

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

November 12, 2015

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, November 12, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Center Public Assembly Room, 200 North Main Street, Southington, Connecticut.

1. CALL TO ORDER BY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Timothy Connellan. Board members present were 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.

Present from the administration were Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Steven Madancy, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance; and Mr. Peter Romano, Director of Operations.

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Student representatives led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. SWEARING IN OF BOARD MEMBERS BY TOWN CLERK

Mr. Connellan turned the meeting over to Ms. Kathy Larkin, Town Clerk. Board members were sworn in by Ms. Larkin.

4. ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

Mr. Connellan congratulated all the Board Members and called for nominations for the Chairperson of the Board of Education. Mrs. Carmody nominated Mr. Goralski. He then solicited nominations for the Chairperson of the Southington Board of Education.

Mrs. Carmody stated that it was her great pleasure to nominate Mr. Brian Goralski as the Chairperson of the Board of Education.

Mr. Connellan asked if there were any other nominations for the position of Board of Education Chairperson, and there were not any other nominees.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mr. Robert Brown, Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Juanita Champagne, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mr. Zaya Oshana, Mrs. Patricia Queen, and Mr. Brian Goralski. **Mr. Goralski was unanimously elected Chairperson of the Board.**

Mr. Goralski asked for nominations for the position of Vice Chairperson. Mrs. Clark stated that it was her pleasure to nominate Mrs. Terri Carmody as the Vice Chairperson.

Mr. Goralski asked if there were any other nominations for the position of Board of Education Vice Chairperson, and there were no other nominees.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Juanita Champagne, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mr. Zaya Oshana, Mrs. Patricia Queen, Mr. Robert Brown, Mr. Brian Goralski, and Mrs. Terri Carmody. **Mrs. Carmody was unanimously elected Vice Chairperson of the Board.**

Mr. Goralski asked for nominations for the position of Secretary. Mrs. Lombardi nominated Mrs. Clark for the position of Secretary.

Mr. Goralski asked if there were any other nominations for the position of Board of Education Secretary, and there were no other nominees.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mr. Zaya Oshana, Mrs. Patricia Queen, Mr. Robert Brown, Mrs. Juanita Champagne, Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mr. Brian Goralski, and Mrs. Colleen Clark. **Mrs. Clark was unanimously elected Secretary of the Board.**

Mr. Goralski congratulated his peers and stated that the election is over the work is ready to be done. They sit as a group to continue their work as a group. They promise to do the best they can on behalf of the children and the Southington community.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ October 22, 2015

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

“Move to approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting of October 22, 2015.”

Motion carried with eight votes in favor and one abstention.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from the Audience

Mr. Steve Pintarich, 282 Loper Street, Southington

Mr. Pintarich stated that he has been working together with the Board of Education through the Veterans Committee for the past few years. They have been successful in getting into the classrooms to talk with the students. It was important that he state for the record that they sometimes worry if they are connecting to the youth in Southington. This past October, during the Apple Festival, there were many Southington youths who visited their table and thanked the veterans for their service. It's obvious that they are getting the message from home and the school district. This is their busiest season to get out into the community and talk with the students. Three of the veterans were at one of the schools and following their visit, they received a note from that school. The message read, "One of our toughest discipline students made it a point to tell me how much he enjoyed the assembly." If they connect with the toughest students, it's their belief that they are doing their job.

b. Communications from the Board

The Board members reported on the following:

- Mrs. Lombardi attended the Connecticut Educator Computer Association conference. Educators meet to discuss technology in the field of education and are comprised of business teachers. Two highlights from that conference were: 1) Open educational resources: There are many teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain that are free to anyone over the web. These resources can be accessed by teachers and integrated into the curriculum as needed. 2) Blended learning: This incorporates face-to-face teaching with online learning opportunities. The strategy is being adopted and implemented across the nation in high schools, colleges, and in the workplace. Most of training is not being done in classrooms, but online. This aligns with the Vision 2020 of our district to prepare students for the 21st Century in college and career.
- Mr. Brown shared that December 7, 2015 is the Wall of Honor Ceremony at the high school at 6:00 p.m. Dale Zurella, Mike Graziano, and Sergeant Major Philip Albert were selected to be honored.
- Mr. Derynoski stated that is participating in Career Day on November 13 at Kennedy Middle School. Mr. Derynoski and the many other volunteers have a passion to get students focused on their careers.
- Mrs. Queen explained that each Board member was receiving an American flag. They are samples of the flags that were that were donated to the schools from the Joe Foss Institute via the connections made by the veterans and their partnership with the community. There were unlimited amounts donated to all who were interested. They were donated because of the appreciation of our partnership with the veterans.
- Mrs. Queen mentioned that CABE and CAPSS are hosting their annual convention on November 20-21, 2015 in Groton. In addition, there is a new Board member orientation on December 9, 2015, which offers very valuable information for new Board members. Mr. Goralski stated that both Mr. Brown and Mrs. Champagne were registered to attend.
- Mr. Oshana stated that he attended the Veterans Day concert. Students received a special patch from the veterans and they also gave Mr. Oshana a patch for each Board member.

Mr. Goralski formally named the committees and reminded the Board of Education to address the chairperson and copy him with any correspondence pertaining to specific areas.

- **Policy and Personnel** – Patricia Queen, Chairperson; Juanita Champagne, Colleen Clark, Zaya Oshana
- **Finance Committee** – Colleen Clark, Chairperson; David Derynoski, Terry Lombardi, Zaya Oshana
- **Curriculum and Instruction** – Terri Carmody, Chairperson; Robert Brown, Juanita Champagne, Patricia Queen
- **Parliamentarian** – Timothy Connellan
- **CREC** – Terry Lombardi
- **Self-Insurance** – Colleen Clark, Zaya Oshana, Patricia Queen, Sherri DiNello (ex-officio)
- **SEED** – Terri Carmody
- **Plantville/South End Building Committee** – David Derynoski
- **Southington Public Building Committee ~ Middle Schools** – Brian Goralski, Colleen Clark
- **Facility Advisory Committee** – Patricia Queen
- **Southington High School Business Advisory Committee** – Terry Lombardi
- **Technology Representative** – Terry Lombardi
- **CABE Board of Education Representative** – Patricia Queen
- **Southington High School Manufacturing/Technology Representative** – David Derynoski

Mr. Goralski asked the Board to consider adopting a school and letting Mrs. Albaitis know which school they're interested in representing. This year, he's proposing that there be two representatives at each elementary schools and that all Board members represent the middle schools, high school, and the alternative program considering there are more evening events at the secondary level. He asked that the Board make every effort to have at least one representative at every event.

Mr. Goralski announced that they will recognize Mrs. Johnson at the December Board of Education meeting during their Celebration of Excellence. In addition, they will recognize the award-winning band and the students who were recognized by CAPSS.

Mr. Goralski mentioned that the Southington High School Boys Soccer season has come to a close and the team played remarkably well. Worthy of public acknowledgement is that Coach Yanosy and Coach Langston were named Coaches of the League.

c. Communications from the Administration

1. MedBill Management ~ Audit

Mrs. DiNello stated that MedBill Management was hired by the self-insurance committee to perform a dependent and claims audit. They sent out the announcement letters to all Board of Education and Town staff members who currently have health insurance with a two-person or family plan. Staff will be required to submit documentation of proof of dependency and marriage in an effort to continue those benefits. They guarantee over ninety-nine percent response rate.

Mrs. DiNello stated that she will not be at the November 18 Self-Insurance meeting. She explained that the December 9 meeting will be extremely important for all committee members to attend because that is the meeting that they determine the funding for 2016-2017 school year.

2. Professional Development

Mr. Madancy shared an overview of the November 3 Professional Development day for staff. There were multiple sessions that included SchoolNet training, teaching calibration and developing an understanding of proficient and exemplary teaching practices, and time to meet as departments with a focus on content areas.

3. SchoolNet

SchoolNet was an outstanding opportunity for staff. He recognized the Director of Technology, Jamie Olander, and his staff for a job well-done. They made themselves available at all schools to assist with any trouble areas while staff were logging-in to the system. The training was given to staff by fellow staff known as SchoolNet Champions. These SchoolNet Champions were trained in October by Pearson, along with the administration. Champions created presentations for their colleagues and did an amazing job presenting on November 3. There will be a follow-up meeting with the Champions in early December to discuss the next phase of SchoolNet.

4. Veterans Update

Mr. Connellan reported that the Joe Foss Institute is supporting their efforts. They are providing the district with copies of The Constitution and The Bill of Rights to anyone who is interested. He also provided a list of the speakers who visited throughout the district in honor of Veterans Day. Additional projects of the committee: 1) Music in Memory where iPods are being used to help veterans. 2) Adopt-A-Vet project is being sponsored by The Summitt. 3) State law provides for veterans who left high school to go into the service to receive high school diplomas. The administration is doing more research in this area and will present additional information to the Board at a later date about this initiative taking place in Southington. 4) The American Legion Women's Auxiliary is involved in providing a holiday party for families of the Army National Guard. The goal is to provide all families with a turkey. We will be reaching out to the school district to offer the opportunity to participate in this event.

d. Communications from Student Board Representatives

Mr. Iverson

- Congratulated all the Board of Education members and stated the following: *Keep in mind that every student only has so many years in this school district and they hope that the Board does everything that they can to make those years as exciting and productive as possible.*
- Parent-Teacher Conferences are being held on November 19 from 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. The FBLA will be available to assist parents by providing them with maps and offering some coffee and snacks.
- Homecoming Dance is November 20.
- Powderpuff football is on November 23 away in New Britain and on November 24 is a home game against Cheshire.

Mr. Brino

- The Veterans Day Concert was on November 10 and all proceeds went to the Fischer House.
- The State Champion Marching Band participated in the National competition and placed fourth. They also received the Dinkle Spirit Award.
- The fall drama show is *The Crucible* and will be held at the high school in the auditorium on December 4 and 5.

Miss Martins reported on the following:

- The boys' soccer and all fall sports are coming to end. Southington was well-represented in all sports.
- The tradition of Thanksgiving Football Game is being held in Cheshire this year.
- Students and staff are conducting a food drive to help with the Thanksgiving holiday.

7. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

a. Personnel Report

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

“Move to approve the Personnel Report as submitted.”

Motion was carried by voice vote with eight votes in favor and one abstention.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Policy and Personnel Committee Meeting ~ October 26, 2015

Mrs. Clark reported that the last meeting was October 26. The committee discussed a transgender policy and reviewed a sample policy from CABA. It was determined that there is a need to conduct more research and the administration will provide the committee with additional information at the next meeting.

b. Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting ~ October 27, 2015

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

“Move to add AP Economics Course Proposal to the agenda as item 8 b. 1.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

1. AP Economics Course Proposal

Ms. Lillian Schena, Business Department Chair at Southington High School, presented the AP Economics course to the committee at their meeting. It's the first AP Business course being offered. The cost associated is for the textbooks only; not staff.

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

“Move to approve the AP Economics Course Proposal as presented by the administration.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The committee discussed the middle and high school health curriculum. They shared what is currently taking place and their plans for moving forward as they work through their curriculum renewal process over the next two years.

Also discussed by the committee was instructional time at the high school, which is being monitored from now through December. The administration will provide the committee with a report in January.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

No communications for Town Government.

b. Construction Update

Mr. Romano reported that the projects are finished and they are working on punch lists that have minimal items. The committee was meeting monthly; however, they will most likely postpone their next meeting to January. There was some discussion about the landscaping at both schools and it was stated that they are retaining funds at both sites to ensure that the landscaping is taken care of on both properties. There was additional discussion pertaining to the noise associated with the cooling system and it was stated that they are making some modifications to the fencing, but this is something that is being handled by the Building Committee.

c. Capital Plan 2015-2020 – DES Fire Alarm

Mr. Connellan provided the Board of Education with communication about the fire alarm system at Derynoski. This item was moved up to a priority on the agenda. There was \$160,000 allocated in the plan for a fire alarm system at one of the other schools, but the administration recommends that those funds be reallocated to address the current situation at Derynoski. The funds would not cover the cost of a full replacement of the system; however, it would provide the district with adequate funds needed to replace necessary parts of the system. This would be an upgrade to the system that would also be compatible with a new system when the school is renovated in the future. At no time are the students and staff at Derynoski unsafe. The fire department agrees with the temporary solution presented. The full cost to replace the system would be \$360,000. The administration recommended that the Board modify the current capital plan so they can use the funds as indicated.

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

“Move to authorize the Board of Education Chairperson to send the letter to the Board of Finance requesting approval for the reallocation of funds designated for a fire alarm system at

Kelley Elementary School in the 2015-2016 Capital Plan to be used for fire alarm improvements at Derynoski Elementary School.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Superintendent’s Proposed 2015-2016 Goals ~ First Reading

Mr. Goralski stated that this is typically on the agenda in September and next year, it will be moved back to that month. Mrs. Carmody thanked Mr. Connellan for a job well done and that she was pleased that he stated that they need to take their time and move slowly. She doesn’t want the staff to feel overwhelmed with all the changes and appreciated his approach. Many of the goals have to do with curriculum and instruction and aligning with technology. She thought he did an excellent job. Formal action will be taken in December.

b. Capital Plan 2016-2021 ~ First Reading

Mrs. DiNello stated that they annually adopt a 5-year plan and tonight was the first read. She introduced Jennifer Mellitt, Accounting Manager, to present the plan.

Mrs. Mellitt shared the following highlights:

- The annual process begins with seeking budget request from the district and creating the capital budget.
- Last year’s plan was 4.8 million. They added 2.9 million to that number in new projects and the majority of that increase is for the roofing at Southington High School. Mr. Beliveau is in the process of obtaining another quote for the high school. Strong and Derynoski also have roofing that is over twenty years old and they are working on those quotes. Additional numbers will be available for the December meeting.
- Other items include the Derynoski fire panel, overhaul of the hydraulics on the high school elevator, and a card-key control system at Southington High School and all of the elementary schools. The middle schools already have the system. The last item added was carpeting at Southington High School in the library and four adjoining rooms.
- Updated quotes from last year include a new quote for the Southington High School security and monitoring system and an auditorium lighting system.
- There was discussion pertaining to the turf bleachers which were removed from the plan. The bleachers are old, but structurally safe. Sherri stated that there is a line item for bleachers and they will provide the Board with more details at later date.

Mr. Derynoski asked about the kitchen wall at Derynoski, which needs repair. Mr. Romano stated that they had contractors come to the site and it can be repointed. That item was moved to the major projects and equipment list. Mrs. Lombardi shared her concern with the condition of Derynoski and feels strongly that the schools need to be updated. She asked how to begin the process and discussion so the district can begin renovations. Mrs. DiNello stated that the Board of Education could decide to begin a process to develop an RFP, determining what they would like to have included in the feasibility study, and send that out to have vendors respond to have pricing

lined-up. This will allow the Board to be ready to move forward depending on if the dollars are approved in the operating budget. If they decide to move in that direction, they will be prepared to move forward and collect the responses and have the feasibility study ready to begin just after July 1.

Mr. Connellan agrees that it is time to begin the conversations and be prepared to move forward when the time comes. Mr. Goralski agreed and asked that Mr. Connellan and Mr. Brumback begin the conversation. Then, have the next conversation with the Chairs of the two Boards; however, the process will begin with Mr. Connellan and Mr. Brumback. Mrs. DiNello is working with Mr. Connellan and Mr. Madancy to determine what Southington would recommend in a feasibility study.

c. **SEA Contract**

d. **Letter of Agreement ~ Southington Board of Education and United Public Service Employees Union**

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS SEA (TEACHER) CONTRACT, UPSEU (PARA) CONTRACT, AND PERSONNEL MATTERS

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

“Move that the Board go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussions related to contracts and personnel matters, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session to complete the agenda.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Submitted by,

Michelle Passamano

Recording Secretary

EXECUTIVE SESSION
November 12, 2015

Mr. Brian Goralski, Board Chairperson, called the Executive Session to order at 9:13 p.m.

Members Present: Mr. Robert Brown, Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Juanita Champagne, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mrs. Patricia Queen, Mr. Zaya Oshana and Mr. Brian Goralski.

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

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

“Move that the Board return to public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The board reconvened public session at 9:27

10. NEW BUSINESS

c. SEA Contract

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

“Move that the Board approve the tentative agreement between the Southington Education Association and the Southington Board of Education.”

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mr. Robert Brown, Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Juanita Champagne, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mr. Zaya Oshana, Mrs. Patricia Queen, and Mr. Brian Goralski. **Motion carried unanimously.**

d. Letter of Agreement ~ Southington Board of Education and United Public Service Employees Union

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

“Move that the Board approve the Letter of Agreement between the United Public Service Employees Union and the Southington Board of Education regarding the ABA Therapists for the 2015-2016 school year.”

BOE Minutes ~ November 12, 2015

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Juanita Champagne, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mr. Zaya Oshana, Mrs. Patricia Queen, Mr. Robert Brown, and Mr. Brian Goralski. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Board adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Clark

Colleen Clark, Secretary
Southington Board of Education