

*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 22, 2015**

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The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, October 22, 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 6:35 p.m.

Present from the Board: Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mrs. Juanita Champagne, 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; and Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance.

**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 Contract Negotiations and Personnel – Lead ABA Therapist Position, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

#### **2. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS AND PERSONNEL – LEAD ABA THERAPIST POSITION**

Mr. Goralski declared Executive Session ended at 7:09 p.m. and the Board returned to public session.

#### **3. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE ~ RETIREES OF THE SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**

At 7:13 p.m., in Celebration of Excellence, the Board of Education and administration recognized the following retirees of the Southington Board of Education:

Employee	Position / Facility	Years of Service
Ellen Bellinger	Teacher, South End School	25
Robert Brown	Teacher, Southington H.S.	40
Salvatore Ciccio	Crossing Guard, District	8
Clarice DeFeo	Paraprofessional, Derynoski	24
Sharon DePucchio	Social Worker, Southington H.S.	32
Ethel Glass	Crossing Guard, DePaolo Middle	10
Regina Hackett	English Dept. Chair, Southington H.S.	35
Kathy Jardine	Social Worker, Derynoski	30
Sally Kamerbeek	Principal, Hatton	12
Rita Kennedy	Paraprofessional, Southington H.S.	21
Sharon Kennedy	Teacher, DePaolo Middle	39
Linda Lackner	Principal, Strong	19
Karen Mazrek	Teacher, Southington H.S.	37
Alice Meronek	Secretary, Kennedy Middle	36
Judy Nowakowski	Paraprofessional, Derynoski	29
Maureen Paskiewicz	Teacher, DePaolo Middle	38
Maria Picone	Matron, Southington H.S.	40
Risa Rodgers	Paraprofessional, DePaolo Middle	9
Deborah Root	Teacher, Derynoski	35
Karen Smith	Assistant Superintendent, Central Office	25
Karen Veilleux	Technology Director, Central Office	27
Maureen Waldron	Teacher, Southington H.S.	32
Edward Whalen	Crossing Guard, District	2

The celebration concluded at 7:30 p.m. and Mr. Goralski called for a recess.

#### 4. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

The regular session was reconvened at 7:43 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; 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 were Mr. Christopher Iverson, Miss Samantha Martins, and Mr. James Brino.

#### 5. 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 Mr. Roy Dahlberg who retired in 1995 as a teacher for the Southington Public Schools after 35 years of service.

## 6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ October 8, 2015

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

**“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of October 8, 2015, as submitted.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

## 7. COMMUNICATIONS

### a. Communications from Audience

Mr. Arthur Cyr, 103 Berlin Avenue, noted that the elections were next month in November. He thanked the Board for their work over the last two years and having the best interest of the students at heart.

Ms. Batiste Zgombick, 140 Richmond Court, noted that she was making a plea to the Board against the advice of her attorney. She has been attempting to amend her daughter's IEP since June because of her daughter's serious health issues and is going bankrupt with legal fees trying to get help from the Southington Public Schools. She requested that the Board spend the money helping her child instead of on legal fees. She begged the Board members to step in and be the voice of reason because the services that she is asking for her daughter are educational support services that are provided by the employees of the town of Southington. She believed that her child was entitled to these services by IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) and FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education).

### b. Communication from Board Members

The Board members reported on the following:

- The ACM (Aerospace Components Manufacturers) Conference in which a contingent of students from Southington High School attended and represented Southington with distinction.
- PTOs questioning when there would be renovations of Flanders, Kelley and Derynoski Elementary Schools.
- Positive comments made by Plantsville PTO parents on the communication that they received regarding the recent building lockdown situation, the weather messages received, the rationale they receive around school closings and that they prefer the two-hour delay better than the 90-minute delay.
- The DePaolo Middle School Cross Country Team was featured on Channel 61 News helping someone with challenges complete the last 200 yards at a cross country meet.
- Open Choice Program growth in Southington. There are currently 82 Open Choice students in the district. Southington receives \$6,000 per student; however, is in the bottom tier of overall participation in receiving Hartford students.
- The 2016-2017 calendar mandated by the state for implementation based on 180-days. The approval of the calendar will take place in November when it is reviewed by CREC with the superintendents.

- The Southington High School Profile for 2015-2016 and the impressive principal's message. Mr. Connellan is to look into making the profile more easily accessible on the district's website for the public to view and to send it to the press.
- Rededication of the Rochambeau Monument on October 25, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.

**c. Communication from Administration**

Mr. Connellan, Superintendent of Schools, addressed anti-bullying efforts, state reporting for 2014-2015 and a sampling for anti-bullying activities in the schools to improve school climate and combat bullying.

Mr. Madancy, Assistant Superintendent, addressed a transportation issue for the middle school ConBrio music program that was not budgeted because there was never a formal request from the music department to provide transportation for the two middle schools to rehearse together one-day per week, which is an extracurricular activity and would cost \$4,000. The message that went out to the parents was that it was cut when, in fact, it was never requested to be placed in the budget. He also addressed the unified arts revisions, when the orchestra meets, and students not being pulled from academic classes for rehearsal. Mrs. Johnson hoped that they could find the \$4,000 to transport the orchestral students.

**d. Communications from Student Representatives**

Miss Martins reported on the following:

- The juniors and sophomores took their PSATs last year. The SATs will be held on November 7, 2015.
- All sports are off to a good start for the fall season.

Mr. Iverson reported on the following:

- The FBLA / DECA Halloween party will be held at the high school on October 29, 2015, from 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- The Club Officers Council was created this year by Mr. Stranieri and Mr. Iverson which is a gathering of all the high school club officers on Wednesday, October 28 at 2:30 p.m. in the freshman cafeteria.
- On October 29, 2015, Model United Nations is taking their annual trip to New York City to visit the United Nations, the Cuban Embassy and the United States Embassy.
- Mr. Iverson and Mr. Brino travelled to Hartford to be interviewed to qualify to participate in the Youth Senate in Washington, D.C. in March. However, they were not selected after the rigorous interview process.

Mr. Brino reported on the following:

- On Saturday, October 24, 2015, Music of the Knight will be held with 21 bands attending including bands from surrounding states.
- Financial Aid Night was held on Tuesday, October 20, 2015.

**8. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Town Government Communications**

Mrs. Queen gave an update on the Facility Advisory Committee meeting of October 14, 2015 and distributed a handout regarding “Sources of Generated Revenue” (*Attachment #1*) from that meeting.

**b. Construction Update**

Mr. Romano reported that Newfield Construction’s staff will be demobilizing and the few remaining members who will be at the middle schools at the end of the month do not plan to be there on a full-time basis.

The Board members discussed the air conditioning units and noise levels at the middle schools including the results of the testing done by the Southington Police Department on the noise levels. This issue is being addressed and monitored and shared with the people affected.

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. SAT / AP / College Report**

Mr. Stranieri, Principal of Southington High School, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the ACT 2015 and SAT 2015 comparative results, Advanced Placement (AP) Report and College Acceptance Report for 2015. He was assisted by Mr. Robert Lasbury, Mathematics Department Chair and Mrs. Julie Robertson, Director of School Counseling at the high school. Areas highlighted were:

ACT 2015 Comparative Results:

- Four test areas (English, Math, Reading, Science)
- Southington High School did very well compared to the state and nation composite scores in all four categories.
- Five-year trend of the number of test takers and the average ACT scores in the four test areas.
- Number of students who are college and career ready.

SAT 2015 Comparative Results:

- Three test areas (Mathematics, Critical Thinking, Writing)
- Five-year trend of the number of test takers and the average SAT scores in the three test areas.
- In the fall of 2015, the average SAT score will be based on 2400 points. In the spring of 2016, it will be based on 1600 points.
- The average SAT score for 2015 was 1580 which was above the state and national average.
- There were 401 test takers out of a class of 467 in 2015.

Advanced Placement (AP) Report - 2015:

- Eighteen (18) Advanced Placement courses offered last year and this year there are 19 courses.
- Five-year trend of number of test takers of the AP courses.
- It costs \$92 a test that students pay because it is not budgeted.
- Number of students enrolled in AP courses - 303.
- Total AP students – 733 seats

- Number of Exams taken - 533
- Different reasons why students do not take AP exams.

College Acceptance Report - 2015:

- 89% of the Class of 2015 attending post-secondary education.
- 65% attending four-year colleges.
- 23% attending two-year colleges.
- 1% attending vocational-technical schools.
- 2% entering the military
- 8% entering the workforce
- 1% undecided about future plans.

Mr. Stranieri reported on recommendations and some of the current initiatives to address the scores with his main focus on taking all the teacher meetings and focusing on teaching and learning.

There was discussion on increasing rigor, Common Core State Standards, Smarter Balanced, growth, and professional development, which the Curriculum Committee is addressing. Mrs. Robertson pointed out that the school counselors encourage all students to take the AP exams, not just the top 40%. She noted that not every student is a good exam taker and many colleges are test optional now because they realize that an exam is only three hours of a day when the student is working hard for four years. The average scores were presented in this report but a number of different bands of students are also looked at and the high school has had a positive trend with the middle group of students. Mr. Stranieri emphasized that they need to talk about differentiation of assessment because not every student needs to sit down with a paper and pencil on a Saturday morning and take a three-hour SAT exam that is going to affect what college they are going to attend and maybe affect how much money they are going to earn in a lifetime.

**b. Job Description and Rate of Pay Approval ~ Lead ABA Therapist**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Clark, seconded by Mrs. Johnson:

**“Move that the Board of Education approve the job description and rate of pay for the position of Lead Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Therapist, as recommended by the Policy and Personnel Committee.”**

Mrs. Lombardi thought the practice of having a review of the job description and then providing input and revisions is a best practice and encouraged the administration to continue that practice. She thought that this job description called for a revision in two areas and did not support the job description as currently written. Mr. Goralski noted that the Policy Committee heard Mrs. Lombardi's concerns and the administration and future Policy Committee will revise this taking into account her advice.

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

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**“Move to adjourn.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Blanchard*

Recording Secretary

# Sources of Generated Revenue

- ❖ Board of Education Replacement Fund
- ❖ \$1.00 ticket – SHS home games – (Football, Soccer, Lacrosse, Field Hockey)
- ❖ \$5.00 registration fee – (Youth Leagues Program)
- ❖ Profit from “Engraved Brick Campaign”
- ❖ Turf Field Rentals to outside groups
- ❖ Signage on Home & Visitors Bleacher



# Revenue Generated

2014 SHS Ticket Sales	
SHS Home Football Games	\$9,645
SHS Home Soccer Games	\$1,857
SHS Home Field Hockey Games	\$147
SHS Season Passes	\$530
<b>Total \$1.00 per ticket sales</b>	<b>\$12,179</b>

2015 SHS Ticket Sales	
SHS Home Football Games	\$
SHS Home Soccer Games	\$
SHS Home Field Hockey Games	\$
SHS Season Passes	\$
<b>Total \$1.00 per ticket sales</b>	<b>\$</b>

2014 \$5.00 League Fees	
Youth Lacrosse	\$1,685
Youth Soccer	\$2,535
Travel Soccer	\$1,030
Football League	\$1,655
Travel Football League	\$1,645
<b>Total Leagues \$5.00 Upcharge</b>	<b>\$8,550</b>

2015 \$5.00 League Fees	
Youth Lacrosse	\$1,570
Youth Soccer	\$2,445
Travel Soccer	\$1,120
Football League	\$
Travel Football League	\$
<b>Total Leagues \$5.00 Upcharge</b>	<b>\$5,135</b>

2014 Other Revenue	
BOE Replacement	\$25,000
Turf Field Rentals	\$1,300
Engraved Brick Program	\$3,570
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$29,870</b>

Other Revenue	
BOE Replacement	\$
Turf Field Rentals	\$2,900
Engraved Brick Program	\$1,930
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$4,830</b>

**Tickets Sales/League/Other \$50,599**

\*Cheshire Soccer Rental November

\$1,500

