

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

MARCH 14, 2019

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education (Committee of the Whole – Operations) was held on Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the John Weichsel Municipal Center Public Assembly Room, 200 North Main Street, Southington, Connecticut and an Executive Session was held at 6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Brian Goralski, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Board members present: Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mr. Robert Brown, Mr. Joseph Baczewski, Ms. Lisa Cammuso, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mr. Brian Goralski, Mr. Zaya Oshana, and Mrs. Patricia Queen.

Administration present: Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Steven Madancy, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance (*left at 6:56 p.m.*); and Mrs. Michelle Passamano, Human Resource Manager (*left at 6:56 p.m.*).

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION ~ STUDENT MATTERS AND UPSEU PARAEDUCATORS, ABA THERAPISTS, AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE TUTORS NEGOTIATIONS

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 Student Matters and UPSEU Paraeducators, ABA Therapists and EL Tutors Negotiations, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Goralski declared Executive Session ended at 7:04 p.m.

3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Goralski reconvened the Board of Education Regular Session at 7:09 p.m.

Board members present: Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mr. Joseph Baczewski, Mr. Robert Brown, Ms. Lisa Cammuso, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mr. Brian Goralski, Mr. Zaya Oshana, and Mrs. Patricia Queen.

Administration present: Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Steven Madancy, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance, and Ms. Margaret Walsh, Director of Special Services.

Student representatives present were Nicholas Mangene and Bianca Spataro.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The student representatives led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Goralski called for a moment of silence in memory of Bill Haman who was an active community member and coached basketball with the town leagues and was an assistant coach at Kennedy Middle School for many years.

5. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

The Board of Education recognized the following students:

a. Brian Kalwat, Grade 7 at J. F. Kennedy Middle School

Mr. Richard Terino, Principal of Kennedy, introduced Brian Kalwat, who placed First Place in the state of Connecticut Securities Industry & Financial Markets Association Foundation's InvestWrite National Essay Competition for the second year in a row. InvestWrite is a national contest open to students that participate in the Stock Market Club. Brian competed against over 1,000 other middle school students in Connecticut. Mr. Terino announced that 10 Kennedy Middle School teams have been invited to the Capitol Hill Competition.

b. Gianna Wadowski & Nicole Wang, Grade 11 students at SHS

Mrs. Kari Peschel-Luise, SHS Technology and Engineering Education Department Instructor of Project Lead the Way, introduced Gianna Wadowski and Nicole Wang who received the 2019 Connecticut Affiliate of the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) Award for Aspirations in computing (AiC). The student winners were recognized for their computing aptitude and interest in information technology and computing.

The Board presented each honoree with a Certificate of Excellence.

Mr. Goralski called for a brief recess at 7:20 p.m.

The Regular Board of Education meeting reconvened at 7:34 p.m.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes – February 28, 2019

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

“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of February 28, 2019, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

b. Middle School Activities Committee Meeting Minutes – March 5, 2019

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

“Move to approve the Middle School Activities Committee Meeting Minutes of March 5, 2019, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

7. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Public

Angelo Coppola, Ed.D., former Assistant Superintendent for the Southington Public Schools, addressed honoring Zaya A. Oshana, who passed away April 4, 2017, by naming a school in his honor. Dr. Coppola addressed Mr. Oshana’s merits and lifetime of service to children as a teacher, supervisor, administrator and a Southington Board of Education member for 34 years (*Attachment #1*). Representing the committee to bring this recommendation forward to the Board of Education were: Dr. Angelo Coppola, Karen Smith, Beecher Lajoie, Louis Perillo, Bryan Meccariello and Christine Shanley-Buck. Mrs. Smith, retired Southington Assistant Superintendent, principal and teacher, Mr. Meccariello, and Ms. Christine Shanley-Buck also addressed the Board of Education on the reasons why Mr. Oshana should be honored with a school named after him. Mr. Meccariello had some newspaper articles on Mr. Oshana and read into the record a letter from Mr. Lajoie, retired Southington principal, advocating in recognizing Mr. Oshana for this honor as the third longest serving member on the Board of Education (*Attachment #2*). Mr. Urbin T. Kelley served on the Board of Education for 43 years and Mr. Walter A. Derynoski served 39 years, and both have schools named after them.

Mr. Goralski explained that there is a policy regarding the renaming of schools and that he would take the next steps and make this an agenda item for discussion at the next Board of Education meeting.

Joey Martin, 29 Amanda Lane, former Board of Education Student Representative who graduated from Southington High School last year, spoke about his experiences and opportunities as a college freshman studying civil engineering and participating in the Marching Band at Purdue University. He was home on spring break.

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

“Move to move Agenda Item 10.b ‘ASTE Program Enrollment / Staffing 2019-2020’ to Agenda Item 7.e.”

Motioned carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move to add Agenda Item 10.c ‘Approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trip’ to the Agenda.”

Motioned carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Goralski explained that the Robotics Team was leaving for Utica, New York to compete an out of state/overnight competition on Friday, March 15, 2019 and through an oversight did not receive Board approval, which was noticed by Mr. Madancy.

b. Communications from Board of Education

Board members discussed the following:

- Mr. Brown reported that he would be attending the CABA Day on the Hill on Wednesday, March 20, 2019, and would be lobbying against the legislators moving part of teachers’ and administrators’ retirement pensions from the state to the local towns, which would raise local taxes.
- Mr. Brown reported that the Wall of Honor ceremony would be held at the high school on April 9, 2019 with four living honorees and seven veterans from World War II posthumously honored.
- Mr. Brown started the Poverty Taskforce for the state through the State Teachers Union. They will be meeting on Monday, March 18 with teachers from across the state to work on sponsoring legislation to eliminate child poverty.
- Mrs. Queen reported the SMSAA (Southington Middle School Athletic Association) Committee will be sponsoring a fundraiser called “Flavors of Southington” that will be held on March 29, 2019 from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at John F. Kennedy Middle School with Chef Ralph Secondo helping and 20 restaurants participating.
- Mr. Goralski reported that Derynoski Elementary School would be hosting the annual Mike Casale Basketball Game on March 27, 2019.
- The Town-wide Spelling Bee will be held on Monday, April 1, 2019 at Thalberg School at 7:00 p.m.
- Mr. Goralski explained that by Board policy he would need three (3) Board Members and two (2) members of the community to serve on a School Renaming Committee.

c. Communication from Administration

Administration reported on the following:

1. Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition: Mr. Connellan announced that the United States Congress presented a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition to the Unified Theater, Unified Sports and Best Buddies for the 2019 Southington-Cheshire YMCA Youth Development Award in recognition of exemplary and outstanding service to the youth in the community. This certificate will be framed and hung on the wall in the John Weichsel Municipal Center Public Assembly Room.
2. Southington DECA’s Connecticut DECA State Competition Results: Mr. Connellan announced that DECA earned the October Chapter of the Month for Community Service. He received an email from Theresa Brooks, DECA teacher, stating that 17 students competed in the State Competition with two students placing in the top six, a team that placed in the top

three and one team that placed second. Mr. Connellan read into the record an email that he received from Ms. Brooks that stated, *"the most impressive part of our day was seeing how professional our group of students were in their attire and behavior. Sandy and I are key members of the Connecticut DECA State Action Team and spent a major portion of the day working to coordinate judges and other conference logistics while also checking in with our students. In the meantime, the students worked to make sure they all got to their events on time and motivated each other to do well. This may be the best we have seen of our students working together as a team and that is saying a lot because we have seen impressive groups every year so in our eyes, our whole team won yesterday."*

3. Southington Public Schools Coalition for Social Justice: Mr. Connellan reported that the coalition has been moving forward in a deliberate fashion to avoid any major kneejerk reactions and do something to help create some long-term, meaningful, action-based change that will ultimately benefit the students. They have a small steering committee and, unfortunately, local news reporters did not report accurate information. The individuals who are going to participate in this coalition were not named by the Superintendent of Schools or appointed by the Superintendent, they worked together as a group and asked for some suggestions and then posed the question to individuals regarding their level of interest in participating. Every person that was asked indicated enthusiastically their desire to be part of the group and to help. The name that they agreed to is the "Southington Public Schools Coalition for Social Justice". There are 30-35 people in the group and they will breakdown into sub-committees. The group consists of parents, staff, high school and middle school students, several committee agencies such as Youth Services and Bread for Life. The Special Education Resource Center (SERC) has agreed to do the facilitation and the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC), who is our partner in Open Choice, has agreed to participate. Put together was a diverse group, racially, ethnically, male, female and in all areas that they possibly could to form this group. The first meeting is Tuesday, March 19, 2019. Mr. Connellan will report on this at the next Board meeting on March 28, 2019. Information would also be shared with the Town Council, parents, and members of the community.

Mrs. Queen stated that there have been numerous incidents of social injustice across the country, not just in Southington. She was happy with the school district's approach and that getting the community involved and investing in this mission to try to deal with a very difficult systemic, societal problem was a good thing.

d. Communication from Students Representatives

Bianca Spataro reported on the following:

- The high school band and color guard hosted the "Surround Sound" show and the theme this year was "The Greatest Showman." The shows were on March 1, 2 and 3, 2019. A Kiddie Carnival was held before the shows.
- The Spring Drama Club production this year was "Grease", with performances on Friday, March 15 and Saturday, March 16, 2019. There was one show on Friday and two shows on Saturday. Tickets are \$15 at the door.
- Students, including Bianca, would be taking the optional Biliteracy Exam on March 18 or March 19. The exam costs \$20 per person. She plans to take the 2 ½ hour Spanish exam. If a student passes this exam, they are certified, and it will appear on their diplomas when they graduate.

- The annual Unified Theater show was held at the high school on March 2, from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Nicholas Mangene reported on the following:

- He also would be taking optional Biliteracy Exam, but in Latin. Students can put this on job applications if they pass the 2 ½ hour exam. The Latin exam costs \$10.
- The NCAA College Athletic recruitment will be held in the high school auditorium after the Navigating the College Process program on Wednesday, March 20, at 6:15 p.m.
- The World Language Society induction will be held on March 20 and Nicholas will be inducting the Latin students.
- The Robotics Team competition season starts on Saturday, March 16. On March 23, they will be competing at Western New England College.
- A World Language Movie Night will be held on March 27, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Mr. Goralski reported that a Conard High School parent wrote an email to the SHS Athletic Director and principal about the wonderful sportsmanship displayed by the Southington High School Swim Team at a state meet in support of a Conard swimmer. Mr. Goralski was not surprised that Swim Coach Kevin Tuttle, who is an outstanding role model, had student-athletes of that caliber.

e. ASTE Program Enrollment / Staffing 2019-2020

Mrs. DiNello reported that in mid-January, Mrs. Marion Stannard, SHS Ag-Sci Director, told administration that she had a large number of Southington students who applied to be part of the Ag-Sci program for the 2019-2020 school year. Mrs. Stannard was concerned that it would be difficult to look at grade 8 applications to determine who should be accepted into the program based on the outlined criteria and current staffing level and would have to turn away a very high number of Southington students. Currently, there are 56 applicants from Southington. The additional teacher would be fully funded by grant funds from the state. Mrs. Stannard explained in detail why she thought the applications from Southington students have been increasing.

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

“Move to approve the addition of the full-time teacher for the ASTE program beginning with the 2019-2020 school year funded through grant funding.”

Board member questioned classroom space in the Ag-Sci building for the additional teacher and enrollment. There is a classroom available. Mrs. DiNello explained that if they accepted 70-75 students in the 2019-2020 school year, it does not mean that they would be accepting 70-75 students again in the following year. They would not be looking at a freshmen acceptance rate of those high numbers annually. The grant money is based on the enrollment number in the program in October and they would watch how the trending goes over the years. Discussed was how much larger they could potentially grow the program. Mrs. DiNello clarified that the increase in Southington students participating would not increase the tuitions. The increase that they receive in the grant money comes directly back to the program and must be spent on this program. As enrollment increases, whether it is Southington or out of town students, the grant funds will continue to increase, and that money will come back to the program and must be spent on the program. Mr. Connellan thought it would be

good if the state would allow carry-over funding. He asked Mr. Brown to include that in his discussion with the legislators.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. Personnel Report

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

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

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communication

Mr. Goralski gave a reminder of the following 2019-2020 Budget dates:

- March 26, 2019: Budget Review Workshops, Town Hall Board of Finance Conference Room at 6:30 p.m. for the other town departments.
- March 27, 2019: Board of Finance recommends 2019-2020 Budget, Town Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m.
- April 22, 2019: Town Council Public Hearing held in the Municipal Center Public Assembly Room at 7:00 p.m.
- May 13, 2019: Town Council votes to adopt the 2019-2020 budget at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Center Public Assembly Room.
- May 15, 2019: Board of Finance sets the Mill Rate at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers at Town Hall.

Mr. Goralski reported on the Farm Heritage Committee and that they would be presenting the Master Plan to the Town Council for Pleasant Street and Grosky Farm. He thanked Mrs. Stannard for her help on the Master Plan.

Mr. Goralski stated that on Monday, March 11, the Town Council passed the “Tobacco 21” ordinance for the town of Southington, which raises the age to purchase tobacco products to age 21 including vape pens, which targets children. Southington is the fourth community in Connecticut to do this.

b. Policy 3543.1, Policy Regarding Holds on the Destruction of Electronic Information and Paper Records – Second Reading

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

“Move to approve Policy 3543.1, Policy Regarding Holds on the Destruction of Electronic Information and Paper Records as recommended by the Policy & Personnel Committee.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

- c. **Policy 3543, Policy Regarding Retention of Electronic Records and Information – Second Reading**

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

“Move to approve Policy 3543, Policy Regarding Retention of Electronic Records and Information, as recommended by the Policy & Personnel Committee.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

- d. **Policy 5145.14, Uniform Treatment of Recruiters – Second Reading**

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

“Move to approve Policy 5145.14, Uniform Treatment of Recruiters, as recommended by the Policy & Personnel Committee.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

- e. **Policy 3160, Board Budget Procedures and Line Item Transfers – Second Reading**

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

“Move to approve Policy 3160, Board Budget Procedures and Line Item Transfers, as recommended by the Policy & Personnel Committee.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

- f. **Policy 3433, IDEA Fiscal Compliance – Second Reading**

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

“Move to approve Policy 3433, IDEA Fiscal Compliance, as recommended by the Policy & Personnel Committee.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

- g. **Policy 3453, School Activities Funds – Second Reading**

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

“Move to approve Policy #3453, School Activities Funds, as recommended by the Policy & Personnel Committee.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. ELA – Grade 7 Historical Fiction Book Clubs – First Reading

Mr. Brown was a firm believer that they should not shy away from things that are controversial because they are controversial by nature. The books that they looked at are not political and not graphic and open the door to valid conversations. Mr. Goralski questioned why it is called “book clubs” because it is a class. Mr. Madancy explained that the structure of the unit is for students to break into small groups, select a book, and have productive dialogue within their group.

Mr. Connellan announced that a district committee has been facilitating the work toward Emotional Intelligence (EI) initiatives in the schools and that committee will be presenting to the Town Council on Monday, March 25, 2019.

b. ASTE Program Enrollment / Staffing 2019-2020 (Moved to Agenda Item 7.e)

c. Approval of Out of State / Overnight Field Trips

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

“Move that the Board of Education approve the CyberKnights Robotics Team field trip requests, as presented by the administration.”

Mr. Goralski explained that the out of state field trip was to Utica, New York with the team leaving on March 15, 2019 for the competition on March 16. It is the first of many competitions that the team would be attending. The Board was also approving a trip to Worcester Polytechnic in Massachusetts for April 11-13, 2019 and the Cobo Center in Detroit, Michigan, April 23-27, 2019, for which the team must qualify to attend.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Blanchard
Recording Secretary

Chairman Brian Goralski and members of the Southington Board of Education:

Character and wisdom, integrity and service; a lifetime of teaching, supervising, administrating, and devoting his time to community and career, Zaya A. Oshana epitomized all we desire in our leaders, family, and friends.

Character: Mr. Oshana believed in everything he said and did. He served the town of Southington in myriad capacities, almost too many to mention.

Wisdom: Zaya's wisdom transcended simple, common knowledge. He never did or said anything he could not support or deliver.

Integrity and Service: Both intermingled as one with Mr. Oshana; from his fifth grade classroom to his Vice-Principal chair to his thirty-four year seat on The Southington Board of Education, the third longest serving member in Southington's history, onward to The University of New Haven, where he supervised student teachers after retiring from his own career in the same field; Zaya challenged and loved children of all ages. He stood by everything he said, and he believed in everything he did; Mr. Oshana gave to his town until he became ill a few years prior to his death.

Graduating as a young man from CCSU, he began teaching in New Britain and easily slid into the Vice-Principal seat years after teaching fifth grade. He earned a bachelor's degree, then a master's degree from CCSU and finally a sixth year degree in Administration and Supervision from The University of Hartford.

With these degrees came the call to serve, and he did in so many different capacities. A thirty year member of The Southington Kiwanis Club, the past President of the DePaolo PTA and the New Britain Education Association. Similarly, he tenured as past President of Kiwanis, a long standing and active member of The Southington Gridiron Club, The Visiting Nurses, became a Justice of the Peace, and a member of the school building committee.

However, his most passionate and cherished role aside from his wife, children, four grandchildren, and twin great-granddaughters, was The Southington Board of Education, a seat he held, thanks to the trust of his community, for more than thirty-four years. He fought for our children every day, using his expertise and sincere joy to illuminate, elucidate, and inform the town of what he thought was best for the children, always the children and never the politics.

During the 1970's, Mr. Oshana stood before the Connecticut State Legislature and delivered an impassioned speech inspired by the DePaolo PTO to change the drinking age to twenty-one. Ultimately, his passion morphed into a new state law in the late Spring of 1977. That law affected the entire state, proving what a small town and a strong belief coupled together with a man of integrity can accomplish, benefiting the State's "youth" as he commonly called all children.

Zaya Oshana was a force for his community and children throughout Connecticut. His legacy lives in each child he taught, mentored, supported, and encouraged. He neither sought nor desired accolades; his life centered around ensuring that both Southington's and

Connecticut's children, from the very young elementary student to the graduating high school senior, was afforded a road to success, even if his efforts were unsuccessful. His thirty-four years on the Southington Board of Education taught him that failure was part of life, for young and old. Honoring this man by placing his name on a Southington school befits his devotion to our town, and would most certainly humble Oshana, a pioneer in Education. We ask that you consider all of his accomplishments, dedication, long hours, sacrifice, and beyond all of the others, deep love of Educating children, and name a school in his honor.

Sincerely,

Dr. Angelo J. Coppola

Dr. Angelo J. Coppola

Representing the committee of:

Dr. Angelo J. Coppola
Karen Smith
Beecher LaJoie
Louis Perillo
Bryan Meccariello
Christine Shanley- Buck

03/02/19

I am fortunate to have known Zaya throughout my educational career in Southington and I am honored to have worked with him. His humanity, compassion, his dedication to education, and his love of our town, guided his decisions during his years as a Board of Education member.

He made himself available to all and advocated for our youth. His tenacity, efforts, and compassion helped infuse our schools with quality education. His focus was on children and what was best for them.

His thirty-four years on the Board of Education (the third longest serving member in town) is a testimony to his love, dedication, and loyalty to all of Southington's citizens. He acted on his convictions and put his beliefs into practice. His efforts were tireless.

I support the effort to recognize his service to our community by renaming a school in his name. This action would befit the legacy he has earned and the inspiration he has bestowed on the lives that he has touched as an educator.

Respectfully yours,
Beecher Lajoie