

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
January 12, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, January 12, 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, Mr. Zaya Oshana, and Mrs. Patricia Queen. Absent: Terry Lombardi.

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 (left at 6:45 p.m.).

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 Student and Personnel matters, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL

Mrs. Terry Lombardi joined the meeting via conference call.

Mr. Goralski declared Executive Session ended at 7:05 p.m.

3. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

The Celebration of Excellence was in honor of the Southington High School Unified Sports Team for being recognized as a Unified Banner Champion School by Special Olympics International. Mr. Brian Stranieri, Principal of Southington High School, introduced the Unified Sports Team and their coaches. Southington UNICO fully funds and supports the Unified Sports Team. Mr. Stranieri expressed his appreciation that organization, then introduced Mr. George Synott, Director of Special Olympics Unified Sports, who congratulated the school and team on being identified as Unified Champion Banner School. Also in attendance was Mr. Robert "Beau" Dougherty, President and Founder of Special Olympics Connecticut.

Mr. Goralski requested a recess at 7:15 p.m.

4. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

The regular session was reconvened at 7:30 p.m. by Mr. Goralski, Chairperson.

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

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; and, Mr. Peter Romano, Director of Operations.

5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Goralski requested a moment of silence for Ms. Lorraine Norton and Mr. John Clements. Both were past employees of Southington Public Schools and recently passed away.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ December 8, 2016

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

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

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience

Joanne Kelleher, 861 Savage Street, Southington ~ Ms. Kelleher is the director of the Early Child Collaborative of Southington (ECCS). She stated the mission of the collaborative and the many programs that they offer. The organization works closely with the school district and she wanted to make the Board of Education aware that the ECCS is possibly facing budget cuts. With these cuts, the Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington will not be able to continue next year. Over the next few months, her focus will be on funding for the organization and she was there to publically ask for support from the Board of Education.

b. Communication from Board Members

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

“Move to move agenda item 10 c. Approval of Foreign Field Trips, to agenda item 7 e.”
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move to add agenda item 10 e. Student Expulsions, to the agenda.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Board members shared the following information:

- Mr. Derynoski asked Mrs. DiNello if the administration took into account that there is the potential of Southington facing a \$250,000 budget cut on the revenue side that will affect the Town budget. Mrs. DiNello stated that she had been in contact with the finance director for the town and she anticipates that the town will be making an adjustment to the revenue stream.
- Mrs. Queen stated that she would like the administration and Board to consider creating a communication team for the district. This team would work together to find ways to share good news stories about Southington Public Schools. The district is in the process of redesigning the website and Mrs. Queen recommended having a link on the main webpage that says, “Awards and Recognitions.” As good news items happen throughout the year, they would be posted and available for the public. The Board and administration agreed that this was something they would be interested in pursuing.
- Mr. Goralski reminded the Board that January 22, 2017 is the annual Sloper Plunge. All schools are participating in fundraising efforts and the majority of the schools have representatives who will be taking the plunge in support.
- Mrs. Queen, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Derynoski volunteered to be on the AFSCME negotiation team. Mrs. DiNello will contact the group with additional information and dates.

c. Communication from Administration

1. Community Foundation of Greater New Britain Grant: The district was awarded the following grants:
 - a. Third grade artist in residence program and trip to the New Britain Art Museum.
 - b. Consideration of a mural designed and created for placement in the Public Assembly Room. Mr. Connellan stated that a decision needs to be made for the location of the mural within the room. He will contact the Town Council, Planning and Zoning, and Board of Education members to determine the preferred location.
2. Lincoln College Collaboration ~ STELLAR Program:
Mr. Connellan wanted to publically mention the collaboration between the school district and Lincoln College. He attended their open house prior to the holiday break and was very impressed with the partnership and the tremendous work being accomplished. Mr. Connellan will work with the Board to coordinate a date to invite them to a meeting to publically thank them.
3. AP Honor Roll ~ Southington High School:
Mr. Connellan shared the AP Honor Roll award with the Board of Education prior to the holidays, but held-off on the press release. Less than 500 school districts receive the award. This is an incredible honor for the high school. The press release will be forwarded on Tuesday, January 17, 2017.

d. Communication from Student Representatives

Miss Samantha Steeves reported on the following:

- The first semester ends on January 19. Exams will follow and the second semester begins on January 25.
- On January 5, the school held their student orientation and on January 9, they held their course fair. Both programs were for incoming freshmen.
- The high school offered a program called, College Basics 101. Current college freshman returned to Southington High School to talk with seniors about what to expect and how to “survive” their first year of college.

Mr. Martins reported on the following:

- Winter concert for band, orchestra, and chorus was held in December. It was well-attended with approximately 600-700 people.
- January 7 was the Robotics kick-off.
- The district hosted a foreign exchange program. There were 16 students and two teachers from Costa Rica who resided with Southington families. In June, Southington students will have their opportunity to visit the same families in Costa Rica.

e. Overnight/Out of State Field Trip Approvals (moved from item 10 b. to 7 e.)

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

“Move that the Board of Education approves the field trip requests for the Southington High School students to travel to Italy and Spain as presented by the administration.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mrs. Riccio, Ms. Foresman, and Ms. Tavera attended and explained that the trips will include students attending classes, residing with host families, participating in excursions and classes.

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. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

Mr. Goralski shared that next week the budget season begins with the presentation of the superintendent's budget to the Board of Education. The Board of Education budget will be presented to the Board of Finance on February 8.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2017-2018 School Calendar ~ Second Reading

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

"Move to approve the 2017-2018 School Calendar."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

b. Approval of Foreign Field Trips

Agenda item was moved from 10 b. to 7 e.

c. Board of Education Policy Updates ~ Second Reading (Policies: 5111.1, Foreign Exchange Students; 6163, Live Animals in Classroom; 6200, Adult Continuing Education)

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. Technology Presentation (Attachment A)

Mr. Madancy introduced Mr. Jamie Olander, Director of Technology, to present the district Technology Update. The presentation included the following:

- Challenges of Technology
- Resolution
- Analysis and Recommendations
- Next Steps

Following the presentation there were some questions and discussion pertaining to fiber upgrades and the cost associated with these upgrades. Mr. Olander did not have estimated costs and stated he would research and get back to the Board.

The Board discussed how our current infrastructure is not capable of handling the current demands.

The fiber cannot hold the capacity of the speed. The last time there was conversation about updating the fiber there were significant fewer devices in district. Most students and staff now have between one and three devices.

Mr. Madancy commended Mr. Olander for all the work his department has been doing on the domain. Certified staff have been taking advantage of many technology opportunities in the classroom without any problems. As the district continues to purchase new devices, they are faster and putting more demands on our network. He asked that the Board keep this in mind as the district considers going one-to-one with devices.

e. Student Expulsions

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

“Move to expel students 2016-2017-04, 2016-2017-05, 2016-2017-06, 2016-2017-07, 2016-2017-08, 2016-2017-09, 2016-2017-10, 2016-2017-11, and 2016-2017-11, as stipulated by the Superintendent.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

At 8:34 p.m., Mr. Goralski called for a recess from the regular session to reconvene to Executive Session.

Mr. Goralski, Chairperson, reconvened Executive Session at 8:40 p.m.

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

Administration present: Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Steven Madancy, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction.

11. ADJOURNMENT

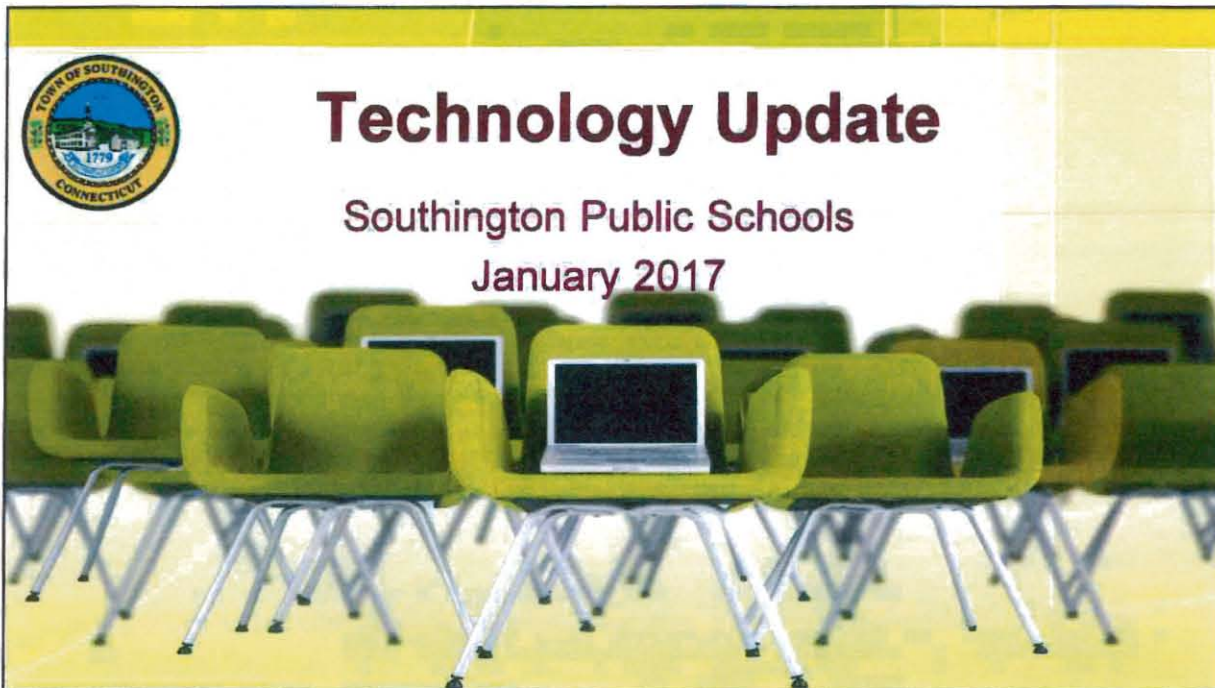
MOTION: by Mr. Oshana, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Passamano
Recording Secretary



Challenges of technology

- The Southington Public Schools network has grown and matured greatly in the last few years
- Gaps developed as deployment of new technology preceded decommissioning and upgrades to older equipment and systems.



Challenges of technology (continued)

- Security and process controls did not keep pace with the rapid rate of the demand and progression of technological solutions.
- Increase in network outages in various sections of the district.



Resolution

- Engaged multiple vendors to perform infrastructure assessments.
 - Detect vulnerabilities in the network environment
 - Identify potential performance barriers
 - Recommend areas of improvement



Analysis and Recommendations

- The configuration/set up of various network switches throughout the district were not optimal, affecting performance and overall resiliency.

(A network switch connects devices together on a network by using the switch to receive, process and forward data to other devices)

SOLUTION: All switch configurations were reviewed and updated to ensure consistency. Communication between devices is now faster and more efficient.



Analysis and Recommendations (continued)

- Our current wireless solution (Aerohive) was installed with minimal configuration. When combined with the growth of wireless dependency, our network was unable to deliver appropriate capacity.

SOLUTION:

- Wireless audits were performed which helped indicate areas of weak signal and interference.
- Aerohive Access Points (APs) were reconfigured to an ideal bandwidth which increased connection reliability and efficiency.



Analysis and Recommendations (continued)

- Several of our physical servers, which provide network services such as Active Directory (staff accounts), file storage, and Mac access/control, were old and past their warranty or recommended life cycle.

SOLUTION:

- Replaced and virtualized several old and out of warrantied servers.

Virtualization allows us to use a single computer to host multiple servers.

- Upgraded the server operating systems from 2003 to 2008/12.



Next steps

- Test and Certify Fiber – Engage with a qualified cabling vendor to test and certify the fiber links work properly optimizing data connections.
- Firewall/End Point Protection - Implement a solution to allow or block network traffic and stop threats at the front edge of the network.



Next steps (continued)

- Wi-Fi Access – Working to ensure the security and reliability of our Wi-Fi network is leveraged by a new authentication method. The end result will keep staff, students, and guests separate for security, while allowing more control over bandwidth usage.
- Disaster Recovery Planning (DRP) – Researching cloud based and off site data backup solutions.
- Domain/Password Policy Settings – Further investigate, update and strengthen the current password policy and create consistency.



Questions?

