

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

JUNE 15, 2017

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, June 15, 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 6:30 p.m.

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

Administration present: Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Steven Madancy, Assistant Superintendent (*left Executive Session at 6:55 p.m.*) and Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business & Finance (*left Executive Session at 6:55 p.m.*).

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION to Discuss Student Matters, Personnel (UPSEU Negotiations and Flanders Elementary School Principal) ~ 6:30 p.m.

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

"Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing student matters, personnel (UPSEU Negotiations and Flanders Elementary School Principal), and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Goralski declared Executive Session ended at 6:58 p.m.

3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Goralski, Chairperson, reconvened the regular session at 7:05 p.m.

Board members present: Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mr. Robert Brown, Mrs. Juanita Champagne, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mr. Brian Goralski, 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; Mr. Peter Romano, Director of Operations, and Ms. Margaret Walsh, Director of Special Services.

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.

5. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE: Class of 2017 Valedictorian, Salutatorian and Essayist, Student Board Representatives, Southington Robotics Team 195 (CyberKnights):

At 7:08 p.m., in the Celebration of Excellence, the Board of Education along with Mr. Brian Stranieri, Principal of Southington High School, recognized the Class of 2017 Valedictorian (Nickolina Doran), Salutatorian (Nathan Simard), and Essayist (Laura Furtak) who were each presented with a Certificate of Excellence.

Southington Robotics Team 195 (CyberKnights) team members Ashley Barry, Nick Rappi and Tyler Peruta gave a presentation on the CyberKnights community outreach programs. The competition theme this year was FIRST Steamworks. The team gave a demonstration of their 2017 robot Knightro. Team 195 won the New England Championship (three years in a row) and ranked eighth out of 3,400 robots worldwide. The First Robotics Team 195 website is team195.com and video links on youtube are <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jDrWgejvV9Y> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhUh8bIM23s>.

The Board members recognized the two graduating senior Student Board Representatives Samantha Martins and Samantha Steeves with a gift and Certificate of Excellence.

Mr. Goralski, Chairperson, called for a recess at 7:33 p.m.

The Board of Education reconvened at 7:40 p.m.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a. Special Board of Education Minutes ~ May 23, 2017

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

“Move to approve the Special Board of Education minutes of May 23, 2017, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

b. Regular Board of Education Minutes ~ May 25, 2017

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

“Move to approve the Regular Board of Education minutes of May 25, 2017, as submitted.”

Motion carried by voice vote with Mrs. Champagne and Mrs. Clark abstaining.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Goralski changed the order of communications.

a. Communications from Student Representatives:

Mr. Joseph Martin reported on the following:

- Finals started on Wednesday, June 14 and end on Monday, June 19.
- The graduation ceremony is Tuesday, June 20.
- This year, the Senior Prank was giving flowers to all the staff at SHS and hanging banners throughout the high school thanking the different departments.

Miss Samantha Steeves and Miss Samantha Martins, who were graduating, thanked the Board members for the opportunity to serve on the Board of Education.

Mr. Martin introduced the new Student Representatives for the 2017-2018 school year who will be serving along with him: Sean Young, currently a junior, and Bianca Spataro, currently a sophomore.

b. Communications from Audience

The following six (6) people spoke advocating that the Board of Education not eliminate the middle school sports programs in the proposed reallocation of the budget.

Marc McVicker, 9 Lacey Road, (spoke on behalf of his fiancée Erin O'Donnell, BSN, RN-BC)

Ann Morgan, 19 Canterbury Lane

Bryan Dunne, 175 Fern Drive

Beth Huard, 131 LePage Drive

Kevin Sullivan, 371 Curtiss Street

Scott Messina, 132 Panorama Drive

Mr. Goralski received two emails regarding middle school sports that were requested to be included in the minutes (*Attachment #1*).

c. Communication from Board Members

- The Wall of Honor Committee met last week and selected six new people to be announced at a later date.

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

“Move to add Agenda Item 11.f ‘Student Expulsion’ to the agenda.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

- The First Reading of the Fingerprinting Policy was presented at the last Board meeting and will be added to the June 22, 2017 Board of Education agenda for the Second Reading and a vote.
- Mr. Derynoski will not be able to attend the graduation ceremony on June 20 due to a business commitment. This will be the first commencement in 28 years that he will miss.
- Mrs. Patrician Johnson, former Board member, will be presenting a diploma to her grandson at graduation.

d. Communication from Administration

Administration reported on the following:

1. Transition – Grades 8 to 9: Mr. Madancy reported that in past years the eighth grade middle school students attended team-building activities at Camp Sloper for two days. This year, still using the Sloper staff, the eighth grade students went to the high school for two days and had guest speakers from the FBI and Connecticut State Police who spoke about substance abuse awareness, which was sponsored by STEPS / Youth Services, and included team building and tours of the high school.
2. SHS – Fiber Installation: Mr. Connellan reported that fiber installation at Southington High School will be taking place this summer to improve the infrastructure.
3. Access Cards – Phase-in: Mr. Connellan thanked the Maintenance Department for their work installing the Access Card entry systems that will be phased in starting with the smaller buildings.
4. STELLAR Program: Ms. Walsh reported that the program serves 18-21 year old special needs young adults and is housed at Lincoln College of New England. There were seven students in the program this year with four students graduating.

8. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

a. Personnel Report

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

“Move to accept the Personnel Report, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Policy and Personnel Committee Meeting ~ June 5, 2017

Mrs. Queen reported that the committee reviewed the 8000 series, Bylaws, which is now renumbered to the 9000 series. They discussed the changes recommended by the CABA audit and a structural change to meetings including language defining non-meetings, which do not require posting with the town such as the Board of Education interviewing candidates for employment. The committee reviewed and recommended updating changes to Policy 6146.1,

Grade Reporting, to reflect current practice and refers the reader to the SHS Handbook for detailed information.

Mr. Goralski asked the three student representatives to read the part of the policy addressing "Student Representatives" and their selection process and to share any advice or recommendations with Mrs. Queen. Mr. Connellan's office will send the information to Mr. Stranieri who will forward the information to the Student Representatives for their feedback.

10. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

On Wednesday, June 14, the Board of Finance voted on the mill rate for the town. The Board of Education had an appropriation request for \$450,000 that was a shortfall in the 2016-2017 budget year, which was voted down by the Board of Finance. The Board of Education was given the ability to defer payment to the Self Insurance Fund to next year, which caused a need for another \$450,000 to be reduced from the Board of Education 2017-2018 Operating budget. There still is uncertainty at the state level regarding the state budget and how the refunding will affect special education and the municipalities.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Healthy Food Certification

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

"Move to participate in the Healthy Food Certification program for the 2017-2018 school year."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

b. UPSEU Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) ~ English Language (EL) Tutors

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

"Move to approve the tentative agreement between the Southington Paraeducators/ABA Therapists/EL Tutors and the Southington Board of Education, as presented."

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

Motion carried unanimously.

c. 2017-2018 Operating Budget Reallocation / Adoption

The Town Council adopted the Board of Education 2017-2018 budget on Monday, June 12, 2017. In May, the Board of Education requested an appropriation from the Board of Finance of \$450,000 due to a cost over-run in the Special Education Out of District Tuition Account in the 2016-2017 operating budget which was tabled and then denied at the subsequent June 8th

Board of Finance meeting. The proposal to use the funds from the payment to the Self Insurance Fund to cover the deficit was then deferred to the 2017-2018 Board of Education Operating Budget bringing the shortfall to the 2017-2018 proposed budget to \$1,007,251. Mr. Connellan explained that the Board of Finance did recommend an increase of \$1,899,970 over the current year budget, which is significantly below the \$2.6 million Board of Education request to maintain the current level of services and programs in 2017-2018.

The administration provided a "draft" reallocation cut list to the Board under separate cover which was presented and projected to the public on the screen during the meeting (*Attachment #2*). Provided and reviewed was a 2017-2018 Operational Budget Funding Timeline, which reviewed the original Board of Education budget request, the Board of Finance recommended budget and the cuts needed to meet the reduction, Operating Budget Reallocation Proposal 2017-2018 and Positions Being Left Vacant (14 FTE positions) due to retirement or resignation. The positions are not being eliminated but being left unfilled at this time. In some cases, staff will be transferred to fill other vacancies, elementary Paraeducator hours reduced with laying off some Paraeducators. Mr. Madancy shared the academic impact of the proposed cuts and moving the three Teacher Leaders into elementary vacancies.

Mr. Connellan explained that the Elementary World Language program was a successful pilot program at South End school; however, it is not listed as a reduction because it was a pilot. The plan was to phase-in an Elementary World Language program across all eight elementary schools. Administration decided not to include it in the budget proposal because it was not equitable and they were asking for a current level of services budget. The teacher FTEs will be shifted to the high school World Language Department.

The Board members discussed the reallocation proposals at length and had many questions. There was nothing on the list that administration and the Board of Education wanted to reduce or leave vacant but they had to try to find a way to have the least impact in the classroom. A recommendation was made for options to keep middle school sports. Mr. Goralski planned to name a Middle School ad hoc committee comprised of: Mrs. Queen and Mr. Oshana, two parents from each middle school, school administration, a member of the Parks Board to partner with youth leagues (Mr. Mike DeFeo), Mr. Dave Lepreay, Director of Parks and Recreation as an ex-officio member, and a designated administrator as an ex-officio. The Board also discussed the impact on middle school fall sports and sponsorship for middle school teams. Mr. Brown read a prepared statement offering to help in any way that he could and to do fundraising for Pay for Play. All the Board members agreed to help the parents to be creative and develop a viable plan to provide sports for the middle school students.

Mr. Oshana explained that he serves on the Self Insurance Committee as Vice Chairman and noted that at the last Self Insurance Committee meeting the Board of Education fund balance, which is based on claims, was running lower than anticipated. He explained that the Self Insurance Committee has a Reserve Fund policy that they can revisit to use to benefit the Town and/or Board of Education budget. He recommended that the Self Insurance Committee request that the Town Council forgive the \$450,000 funding instead of deferring. He pointed out that in 17 years this is only the second time that Mrs. DiNello had to make an appropriation request because of a shortfall in special education costs that the Board has no control over. The Board is required by federal law to provide services to special needs students. The full time employee positions that they are leaving vacant total \$465,696, which could be offset by the \$450,000 forgiven deficit. He planned to go back to the Self Insurance Committee to request a meeting in late July or early August to discuss this.

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

“Move that the Board of Education adopt the 2017-2018 Operating Budget with adjustments as recommended by the administration.”

The Board members addressed vendor pricing, electricity and solar savings, withholding paying \$25,000 to the Turf Committee and cutting \$50,000 in painting out of the budget putting \$75,000 back into the budget.

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

“Move to cut an additional \$50,000 from painting and \$25,000 from Turf Replacement for next year which would add \$75,000 back into the budget to use for other items.”

The Board and administration discussed the amended motion at length.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION: YES: Mr. Derynoski, Mr. Oshana. NO: Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Champagne, Mrs. Queen, Mr. Goralski. **Amended Motion failed.**

Mrs. DiNello explained the unknown costs are in self insurance, the state budget of \$8.3 million in ECS funds for special education and enrollment. By August, the Board should have some certainty with the state budget and if there is money available to reconsider items on the cut list.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION: YES: Mr. Brown, Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Champagne, Mrs. Queen, Mr. Goralski. NO: Mr. Derynoski and Mr. Oshana. **Motion carried with seven in favor.**

d. Policy Series 9000, Bylaws ~ First Reading

There was no discussion.

e. Policy 6146.1, Grade Reporting ~ First Reading

There was no discussion.

f. Student Expulsion #2016-2017-25

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

“Move to expel student #2016-2017-25 as stipulated by the Superintendent of Schools.”

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 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Blanchard

Recording Secretary

LINDA BLANCHARD

From: BRIAN S. GORALSKI
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2017 8:10 PM
To: LINDA BLANCHARD
Subject: Fwd: Budget issues

For the minutes...

Brian S. Goralski
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

Resent-From: <sboe@southingtonschools.org>
From: Michelle Brennan <brennanjm5@att.net>
Date: June 15, 2017 at 4:18:33 PM EDT
To: "sboe@southingtonschools.org" <sboe@southingtonschools.org>
Subject: Budget issues
Reply-To: Michelle Brennan <brennanjm5@att.net>

As a Southington citizen and tax payer I am concerned about the suggested cuts to the school budget for next year. These cuts; the World Language program, middle school sports and updated textbooks all directly impact a number of students. Additionally I do not have any children currently attending Southington Schools, but I feel my tax dollars should be used more effectively for the good of the students.

While I admittedly did not attend any budget workshops, I have examined the proposed budget and watched the BOE presentation made by Mr. Connellan and staff to board members.

I feel that the board and the administration should be advocating for the students. Realizing these are tough economic times with questionable reimbursements by the state I am wondering if any board members have questioned the raises being given to administration officials or asked for a list of administration and their salaries. This information is buried in the budget. The public cannot see it and perhaps there is room in the budget to advocate for the students and examine administrative positions for example the teacher leader positions that have little to no student contact We should not consider cutting student programs until the administration is lean. The ultimate responsibility of the BOE is to the students.

I would like this information to be made public and for this letter to be read into the public record. I look forward to your reply.

Michelle Brennan
1487 East St.
Southington, CT

860-710-0427

This is a second request. My first request as a taxpayer was never given a response from BOE or administration.

LINDA BLANCHARD

From: BRIAN S. GORALSKI
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2017 8:10 PM
To: LINDA BLANCHARD
Subject: Fwd: Save our sports

For the minutes...

Brian S. Goralski
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

Resent-From: <sboe@southingtonschools.org>
From: "Pettit, John W." <John.Pettit@quinnipiac.edu>
Date: June 15, 2017 at 3:46:30 PM EDT
To: "sboe@southingtonschools.org" <sboe@southingtonschools.org>
Subject: Save our sports

Dear Board of Education member. I am writing to ask you to please vote against the elimination of all middle school sports except cross country and against the elimination of a pilot language arts program that is starting to generate results in our elementary schools.

Surely you can find better areas to cut, starting with the administrator salaries. We don't need bathrooms on the linear trail that will be covered in graffiti before we know it. We need sports and the arts – things that make this wonderful town great.

Use your brains and listen to your constituents.

Kindly add this to the public record.

Thanks

John Pettit
153 Edgewood Circle
Southington, CT 06489

Southington Public Schools
Operational Budget
Funding Timeline
2017-18

DRAFT

January 26th	BOE requested budget	94,992,660
	Special education Excess Cost Grant-eliminated	1,461,796
	ECS-funds for special ed to BOE	<u>(8,360,766)</u>
March 29th	New BOE budget base per BOF calculation	88,093,690
	BOF Approved budget	<u>87,309,939</u>
	Initial Reductions needed	783,751
March 22nd SI	Self Insurance Original Revenue Adjustment	<u>(226,500)</u>
	Initial Reduction needed after insurance savings	557,251
June 8th	Deferral of Self Insurance fund 16-17 payment	<u>450,000</u>
	Current Reductions Needed after Insurance pmt deferral	<u><u>1,007,251</u></u>

2016-17 BOE Operating Budget	92,308,909
Special education Excess Cost Grant-eliminated	1,461,796
ECS-funds for special ed to BOE	<u>(8,360,766)</u>
Established New Base by BOF for 16-17 BOE Budget	85,409,939
2017-18 BOE Operating Budget per BOF recommendation	<u>87,309,909</u>
Net Increase approved for 2017-18	<u><u>1,899,970</u></u>

DRAFT

**SPS OPERATING BUDGET REALLOCATION PROPOSAL
2017-18**

DRAFT

BOE Operational Budget Request 2017-2018	94,992,860	2.91%
BOF Approved Operational Budget	87,309,939	-5.42%
Town Council Approved Operation Budget	87,309,939	-5.42%
Reductions Needed	<u>7,682,721</u>	

Salaries

11300/12100	Salary Savings-Positions being left vacant-attachment	(465,896)	
11910	Middle School Athletics (various acts incl. supplies & purch serv)	<u>(121,587)</u>	
			(587,283)

Benefits

20410	Unemployment Insurance: Cost-layoff	16,016	
20230	Medicare Savings (vacancies)	(6,027)	
20310	Health Insurance (revenue reduction vacancies)	21,516	
20310	Health Insurance 2016-17 pmt deferral	<u>450,000</u>	
			481,505

Purchased Services

31200	Professional Development	(16,721)	
32325	Districtwide Computer Software	<u>(42,008)</u>	
			(58,729)

Supplies

42200	New Textbooks	(181,992)	
46200	Athletic Equipment SHS	<u>(9,550)</u>	
			(191,542)

Special Projects

70000	Air Flow Capture Hood	(4,159)	
	Utility Trailer EZ Hauler	(3,895)	
	Window Blinds & Tinting -SHS Nurse	(1,957)	
	Auditorium Chairs- DES	<u>(5,925)</u>	
			(15,936)

Special Education

83113	Salary Savings-Positions being left vacant-attachment	(50,058)	
83113	Psychologist: add 1 FTE	-	IDEA GRANT
83113	Special Education Teacher-Launch Program: add 1 FTE	-	IDEA GRANT
83203	Health Insurance	(226,500)	
83319	Purchased Service-Addlebrook contract	(98,262)	
83370	Out Placed Tuition		
	Increase needed per estimated costs	100,567	
	Excess Cost Grant- eliminated-part of ECS	1,461,796	
	New Special Ed grant (previously part of ECS)	<u>(8,360,766)</u>	
			(7,173,223)

Major Projects & Equipment

74000	Catch Basin Replacement	(8,800)	
	Contracted Painting	(50,000)	
	Garment Printer & Heat Press	(15,700)	
	Garment Printer & Heat Press	(15,700)	
	Districtwide Digitization and File Hosting	<u>(47,313)</u>	
			(137,513)

Total Adjustments

<u>(7,682,721)</u>
<u>0</u>

DRAFT

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Positions to be left vacant:	FTE	Savings
Regular Education		
Teacher Leaders Move into elementary vacancies	3	\$ 150,174
Middle School Math Specialist Retirement	1	\$ 50,058
High School Literacy Specialist Move into English vacancy	1	\$ 50,058
High School Guidance Retirement	1	\$ 50,058
High School Social Studies Resignation	1	\$ 60,516
Elementary Kindergarten Paras (after bumping- there will be staff laid off)	6	\$ 104,832
Purchasing Secretary Retirement Funds to fund payroll position	1 (1)	\$ 51,753 \$ (51,753)
	<u>13</u>	<u>\$ 465,696</u>
Special Education		
High School Special Education Teacher Retirement	1	\$ 50,058
	<u>1</u>	<u>\$ 50,058</u>

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