

SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT

REGULAR MEETING

May 28, 2015

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, May 28, 2015 at 6:30 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 6:34 p.m.

Present from the Board: Mrs. Terri Carmody, Vice Chairperson, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Terry Lombardi (arrived at 6:37 p.m.), Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mr. Zaya Oshana, and Mrs. Patricia Queen.

Present from the Administration: Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Steven Madancy, Principal, Kennedy Middle School (Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Learning, effective July 1, 2015).

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

"Move to add 'Student Matters' to the Executive Session."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote, 9-0.

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

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

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote, 9-0.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS AND STUDENT MATTERS

Mr. Goralski declared the Executive Session ended at 7:09 p.m.

3. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE ~ Public Introduction of New Principal of Southington High School, Brian Stranieri, and the 2014-2015 Profiles in Professionalism Honorees

At 7:13 p.m., in Celebration of Excellence, Mr. Goralski introduced Mr. Brian Stranieri as the principal at Southington High School. Mr. Stranieri stated that he is honored and humbled to be the new principal at Southington High School. He's very fortunate to work with incredibly talented staff and the most amazing student body in the nation. He thanked the Board of Education, Mr. Connellan, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Madancy, the Southington High School staff, his family, and friends for giving him the opportunity to lead Southington High School to greater heights. He's very excited to be appointed principal and begin his journey.

Mr. Connellan and members of his administrative team, Mr. Romano, Ms. Walsh, and Mrs. Hunt recognized the 2015 *Profiles in Professionalism* honorees for their outstanding service and contributions to the school system. Fourteen honorees were selected from a pool of people who were nominated by employees of the school system. The Selection Committee was made up of last year's recipients. The honorees, which represent the best in the Southington schools, were presented with a plaque, engraved glass apple paperweight, and a box of chocolates. The honorees were:

Robert Brown, Southington High School
Dennis Sikoski, Southington High School
Michael Lodovico, Joseph A. DePaolo Middle School
Kristine Barnes, John F. Kennedy Middle School
Judith Ellis, Derynoski Elementary School
Dana Singarella, Flanders Elementary School
Maureen Barmore, Hatton Elementary School
Marjorie Appleby, Kelley Elementary School
Sandra Chavez, Plantsville Elementary School
Gail Verderame, South End Elementary School
Diane Agnelillo, Strong Elementary School
Kathryn Wakefield, Thalberg Elementary School
Charles Beliveau, Central Office
Gilbert VanLinter, Maintenance

Mr. Goralski asked that the honorees and their families stay in the audience while they begin the regular meeting and move two agenda items that deserve celebration. Following those two agenda items, they will call for a recess.

The regular meeting was reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

4. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

The regular session was reconvened at 7:35 p.m. by Mr. Brian Goralski, Chairperson. Board members present were Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mr. Zaya Oshana, and Mrs. Patricia Queen.

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

Student representatives present were Mr. James Brino, Mr. Christopher Iverson, and Ms. Elizabeth Veilleux.

5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MOTION: by Mrs. Notar-Francesco, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

“Move to move Agenda Item 10 a. ‘Appointment of Principal of Hatton Elementary School’ to Agenda Item 5 a. and also, 10 b. ‘Appointment of Principal of Strong Elementary School’ to Agenda Item 5 b.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote, 9-0.

- a. Appointment of Principal of Hatton Elementary School

MOTION: by Mrs. Notar-Francesco, seconded by Mrs. Lombardi:

“Move to appoint Mr. Robert W. Garry as Principal of Hatton Elementary School at an annual salary of \$136,212 effective July 1, 2015.”

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Queen, and Mr. Goralski.

Motion carried unanimously, 9-0.

Mr. Garry expressed his sincere appreciation to Board of Education members, administration, colleagues, parents, and those who participated in the interview process. He’s very proud to become part of a fantastic district and carry on the tradition and commitment of excellence that goes back many years in his family. He’s looking forward to being a part of the Southington Public Schools’ future.

- b. Appointment of Principal of Strong Elementary School

MOTION: by Mrs. Notar-Francesco, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

“Move to appoint Mrs. Melissa Barbuto as Principal of Strong Elementary School at an annual salary of \$136,212 effective July 1, 2015.”

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Notar-Francesco, Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Queen, Mrs. Carmody, and Mr. Goralski.

Motion carried unanimously, 9-0.

Ms. Barbuto expressed that she is honored to be appointed as principal of Strong Elementary School. She thanked the members of the Board of Education and Superintendent Connellan for providing her the opportunity to join the Southington community. She also thanked the parents, students, staff, and administrators who were in attendance and she looks

forward to building relationships and working with each of them. She's excited and looking forward to her first day of being principal at Strong Elementary School.

Mr. Goralski called for a recess at 7:45 p.m.

The regular meeting was reconvened at 8:00 p.m.

MOTION: by Mrs. Notar-Francesco, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

“Move to add to the agenda the Special Board of Education Meeting minutes of May 26, 2015.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote, 9-0.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ May 14, 2015

MOTION: by Mrs. Notar-Francesco, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of May 14, 2015, as submitted.”

Motion carried by voice vote, with eight in favor and one abstention (Mr. Oshana).

MOTION: by Mrs. Notar-Francesco, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

“Move to approve the special Board of Education meeting minutes of May 21, 2015, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote, 9-0.

MOTION: by Mrs. Notar-Francesco, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

“Move to approve the special Board of Education meeting minutes of May 26, 2015, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote, 9-0.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience

There wasn't any audience communication.

b. Communications from Board Members and Administration

Mrs. Queen thanked the band backers for donating \$600 from the proceeds of Music of the Knight to the facility account that the Facility Advisory Committee is responsible for

building to ultimately fund the replacement of the turf field, as well as potential upgrades to the surrounding facility. The committee is very appreciative and thankful for all they do.

Mr. Goralski requested a moment of silence in memory of two, former Southington Public School employees, Mr. Joel Davis and Ms. Florence Tracy. Ms. Tracy worked as a cafeteria manager and served over twenty years in Southington Public Schools. Mr. Davis was a former assistant principal and Director of Secondary Education.

Mrs. Johnson mentioned that this is the time of year when the schools are talking about writing proficiencies of the students. She visited a writer's celebration at Derynoski, and the children read examples of their writings to their audience of families and friends. The examples of writings included narrative, opinion, and informational. It was a fabulous event, with outstanding writers.

Mr. Goralski mentioned that Project Lead the Way was taking place at Southington High School the same evening as the Board of Education meeting. He, Mrs. Johnson, and Mrs. Clark had an opportunity, prior to the Board meeting, to attend the event. He shared with the students that the Board of Education is very proud of their work, and they would have liked to have been part of the evening. Mr. Goralski apologized for the scheduling conflict and assured the Board that that they would avoid future scheduling conflicts.

Communication from Administration:

Mr. Connellan reported on two items that were a follow-up from the previous Board of Education meeting.

1. Four-District Collaborative on Mastery Based Learning:

Mr. Connellan shared that this work began that afternoon and will continue on Friday. There were trainers from Great Schools Partnership and staff from Meriden, Wallingford, Cheshire, and Southington. All were involved with redesigning units of study.

2. Community Engagement Project:

The community engagement project will begin next week. There will be a total of three sessions: two for adults; one for youth conversations with students. Mr. Connellan will forward the dates to the Board. Mrs. Queen agreed to join the group and other Board members are welcome.

c. Communication from Student Representatives:

Mr. Iverson reported:

- Congratulations to Mr. Brown and Mr. Sikoski from Southington High School who were recipients of the Profiles in Professionalism celebration.
- Pertaining to spring sports at Southington High School, they are on-track to win two or three state championships this year. They range in both boys and girls sports.
- Being the end of the school year, there are many banquets scheduled.
 - May 27 ~ FFA Banquet at the Aqua Turf
 - June 2 ~ Youth Honor Day
 - June 10 ~ Military Luncheon for all SHS students joining the military

- June 10 ~ AP Expo for all students who partake in AP classes. This is an opportunity for students to present their final projects.
- CCC Spring Sports Banquet
- Unified Theater Sports banquet at Testa's Restaurant.

Ms. Veilleux reported:

- The Art Show was held on May 11 and it was a huge success. All art pieces were incredible and there is so much talent in the art department at the high school.
- AP testing is complete and the students are now working on their projects.
- Scholarship night included: 147 students receiving over 265 scholarships, which was equivalent to approximately \$250,000 in scholarships.
- Senior Prom was at the Aqua Turf and went very well with everyone having a fantastic time.
- Class Day was held at Longmeadow in North Granby and Class Night was held at the Oakdale. Both events were a great opportunity for the seniors to get together and enjoy some time away from school.
- All Night Grad Party is coming up very soon. They need to raise an additional \$1,200 for the party and plan to have a car wash in the near future.

Mr. Brino reported:

- Mr. Brino was excited to share with the Board of Education a citation from the Connecticut General Assembly in recognition of the continued support of Southington High School Cyber Knights Robotics Team. The Cyber Knights won the New England District Championship and the prestigious Chairman's Award in 2015.
- The student representatives wanted to congratulate Ms. Paige Kopcza who is the secretary to the principal at Southington High School. Ms. Kopcza did incredible work to prepare for the Scholarship Night and she also assisted them in selecting the next Board of Education Student Representative.
- On Tuesday evening, the Southington High School Drama Club had their HALO awards ceremony at the Palace Theater in Waterbury. They had three awards this year with eight nominations. The awards and their recipients were:
 - Best Comic Female Performance in a Play ~ Rachel Mouris
 - Best Choreographers ~ Marissa Mayo, Madison Yurgaitis, and Jessica Dos Santos
 - Best Performance by a Supporting Actress in a Musical ~ Emily Sargent
- Project Lead The Way Senior Night was being held that same evening and Mr. Brino presented the junior year activities and projects.
- The Class of 2016 is hosting a Fashion Show on June 4, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium at the high school.

Mr. Goralski shared that the new student representative will be an agenda item at the next meeting; however, he was notified that Miss Veilleux will not be available that evening because she will be attending a banquet where she will be receiving a scholarship. Therefore, Mr. Goralski asked her if she would be willing to attend the June 28, 2015 meeting, and she agreed. Mr. Goralski also requested that Mr. Iverson and Mr. Brino return in support of Miss Veilleux.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum Committee Meeting ~ May 11, 2015

Mrs. Carmody began her report by expressing thanks from the Curriculum and Instruction Committee to the Southington Public Schools staff for their hard work and many hours, and collaboration put forth to embrace all the changes coming forward in education. Southington Schools are ahead of the curve in everything they are doing.

Presented at the May 11 meeting were four curricula for review: Social Studies, English Language Arts, Agriculture and Science Technology, and Information and Literacy Technology.

Social Studies

The State Department of Education was interested in finding a district to work with to re-establish the curriculum and they selected Southington as one of the districts. Ms. Heather Allenback is to be commended because she played a major role in making this happen. They formed a committee that includes staff from all levels (elementary, middle, and high school) and administrators who will be working to design the curriculum. The new curriculum will include social studies at the kindergarten level, coordinating topics to teach and when they will be taught, areas in U.S. History that are not currently being covered, and the idea of moving Civics to be taught at a different grade. There was some discussion about all levels working together on the five-year curriculum renewal cycle. It's very impressive to see the collaboration of this team. The State Department of Education will be in Southington on June 3, 2015 for a workshop for social studies teachers in grades K-12. There is a representative from all grade levels that will be attending.

In addition, there was a proposed course for social studies for the 2016-2017 school year. The name of the course is *Americans at War*. This is a half-year course that will utilize technology and will be a CP level course.

There was a presentation for a new textbook for World Religions. This was the first year that this course was taught, and it was a huge success with great student interest.

English Language Arts

Stephanie Lawlor introduced and thanked her committee for their work. Southington is working in collaboration with Cheshire, Meriden, and Wallingford to create a mastery level unit which is fantastic. They are building knowledge through content rich non-fiction, including literary non-fiction, reading, writing and speaking grounded in text evidence (both literacy and informational), and regular practice with complex texts in its academic language. Each of the grade levels described their curriculum and the changes.

Agricultural Science and Technology

Mrs. Stannard met with the Curriculum and Instruction Committee previously and shared the details of the program and the differences that are included. The new curriculum is aligned with UbD units and state content standards. They also added specialties and, having the additional teacher, they have been able to do so much more. There is more uniformity across all teacher content areas and standards are different. They include a fall semester that focuses on safety and there is also a unit on public speaking for all students in Grade 10.

Information and Literacy Technology

Mrs. Lackner introduced her K-12 committee. The four goal areas were: Inquiry-Based Learning, Technology Operation to Use Current System Effectively, Digital Citizenship, and Growth Interaction with Peers. Several of the library-media specialists were at the meeting to speak about the paradigm shift that we are experiencing in the media centers, which are going to be centers of technology. Students will be using technology to gather data. The staff will need professional development in that area. Mrs. Patterson was there from Southington High School and she shared the changes that she has been making at the school in the media center. She has some wonderful ideas of going into the classroom where teachers are giving research projects to the students. She is invited to work within the classroom to show the students how they can better use technology to develop information.

All textbooks and curricula will be presented to the full Board on June 11, 2015.

Mr. Goralski took a moment to recognize and thank Mrs. Linda Lackner who is the principal of Strong Elementary School and administrative leader for the Information and Literacy Technology Committee. She worked very hard with her committee to complete the curriculum, and the Board of Education is appreciative of her work. He also mentioned that she is retiring and they are very grateful for all her years of service and dedication to Southington Public Schools.

Mrs. Lombardi thanked the Curriculum and Instruction Committee and Mrs. Smith for taking on the four major pieces of work. She asked that the committee consider two suggestions.

1. In the minutes, it mentioned that the State Department of Education is coming to the district to do a workshop on June 3 and that it's optional for the K-12 social studies teachers to attend. The Board has promoted professional development to support and put resources toward this learning. She asked the administration to facilitate and enable all social studies teachers in Grades K-12 to attend the workshop.

Mr. Connellan explained that this workshop is centered around the work that the committee is doing and there is representation from the committee and all grade levels. Mr. Madancy explained that the workshop is open to all social studies teachers and will be held from 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. The time was selected so all social studies teachers can attend. At the elementary level, all teachers are social studies teachers; therefore, it would be difficult to offer this during the school day. This is voluntary, so contractually, if people have other obligations and they aren't able to attend, it won't be held against them for missing the opportunity. He further explained that this is not a professional development opportunity, but an overview of the new social studies frameworks.

2. Mrs. Lombardi continued that several years ago, as the Information and Technology curriculum was being developed, it did not appear that all five library media specialists applied the curriculum. She would like the group to address the consistency application and roll-out of the curriculum across all elementary schools and how it will take place. Also, she would like to see how the interdisciplinary approach is being integrated and how teachers become more proficient if they are not proficient today.

Mr. Madancy explained that, as the district goes through the transformation from libraries to media centers and media specialists versus librarians, there are changes in what's happening.

With the workshop model that is currently being done in the classrooms; teachers are doing read-alouds to students all the time. Media specialists also can use the core time at their elementary school and work beside the teachers to help students do research projects. Although there are lessons in their new curriculum to do during the library time, it's much easier to go into the classroom and find out specific topics to help the teachers and students establish credible sources of information to use in their research of the content area. The professional development does help to promote the consistent implementation of the updated curriculum. He explained that the Curriculum and Instruction Committee is looking at what the adopted curriculum is going to be, and it is the job of the administration to ensure that the implementation is consistent so that students have a comparable experience throughout the district.

Mr. Madancy explained that the committees are currently doing research in library media, but it does look differently. What they are trying to do is update how they teach research. They are reviewing what the units and lessons look like in order to support the teachers' work in the classroom.

Mrs. Queen mentioned that she was excited to see a presentation from the library media specialists at the next meeting. She also wanted to mention that the new course, *America At War*, will be taught by a teacher who is an active member of their Veterans Partnership Committee. During the Veterans Day celebrations at the schools, Mr. JoelPatrick Leger teaches the entire ninth grade. She's looking forward to hearing more about this course.

Mr. Goralski explained that there will not be a library media specialist presentation at the next meeting.

b. Policy and Personnel Committee Meeting ~ May 18, 2015

Mrs. Clark reported that the committee met on May 18, 2015 and they had a discussion about the turf field, the use of the athletic complex, and advertising at Southington High School. The discussion included that all committee members were going to look at the existing policy and share ideas that reflect the usage that they have today by the entire community, and how they can all work better together. They will invite Mr. Swallow to an upcoming meeting so they can have a coordinated effort with regard to the facility.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

Mr. Goralski stated that on May 20 they submitted an appropriations request to the Board of Finance for all rentals and tuitions collected between January 23 and May 20. It's a standard practice. Mr. Leary, Board of Finance Chairman, responded to Mr. Goralski that he did not believe that it was necessary to have a representative at that meeting as it will be a consent item.

Mrs. Lombardi stated that Mr. Leary is interested in having a tour of the middle schools' special education departments. Mr. Leary suggested visiting on June 1. However, it doesn't give them much time. Mr. Goralski thought that it would be best to wait until the fall. Mrs. Walsh agreed with this recommendation.

b. Construction Update

Mr. Romano stated that both schools are working on Phase 11. JFK is working on their finishes. They are working at a great pace. Mr. Romano took the opportunity to meet with the

DePaolo students about their school and the construction. The information gathered by DePaolo students was similar to that of Kennedy students. A student recommendation was that they use the television monitors that are in the cafeteria for something useful. The students thought that the school could display some upcoming events, sports scores, and maybe the morning announcements. They also “approved” of the new chairs. The students would have preferred, however, refrigerated water fountains as opposed to the bubblers. Additionally, students liked the floor accent colors that relate to their teams.

Mrs. Pat Johnson asked about the courtyard bids. Mr. Goralski stated that they voted on it at the last two committee meetings. At the last meeting, they voted on an amendment to DePaolo. The courtyards are being done over the summer and both will be completely renovated. They will include an artificial turf surface, and potting arrangements will be repurposed with zero maintenance. They are not teaching and learning spaces. The only complication they had was the Eagle Scout project that was built at DePaolo. It was not in good condition and was costly. That was a change that was approved and Mr. Goralski contacted that student and his father. They will share with them the end result.

Mr. Oshana asked if the names on the schools will include, “Middle School.” Neither of the schools has the name on the front of the building identifying that they are middle schools. Mr. Goralski stated that they will bring this back to the committee.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Appointment of Principal of Hatton Elementary School

This agenda item was moved to 5 a.

b. Appointment of Principal of Strong Elementary School

This agenda item was moved to 5 b.

c. Overnight/Out of State Field Trip Approvals

Mr. Swallow and Coach Dachelet were in the audience in support of the field trip for the cross country team. They shared that this trip would take place in the fall for the team to go to the Briarwood Invitational in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This meet has been on-going for more than twenty years. Cross country is different from other sports in that the day that they begin school in the fall, their season is almost over based on their training over the summer. By offering the opportunity to the students to attend this trip, they are motivating the students as they train over the summer. This gives them something to look forward to, as well as compete for a spot to go to this invitational.

Mr. Derynoski questioned the number of chaperones for the 28 students. He wondered if this was within our policy. The administration will follow-up with this information. There will be parents who will be joining the students, but the parents will not be transported on the bus.

Mrs. Lombardi complimented Coach Dachelet on his Knights Cup Track Series. This is an opportunity for the community and all children. Coach Dachelet distributed a brochure to all Board Members for this upcoming opportunity. This event brings elementary schools together for a day of competition. Students can sign up and represent their school. The meet is scored like a traditional track meet. The children compete, and prizes and a trophy are awarded. The

trophy remains at the school for the year. In addition, there is an All-Comers Track Meet that is open to all ages where they compete in a reduced-format meet. It was requested that the administration coordinate distribution of the brochure to the families throughout the district.

MOTION: By Mrs. Queen, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

“Move to approve the Southington High School Cross Country field trip to Pennsylvania as presented by the administration.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote, 9-0.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: by Mr. Oshana, seconded by Mrs. Notar-Francesco:

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote, 9-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Passamano
Recording Secretary