

*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](http://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**

**JANUARY 26, 2017**

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The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, January 26, 2017 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, 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; and Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance.

**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 personnel, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

#### **2. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL**

Mr. Goralski recused himself from Executive Session at 6:55 p.m. and returned at 7:04 p.m. Executive Session ended at 7:06 p.m.

#### **3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION**

The regular session reconvened at 7:10 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; Mr. Steven Madancy, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance; and Mr. Peter Romano, Director of Operations.

Student representatives present were Miss Samantha Steeves, Miss Samantha Martins and Mr. Joseph Martin.

#### **4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The student representatives led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Goralski called for a moment of silence in memory of Mrs. Ann Dandrow who recently passed away. She formerly served on the Southington Board of Education, Town Council, was State Representative of the 30<sup>th</sup> District and a strong advocate for special education.

#### **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ January 12, 2017**

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

**“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of January 12, 2017, as amended.”**

**Motion carried by voice vote with Mrs. Lombardi abstaining.**

#### **6. COMMUNICATIONS**

##### **a. Communications from Audience**

Mr. John Myers, Executive Director of the Southington YMCA, thanked the Board members, the school district, and Mrs. Michelle Passamano for their participation and support of the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Polar Plunge sponsored by the YMCA. Over \$45,000 was raised to send Southington children to Camp Sloper this summer. Mr. Myers reminded the Board members that the YMCA’s 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting would be held on February 1, 2017 at the Aqua Turf Club.

##### **b. Communication from Board Members**

Board members discussed the following:

- Mr. Brown and Mrs. Lombardi attended the Legislative Breakfast at the State Capitol the morning of January 26. On January 25, Mr. Brown had breakfast with Representative Joe Aresimowicz. He spoke in detail about the discussions at these breakfasts.
- Mr. Brown would like to look into the issue that recently resulted in a number of student expulsions. Mr. Goralski noted that the STEPS Program would be on the February Board agenda to address this issue.
- Mr. Brown met with Representative Diana Urban, the chairperson of the Legislative Children’s Committee, regarding child poverty.

- Mr. Brown addressed the high school facilities review and questioned if it was feasible to have the SHS Softball Booster Club do fund raising activities to help raise money to refurbish the softball field.
- Mrs. Lombardi spoke in detail about the Legislative Breakfast discussion that included the state's funding formula, disconnect at the state and municipal levels, and state mandates.
- Mrs. Lombardi announced that Strong Elementary School Drama Club would be performing "Seussical Junior" at Kennedy Middle School on February 3 and 4 at 7:00 p.m. The Kelley Elementary School Drama Club will be performing "Willy Wonka" on February 10 at Kennedy Middle School at 7:00 p.m.
- Mrs. Lombardi reported that the Spanish Department at the high school hosted a buffet for 17 students from Costa Rica who attended the high school for two weeks as exchange students.
- Mr. Goralski also appointed Mrs. Lombardi to the AFSCME Negotiation Committee along with Mrs. Queen, Mr. Derynoski and Mr. Brown.
- The Open House for Bread for Life's new facility on Vermont Avenue is Friday, February 10, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
- The YMCA invited the Board to attend their 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on February 1, 2017 at the Aqua Turf.
- Mr. Goralski encouraged everyone to read The Southington Observer editorial of January 27, 2017 that stated, "*If it takes a village to raise a child, we should be focusing on the villages, not shipping children away from them.*"

**c. Communication from Administration**

Administration reported on the following:

1. Grant Award: Mr. Connellan announced that, on behalf of the Southington Public Schools, Mrs. Walsh applied for and was awarded a grant from the Connecticut State Department of Education and Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) to participate in the 2017 Cohort of the *Connecticut Special Education Administrator Coaching* program. There will be two coaches' in-district supporting our special education coordinators in their professional growth at no cost to the district.
2. VOAG Compliance Review: Mr. Connellan reported that the Southington Agricultural Science and Technology Education Program at Southington High School had a comprehensive compliance review by the State Department of Education. The review from the state was excellent and they recommended that the program be expanded because there is space in the building and a waiting list.
3. Science CAPT/NGSS ~ Move to Grade 11: Mr. Madancy reported that the State Department of Education approved moving the CAPT science assessment to Grade 11, which is currently taken in Grade 10. He spoke at length on how it affects students taking the online assessment and the challenges of scheduling, staffing and technology. This change will be going before the Curriculum and Instruction Committee and reported to the full Board as an agenda item.

Mr. Connellan reported that the Civil Rights Action Planning Committee met on Wednesday, January 25 and submitted over 400 pages of documentation to the state on the facility review at the high school. The committee spent numerous hours in order to complete the review. Mr. Connellan and the Board members spoke at length on the items

addressed in this review including signage, accessibility, and the high school softball field.

**d. Communications from Student Representatives:**

Miss Steeves reported on the following:

- Students had been busy studying for mid-terms.
- Mr. Stranieri and the high school guidance office gave a presentation on Monday, January 23 on available local scholarships. The information is also on the high school website.
- The Valentine Dance, hosted by the sophomore class, is February 10, 2017.

Mr. Martin reported on the following:

- The Marching Band held its annual fundraiser of selling grinders for Super Bowl Sunday. The grinders will be distributed on February 5, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- The town-wide Music Festival will be held on February 13, 2017 at Southington High School.
- On February 16, 2017, there will be a meeting at the high school for juniors on how to navigate the college process.

Miss Martins reported on the following:

- Mid-terms ended on Wednesday, January 25.
- The Multicultural Club is hosting a Fashion Show on February 17.
- The Costa Rican exchange students returned home and it was a mutually beneficial experience.

Mr. Goralski pointed out a framed poster on the wall in the Public Assembly Room stating that the Southington Public Schools has been named by the College Board to the Seventh Annual AP District Honor Roll for expanding opportunity and improving performance for Advance Placement students. He congratulated the Southington High School students for this achievement.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Town Government Communications**

Mr. Goralski stated that the 2017-2018 Board of Education budget would be presented to the Town Board of Finance on Wednesday, February 8, 2017, 6:30 p.m. at the town hall.

**b. Construction Update**

Mr. Romano reported that all the remaining items on the Atrium Project and purchase orders were closed with the Town of Southington. The project was budgeted at \$407,000 but the actual cost was only \$235,000, which is directly attributable to the school district's maintenance staff that self-performed much of the work. Mr. Romano stated that the school district was lucky to have talented maintenance employees. Mr. Goralski agreed that the atrium looked amazing.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

### a. Review / Adoption of 2017-2018 Board of Education Budget

Mrs. DiNello explained that two workshops were held in January and that the Board recently received the responses to the five questions from the second workshop. Two adjustments from Workshop #1 have brought the revised operating budget to \$94,992,660 or a 2.91% increase at this time.

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

**“Move that the Board of Education adopt the 2017-2018 Superintendent’s Operating Budget as presented for \$94,992,660.”**

Mr. Derynoski had a budget question and spoke to the January 16, 2017 memo addressing the potential reallocation of resources. Mrs. DiNello responded that the potential reallocation of resources is not reflected in the budget line items; however, administration plans to post the positions and, in budget reallocation, the funds will be transferred from purchased services to salaries. Also discussed was the goal of minimizing overtime in the Payroll Department.

Mrs. Carmody believed that the proposed 2017-2018 operating budget represented the basic needs of the school system and was an austere budget that acknowledged the present economic climate. She stated that the Board supported expanding the World Language Program but recognized that it was not feasible to do it at this time. She was confident that the administration had worked, and will continue to work, very closely with all administrators to scrutinize class sizes and consider reallocation where opportunities exist. She acknowledged that it was in the school district’s best interest to run classes with lower enrollment size since research has proven this practice highly increases the chance of student success and maximizes learning. Mrs. Carmody stated that it was about doing what was best for Southington’s children and why she supported this budget.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES - Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Champagne, Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Queen and Mr. Goralski.

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

Mr. Goralski announced that, due to minimal changes, the Business Office will not be issuing new Board of Education budget books this year to Board members and only the adjusted charts and pages to reflect the 2.91% budget increase would be distributed for insertion into the Superintendent’s budget book. This will save on paper and time to produce the budget documents. However, new Board of Education budget books would be issued to the Town Board of Finance and Town Council.

### b. Enrollment Study

Mr. Connellan explained that a detailed enrollment study is necessary to acquire sufficient data on which the Board and the community would make decisions regarding the next steps to take with the remaining elementary schools that have not been renovated. Funding was included in the 2016-2017 budget to conduct the study. Mrs. Jennifer Mellitt, Accounting

Manager, along with the administrative team, developed a Request for Proposal (RFP) with specifications for the study. The RFP will be released by February 2, 2017. Mr. Connellan and Board members spoke at length regarding the enrollment study and getting community input moving forward with the important question of whether the town can sustain eight elementary schools.

Mr. Goralski stated that an Enrollment Committee meeting would be held on March 15, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. with Board members present. He noted that Mrs. Albaitis would be polling the Board members for their availability on that date for presentations from three (3) vendors.

Mrs. Lombardi noted that the state did an enrollment study with projections out to 2025 and they had Southington at an 18% enrollment decline based on the sources that the state was using. Mrs. Lombardi requested that when Southington's RFP is released that sources for the external data that is used will be included along the year. Mr. Connellan agreed that it would be specified in the RFP that vendors identify their sources for their data.

Mrs. Clark requested that the public be made aware that this enrollment study is a lengthy process that will not be decided overnight or happen by the end of this school year. Mr. Connellan added that he already has been meeting with PTOs and would put together a summary of his discussions with the PTOs including the timelines. This project would not be completed any sooner than the fall of 2019. Mr. Connellan stated that the end product would be valuable in guiding future discussions that will have a long-term and significant impact on the community. Mrs. Queen requested that Mr. Connellan put his summary on the home page of the Southington Public Schools website including the dates he meets with the PTOs.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**“Move to adjourn.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Blanchard*

Recording Secretary