

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

DECEMBER 10, 2015

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, December 10, 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 6:30 p.m.

Present from the Board: Mr. Robert Brown, Mrs. Juanita Champagne, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mrs. Patricia Queen and Mr. Zaya Oshana. Absent: Mrs. Terri Carmody and Mr. David Derynoski

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 Mrs. Queen, seconded by Mr. Brown:

"Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing a Student Expulsion, Personnel, Safety and Security, and Confidential Documents, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS STUDENT EXPULSION, PERSONNEL, SAFETY AND SECURITY, AND CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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

3. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

At 7:15 p.m., the Board members recognized the following honorees with Certificates of Excellence:

- Southington High School Marching Band for winning their seventh, second consecutive State Championship and finishing fourth at the US Bands National Championship.
- Jessica Howe and Alexander Statkevich who were recipients of the 2015-2016 Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents (CAPSS) Student Awards.
- Mrs. Patricia Johnson was recognized for her 20 years of service on the Board of Education. The Board members praised Mrs. Johnson for her dedication, wisdom, and never compromising her principles in doing what she felt was best for the students.

4. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

The regular session was reconvened at 7:46 p.m. by Mr. Goralski, Chairperson. Board members present were: Mr. Robert Brown, Mrs. Colleen Clark (*arrived 7:49 p.m.*), Mrs. Juanita Champagne, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mr. Zaya Oshana and Mrs. Patricia Queen. Absent were: Mrs. Terri Carmody and Mr. David Derynoski.

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. James Brino and Mr. Christopher Iverson.

5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ November 12, 2015

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

“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of November 12, 2015, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience

There was no audience communication.

b. Communication from Board Members

Mrs. Lombardi reported that the *No Child Left Behind Act* is being replaced by the *Every Student Succeeds Act* that was signed into law on November 9, 2015, which turns decision-making authority on teacher evaluations from the federal level to the state level. This

legislation eliminates the federal mandate that teacher evaluations be tied to student performance on the statewide tests. It reduces the significance of standardized testing.

Mr. Brown recommended that the Board read Teaching with Poverty in Mind that talks about how the brains of students under stress and in poverty physically change. Mr. Brown reported that he and Mrs. Champagne attended a CAFE conference where collaboration was emphasized and he praised Southington for being a school district that collaborates with all stakeholders.

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

“Move to move Agenda Item 11.a ‘Southington Education Foundation Presentation’ to Agenda Item 7.e.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move to move Agenda Item 10.d ‘Capital Plan 2016-2021 ~ Second Reading’ to Agenda Item 7.f.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move to add Student Expulsion 2015-2015-02 to the agenda as Agenda Item #11.c.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Goralski asked the Board members to review the “Adopt-a-School” list and to make any changes, corrections or additions before they leave the meeting.

The Board’s consensus was for Mr. Goralski to write his traditional Holiday letter to all staff thanking them for their service.

Mr. Goralski congratulated and thanked student representative, Christopher Iverson, on his Eagle Scout project to improve the grounds at the Barnes Museum.

c. Communication from Administration

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

1. STEPS Survey: It is scheduled for January 26, 2016 with a Question and Answer meeting scheduled for January 13, 2016 for parents. A letter will be sent to the parents regarding the survey.
2. District Data Team - Update: The team has met three times and discussed key indicators. Mr. Madancy will be sharing this information with the Curriculum and Instruction Committee in the near future.

3. CMT, CAPT and SAT Administration – Update: The district will still be administering the CMT and CAPT tests. The federal mandate is for annual testing in math and English Language Art. Two dates are mandated for juniors to take the SAT tests, March 2 and April 27 (with no snow dates assigned). A modified school day was recommended for these two dates at the high school. English Language Learners (ELL) will have to take the SAT if they have been in the country for just one-day. Discussed was what the penalty would be if the district falls below the 95% participation rate if the students took the SAT in the fall and don't feel they need to take the SAT again in the spring. Mr. Madancy explained that the College Board only accepts the March 2nd score even if a student scored better on the fall SAT. Mrs. Lombardi will discuss this situation at the next CREC meeting in January. If necessary, Mr. Goralski will write a letter to the State Department of Education. He stated that to mandate special education students and ELL students take the test was abuse causing the students unnecessary stress and anxiety.

4. Veteran's Committee: Mrs. Rachel Wache from the American Legion Auxiliary had the idea of raising funds to provide a holiday turkey to every National Guard family. The Southington Public Schools contributed approximately \$1,000 to that endeavor.

5. Technology Update: This week, many of the elementary students took part in the "Hour of Code" that exposes students to critical thinking and creativity involved in computer coding. Mr. Madancy and Mr. Connellan will talk with Mr. Jamie Olander, Technology Director, regarding integrating technology into instruction. It was noted that the SchoolNet Champions discussed implementation of SchoolNet Phase III for teachers in January and February

6. CABE Policy Audit Update: The district Policy Manual is being audited by CABE and a full report will be provided in February or March 2016.

d. Communications from Student Representatives

Mr. Goralski provided the student representatives with the three options for the 2016-2017 School Calendar and asked them to review and give their opinion before they left the Board meeting.

Mr. Iverson reported on the following:

- College Basics 101 will be held in January for seniors and will be held periods 2 and 3. A group of former Southington High School graduates will be discussing their college experiences.
- North Coast Clothing is a small company formed by DECA members at the high school. North Coast Clothing is the competitive entry in a national competition to see who could form the most successful business.
- The high school cheerleaders have been selected to attend a special Cheer Clinic by the New England Patriots Cheerleaders on December 12, 2015. The Southington High School Cheerleaders raised \$1,301 for the Dana Faber Cancer Institute.

Mr. Brino reported on the following:

- The fall sports season has ended. The soccer, football team, Powder Puff, Cross Country, and the Swimming and Dive teams all had amazing seasons.

- The Student Council is showing the movie *Home Alone* on Friday, December 18, 2015 in Room 201 at the high school. Those attending are encouraged to BYOP (Bring Your Own Popcorn).
- The Holiday Concert involving the Chorus, Jazz and Band is December 21 at 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the high school.
- The Course Fair for the incoming freshmen will be held January 11 at Kennedy and DePaolo Middle Schools.
- The students are looking forward to the winter break.

Mrs. Queen requested that at the end of each sport season, Mr. Ferry provide the Board members a summary of how the teams performed during the season; e.g. State Champions, etc.

e. Southington Education Foundation Presentation (formerly Agenda Item 11.a.)

Mrs. Jan Galati, Southington Education Foundation (SEF) Chairperson, and Dr. David Monti, Vice Chairperson, discussed collaboration and partnership between the school district and SEF and requested that the Board members be their ambassadors. Mrs. Galati distributed a flyer (*Attachment #1*) to the Board members. Dr. Monti addressed the following: 1) What the SEF has done for the school district. 2) How they were able to provide funds through fundraising with the SEF Gala, Spelling Bee (April 21, 2016), sponsorships, and Southington Drive-in. 3) Visions such as keeping the STEM initiative alive. There will be meeting at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) with the Dean of the School of Engineering along with Mr. Madancy and Mr. John Duffy (Science Coordinator) to address a partnership with the CCSU School of Engineering, SEF and the Southington Public Schools to align curriculum.

At this time, student representatives Mr. Iverson and Mr. Brino gave their opinions on the 2016-2017 school calendar. They both liked Option #1 with the first day of school on August 25 and the last day of school on June 5 allowing for an ease back to school with the first week only two days and the school year ending early in June.

f. Capital Plan 2016-2021 ~ Second Reading (formerly Agenda Item 10.d)

Mrs. DiNello explained that Mr. Romano and Mrs. Mellitt [Accounting Manager] worked on the revised Capital Plan adding in the pricing for the roofs that were omitted in the first reading, making the change for the fire alarm at Derynoski, and putting back into the Capital Plan the Kelley School fire alarm. Mr. Goralski questioned if Mr. Romano had any concerns of waiting until 2019-2020 for Flanders, Kelley and the next piece of Derynoski regarding the fire alarms. Mr. Romano was comfortable with it. Also discussed was the remodeling of the old VOAG classrooms inside Southington High School and the next phase of potential construction in the district in 2019-2020.

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

“Move to approve the second reading of the 2016-2021 Capital Plan, as presented.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

8. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

a. Personnel Report

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

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

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting ~ November 17, 2015

Mrs. Queen reported that the committee discussed the Health Curriculum which will be revised over the next two years to comply with state standards. A letter will be sent to middle school parents informing them of discussions to take place in class around topics of puberty and sex education. The Health Curriculum is up for revision and elements of puberty and sex education will be delineated by grade level. The Homework Policy was discussed because Board members were receiving feedback from parents who felt the amount of homework their children were expected to complete each night was too much.

b. Policy and Personnel Committee Meeting ~ November 30, 2015

Mrs. Queen reported that the committee discussed the draft Transgender policy. Currently, the school district does not have a Transgender policy in place and the committee is using the CAGE sample policy as a starting point. The committee discussed many topics relative to this student population. The law offices of Shipman & Goodwin were contacted and they referred the committee to a document authored by the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities that provides guidelines to Connecticut school districts to comply with the law. Mr. Madancy is now working on the regulations for this policy.

10. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

There were no government communications to report. Mr. Goralski requested that Mrs. DiNello send all the budget calendar dates to the Board members.

b. Construction Update

Mr. Goralski requested that this agenda item be only once a month with the potential for removal. He wanted to keep it an agenda item until South End School and the middle schools officially closeout. The punch list for the middle schools is small. Mr. Goralski spoke highly of Newfield Construction for their great work on these projects.

c. Superintendent's Proposed Goals for 2015-2016 ~ Second Reading

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

“Move to approve the Superintendent’s Goals for 2015-2016, as presented.”

The Board members were pleased with the goals. Mr. Goralski noted that this agenda item will be on the agenda in September in the future.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Clark, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Champagne, Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Queen, Mr. Goralski. **Motion passed unanimously.**

d. Capital Plan 2016-2021 ~ Second Reading *(moved to Agenda Item 7.f.)*

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Southington Education Foundation Presentation *(moved to Agenda Item 7.e.)*

b. 2016-2017 School Calendar ~ First Reading

Mr. Connellan reported that there were three options for the 2016-2017 school calendar and shared the differences of each option, which is the first and last day of the school year with minor variations to the rest of the calendar. The Board discussed the pros and cons of each calendar. Calendar Option #2 mostly aligns with the CREC regional calendar. Option #1 is basically the same calendar the school system has used for the last several years. Option #3 is a compromise between Option #1 and Option #2.

Mr. Brown has heard feedback from parents and teachers regarding Option #1, which is an early start date. He believed the reason for the early start date in the past was because of the construction projects. Mrs. Queen questioned the Professional Development Days.

<u>CONSENSUS:</u>	<u>Board Member Preferred Option</u>
Mr. Brown	#2 or #3
Mrs. Clark	#2
Mrs. Queen	?
Mrs. Champagne	#2
Mrs. Lombardi	#2
Mr. Oshana	#3
Mr. Goralski	#2 or #1

c. Student Expulsion ~ 2015-2016-02

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

“Move to expel Student 2015-2016-02 as stipulated by the Superintendent of Schools.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Blanchard
Recording Secretary

I Want To Support The SEF!

☐ Yes, I am interested in instilling a love of learning in our school children.

☐ Enclosed is my gift.

☐ Please be sure to keep me informed.

☐ I am interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities with SEF.

Name: _____

Preferred mailing address: _____

Preferred phone number: _____

Preferred e-mail: _____

My SEF gift is \$ _____

I would like to charge my gift to a credit card:

☐ MC ☐ VISA

_____ Exp. Date _____

Southington Education Foundation, Inc.
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Chairperson Janet Galati
Vice Chairperson David A. Monti, Ed.D.
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Stephen Proffitt
Timothy Connellan

Ex-Officio

Southington Education Foundation, Inc. ***Instilling a love of learning***

Our Mission:

The Southington Education Foundation, Inc. is committed to instilling a life-long love of learning in all children through innovative, creative learning experiences that expand upon existing educational opportunities. The Foundation will partner with the community to secure resources, inspire excellence, and enrich student achievement.

ATTACHMENT #1



Southington Education Foundation, Inc.

Instilling a love of learning

Support Learning by Igniting Ideas and Engaging Activities

-  Classroom Mini-Grants
-  Grants for S.T.E.M. initiatives in schools
-  Virtual S.T.E.M. University for teachers to share high impact lessons
-  Sponsor for Science at Sloper
-  Artist-in-Residence programs
-  Scholarships for Graduating Southington High School Seniors



Southington Education Foundation, Inc.

Instilling a love of learning.

In a span of 6 years, the SEF has awarded over \$165,000 in grants. Additionally, SEF is the recipient of the YMCA's Outreach Award and SHS Order of Blue Knight's Award. Read highlights below. For a complete listing visit: www.southingtoneducationfoundation.org

Three main fund-raisers:

- ❖ Community Spelling Bee
 - ❖ Southington Drive-In Movie Night
 - ❖ Fan of the Foundation Gala
- Support these opportunities to help raise funds and be a partner in instilling a love of learning in Southington children.

2009

SEF is established as a 501(c)(3) non-profit by citizens of Southington.

Kennedy Middle School
"G.E.M.S."
Girls Exploring Mathematics and Science
Teachers: Amy Perry, Laura Harrington, and Holly Lee



An after school program that encourages girls to explore the possibilities of pursuing careers in math, science, and technology. Participants will explore opportunities in each field as well as gain hands-on experience in science, technology, and engineering.

2010

February 5, 2010 SEF awarded the first round of mini-grants to educators during a reception at Thalberg School. Eleven separate grants were awarded to classroom teachers.

June 10, 2010
The SEF awarded a second round of mini-grants at a reception at Kelley Elementary School.

To date the SEF has awarded 55 grants to all grade levels and schools in the district.

2011
2012



Science at Sloper - 4th Grade S.T.E.M. Initiative
One of the most sweeping projects to date is the S.T.E.M. Initiative implemented by the SEF during the 2011-2012 school year. In conjunction with the YMCA's Camp Sloper, the SEF partnered with the school district to provide a hands-on, project-based learning initiative that fosters instruction in the S.T.E.M. fields. To date, the SEF has committed over \$36,000 to this program.



Students will provide "sunshine" to fellow students who are under stress, which potentially interferes with their school performance. Students will provide moral and other necessary items such as a short-term loan to those in need as a result of emergency situations. Students will have the benefit of providing practical help to fellow students as well as the personal satisfaction of doing so.

Thalberg Elementary School
"A Teaching Garden"
Teacher: Mrs. Linda Bass Kelly



Fourth graders will have the opportunity to learn and grow in a natural environment that teaches them about sustainability practices. The composting, students will develop skills to protect our natural resources, enhance their discipline, thought processes and writing abilities, and even apply math principles all while working in a therapeutically beneficial environment. Students will also have the opportunity to join a Garden Club, which will meet during recess.

2013



A new S.T.E.M. Recognition Program reaches into the classroom to encourage projects and extracurricular activities already in progress. Our first recognition gift was to the Southington Cyber Knights, the SHS Robotics Team. Also known as the First 195 Team, the award-winning group was presented with a \$1,500 check on June 13, 2013, to further its mission during the 2013-2014 school year.

2014

3rd Grade Artist in Residence Program
The Community Foundation of Greater New Britain and the SEF team up to provide art experiences for every third-grader.



2015



SEF Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Jr. Scholarship and SEF S.T.E.M. Scholarship are awarded. Two High School Seniors are recipients: each scholarship is for \$1,000.