

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

AUGUST 18, 2016

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, August 18, 2016 at 7:30 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 6:30 p.m.

Board members present: Mr. Robert Brown, Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Juanita Champagne, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, and Mrs. Patricia Queen (*arrived at 6:33 p.m.*)

Board members absent: Mr. David Derynoski and Mr. Zaya Oshana

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

MOTION: by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mrs. Champagne:

"Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing Southington Administrators Association (SAA) Negotiations, Unaffiliated Salaries/Benefits, Personnel, and Student Matters, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS SOUTHINGTON ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION (SAA) NEGOTIATIONS, UNAFFILIATED SALARIES/BENEFITS, PERSONNEL, AND STUDENT MATTERS

Mr. Goralski excused himself from Executive Session at 6:32 p.m. for the discussion on SAA Negotiations and returned at 6:53 p.m. after the discussion.

Mr. Goralski declared Executive Session ended at 7:23 p.m.

3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

The regular session was reconvened at 7:36 p.m. by Mr. Goralski, Chairperson.

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

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

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Hunt, Personnel Manager, led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Goralski requested a moment of silence for Mrs. Kathleen Bailey who recently passed away and was a paraprofessional in the library at North Center School for 19 years until her retirement.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ June 23, 2016

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

“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of June 23, 2016, as submitted.”

Motion carried by voice vote with Mr. Brown abstaining.

a. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes ~ July 21, 2016

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

“Move to approve the special meeting minutes of July 21, 2016, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience

Mr. Arthur Cyr, 103-105 Berlin Avenue, commented that, as a landlord, he knows that families with school-age children move to Southington because of the school system.

b. Communication from Board Members

The Board members reported on the following:

- The very first newsletter from the Athletic Office came out in June with a summary of athletics for the 2015-2016 school year, which was very well done.
- The excellent job that David DeStefano and staff did with Camp Invention Convention held again this summer with 117 children participating.
- An update was requested on the Feasibility Study demographics from Mr. Connellan.

- Mr. Goralski publicly apologized to Mr. Derynoski and Mr. Oshana who were unable to attend tonight’s Board meeting because of the date change. He thanked the Board members for accommodating the changed date.

c. Communication from Administration

Administration reported on the following:

1. Staffing Update: Mr. Connellan reported that they are currently in the process of filling two elementary general education classroom positions (Grade 1 at Plantsville and Grade 3 at Strong). At the high school, there are vacancies in technology education and science. In special education, there are 2.5 FTEs (Full-time Equivalent) that includes a full-time position at Plantsville School due to a late resignation, a .5 FTE at South End School, a .4 FTE at Thalberg and a .6 FTE at Strong. There also is still an opening for a School Psychologist, which are difficult positions to fill. He hopes to be fully staffed by the time school opens.
2. Grants Update: Mr. Connellan reported that The Arts Learning Program has provided \$19,000 to support the effort of promoting art in the Southington Public Schools. The Southington Education Foundation has agreed to continue their funding. The partnership with The Community Foundation of Greater New Britain for the Grade 3 Artist in Residence Program, in combination with the Southington Education Foundation, will continue. Our Grant Writer, Mary Christine Boulanger, is resigning this position which will need to be filled in order to continue getting support from the grant programs that we have been receiving.
3. Opening of School Dates and Events: Mr. Connellan reported that these dates are in the board packet as an agenda item.

7. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

a. Personnel Report

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

“Move to approve the Personnel Report, as presented.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote with Mr. Goralski abstaining.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Policy and Personnel Committee Meeting ~ August 15, 2016

Mrs. Queen reported that the committee reviewed the revised job descriptions for the Lead Board Certified Behavioral Analyst and the Board Certified Behavioral Analyst. The committee also reviewed the Attendance Policy to incorporate changes in legislation around language in truancy, which previously was a stand-alone policy. In addition, there was modification in attendance language. What was Policy #5113 for attendance and #5113.1 for truancy will become one Policy #5113 ~ Attendance, Excused Absences and Truancy. The committee also discussed excused absences verses unexcused absences and Policy #6140, Curriculum, which will come before the full board at a future meeting.

b. Finance Committee Meeting ~ August 16, 2016

Mrs. DiNello reported that the committee did not have a quorum for the meeting; therefore, those in attendance held an informal workshop/discussion on items that need action by the full Board. She explained in detail the need for the motions below.

1. Transfer of Funds

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

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

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

2. Family Resource Center

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

“Move that the Board of Education becomes the fiscal agent for funds for the Family Resource Center.”

Mrs. DiNello explained that the staff of the Family Resource Center were already Southington Public School employees. An additional \$10,000 of grant funding has been committed to enable the program to run at the same level as 2015-16 school year. This motion is changing the fiscal agent from the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain to the Southington Public Schools Business Office.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

3. Health Care Reform

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

“Move to offer benefits to the eligible permanent and long-term substitutes from the 2015-2016 fiscal year to meet the Affordable Care Act access requirements.”

Board members noted that this is another mandate and federal government imposed on the school system. If they do not do this, the school system would be penalized. The Board is offering benefits to the eligible employees with the employee paying the full cost of the premiums.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mrs. DiNello reported that they were able to fund the Purchase Plan presented in June, which included funding the new program textbooks that were listed in the 2016-2017 budget as well as Chromebook carts for the middle schools and high school. The school district is ending the 2015-2016 school year with a balance of approximately \$4,200.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

The new Southington Arts building (former Gura building) will have their grand opening in a couple of weeks.

b. Construction Update

Mr. Goralski reported that the high school atrium roof was completed with the Certificate of Occupancy planned for the week of August 15th. The projects at the middle schools are completed with solar being added to the roof at both schools. The crosswalks and school signs that were installed on Pleasant Street were done in collaboration with various town departments.

1. Plantsville School Project Close-out

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

“Move that the Board of Education accepts the Plantsville Elementary School Project #131-0125 RNV/EA as complete and direct the administration to close-out the project with the Town’s Finance Department and the Department of Administrative Services.”

Mr. Goralski noted that Mr. Romano worked hard over the past week to get the motion worded exactly the way that the state needs it to read in order to close it out.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

c. Teacher Evaluation Update

Mr. Madancy explained that the motions are a formality that the state requires every year for the Teacher and Administrators Evaluation Plans. There were minimal changes to the plans presented.

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

“Move to accept the revised copy of the Teacher Evaluation and Support Plan as presented by the administration for implementation during the 2016-2017 school year.

The Board discussed this agenda item. It was noted that the plan is cumbersome; however, the teachers and administrators continue to meet or exceed the standard. Mr. Madancy stated that it is very time consuming with an average of six hours for one teacher’s observation. The administration plans to continue to talk to our legislators about changing this legislation.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

d. Administrator Evaluation Update

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

“Move to accept the revised copy of the Administrator Evaluation and Support Plan as presented by the administration for implementation during the 2016-2017 school year.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Superintendent's Annual Report ~ 2015-2016

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

“Move to approve the Superintendent's Annual Report for 2015-2016 as submitted.

It was recommended to send this document to the PTO Presidents to keep them abreast of what each of the schools are doing. Mr. Connellan noted that the Annual Report is on the school district's website; however, he will also send it to the PTO Presidents to share with their membership.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

b. Opening of School Dates ~ 2016-2017

Mr. Connellan provided this document to the Board due to the many events occurring at the beginning of the school year.

c. Class Size Report

Mr. Madancy explained that the Class Size Report was up-to-date as of August 18, 2016. He noted that administration was watching closely Flanders, Hatton and Plantsville Elementary Schools. He discussed ParaEducator support and that the administration was comfortable with the numbers right now; however, the numbers can change as new students register and current students withdraw from the district. A Board member questioned the demographics and composition of the Kindergarten classes at Flanders, Hatton and Plantsville and requested that the Board be kept informed of those class sizes.

Mr. Goralski requested that the Board seriously look at the number of 18 students in the Kindergarten classes and increase it to 20 students due, in part, to the Paraeducator support in the classrooms. A Board member recommended to also talk to the teachers as they would have a good idea how it would impact the classroom.

d. Job Description Approvals

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

“Move that the Board of Education approve the new job descriptions for the Lead Board Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA) and Board Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA) as recommended by the Policy and Personnel Committee.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

e. Policy #5113, Attendance, Excused Absences and Truancy ~ First Reading

Mr. Goralski recommended that the Board members share any comments or advice with the administration and Policy Committee members before the second reading.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Blanchard

Recording Secretary