

*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](http://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**

**OCTOBER 8, 2015**

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The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, October 8, 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. Juanita Champagne, Mrs. Colleen Clark (*arrived at 6:45 p.m.*), Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Terry Lombardi (*arrived at 6:55 p.m.*), Mrs. Patricia Queen and Mr. Zaya Oshana.

Present from Administration: Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools and Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance.

**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 and Personnel, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

#### **2. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS TEACHER NEGOTIATIONS AND PERSONNEL**

Mr. Goralski declared Executive Session ended at 7:28 p.m. and the Board returned to public session.

#### **3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION**

The regular session was reconvened at 7:40 p.m. by Mr. Goralski, Chairperson. Board members present were: Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mrs. Juanita Champagne, 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; and Ms. Margaret Walsh, Director of Pupil Services.

Student Representatives present were Miss Samantha Martins and Mr. James Brino.

#### **4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

Mr. Goralski called for a moment of silence in memory of Mrs. Rachael Poirer, a longtime employee who retired in 1994 as a Paraprofessional at Southington High School.

#### **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ September 24, 2015**

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

**“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of September 24, 2015, as submitted.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

#### **6. COMMUNICATIONS**

##### **a. Communications from Audience**

There was no audience communication.

##### **b. Communication from Board Members**

Mrs. Queen promoted the Parent Information Series sponsored by the Southington Youth Services, “Helping Children Overcome Anxiety” to be held Thursday, October 29, 2015, 7:00-8:30 p.m., in the Municipal Center Public Assembly Room. Mr. Connellan noted that feedback from students in the secondary grade levels indicated that stress was the number one impediment to learning. Mrs. Queen requested the press in attendance to promote this event and to call 860.276.6281 for more information.

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

**“Move to move Agenda Item #10.a ‘Overnight / Out of State Field Trips’ to Agenda Item #6.e.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

Mrs. Lombardi invited the Board members to join her in a Kelley Elementary School PTO golf tournament. On behalf of the Kelley Elementary School parents, she questioned when Kelley School will be renovated and a Feasibility Study done. Mr. Goralski acknowledged that

a Feasibility Study for Kelley, Flanders and Derynoski Elementary Schools will be included in next year's budget.

Mrs. Lombardi participated in a State Department of Education Focus Group with the items of equity, excellence and achievement gaps discussed. Representing the Southington Board of Education in this Focus Group, her input centered on unfunded mandates.

Mr. Oshana questioned the status of the reports on Bullying and the study for teacher out of classroom time. Mr. Connellan indicated that the report on Bullying is being compiled.

Mr. Goralski announced that the CABA Delegate Assembly will be held on Thursday, November 19, 2015 and the CABA Convention will be held November 20 and 21, 2015 for Board members interested in attending.

**c. Communication from Administration**

Mr. Connellan, Superintendent of Schools, addressed the following:

1. Student Awards: Mr. Connellan announced that Board of Education Student Representatives, Christopher Iverson and James Brino, are finalists for the 2016 United States Senate Youth Program held in Washington, D.C. from March 5-12, 2016. Two students from each state are selected. All expenses are paid by the Hearst Foundation and each delegate is awarded a \$5,000 college scholarship for undergraduate studies. Finalist interviews will take place on Friday, October 16, 2015 in Hartford.

2. Type of data collected on certified absences: Mr. Connellan explained in depth the type of data currently collected on certified teacher absences out of the classroom as requested by Mr. Oshana. Discussion followed on the collection of the data. Mr. Goralski proposed that this go before the Curriculum Committee to be fine-tuned and presented to the Board as a future agenda item. Mr. Oshana will work with Mr. Connellan and Mrs. Carmody on the fine tuning of the information through the Curriculum Committee. Mrs. Lombardi requested to attend from a technology perspective.

Mr. Goralski announced that on October 25, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. there will be a re-dedication of the Rochambeau Monument on Marion Avenue. The restoration of the monument was an Eagle Scout Project undertaken by student representative, James Brino.

**d. Communications from Student Representatives**

Mr. Brino reported on the following:

- Music of the Knight will be held October 24, 2015 with 24 bands from across New England performing at Southington High School.
- The Salvation Army is holding a continuous clothing drive at the high school this month.
- A Blood Drive was held last Tuesday with 51 pints of blood collected from students, faculty and staff.
- Christopher Iverson was absent from the Board meeting because he was attending an Eagle Board of Review.

- During the PSAT session for the sophomores and juniors, the freshmen will have four presentations about the introduction into high school and their transition and the seniors will be taking their class photo and having an internship presentation by the Chamber of Commerce.

Miss Martins reported on the following:

- A Tie-Dye Dance will be held on October 16, 2015.
- The fall athletic season was off to a good start with most of the teams in the top 10 in the state.
- Many high school students are Apple Harvest Hostesses.
- She thanked the Board for funding the PSATs for the sophomores and juniors who will be taking them next week.
- There is a newly combined website with Kahn Academy and the College Board where the students taking PSATs and SATs can take practice tests.

**e. Overnight / Out of State Field Trips** *(formerly Agenda Item 10.a.)*

Mr. Derek Dion, Wrestling Coach, noted that the Wrestling Team has been taking the field trips to Lowell, Massachusetts and Plaistow, New Hampshire for the past few years. Mrs. Queen questioned the team’s practice schedule the week before and after the January 23-24, 2016 weekend tournament.

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

**“Move to approve the out of state / overnight field trips to Massachusetts and New Hampshire, as presented by the administration.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**7. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**a. Personnel Report**

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

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

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting ~ September 29, 2015**

Mrs. Carmody gave the Curriculum and Instruction report in which the committee discussed a new course proposal for AP Economics, reviewed the Introduction to Spanish data for students in Grade 8 with the same course offered at both middle schools. The committee also reviewed the new Southington High School profile, and discussed Policy #1312, Health Curriculum, and regulations for the purpose of requesting a re-evaluation of instructional

materials. The practice of departmentalization in the elementary schools upper grades was discussed. Every child in Southington should have the same, consistent instruction in all of the schools. Mrs. Carmody will bring a copy of the new Southington High School profile to the next Board meeting.

**b. Finance Committee Meeting ~ September 30, 2015**

Mrs. DiNello gave the Finance Committee report in which the committee discussed Self Insurance and the plans for a Dependent and Claims Audit being done by Medbill this fall. The committee also discussed bid awards for snow removal and sanding and the difficulty in making a recommendation due to the low number of vendors submitting bids.

- 1. Bid Award – 2016-BID-06: Snow Removal & Sanding:**
  - a. Bid Award – 2016-BID-06: Snow Removal & Sanding (JAD, SES, TES)**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Lombardi, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

**“Move to award bid 2016-BID-06, Snow Removal & Sanding for DePaolo Middle School, Strong and Thalberg Elementary Schools to Green Meadow for three years.”**

Mr. Oshana explained that he had requested separate motions because he has a difficult time voting for any vendor that he knows has had a lawsuit or an issue with the town. Mr. Goralski acknowledged that all vendors they use have been vetted by administration for their current work.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Champagne, Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Queen, Mr. Goralski. **Motion carried with nine in favor.**

- b. Bid Award – 2016-BID-06: Snow Removal & Sanding (JFK, SEES)**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Lombardi, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

**“Move to award bid 2016-BID-06, Snow Removal & Sanding for Kennedy Middle School and South End Elementary School to Evergreen Nursery for one year.”**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Champagne, Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Queen, Mr. Goralski. **Motion carried with nine in favor.**

- c. Bid Award – 2016-BID-06: Snow Removal & Sanding (DES / Pyne Center, FES)**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Lombardi, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

**“Move to award bid 2016-BID-06, Snow Removal & Sanding for Derynoski School the Pyne Center and Flanders Elementary School to Schmidt Landscaping for three years.”**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Champagne, Mrs. Queen, Mr. Goralski. NO – Mr. Oshana. **Motion carried with eight in favor and one opposed.**

**d. Bid Award – 2016-BID-06: Snow Removal & Sanding (PES)**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Lombardi, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

**“Move to award bid 2016-BID-06, Snow Removal & Sanding for Plantsville Elementary School to Cheshire Concrete for one year at \$13,080.”**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Champagne, Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Queen, Mr. Goralski. **Motion carried with nine in favor.**

**2. Copier Leases – Two (2) Additional**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Lombardi, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

**“Move to approve the leasing of two (2) additional copiers; one (1) for Kelley Elementary School and one (1) for the high school technology office.”**

Maintenance of the copiers was discussed.

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**3. Agriculture, Science, Technology Education (ASTE) Grant – 2015-2016**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Lombardi, seconded by Mr. Oshana:

**“Move to approve the list of items proposed using the additional funding from the ASTE Grant.”**

Funds from the grant for radios for the Ag-Science Program were discussed.

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**4. 2014-2015 Year-End Close-out**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Lombardi, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

**“Move to approve the close-out of the operating budget for 2014-2015.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

Mrs. DiNello explained there is a 2001 Chevy Van that has not worked in a long time that the dealer was not interested in taking as a trade-in. There is an opportunity to sell the inoperable van for \$150 with the revenue going to the town; however, Justin Mirante has requested to use the vehicle in his high school classroom as a learning opportunity. The committee supported allowing the high school to take receipt of the van. Per a concern from Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. DiNello will ensure that the vehicle is removed from the fixed asset listing.

**c. Policy & Personnel Committee Meeting ~ October 6, 2015**

Mrs. Clark reported that the committee discussed the job description for the Lead ABA Therapist, which they received from CREC. Ms. Walsh explained the CREC contract in place with the Lead ABA Therapist at Derynoski Elementary School along with her training and skillset and the students she is serving. However, per the contract she cannot work directly with children who are emotionally dysregulated. If they were to switch her over from CREC to be a Southington Public Schools employee, it would be a wash in terms of the monies. CREC is willing to allow her to become a Southington Public School employee, and the therapist currently servicing the students is willing to make the switch. Ms. Walsh explained the benefits of making the switch. Mrs. Clark reported that the committee will be bringing the updated job description to the Board members at their next Board of Education meeting.

Mrs. Lombardi questioned the process of making the switch of that employee from CREC to the Southington Public Schools and following current personnel policy. Mr. Connellan agreed that as with any position, the position will be posted and screened to make sure they have the best person. Mrs. Lombardi questioned the salary line item for this position. Mr. Goralski wanted to focus on the job description for this position first before any other aspect of it.

Mrs. Clark reported that the committee reviewed the Policy and Regulation #6112 regarding recess and aligning it with the wellness guidelines. At the next committee meeting, they will be discussing the topic of "Supporting LGBT Youth" that they received literature on from a workshop that Mrs. Johnson attended.

**9. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Town Government Communications**

There were no government communications to report.

**b. Construction Update**

Mrs. Clark reported that the full middle school name is on the outside signage at each middle school now as it was brought to the Building Committee's attention by a concerned citizen that the complete name was missing. Mr. Goralski reported that the Building Committee meetings are monthly now and the Owner's meetings are going to be bi-weekly.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Overnight / Out of State Field Trips (Moved to Agenda Item 6.e.)**

**b. CMT / CAPT Science Results**

Mr. John Duffy, Science Coordinator, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the CMT / CAPT Science results. The tests were administered in the spring of 2015. Areas that Mr. Duffy highlighted and summarized in detail were:

- The future of CMT (Connecticut Mastery Test) and CAPT (Connecticut Academic Performance Test) and the adoption of the NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) in December 2015
- CMT and CAPT tests will continue through spring 2018
- NGSS based assessment will occur in the spring of 2019
- CMT and CAPT design
- CMT Science Grade 5 – five year performance percentage at or above goal
- CMT Science Grade 8 – five year performance percentage at or above goal
- CAPT Science Grade 10 – five year performance percentage at or above goal
- Southington’s performance versus the overall state performance
- DRG ranking of percentage of students at or above goal
- Transitioning to NGSS has started in Southington
- NGSS assessment will be done by the state of Connecticut
- Acronyms: LS=Life Science, PS=Physical Science, ES=Earth Science
- Science and engineering practices will continue to be embedded through Invention Convention in elementary school, future engineering curriculum units in elementary school, collaborative STEM units at the middle schools, transitioning from “learning about” to “figuring out”, and increasing Grade 9 engineering within earth science.

Mr. Duffy explained that testing at the high school level is in energy transformations, chemical structure and properties, global interdependence, cell chemistry and bio-technology, genetics, evolution and bio-diversity. These address classes in life science, chemistry, physical science and earth science and some space science which is a wide range of subject areas. The newer standards are much heavier on earth and space science. The tenth grade standards will mostly be life science. The new standards are K-12 standards, which is a big change. Currently, in the state of Connecticut, science ends in Grade 10 and this is not sufficient to prepare students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It remains to be seen how the new K-12 standards will impact the courses offered.

Mr. Duffy announced that Southington was awarded a grant from the Petit Family Foundation for over \$4,700 for a unit that is being developed for Grade 7 called, “Engineering Your Circulatory System.” A 3-D printer will be purchased with the funds from the grant for this unit.

Mr. Duffy explained that the state will be offering professional development and that he is one of 20 teachers in the state who have been trained to give the professional development; however, there is a cost involved.

Mrs. Carmody wanted to ensure that there was consistency in both middle schools and across all grade levels in every single subject area so each child has a comparable education.



Mrs. Lombardi planned to share some information with Mr. Duffy regarding Six Sigma that she learned at a recent conference that she attended. It was geared to middle school students and all the materials were online for free.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**“Move to adjourn.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Linda Blanchard*  
Recording Secretary