

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
December 8, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, December 8, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the John Weichsel 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 6:34 p.m.

Board members present: Mr. Robert Brown, Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Juanita Champagne (arrived at 6:37 p.m.), Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mr. Zaya Oshana, and Mrs. Patricia Queen.

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

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

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

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL

Mr. Goralski declared Executive Session ended at 7:10 p.m.

3. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

The Celebration of Excellence was in honor of Captain Lowell DePalma, Southington Police Department, and CAPSS Student Award Recipients, Michael Loose and Laura Calandra.

Mr. Connellan introduced Captain Lowell DePalma. Captain DePalma recently retired from the Southington Police Department and was honored for his service, commitment to Southington, and his partnership with the school district. Mr. Goralski and the Board of Education presented Captain DePalma with a Certificate of Excellence.

Mr. Connellan and Mr. Stranieri introduced two outstanding high school students who were honored as the recipients of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) Student Award Recognition. Mr. Stranieri expressed how proud the district is of these students for, not only their academic successes but, their character and citizenship. Both students are in the top ten of their class and most deserving of this honor.

Mr. Goralski requested a recess at 7:20 p.m.

4. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

The regular session was reconvened at 7:38 p.m. by Mr. Goralski, Chairperson.

Board members present: Mr. Robert Brown, Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Juanita Champagne (left at 7:36 p.m.), Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mr. Zaya Oshana, and Mrs. Patricia Queen.

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

5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ November 10, 2016

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

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

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

a. Approval of Special Board Meeting Minutes ~ November 9, 2016

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

“Move to approve the Special Board of Education minutes of November 9, 2016, as submitted.”

Motion carried by voice vote with 7 in favor and 1 abstention.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

b. Communications from Audience

There was no communication from the audience.

b. Communication from Board Members

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

“Move to move agenda item 11 d., Overnight/Out of State Field Trip Approvals, to agenda item 7 e.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Board members shared the following information:

- Mrs. Queen shared highlights from the CAPSS Convention and delegate assembly that she attended. She shared her notes and takeaways from the convention with the Board.
- Mr. Derynoski participated in Career Day at Kennedy Middle School on November 17, 2016. Mr. Derynoski. It was well-coordinated and attended with a wide range of business professionals.
- Mr. Derynoski met that morning with the Tech Advisory Committee. The information that was discussed in that meeting was brought to the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Committee.
- Mrs. Lombardi shared a CREC report and distributed information (Attachment 1) pertaining to her meeting to the Board. Information shared included CREC Govern Structure, Connecticut Prime, CREC Council Legislative Committee, Magnet Schools and Tuition, and how education will be impacted by the current state deficit.
- Mr. Goralski stated that the Curriculum and Instruction Committee currently has three members; therefore, effective immediately, he’s adding Mrs. Lombardi to that committee.
- Mr. Goralski shared that the American Legion is looking for judges for their annual event at Southington High School on December 15. This year, the judges will be Mr. Jeff Shaw, Mr. Bob Brown, Mrs. Patricia Queen. The event begins at 6:30 p.m.
- The Sloper Plunge is scheduled for January 21, 2017.
- Mr. Goralski will be sending his annual holiday letter to staff on behalf of the Board.

c. Communication from Administration

1. Electronic Report Cards ~ Investigation:
Mr. Connellan stated that they are beginning work on electronic report cards. They would be sent through a secure email. There would be savings associated by eliminating the mailings.
2. SPS Website ~ Renewal:
The technology department is continuing the work on the SPS Website. They are running both the new and the old. Mrs. Lura Terrace is the primary web person and has been doing an abundance of work updating the site. They believe that the new site will be ready in the spring.
3. Staff Emergency Notification ~ Centralized:
Mr. Connellan shared that they are in the process of coordinating an emergency notification for staff by utilizing existing programs we have in conjunction with School Messenger. This will ensure that all the appropriate staff are notified of an emergency via text messages.
4. District Technology Committee:

This committee has met four times. They are currently working with a vendor to explore the use of interactive monitors. At this time, SmartBoards and some of the projectors are becoming obsolete. The district is purchasing three of these interactive monitors to demo and pilot to see if they meet the needs of the district. More information to follow.

d. Communication from Student Representatives

Mr. Martins reported on the following:

- Parent-Teacher conferences were held on November 17, 2016.
- The Alternative Education Program held their annual Thanksgiving Feast on November 23, 2017 at the Plantsville Congregational Church.
- The Winter Concert is scheduled for December 21, 2016 at Southington High School.
- Holiday break begins December 23, 2016 through January 3, 2017.

Miss Samantha Martins reported on the following:

- She commented on the mention of electronic report cards stating that she felt this was a great idea. Most students and parents are already viewing their grades on a daily basis through the PowerSchool portal.
- The Fall Drama Performance is Friday, December 9 and Saturday, December 10.
- Powderpuff played against New Britain and they won. Their next game is against Cheshire.
- The week of December 12 is Spirit Week at Southington High School. They will be playing holiday music between classes and the end of the week will bring pajama day.

Miss Samantha Steeves reported on the following:

- Homecoming was a success. Breathalyzers were used and were not invasive at all.
- Unified sports will be receiving national recognition for the program.
- University of Hartford held their annual Model United Nations conference the previous week. The students went to debate global issues. They had four students who won Best Delegation.

e. Overnight/Out of State Field Trip Approvals (moved from item 11 a. to 7 e.)

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

“Move to approve the field trip requests for the Agriculture Future Farmer Association students to travel to Indianapolis, Indiana and the Southington High School U.S. History and AP Human Geography students to take a foreign field trip to Panama as presented by the administration.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

8. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

a. Personnel Report

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

“Recommend that the Personnel Report be approved as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Policy and Personnel Committee Meeting ~ November 14, 2016

Mrs. Queen shared the following:

- There are five policies for first reading; however, they will be tabling two: #5111 and #5112. Both will be on the agenda for the January Policy and Personnel Committee meeting.
- All policies needed language updates and additional legal references.
- The committee also reviewed and tabled two Bylaws polices during their meeting.

b. Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting ~ November 29, 2016

Mrs. Carmody shared that the committee met and discusses two items: Collapsing of levels and combining CP and CCP levels in elective courses, and three new course proposals. Details for both these items are included in the minutes.

There was discussion about the concerns of collapsing levels and students who are currently in the CP level being able to keep up with the CCP level. It was explained that the national trend is to collapse levels and the need for teachers to differentiate within the classroom. Mr. Madancy pointed out that the students are not CP students, they take CP courses. He stated that the district owes-it to the students to raise the bar and to promote a growth mind-set for teachers.

The Board requested that the administration provide feedback from the last NEAS&C report that recommended the district go to two levels. The administration will send that information to the Board.

c. Finance Committee Meeting ~ November 30, 2016

Mrs. Clark reported that there was discussion pertaining to the electricity contract, the uncertainties of the state budget, and the copier proposal. She thanked Mrs. Jennifer Mellitt for the thorough work she did working with Network Imaging for the copier proposal. The committee is bringing a proposal forward that includes new copiers, repurposing 27 copiers, and saving the district \$104 per month.

1. Copier Proposal ~ 5-year Lease

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

“Move to approve the Canon copier proposal as recommended by the Finance Committee.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

Mrs. Queen reported that the Facility Advisory Committee met and they decided to move forward with the advertising opportunities. They advertised this opportunity through social media, Town website, and letters to Chamber of Commerce business members. They recently received two inquiries. Mrs. Queen is working with Mr. Madancy on the logistics.

Mr. Goralski reported that the relationship between the district and the LEAF program is strengthening. He recognized Mr. John Duffy who has been incorporating class trips and curriculum connections with this opportunity.

b. Construction Update

Mr. Romano reported the following:

- The solar system by Green Skies was completed at both middle schools. They still need to install the monitors, but the system is live and collecting energy.
- The roof at Hatton Elementary School has been repaired and they'll be installing the solar panels during the holiday break.
- They closed out Plantsville Elementary School and the state accepted the final paperwork. They are now focusing on closing-out South End Elementary School.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Overnight/Out of State Field Trip Approvals

Agenda item was moved from 11 d. to 7 e. a.

b. Capital Plan 2017-2018 ~ Second Reading

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

“Move to approve the 2017-2022 Capital Improvement Plan as presented.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

c. School Calendar ~ First reading

Comments/discussion pertaining to the proposed 2017-2018 School Calendar:

- There was discussion about Veterans Day not falling within the school week and whether or not the district should have this as a holiday. The administration explained that this is a holiday for district staff and to make a change, it would be a challenge with the multiple bargaining units.
- It was recommended by the administration that the professional development early release days be moved to Wednesdays. There are many teachers who are taking classes that are

commonly scheduled on Tuesday's and Thursday's. This is a conflict with the current schedule. Mr. Madancy is also collaborating with several area assistant superintendents and reviewing calendars. Their goal is to coordinate early release days so teachers in the specialty department areas can collaborate with one-another and share best practices.

- The Board asked that the administration avoid making an early release day change in future years. They believe consistency with the calendar is important for families.
- The Board requested that the administration bring two calendar options forward for their review at the January 12, 2017 Board of Education meeting.

c. Board of Education Policy Updates ~ First Reading (Policies: 5111, Admission; 5111.1, Foreign Exchange Students; 5112, Age of Attendance; 6163, Live Animals in Classroom; 6200, Adult Continuing Education)

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

“Motion to table Policy #5111, Admission, and Policy #5112, Age of Attendance, back to committee.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move that the Board of Education approve the revisions of Policies #5111.1, 6163, and 6200 as presented by the Policy and Personnel Committee.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

d. Overnight/Out of State Field Trip Approvals

Agenda item was moved to 11 a.

e. Stipend Position ~ Indoor Track

Mrs. Lombardi recused herself from this discussion.

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

“Move to approve one assistant coach to Southington High School indoor track with the stipulation that this is an interim position.”

Mr. Connellan explained there are a large number of participants in indoor track and the request for an additional coach is to keep the students safe and to prevent having to cut students from the sport. There are currently 140 students participating. Mr. Derynoski asked that the motion include that “this is an interim position” and it can then be reviewed during the budget process.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Passamano

Recording Secretary