The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, March 10, 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 6:31 p.m. Board members present: Mr. Robert Brown, Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Juanita Champagne, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mr. Zaya Oshana, and Mrs. Patricia Queen. Absent: Mrs. Colleen Clark

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

**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 Matters, Legal Matters and Student Safety, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS, LEGAL MATTERS AND STUDENT SAFETY

Mr. Goralski declared Executive Session ended at 6:56 p.m.

3. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

At 7:07 p.m., in Celebration of Excellence, the Board recognized the following Southington High School band students who were selected to participate in this year's All-State Festival representing the four ensembles. The following students were presented with a Certificate of Excellence:

- Christina Sack – Violin - Orchestra
- Matt Schmidt - Bari Sax - Jazz Band
- Matt McLaughlin – Tuba - Band
- Mike Abucewicz – Tuba - Band
- Eddie Vitcavage – Mallets - Band
- Shelby Doerfler – Soprano - Chorus
- Brett Simms – Bass - Chorus

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, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mr. Zaya Oshana and Mrs. Patricia Queen. Absent: Mrs. Colleen Clark

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 Pupil Services.

Student Representatives present: Mr. Christopher Iverson and Miss Samantha Martins.

5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited led by the student representatives.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Mr. Stanley Sadowski who was a former Southington Public Schools custodian for over 40 years and recently passed away.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ February 25, 2016

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

“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of February 25, 2016, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience

There was no audience communication.

b. Communication from Board Members

The Board members reported on the following:
- Attendance at budget meetings.
- Participation in Read Across America.
- Highlighted particular items of interest that were discussed at the recent “CABE Day on the Hill” in Hartford.
- Exceptional fundraising done by PTOs and their partnership in supplementing the Board of Education budget.
Mr. Bob Garry, Principal of Hatton School, who made 425 “Friday Phone Calls” to date to parents of students selected by the classroom teacher.

Kelley Elementary School PTO holding an “Art for a Cause” exhibit and auction of student artwork at the Southington Public Library throughout the month of April with the proceeds going to a charity.

Over 4,000 people attended the “Family Fun Fest” recently held at Aqua Turf.

Jennifer Magnoli, who was the First Place winner of the Oratorical Contest held at Southington High School, also won the State Oratorical Contest and will be attending the National contest on April 5, 2016, which is sponsored by the American Legion.

World Language presentation at Flanders Elementary School had a large turnout of interested parents.

The Southington Education Foundation Spelling Bee will be held on April 21, 2016. Board members interested in participating are to contact Mr. Goralski.

The student town-wide Spelling Bee will be held at Thalberg School on March 29, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

c. Communication from Administration

Administration reported on the following:

1. Emergency Management Planning Webinar: Mr. Connellan and other administrators participated in the webinar that was based on Fairfield’s experience this past October. He will forward the link to the Board members.

2. College Partnership: Mrs. Walsh announced a new partnership between Lincoln College and the Southington special education students aged 18 to 21-years old. A Transition Program for eight of our students will be held at Lincoln College the next school year.

3. Professional Development & Evaluation Committee (PDEC) Update: Mr. Madancy reported that there has been a transformation from TVAL (Teacher Evaluation) to PDEC. At no cost to the district, two administrators and two teachers from the Professional Development and Evaluation Committee will be attending a state workshop on April 25, 2016 to take the information gathered from the survey results, relative to the standards of professional learning, and utilizing that learning the following day at a retreat of members of PDEC. Teachers and administrators are excited about the focus in this direction regarding professional learning and the goals of the district.

4. Connecticut Association of School Business Officials (CASBO): Mrs. DiNello announced that she and the legislative liaison from CASBO, David Linehan, are meeting with House Majority Leader Joseph Aresimowicz at the state capitol on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 to share their concerns regarding different proposed bills.

5. STEPS: Mr. Connellan announced that STEPS is sponsoring “Good Deeds Week” starting April 4, 2016, which aligns with the asset “Positive Influence on Peers.”

d. Communications from Student Representatives

Mr. Iverson reported on the following:
- Good Citizenship: Recently the Daughters of the American Revolution awarded the Good Citizen Award to Angelina Zollo at the high school. The two runners-up were Niels Peschel and Christopher Iverson.
- At the next Board of Education meeting, the Student Representatives will give a technology presentation on Google Docs.
- CAPT (Connecticut Academic Performance Test) testing is March 22, 2016 for sophomores with freshman taking a practice test. The juniors and seniors will arrive at school later in the day.

Miss Martins reported on the following:
- The SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) was held last week.
- A PEP Rally was held last Friday with teachers/administrators who volunteered getting a Shaving Crème pie in the face as well as a tug-of-war and Unified basketball played a game for eight minutes.
- Mr. James Brino, Board Student Representative, is taking part in the Spring Drama Club show “Footloose” held on March 11 and 12, 2016.
- She has a part in Unified Theatre on March 18, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

The Board and administration discussed with the Student Representatives and asked for their input on having the SAT administered in Grade 10 instead of Grade 11 as was proposed at the CABE Day on the Hill.

8. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT
   a. Personnel Report

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

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

   Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS
   a. Curriculum and Committee Meeting ~ March 8, 2016

   The committee discussed the following topics at their March 8, 2016 meeting:
   - Foreign Field Trips (Chile and Costa Rica)
   - Review of textbooks for the high school business and social studies departments
   - Discussion on K-12 Art Curriculum that will be presented at the March 24, 2016 Board of Education meeting.
   - Discussion of the Health Curriculum information letter to be sent home to parents.
   - Partnership established between the Southington Historical Society and the middle schools.
   - Homework survey sent to parents.

   Mr. Madancy gave a report/summary on instructional time and time out of the classroom that included classroom coverage, substitutes, professional development time, and
teacher absences and unfilled teacher absences per school, which was previously requested by the Board.

10. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

The Home Depot on Queen Street will be the corporate sponsor for the Relay for Life event this year and will be supplying the materials for the pop-up tents on the field. Mr. Goralski informed the Facilities Advisory Committee that he will chair that piece of the event. Mr. Goralski thanked the Home Depot for sponsoring this event.

Mr. Goralski reminded the Board of the following budget calendar dates:
- March 16, 2016 is a potential Board of Finance Workshop at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Chambers.
- March 22, 2016 is a potential Board of Finance Workshop at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Chambers.
- March 30, 2016, 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall, Board of Finance meeting to adopt the budget.
- April 25, 2016, 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Center, Town Council budget public hearing.
- May 9, 2016, 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Center, Town Council adopts all budgets.

b. Board of Education Policy Updates ~ Second Reading

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

"Move that the Board of Education approve the following revised policies as recommended by the Policy and Personnel Committee, as amended: Policies #1330 ~ Use of School Facilities, #4111.1 ~ Affirmative Action, #4118.11 ~ Civil and Legal Rights – Non-discrimination, #4211 ~ Recruitment and Selection, #5000 ~ Concepts and Roles in Student Policies, #6121 ~ Non-discrimination: Instruction Program, #6180 ~ Evaluation of the Instructional Program."

There were changes made since the first reading and the changes now appear in bold type on the CABE Portal. Mrs. Queen explained all the amended changes that were made.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. 21st Century Skills

Mr. Madancy gave a PowerPoint presentation that included YouTube videos on the “21st Century Graduate” and the shape of the future (Attachment #1). He discussed the following:
- 21st Century skills our students should have to graduate from the Southington Public Schools;
- district vision and mission statement;

Revised 3/23/16
• 2020 vision and the changes within the next 3-5 years;
• challenges;
• Carnegie Units;
• what comprehensive reform would look like;
• four key areas to transformative change: 1) personalized learning, 2) competency based learning, 3) anytime, anywhere learning, and 4) students taking ownership;
• what the next steps are regarding community, curriculum, and policy;
• Southington’s plan moving forward;
• teachers becoming the facilitators of learning versus the deliverers of information.

Board members asked questions and commented on the future of education and how the transformation to student centered learning would be a paradigm shift in education. While Board members spoke positively about the suggested changes, the Board understands that this is an evolving process and supports the need to proceed slowly and deliberately.

Mr. Goralski requested that the 21st Century Skills be a recurring Board agenda item.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

"Move to adjourn."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Blanchard
Recording Secretary
What do we want our students to know and be able to do when they graduate from the Southington Public Schools?
District Vision

Over the years, work has occurred within the district that in many ways is still considered relevant today.

District Mission Statement ~ Created 2007

Vision 2020 ~ Created 2013

District Mission

Students engage in a range of educational experiences to become informed, adaptive, problem solvers who effectively communicate, rise to challenges and are committed to improve themselves and their communities.
Vision 2020

REAL TIME
Within the next 3-5 years...

Investigate, evaluate, and take action on:

- Learning is the constant; time is the variable
- Curricular changes reflecting 21st Century Skills for global citizenship
- Equitable infrastructure - technology and safety
- Partnerships that create experiences beyond school
- Changing graduation requirements
- Building staff capacity through professional development

Our Challenge

We must build upon this work so that it becomes a reality; not just a posted slogan, or a published plan, but an end result for all graduates of the Southington Public Schools!

Since Vision 2020, much emphasis in education reform has been placed on the need for students to possess 21st century skills.
Tony Wagner

https://youtu.be/-s_m-Fh4u_s?time=3m20s (3:20-7:15)

Which Student Would You Choose?

Student A
- Math
- Science
- English
- Social Studies

Student B
- Content Mastery
- Critical Thinker
- Problem Solver
- Effective Communicator
- Effective Collaborator
- Creative & Innovative
- Financially Literate
- Globally Competent
So what would comprehensive reform look like in our district if we wanted to bring a 21st century education to life for our students?

We would need to take a blended approach and address 4 key areas!!!!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6ieXLVCss4

4 Key Areas

The 4 key areas to transformative change:

1. Personalized Learning
2. Competency Based Learning (aka Mastery Based Learning)
3. Anytime, Anywhere Learning
4. Students Take Ownership
What's Next For Us?

- **COMMUNITY**
- **CURRICULUM**
- **POLICY**

Community

Over the past 3 months, the district has been spending time building capacity amongst students and faculty in understanding 21st century skills we believe are most important for students who are graduating from the Southington Public Schools with the ultimate goal being the adoption of our "Vision Of A Graduate."
Curriculum

Over the next 3-5 years, developing curriculum and assessment that supports student acquisition of 21st century skills.

Providing professional development for teachers and administrators to target the pedagogical shifts that will best support learners in a 21st century classroom.

Policy

Working with our state legislators, board of education members, and the community to develop policies that support a shift to a 21st century experience for our students (i.e. Revised graduation requirements).

https://youtu.be/-s_m-Fh4u_s?t=24m20s
24:20-24:46
Continued capacity building amongst our administrative team.

Educating our Board of Education and elected officials about this type of transformation.

Going on a listening tour with community groups, such as Kiwanis, Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, and Town officials, to see their input about the 21st century skills that are important to them.

Continued teacher touch points to hear more about the four areas of reform.

Continued exposure to practices occurring within Connecticut and around the nation relative to this type of transformation.

A community engagement event where WE, as a community of students, teachers, administrators, parents, and community members, adopt our "Vision of a Graduate" and the 21st century skills we believe are most important to their success beyond.
In Closing...

[Image: A cartoon of a van with text: "GOING PLACES COMPETE" and "PREDICTIVE MODELS"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zThuFN8_D #t=27]