

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. Minutes are not official until after the Board of Education approves them at a subsequent meeting.

SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT

REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, September 24, 2015 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 6:33 p.m.

Present from the Board: Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen (*arrived at 6:52 p.m.*), Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mrs. Patricia Queen and Mr. Zaya Oshana.

Present from Administration: Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Steven Madancy, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance (*left at 6:51 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 Teacher Negotiations, Personnel Matters, and a Student Matter, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS TEACHER NEGOTIATIONS, PERSONNEL MATTERS AND A STUDENT MATTER

Mr. Goralski declared Executive Session ended at 7:10 p.m. and the Board returned to public session.

3. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE ~ TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2015-2016

At 7:17 p.m., the Board of Education members recognized Mr. Christopher Richter, social studies teacher at Kennedy Middle School who was chosen as the 2015-2016 Southington

Teacher of the Year. Mr. Richter received a plaque by Mr. Goralski on behalf of the Board of Education.

Mr. Goralski called for a recess at 7:21 p.m.

4. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

The regular session was reconvened at 7:41 p.m. by Mr. Goralski, Chairperson. Board members present were: Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mr. Zaya Oshana and Mrs. Patricia Queen.

Present from the administration were: Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance; Mr. Peter Romano, Director of Operations; and Ms. Margaret Walsh, Director of Pupil Services.

Student Representative present was Miss Samantha Martins.

5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Miss Samantha Martins, student representative.

Mr. Goralski called for a moment of silence in memory of the following former employees who recently passed away:

- Mr. Joseph Labrie, a former part-time custodian of 24 years.
- Mrs. Dorothea “Dottie” Dickinson, a former School Lunch Director for the school district for many years.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ September 10, 2015

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

“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of September 10, 2015, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience

Mr. John Myers spoke on behalf of the Southington High School Cross Country Booster Club and the 28 student-athletes who attended the Briarwood Invitational in Philadelphia last weekend. He thanked the Board for this opportunity. Mr. Myers announced that on Friday, September 25, 2015, the Cross Country team will host the Sloper Relays at the YMCA Camp Sloper with 40 teams representing over 900 runners. Mr. Myers announced that the Apple Harvest Road Race will be held on October 4, 2015. The ribbon-cutting for the YMCA pool renovation and enhancement, which the Southington High School Swim Team uses, will be held on Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at 8:00 a.m.

b. Communication from Board Members

a. Appointment of new Board Member to fill vacancy

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

“Move to appoint Juanita Champagne to complete the term of the recent vacancy on the Board of Education.”

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Lombardi, Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Queen, and Mr. Goralski. **Motion carried unanimously.**

b. Swearing in of new Board Member

Deputy Town Clerk, Erica Butler, swore in Mrs. Juanita Champagne as the new Board member to complete the term of Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco who moved out of town. After being sworn in, Mrs. Champagne joined the Board members on the dais.

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

“Move to move Agenda Item #9.a ‘Overnight /Out of State Field Trips’ to Agenda Item #7.e.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move to add Agenda Item 9.c ‘Student Expulsion’ to the agenda.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mrs. Johnson reported that internationally renowned Sculptor, Mr. Dale Zarrella, who is a Southington High School graduate and has some of his work displayed in the Vatican, visited the AP Art class at the high school to speak to the class. On September 23, Mr. Zarrella was in Washington D.C. and had an audience with the Pope presenting a piece of his work and the next day he came to Southington High School by invitation of Mr. Thomas Horanzy, Chair of the Art Department.

Mrs. Queen reported that the Wall of Honor Committee at the high school met and selected three inductees. The ceremony will be held December 7, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. with a snow date of December 14.

Mrs. Lombardi gave a report on her first CREC meeting that she recently attended and highlighted their discussion on regionalization, assessments in the public schools, child nutrition, and a stop-loss initiative regarding cost of insurance.

Mr. Oshana requested administration to follow-up with an update on what happened in the district last year regarding the anti-bullying policy that was put into place two years ago. He also requested an in-depth update on the amount of time teachers spend out of the classroom

with it covering a larger timeframe than last year for a more accurate assessment. He questioned whether this could be done using available technology. Mr. Goralski requested that administration bring back to the Board how labor intensive it would be to gather this information so the Board could decide if they want the administration to move forward gathering this information. A discussion also followed regarding teacher substitutes.

c. Communication from Administration

Mr. Connellan, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Madancy, Assistant Superintendent, addressed the following:

1. Budget 2016-2017
2. Scientific Research-based Intervention (SRBI)
 - a. Committees K-5 and 6-12
 - b. Self-Assessments
3. District Data Team

Mrs. Lombardi requested more detail on when an administrator is increasing their budget versus a generic blanket statement in order to get a better sense of those increases.

d. Communications from Student Representatives

Miss Martins reported on the following:

- The high school recently held an Open House and College Fair.
- Parking passes were issued to junior students who applied for one.
- She thanked Mr. John Myers, Executive Director of the YMCA, for the renovations on the pool that the high school swim team uses. She is on the swim team.
- A Drug Rally on the Town Green will be held on October 14, 2015.
- A Variety Show will be held at the high school on October 15, 2015 from 7:00 p.m. through 9:30 p.m.
- The Welcome Back Dance will be held on October 16, 2015 from 7:00 p.m. through 10:00 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.
- Music of the Knight will be held on October 24, 2015.

e. Overnight / Out of State Field Trips (formerly Agenda Item 9.a.)

The following out of state field trips were presented to the Board by student club officers, advisors, and the new Southington High School Band Director:

- New York, New York – SHS DECA Club, December 9-13, 2015
- Nashville, Tennessee – SHS DECA Club, April 22-27, 2016
- Boston, Massachusetts – SHS Marching Band, April 7-10, 2016
- Indianapolis, Indiana – FFA National Convention, October 18-23, 2016

Ms. Sara Ossian, Southington High School Band Director, noted a correction on the date for the Boston field trip that it is April 7-10, 2016, not April 7-11, 2016 as stated on the field trip form.

Mrs. Queen thanked the chaperones for their time and willingness to give the students the opportunity to attend the various overnight trips.

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

“Move that the Board of Education approves the out of state / overnight field trips to New York, Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Indiana, as presented by the administration.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

8. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

There was no government communication.

b. Construction Update

Mr. Romano reported that construction is completed at both middle schools and all that remains are some punch list items. Mr. Goralski noted that the Building Committee is still meeting the first Tuesday of every month. He thanked everyone who attended the Middle School Grand Openings held on Sunday, September 13, 2015.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Overnight / Out of State Field Trips (*Moved to Agenda Item 7.e.*)

b. Overview of Smarter Balanced Assessments

Ms. Dale Riedinger, Math Coordinator, and Mrs. Stephanie Lawlor, Language Arts Coordinator, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Smarter Balanced Assessment and the baseline results. The tests were administered in the spring of 2015. Areas that they highlighted were:

- The assessment is measured in two ways: 1) Computer adaptive portion of the test and, 2) Performance tasks.
- The areas of knowledge and skills measured in English Language Arts are: reading, writing, listening and research.
- The areas of knowledge and skills measured in Mathematics are: concepts and procedures, problem-solving, modeling and data analysis, and communicating reasoning.
- Scoring Achievement Levels 1-4.
- Reporting using an online data portal called “Online Reporting System (ORS)” and paper reports to parents/families.
- District-wide Baseline results in Math and English Language Arts for grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11 and percentage of students achieving Levels 1-4.
- How Southington compared to the state in Math and English Language Arts.

- How Southington compared in our DRG against 10 districts in Math and English Language Arts.
- District next steps in curriculum and instruction.

Mrs. Carmody felt that school districts across the state and country are teaching to the test, which she does not want Southington’s curriculum to do. Mrs. Lawlor responded that it was virtually impossible to teach to the Smarter Balanced Test. Discussion followed regarding the criticisms of the Common Core and Smarter Balanced Assessments. Mr. Connellan stated that the switch to the Common Core State Standards became politicized and people were criticizing it on a political basis, not on its educational merits.

The Board members questioned and addressed availability of data on SchoolNet, whether there is cost involved in transitioning from the Smarter Balanced to SAT’s at the high school, testing of sub-groups of children, how the ELL students performed on the tests on their first year of exit from the ELL program and testing of the special education population.

Mr. Goralski requested data from Ms. Walsh on the percentage of the special education population excused from the test.

c. Student Expulsion

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

“Move to expel student case number 2015-2016-01 as stipulated by the Superintendent of Schools.”

Motion carried by voice vote with Mrs. Champagne abstaining.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Blanchard
 Recording Secretary