (2010-2014):

- Ensure ongoing professional development for all teachers of mathematics as needed
- Implement gradual changes with instruction and curriculum revisions as needed
- Provide students with more problem solving that require application of skills with constructed responses
- Promote the integration of communication and writing skills so that students can construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others