

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

SEPTEMBER 8, 2016

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, September 8, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Center Public Assembly Room, 200 North Main Street, Southington, Connecticut.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Brian Goralski, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Board members present: Mr. Robert Brown, Mrs. Terri Carmody, 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 Pupil Services.

Student Representatives present: Miss Samantha Martins, Miss Samantha Steeves and Mr. Joseph Martin.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The student representatives led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ August 18, 2016

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

“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of August 18, 2016, as submitted.”

Motion carried by voice vote with Mr. Oshana and Mr. Derynoski abstaining.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience

There was no communication from the audience.

b. Communication from Board Members

The Board members reported on the following:

- The ceremony for the Wall of Honor is October 24, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in front of the high school auditorium.
- An initiative to study the impact that poverty has on students and learning.
- Superior Court Judge's ruling on inequity between Connecticut Public Schools and reforms needed to fairly educate Connecticut's poorest children.
- The deteriorating school walkway at Hatton School from Berlin Street to the school with overgrowth of thorns, which will be addressed by the Operations Department.
- Strong School PTO unveiled their outside classroom on Tuesday, September 6, 2016.
- Plantsville School PTO held an ice cream social for their families prior to the opening of school that was well attended.
- Some Board members took the annual tour of the schools on opening day.
- Commendation of the Board of Education Transportation Department and New Britain Transportation on the first day of school especially with the congestion on Pleasant Street caused by many parents driving their children to school.
- The positive difference that a 10-week summer makes.

c. Communication from Administration

Administration reported on the following:

1. Teacher and Paraeducator Professional Development Summary: Mr. Madancy praised Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Ms. Meg Walsh and Mrs. Kim Hunt for presenting two-days of professional development for Paraeducators. It was the first time in the history of the school district where every Paraeducator in the district was in one location at one time. The Teacher professional development aligned with the initiatives and priorities that were identified as a group and individualized for every content area. Mr. Madancy introduced the Teacher Leaders for this year: Melissa O'Neill, Lindsay Veronneau and Charity Baker.
2. Camp Rise Update: Ms. Walsh reported that Camp Rise was a leisure recreational initiative for special needs students implemented this summer by some parents of special needs students; Mr. Dave Lapreay, Parks and Recreation Director; Mrs. Amy Aresco, Special Education Coordinator, and Ms. Walsh. It was a Parks and Recreation program held at Recreation Park. The program was successful and will be offered again next summer.
3. Stellar Program at Lincoln College Update: Ms. Walsh reported this program is for special needs students 18-21 years old to learn transitional vocational skills, how to be more independent, and daily living skills, which is housed at Lincoln College. There are seven special needs students participating in this program.
4. Recognition to Payroll Staff: Mrs. DiNello recognized and praised Mrs. Susan Euley, Payroll Supervisor, and Mrs. Deborah Markoski, Payroll/Benefits Secretary, for working long hours and on weekends during the summer to make sure that all employees were paid appropriately and accurately for the first pay of this school year. They had a heavy workload this summer inputting data along with the implementation of the Time and Attendance System at all the schools as

well as the change of employee health insurance to the High Deductible / Health Savings Plan, which was an overwhelming task.

d. Communication from Student Representatives

Miss Martins reported on the following:

- She attended Girls State for a week in the summer and acted as the chairperson of the Board of Education in “Malloy City” where she gained an appreciation of creating an education budget.
- The first day of school opened smoothly at the high school. There is a large freshmen class of approximately 580 students this year with an increase of over 109 students overall this school year.

Mr. Martin reported on the following:

- The Welcome Back dance scheduled for this month was postponed to mid-October.
- The College Fair will be held on September 14, 2016 with over 100 colleges participating.
- September 15, 2016 is the Open House for parents.

Miss Steeves reported on the following:

- The fall sports teams start their season this coming week. The football team beat Xavier 42 – 7 in a scrimmage.
- The extracurricular activities are currently holding their first meetings with interested students joining.
- On September 13, 2016, Pizza Night will be held at Southington High School for the first time with the Key Club helping.
- She thanked the Board for a warm welcome to the student representatives tonight.

5. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

a. Personnel Report

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

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

Mr. Connellan reported that the OT/PT positions were fully staffed.

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

A Board member questioned the transition of the OT/PT personnel with the students. Ms. Walsh responded that the OT/PT Department is now located at Strong Elementary School in room 20, with a full complement of staff. There have been several meetings to go over scheduling and assignment of services. The contract with the Hartford Healthcare Network has been extended and there has been a “Meet and Greet” with parents before school started with the new therapists. Ms. Walsh spoke at length on this transition and how it was running smoothly. She was confident that moving forward it was a great opportunity for the Board to have the OT/PT staff as Southington Public School employees.

6. OLD BUSINESS**a. Town Government Communications**

Mr. Goralski reported that the Farm Heritage Committee met over the summer. He noted that the Farm Heritage Committee made a recommendation to the Town Council for the removal of the less than desirable buildings on the Pleasant Street property and the structural integrity of buildings on the Bellevue Street property, where LEAF operates, which is town-owned land. Mr. Goralski noted that in the future these could create opportunities to our students through curriculum.

7. NEW BUSINESS**a. Policy #5113, Attendance, Excused Absences and Truancy ~ Second Reading**

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

“Move to approve Policy #5113, Attendance, Excused Absences and Truancy as recommended by the Policy and Personnel Committee.

There were no changes since the first reading.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

b. School Opening 2016-2017

Mr. Connellan reported that the condition of the buildings and grounds for opening day were amazing and thanked the custodians and maintenance department. He invited the Board members to see the completed atrium project at the high school. He noted that some teachers he spoke with were so impressed with the positive changes in their students and readiness to learn after the long summer. Mr. Connellan commented that it was a smooth opening of schools.

c. Summer School 2016

Mr. David DeStefano, Summer School Director, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Summer Enrichment Programs and Camp Invention that included:

Summer School Enrichment

- Period of time the programs are held.
- Summer School Program Highlights and course offerings.
- Updated program webpage design on the district website.
- History of Summer School student enrollment over the years of elementary, middle school and high school students.
- 100% of high school students were able to recover credits.
- Number of out of district students and charging the same rate as Southington students.

Per the suggestion of a Board member, Mr. DeStefano will look into a College Essay Writing enrichment class next summer for high school students.

Camp Invention

- High enrollment of 121 participants with a wait list and 50% of students returning from last year.
- Southington was the first district in Connecticut to meet the maximum enrollment.
- Amber Smith was hired as an Assistant Director because of high enrollment.
- Parents directed to website for information.
- Courses that were offered.
- There were 10 CIT (Counselors in training) students.
- Highlights of 2016 Camp Invention held at Strong Elementary School in August and suggestions for 2017.
- Invent Now awarded a \$1,200 stipend bonus to district; some of which went to cover the cost of a Registered Nurse.
- Financial assistance with an offer of help from Mrs. Lombardi.

d. Enrollment Study

Mr. Connellan stated that a very detailed elementary enrollment study is needed before they do the next phase of school renovations. He was looking for a consensus from the Board to do this study. The Board members spoke to this at length and would want to know from where the vendors who do the RFP (Request for Proposals) enrollment study acquires their information and statistics. For the record, Mr. Connellan pointed out that the enrollment numbers at opening day of school was 6640, which was higher than when school was closed last year. The Board consensus was to move forward as long as the study stays within the budget and meets the criteria of the State Board of Education Facilities Unit.

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Blanchard

Recording Secretary