

The minutes presented within this document provide a summary of the discussion that took place at the Board of Education meeting. For the complete discussion of the agenda items, please view the video of the Board meeting on our website at www.southingtonschools.org. These minutes are considered a draft until approved at the following regular Board of Education meeting.

SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT

REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 24, 2016

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, March 24, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Center Public Assembly Room, 200 North Main Street, Southington, Connecticut with Executive Session scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Brian Goralski, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Board members present: Mr. Robert Brown, Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Juanita Champagne, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mr. Zaya Oshana, Mrs. Patricia Queen.

Administration present: Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools and Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance.

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

"Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing Paraprofessional Negotiations and Personnel Matters, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PARAPROFESSIONAL NEGOTIATIONS AND PERSONNEL MATTERS

Mr. Goralski declared Executive Session ended at 7:35 p.m.

3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

The regular session was reconvened at 7:39 p.m. by Mr. Goralski, Chairperson.

Board members present: Mr. Robert Brown, Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Juanita Champagne, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mr. Zaya Oshana and Mrs. Patricia Queen.

Administration present: Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance; Mr. Peter Romano, Director of Operations; and Ms. Margaret Walsh, Director of Pupil Services.

Student Representative present: Mr. James Brino

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Brino led those in attendance in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ March 10, 2016

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

“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of March 10, 2016, as submitted.”

Motion carried by voice vote with Mrs. Clark abstaining.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience

There was no audience communication.

b. Communication from Board Members

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

“Move to move Agenda Item 9.c ‘Art Curriculum Approval’ to Agenda Item 6.e.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Board members reported on the following:

- Representative David Zoni co-sponsored a bill that decouples standardized testing from teacher evaluations.
- Wall of Honor at Southington High School is being upgraded.
- Discussion on leveling changes, grading, and weighting that occurred several years ago and how the weighting has impacted college acceptance and financial assistance. Administration to research, collect data, and bring the results to the Curriculum and Instruction Committee toward the end of the school year and then to the full Board as an agenda item.
- Administration to look into and report to the Board members why the annual Urbin T. Kelley School Ice Cream Social that is sponsored by the Urbin T. Kelley family members and organized by the PTO, was cancelled this year. It had been a 30-year tradition celebrated on St. Patrick’s Day.
- Board members discussed their visits to a Kelley School classroom, Hatton School Talent Show, and the Unified Theater Show, which was held at the high

school on March 18. Special thanks to UNICO, Knights of Columbus and Modern Formals for their sponsorship of this event

- Numerous education bills will be going before the State Legislature.
- Administration to send Board members the most recent School Climate Survey for each school that is done by the district every other year.
- Board members are invited by the Southington High School Key Club to attend the 55th Anniversary of Key Club on March 28, 2016.
- The Middle School Drama production will be held on March 31, April 1, 2, 7, and 8. Tickets can be bought from Mr. Christopher Palmieri at DePaolo Middle School.
- The Town-wide Spelling Bee will be held at Thalberg School on March 29 at 7:00 p.m.
- The Southington Education Foundation Spelling Bee is scheduled for April 21, 2016. The Board of Education team is comprised of Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Queen and Mr. Goralski.

c. Communication from Administration

Administration reported on the following:

1. High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP): Mrs. DiNello updated the Board on the sessions with staff that have been held in regard to changing the insurance plan to the HDHP. She and Joseph Spurgeon from Milliman made presentations in February and March to current teachers, nonunion staff, retired teachers, as well as teachers who are intending to retire, and to teachers and their spouses. In April, there will be sessions for preschool teachers and teachers who are Medicare eligible. The teachers' presentation and retired teachers' presentation were videotaped and are on the district's website.
2. Next Ed Report – CAPSS: Mr. Connellan will be forwarding to the Board the revised version of the next Education Report in digital form when he receives it.
3. Donation – Antique Desk: Steve and Wendy Cisowski donated an antique desk to central office.
4. Ed Leader 21 Professional Learning Day: On April 1, 2016, Mr. Connellan and Mr. Madancy will be bringing a team of individuals to the Ed Leader Professional Learning Day in Boston, which is a follow-up on 21st Century Skills.
5. Lincoln College – STELLAR Program: Ms. Walsh distributed a flyer (*Attachment #1*) regarding the district's partnership with Lincoln College of New England. The flyer is a STELLAR (Southington's Transition Education in Learning and Adult Responsibilities) Parents' Night Invitation to be held on April 6, 2016. The high school team of Beth Ozkan, Gail Lessard, and Nancy Chiero has worked to put this program together with Lincoln College.

d. Communications from Student Representatives

Mr. Brino reported on the following:

- The CCC awarded Southington the Winter Sports Sportsmanship Award.
- The Robotics Team participated in and won the UMass District Event. The Robotics Team's robot ranked 17 out of 3,420 robots in the world. The team was featured on a live webcast of the top 25 robots.

- CAPT testing was held on Tuesday, March 22.
 - Southington has been awarded the NAMM Foundation Best Community for Music Education for 2016, receiving this award now for three consecutive years.
 - The CAS Awards banquet will be held on April 5, 2016.
 - Alta will be hosting a Pasta Dinner on April 7, 2015 at the Elks Lodge at 5:30 p.m.
- e. **Art Curriculum Approval** (*formerly Agenda Item 9.c*)

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

“Move that the Board of Education supports the request from the Curriculum and Instruction Committee to approve the revised curriculum for Art, Grades K-12.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Finance Committee Meeting ~ March 15, 2016

- a. **Agreements for YMCAs School-Age Child Care Program (Derynoski, Flanders, Hatton, Kelley, Strong, Thalberg Elementary Schools)**

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

“Move that the Board of Education enter into new five-year lease agreements for the YMCA School-Age Child Care Program at Derynoski, Flanders, Hatton, Kelley, Strong, Thalberg Elementary Schools.”

Motion carried by voice vote with Mrs. Clark abstaining.

b. YMCA Before & After School Lease Rates 2016-2017

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

“Move to approve the YMCA Before and After School Lease Rates for 2016-2017.”

Motion carried by voice vote with Mrs. Clark abstaining.

c. Telephone Contract Renewal ~ Cox Communications

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

“Move to approve a three-year renewal with Cox Communications for voice services and a five-year renewal for the Primary Rate Interface.”

Mr. Goralski wanted the public to know that the 54% increase by the FCC was another tax being levied on local communities, in this case the Board of Education, for the use of services and another way for the government to take more of our money.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

d. Lawn Mowing 2016 – Middle Schools

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

“Move that the administration negotiate the rate for the additional scope of work with the current vendor, Cheshire Concrete.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

e. Preschool Tuitions

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

“Move to approve a 10% increase in Preschool Tuitions for 2016-2017 with the two-day rate of \$1,400, three-day rate of \$1,700 and four-day rate of \$2,050.”

Motion carried by voice vote with Mrs. Clark abstaining.

Mrs. Clark explained that she was a long-term employee of the YMCA and currently Director of a nursery school in town; therefore, she abstained from voting on these agenda items. The other items that the Finance Committee discussed were custodial contracts, Family Resource Center, financial update, Connecticut Education Network (CEN) and Food Service steamer. Mrs. DiNello explained the funding issue with the Family Resource Center and the current status. Mr. Connellan stated that CEN may start billing the district in July. Presently, CEN provides access to the Internet at no cost to public K-12 schools and is not in the district's 2016-2017 budget. The Board discussed possible education funding cuts by the state for this year as well as next year. The Board agreed through consensus to replace the food service steamer at the high school due to the emergency situation.

a. Town Government Communications

Mr. Goralski attended the second meeting of the Farm Heritage Committee. A Request for Proposal (RFP) for the use of the Bellevue Avenue farm area has been sent out. In-Kind services are provided between the school district and these farm entities.

Mr. Goralski reminded the Board of the following budget dates:

- March 30, 2016, 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall, Board of Finance meeting to adopt the budget.
- April 25, 2016, 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Center, Town Council budget public hearing.
- May 9, 2016, 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Center, Town Council adopts all budgets.

b. Construction Update

Mr. Romano reported the renovation/expansion of the middle schools has been completed and is in the commissioning phase of the MEPF systems. The shop drawings have been received from the vendor for the Derynoski Elementary School fire alarm upgrade and have been approved. The contractor has received the permit from the town and will be working on this during April vacation. Mr. Romano reported on the Southington High School Atrium Roof Replacement. Work on the atrium is scheduled to begin when school ends for the summer recess.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Adoption of 2017 Board of Education Meeting Dates

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

“Move to approve the proposed schedule of regular Board of Education meeting dates for 2017.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

b. Leonard and Gladys Joll Scholarship Recipient

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

“Move to approve the recipient recommended by the Leonard and Gladys Joll Scholarship subcommittee.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

A letter regarding the recipient will be sent to the Joll’s daughter by the Superintendent’s Executive Assistant. Mr. Derynoski will forward the address.

c. Art Curriculum Approval (*moved to Agenda Item 6.e*)

d. Textbook Approval

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

“Move that the Board of Education approves the purchase of the following textbooks and eTexts that are endorsed by the Curriculum and Instruction Committee: Principles of Economics AP Edition; International Business; Law for Personal and Business Use; REVEL for Government in America (eText); AP Psychology (eText); American History: Connecting with the Past.”

There will be hard copies along with the eTexts.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Blanchard

Recording Secretary

STELLAR Parents' Night Invitation

Date – Wednesday, April 6, 2016

Time – 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Location – Lincoln College of New England, 2279 Mount Vernon Road, Southington, Connecticut

Activities – Tour of Campus (weather permitted)

- Introduction of Lincoln Administration and Southington staff & presentation of gifts
- Introduction of STELLAR students
- Review of STELLAR Program
- Questions & Answers
- Refreshments

RSVP – April 1, 2016 – 860-628-3229 x424. Please provide number attending.

We are so excited to announce the STELLAR Program officially starting September 1, 2016. We do hope you can join us for an introduction of the program and staff. This 5th year program is the first 'true' 5th year program in Southington. Your presence is requested.

Southington's

Transition

Education in

Learning and

Adult

Responsibilities