

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

SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, September 22, 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 (*arrived at 6:35 p.m.*), Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, and Mr. Zaya Oshana

Board member absent: Mrs. Patricia Queen

Administration present: Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Steven Madancy, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance and Mr. Peter Romano (*arrived at 6:56 p.m.*)

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

"Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing Updates on SAA Negotiations, Personnel, Safety and Security, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS AN UPDATE ON SAA NEGOTIATIONS, PERSONNEL, SAFETY AND SECURITY

Mr. Goralski recused himself from Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. for the discussion on SAA Negotiations and returned at 6:47 p.m.

Mr. Goralski declared Executive Session ended at 7:06 p.m.

3. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

At 7:10 p.m., in Celebration of Excellence, the Board recognized the 2016-2017 Southington Teacher of the Year Christina McKirryher from Plantsville Elementary School and presented her with a plaque.

Mr. Goralski called for a recess at 7:15 p.m.

4. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

The regular session was reconvened at 7:29 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, and Mr. Zaya Oshana

Board member absent: Mrs. Patricia Queen

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

5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The student representatives and Mr. Steve McCarty, Commander of the American Legion, led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Goralski requested a moment of silence in memory of:

- Dolores McNamara, former Food Service Manager at Southington High School for 20 years who passed away on September 16, 2016.
- Carmella Adams, former Food Service employee at Southington High School who passed away on September 19, 2016.
- Richard Marietta, former history teacher at Southington High School for 34 years and a tennis coach and Sports Facility Manager at the high school who passed away on September 17, 2016.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ September 8, 2016

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

“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of September 8, 2016, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience

There was no communication from the audience.

b. Communication from Board Members

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

“Move to move Agenda Item 10.j ‘Out of State Field Trip Approvals’ to Agenda Item 7.e and Agenda Item 10.i ‘Diploma for Veterans’ to Agenda Item 7.f.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Board members discussed the following:

- Recognition of Susan Saucier, Executive Director of Youth Services, who partnered with the Board of Education with the STEPS Program and other programs and recently retired after many years of service. Christina Sims is the new Executive Director of Youth Services.
- Recognition of Eldon Hafford, Executive Director of Bread for Life, who was a major contributor in launching the Southington Public Schools Breakfast Program and is retiring after many years of service.
- The CREC report regarding the impact of the state’s decisions / mandates on Southington and the burden of funding that it will place on the Board of Education budget.
- The CABE Convention Delegate Assembly will be taking place on November 17, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.
- Fond memories of Mr. Rich Marietta shared by Board members who taught with him.
- The Wall of Honor ceremony is October 24, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Southington High School. The people being honored are Andrew Gutauskas, Phil Thibodeau, Kathy Hopko, Alexandra Smith, William Beard and Clement DuPuis.
- Invitation to a dedication ceremony renaming the Municipal Center to the John Weichsel Municipal Center on October 13, 2016 at 3:30 p.m.
- Southington Blue on September 30 is the first annual community wide day to recognize and support the Southington Police Department.
- James Brino, former Student Representative, sent a thank you to the Board members.

c. Communication from Administration

Administration reported on the following:

1. Southington Early Childhood Collaborative: Mr. Madancy reported that he attended an event hosted by the Southington Early Childhood Collaborative in partnership with Dale Riedinger writing and receiving a grant from the Southington Education Foundation to provide the materials and resources necessary for all the home day cares, preschools and nursery schools in town to work on some of the conceptual approaches to math. It is a math readiness initiative for children prior to entrance into Kindergarten.
2. Staffing Update: Mr. Connellan reported that administration is still trying to fill an Earth Science position and a couple of paraeducator positions.
3. Stellar Program: Ms. Walsh reported that there will be an Open House for the Stellar Program at Lincoln College on September 28, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

d. Communications from Student Representatives:

Miss Samantha Steeves reported on the following:

- The College Fair was held last week with over 100 colleges represented and over 1,000 students participating.
- The recent Southington High School Open House was successful.
- Last Saturday was the Thalberg 5K where two high school students sang the National Anthem, which was broadcast on the radio.

Miss Martins reported on the following:

- The College Financial Aid Night will be held on October 18, 2016.
- All the fall sports teams are off to a great start.
- This year, Mr. Greg Ferry, Athletic Director, implemented partnering two different sports teams to support each other.

Mr. Martin reported on the following:

- On September 15, Luca Riccio, a ninth grader, won the State Invention Convention Competition receiving a grand prize of \$12,000. The competition was between students and adults.
- The Marching Band “Music of the Knight” competition is Saturday, October 22, 2016.
- The in-house PSAT will be held on October 19, 2016.

e. Out of State Field Trip Approvals (*formerly Agenda Item 10.j*)

Mrs. Sandy Spinello, co-advisor of DECA, Megan Mahon, Vice President of Marketing, and Andrew Gorham, Vice President of Finance, spoke of last year’s field trip and their experiences.

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

“Move to approve the field trips, as presented.”

Mrs. Spinello explained that she and co-advisor, Teresa Brooks, met with the Curriculum and Instruction Committee last year for their support to apply for a \$16,000 grant with the State Department of Education to redesign and re-brand the DECA Store, which they have received. They have purchased a Slushy Machine with the grant monies, which meets the nutritional guidelines. There will be a Grand re-opening ceremony when completed.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

f. Diploma for Veterans (*formerly Agenda Item 10.i*)

Mr. Connellan explained that a member of the Veterans Committee, Mr. John DeMello, informed him that state law had been modified that allowed Board of Educations to present diplomas to veterans who left high school to serve their country in Vietnam. Mr. Steven McCarty submitted applications for William Beard and Clement DuPuis who were classmates of his that left school before graduation to serve in Vietnam and were killed in action.

MOTION: by Mr. Derynoski, seconded by

“Move to award a diploma posthumously to William Beard and Clement DuPuis who were killed in action in Vietnam in March 1969.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The diplomas will be awarded posthumously to family members the night of the Wall of Honor awards ceremony on October 24, 2016.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Policy and Personnel Committee Meeting ~ September 12, 2016

Mrs. Champagne reported that the committee discussed the draft job description for the Head Security Guard at the high school along with draft policies for Security Check / Fingerprinting, Psychotropic Drug Use, and Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers, which goes before the Board on tonight’s agenda for approval. The committee also discussed a proposed job description for a World Language Coordinator as well as the RFP search process for an Enrollment Study.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

There were no Town Government Communications.

b. Construction Update

Mr. Romano reported that the Atrium Project at the high school was completed mid-August and the Certificate of Occupancy issued. The project was completed with sub-contractors and the school district’s maintenance employees that does quality work and are a very skilled group of tradesmen. With the maintenance staff labor, the project was completed at 25% less than was budgeted so funds will be returned to the town.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Proposed 2016-2017 Superintendent’s Goals ~ First Reading

Board members stated that they would speak to the Superintendent with any questions that they have regarding the goals, which will be finalized at the next Board meeting.

b. Budget Assumptions / Priorities 2017-2018

Mrs. DiNello explained the changes to the Assumptions and Priorities for the 2017-2018 budget. Board members discussed the challenges ahead of them with the recent judge’s complex rulings on special education, hiring and teacher evaluation along with cuts in funding. It was thought that it would be futile to approach state legislators at this time with the Board’s concerns until after the November elections. Board members discussed the priorities at length and agreed

to modify the last bullet under Priorities to read, “*Expand World Language offerings, as appropriate, across the district.*”

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

“Move to adopt the Budget Assumptions and Priorities for 2017-2018 with the amendment discussed.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

c. 2015-2016 School Resource Officer Annual Report

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

“Move to table.”

This agenda item was tabled until a time when the School Resource Officer can be present.

d. SAT / AP / College Reports

Mr. Stranieri, Principal of Southington High School, presented a PowerPoint presentation and highlighted the following achievements of the Class of 2016:

- In school SAT with the junior class in areas of Reading, Writing and Math.
- The SAT Mean Score for Southington High School was 1077 with the State Mean Score of 1015.
- Disparity between the benchmarks of Reading and Writing (76%) and Math (51%) and meeting with department heads to address it.
- Student achievement in the area of Advanced Placement (AP) and growing the AP courses that are offered.
- Increased numbers of students taking AP courses.
- Five-Year Trend in AP results.
- The growth in all areas of College Acceptance.
- Graduates attending vocational/technical schools and graduates entering the military have declined since 2013. Discussed the decline and need for tradesmen.
- Graduates entering the workforce have remained the same since 2013.
- Recommendations going forward.

Mr. Brown requested information on how many students that took AP courses and did not take the exams as well as the enrollment in the two new AP courses.

Mr. Derynoski noted that most of the Technology Education classes are electives and thought it was something that the Board should review.

e. Draft Policy #4112.5, Personnel ~ Security Check/Fingerprinting ~ First Reading

Board members are to contact Mrs. Queen if they have any questions.

f. Draft Policy #4118.2 Personnel ~ Psychotropic Drug Use ~ First Reading

Board members are to contact Mrs. Queen if they have any questions.

g. Draft Policy #4212.42, Personnel ~ Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers ~ First Reading

Board members are to contact Mrs. Queen if they have any questions.

h. Job Description Approval ~ Head Security Attendant

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

“Move that the Board of Education approve the new job description for Head Security Attendant as recommended by the Policy and Personnel Committee.”

This is not an additional Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) position; it is a stipend with the bargaining group.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

i. Diploma for Veterans (*Moved to Agenda Item 7.f*)

j. Out of State Field Trip Approvals (*Moved to Agenda Item 7.e*)

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Blanchard

Recording Secretary