

*The minutes presented within this document provide a summary of the discussion that took place at the Board of Education meeting. For the complete discussion of the agenda items, please view the video of the Board meeting on our website at [www.southingtonschools.org](http://www.southingtonschools.org). These minutes are considered a draft until approved at the following regular Board of Education meeting.*

## **SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

#### **REGULAR MEETING**

**APRIL 25, 2019**

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The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education (Committee of the Whole-Operations) was held on Thursday, April 25, 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 scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Brian Goralski, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

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

Administration present: Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Steven Madancy, Assistant Superintendent.

#### **2. EXECUTIVE SESSION ~ STUDENT MATTERS**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mrs. Carmody:

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

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

*Mr. Goralski declared Executive Session ended at 6:50 p.m.*

#### **3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION**

*Mr. Goralski reconvened the Board of Education Regular Session at 7:07 p.m.*

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

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 Pupil Services.

Student Representatives present were Trevor Messina, 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:

1. Raymond Walsh who passed away on April 13, 2019. He was a former Director of Guidance at Southington High School for 31 years, retiring in 1990.
2. Carl Venditto who passed away on April 15, 2019. He was a former Principal at Thalberg Elementary School and Vice Principal at Central Elementary School for a total of 15 years of service retiring in 1991.

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mr. Oshana:

**“Move to add Agenda Item 10.L ‘Student Expulsion’ to the agenda.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mr. Oshana:

**“Move Agenda Item 10.a ‘Approval of Out of State / Overnight / Foreign field Trips’ to Agenda Item 6.e.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

#### **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ March 28, 2019**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Oshana, seconded by Mrs. Carmody:

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

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

#### **6. COMMUNICATIONS**

##### **a. Communications from Public**

There was no audience communication.

##### **b. Communication from Board Members**

Board members addressed the following:

- The Wall of Honor Ceremony was held on April 9, 2019. The families of the World War II casualties, who died in the 1940's, were very appreciative that their loved ones were not forgotten for their sacrifice.
- Mr. Brown met with former SHS graduate Dale Zarella, a renowned sculptor, who told him, when they were discussing the school budget, that “art, music and creativity are an essential part of education”.
- The Social Justice Coalition held two meetings and will be breaking into sub-committees with actionable items.
- Ms. Cammuso and Mrs. Queen attended the middle schools’ drama production of “Oliver”. Approximately 120 middle school students participated.
- The students who recently returned from a field trip to Germany brought back some German chocolates for the Board members to share.
- Mrs. Queen and Mrs. Clark attended the Equity in Education Forum on April 8, 2019. At the forum, the Meriden Assistant Superintendent applauded the Southington Public Schools for the work being done and having the difficult conversations to effect change. Mrs. Clark shared the different titles/positions of the people at the forum and pointed out that the Southington Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent wear many hats resulting in a savings for the school district because they handle the responsibilities that other districts hire people to do.
- Mr. Goralski received a letter from the State of Connecticut regarding the need to begin the negotiations with the Southington Administrators Association (SAA). He will be removing himself from the process because his wife is an administrator. Mrs. Carmody will be handling anything to do with the SAA negotiations.
- Mr. Derynoski was absent from the Board meeting because he was on a business trip. Mr. Derynoski indicated that he supported the changes to the BOE calendar.
- Mr. Goralski stated that at the next Board meeting he will ask to add a special agenda item to modify the Board of Education’s regular meeting dates due to administrative searches for two administrative positions at the high school. Mr. Brian Stranieri, Principal, and Mr. Jeffrey Shaw, Assistant Principal, will both be retiring at the end of the school year. The Board meetings in June would be moved from June 13, which is graduation, and June 27 to June 6 and June 20, 2019.

**c. Communication from Administration**

Administration reported on the following:

1. Ongoing Counseling Office Work with SHS Students: Mr. Connellan stated that the SHS Counseling Office hosted a luncheon for state colleges admission representatives for the opportunity to talk about how they can position SHS students better for admission and success. Mr. Madancy shared some of the work that the SHS Counseling Office was doing including the Navigating the College Experience Workshop and the NCAA Eligibility Workshop. Through a student survey, the Counseling Department learned that one-third of the students in Grade 11 and 12 would-be first-generation college students. It helped the department to identify the Grade 12 students who would need help with the college process. They offered a separate First-Generation Navigating the College Experience Session for these students with about 20 families attending.
2. Wheeler Clinic Child First Program: Ms. Walsh explained that this program is a national evidence-based program working with very vulnerable children and their families. It provides intensive home-based services when young children grow up in an environment where

there is potential poverty, violence, neglect, mental illness or substance abuse and the stress could be toxic to their developing brains. Several years ago, Wheeler Clinic established this program. Southington submitted a letter of interest to participate in this program and is awaiting approval of a grant.

3. Excellence in Middle School Science Teaching 2019: Mr. Connellan announced that a middle school teacher, Toni Ann Rock, received an award from the Connecticut Science Teachers Association for Excellence in Middle School Science Teaching for 2019.

4. Coalition for Social Justice: Mr. Connellan reported that there was very positive feedback from participants. The next meeting is May 14, 2019. The June meeting will be changed.

Mr. Baczewski questioned what the SHS Counseling Department was doing with students who do not want to go to college right after high school. Mr. Madancy stated that the College Fair offered in the fall is now called the “College and Career Fair” with representatives from the trades or trade schools attending. There was another event off-campus regarding manufacturing.

**d. Communications from Student Representatives:**

Mr. Trevor Messina reported on the following:

- The Junior Prom was held on April 6, 2019 at BellaVista.
- SAT testing for the juniors was on April 9, 2019 with the scores available on May 2, 2019.
- The SHS Spring Band Concert will be held on April 30.
- The Silver Star Concert will be held on April 29 for the elementary schools.
- The Jazz and Chorus Concert will be held on May 1.

Mr. Mangene reported on the following:

- Mr. Southington was held on April 3 for senior boys who wanted to participate in an entertaining and funny pageant.
- A field trip for Latin students was held on Friday, April 26 at Holiday Hill.
- Advanced Placement testing starts on May 6.

Miss Spataro reported on the following:

- The Robotics Team was in Detroit competing for a World Title at the International Robotics Competition where they finished in third place last year.
- On Thursday, May 2, the National Honor Society induction for the juniors will be held at SHS at 7:00 p.m. She invited the Board members to attend.
- Wednesday, May 8, is the Annual Academic Awards Night.

Mrs. Queen questioned the date of the AP Expo and Mr. Mangene replied that the AP Expo, when the AP students present their projects, would be held June 4, 2019.

Mr. Goralski explained that Mrs. Albaitis, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, would provide an End of the Year Activities Calendar for the Board. In two weeks, the graduating student representatives would start the interview process for their replacements.

**e. Approval of Out of State / Overnight / Foreign Field Trips (formerly Agenda Item 10.a)**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mr. Oshana:

**“Move to approve the SHS FBLA National Leadership Conference in San Antonio, Texas on June 28, 2019-July 3, 2019, the SHS Cross Country Lehigh Invitational overnight field trip to Pennsylvania October 4-6, 2019, and the SHS Education First World War II Foreign Field Trip to England and France April 8-10, 2020 – April 15-17, 2020.”**

Mr. Madancy explained that no action was needed for the SHS FBLA field trip to Texas because his office received a phone call today that they were not attending because the cost was too expensive limiting the number of students that could attend.

**AMENDED MOTION:** by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mr. Oshana:

**“Move to approve the SHS Cross Country Lehigh Invitational overnight field trip to Pennsylvania October 4-6, 2019, and the SHS Education First World War II Foreign Field Trip to England and France April 8-10, 2020 – April 15-17, 2020.”**

Mr. Goralski questioned the dates for the England/France Field Trip. Ms. Karen Cavanaugh, SHS teacher and chaperone, explained that if SHS does not have enough students to fill a whole bus the tour company combines Southington High School students with another school. The school with the most students chooses the departure date. There is a three-day window when the trip would depart and return.

Mr. Madancy pointed out that Ms. Cavanaugh just returned from an international field trip and sent daily updates to administration while on the trip. The educational experiences for the students that is provided by the SHS staff on their own time cannot be taught in the classroom. Ms. Cavanaugh pointed out that the trip that she just returned from was open to all the students at the high school.

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**7. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

**a. Personnel Report**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Oshana, seconded by Mrs. Carmody:

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

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting ~ March 19, 2019**

Mrs. Carmody reported that the committee discussed ELA K-5 Units of study for reading and writing that will be an action item on this agenda. The committee received an update on phonics and grammar work occurring in the district. Board members were happy to see the use of

phonics in the classroom again. The committee was given a presentation by Mary Lynne Osborne, Chair of the Family & Consumer Science Department, on two new course proposals for consideration. They are: 1) Maternal and Prenatal Development and Health Care and, 2) UConn Allied Health 2001: Medical Terminology. The Board discussed these two new course proposals and phonics and grammar work at length. The committee also reviewed the SHS textbook Algebra 2 – Big Ideas Math that is included in the current Board adopted budget.

**b. Policy & Personnel Committee Meeting ~ March 21, 2019**

Mrs. Queen reported that the committee met and reviewed four policies. “Conduct on School Property” is a new policy for the manual, which is not mandated. Administration thought that this policy was needed and would be beneficial. The committee reviewed the Non-Discrimination-Staff policy and the Non-Discrimination-Students policies, which are both mandated, and edits were suggested for consistency. The district Wellness policy will be revised based on recommendations by the district Health Advisory Council. These policies will reflect our current practice, which is up to date with legislation. The committee reviewed four job descriptions that are on the agenda as a first read; however, Mrs. Queen requested that these job descriptions be voted on tonight because the job descriptions don’t receive a first reading.

**c. Ad Hoc School Renaming Committee Meeting ~ April 11, 2019**

Mrs. Carmody reported that the committee unanimously agreed that the request to name a school after Zaya A. Oshana meets the criteria in the Board policy. There will be another meeting to discuss additional research into the schools and bring everything back to the Board at a future date. Mr. Goralski thanked the administration for the role that they are taking in the work of that committee. Mr. Madancy thanked Mrs. Blanchard, Board Recording Secretary, for providing a document that had every piece of history of every school, monument, and space that had been named after someone in the district, including dates. Board members requested a copy of the document.

**9. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Town Government Communications**

Mr. Goralski reported that the Town Council public hearing on the budget was on Monday, April 22, 2019 and spoke at length about the hearing and his appeal for them to look at the Board of Education original budget request. The Town Council adopts the 2019-2020 budget on Monday, May 13, 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Center and the Board of Finance sets the Mill Rate on Wednesday, May 15, 2019, 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

Mr. Goralski reported that the Farm Heritage Committee met on Wednesday, April 24, 2019 and discussed regulations associated with the Grosky Farm Stand and the Master Plan. He explained that the Town Council tabled the Master Plan and hoped that the Farm Heritage Committee can bring it forward again at a Town Council meeting because a vision involves a plan. There was no overall cost because it was a plan and as the plan is implemented it could have costs. The Town Council would decide which pieces of the plan to implement. The Grosky Farm Stand did not cost the town anything. It was funded by a not-for-profit and built by Southington High School students and used by the Southington community. The committee believed that many things in the Master Plan would have been done at zero cost to the community

through donations and community efforts. Without the Master Plan, he hoped that the community continues to value farming.

Mrs. Queen stated that at the Town Council Public Hearing, Mr. Christopher Palmieri, Town Council Chair, mentioned some of the ways the Board of Education and Town are collaborating in sharing resources such as Human Resources and use of the Municipal Center. She thought the work that the Board of Education Operations Department does and saves for the BOE and Town budgets should also be mentioned. Mr. Connellan stated that these things are done all the time back and forth across BOE and Town departments. Another area is the School Safety and Security Interagency Committee. It involves Mr. Madancy, Mr. Romano, Director of Operations, Mr. Connellan and Mr. Terino, Kennedy Middle School Principal, and command officials from the fire department and police department and Shane Lockwood, Emergency Management Services Director and Health Department Director, participates as well. Mark Pooler, YMCA Chief Executive Officer and Kevin Simms, YMCA Director of Operations and Technology, have been added because the YMCA has the Before and After Care Programs in our schools. He spoke at length about the interagency participation and school safety drills.

Mr. Goralski stated that the Town Council Chair, Mr. Palmieri, also appointed a committee to address Social Justice with town staff and someone from the NAACP local chapter serving on the committee to review policies and hiring practices. Mr. Goralski and Mr. Oshana spoke at length about a recent Committee of the Chairs meeting.

**b. ELA – Grade 7 Historical Fiction Book Clubs ~ Second Reading**

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

**“Move that the Board of Education approves the ELA – Grade 7 Historical Fiction Book Clubs as recommended by the Curriculum & Instruction Committee.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Approval of Out of State/Overnight/Foreign Field Trips** (*Moved to Agenda Item 6.e.*)

**b. Southington High School Graduation Date**

Mr. Connellan explained that there was only two snow days this year.

**MOTION:** By Mr. Baczewski, seconded by Mrs. Clark:

**“Move to approve Thursday, June 13, 2019 as the Southington High School graduation ceremony date pending no additional school closings occur.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**c. Mid-Year Report on Superintendent’s Goals for 2018-2019**

Mr. Goralski was happy to see the work keep moving forward and thanked Mr. Connellan.

**d. 2019-2020 Healthy Food Certification**

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

**“Move to participate in the Healthy Food Certification program for the 2019-2020 school year.”**

Mr. Baczewski had questions about the program. Mrs. DiNello explained the USDA Child Nutrition Program, Healthy Food Certification, Free and Reduced Meals, and grant funding. Mr. Baczewski had a hard time with a federal mandate telling the school system what they can or cannot feed the students. He thought that the food that was being served to the elementary students was awful and it was a shame that the food could not be better. He did not agree with participating in the Healthy Food Certification program. Mr. Goralski explained that over the years the Board of Education has had that debate.

**Motion carried by voice vote with Mr. Baczewski opposing.**

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

**“Move that the Board will allow exemptions for food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: a) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; b) the sale is at the location of the event; and c) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**e. Adoption of 2020 Board of Education Meeting Dates**

Mr. Goralski highlighted the proposed adjustments made to the calendar. The first regular Board of Education meeting would be January 9, 2020 where Mr. Connellan would present the budget, which will be televised. The two budget workshops would be January 14 and 16, 2020 and per past practice would not be televised. The vote for the budget would be at the regular Board of Education meeting on January 23, 2020. The second March meeting was eliminated because of the numerous budget meetings/workshops and not many agenda items for Board discussion or approval. The July meeting was eliminated because the Board has not met in July the past five years. If needed, a meeting could always be added. The Board of Education Instructional meetings would only be May, June, September and October.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Oshana, seconded by Mrs. Carmody:

**“Move to adopt the proposed Board of Education meeting dates as recommended by the administration.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**



**f. Joseph A. DePaolo Middle School, Project Close-Out (131-0127 RNV/E/PS)**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Clark, seconded by Mr. Baczewski:

**“Move that the Board of Education accept the Joseph A. DePaolo Middle School Project #131-0127 RNV/E/PS as complete and direct the administration to close-out the project with the Town's Finance Department and the Department of Administrative Services.”**

The Board members thanked everybody involved for the excellent way the projects were handled and managed at both middle schools resulting in outstanding buildings.

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**g. John F. Kennedy Middle School, Project Close-Out (131-0128 RNV/E/PS)**

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

**“Move that the Board of Education accept the John F. Kennedy Middle School Project #131-0127 RNV/E/PS as complete and direct the administration to close-out the project with the Town's Finance Department and the Department of Administrative Services.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**h. Approval of MOA for UPSEU, Local 424, Unit 50, Paraeducators, ABA Therapists and EL Tutors July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022**

**MOTION:** by Ms. Cammuso, seconded by Mrs. Queen:

**“Move to approve the MOA between the Southington Board of Education and the UPSEU, Local 424, Unit 50, Paraeducators, ABA Therapists and EL Tutors Union for July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**i. ELA – K-5 Units of Study for Reading & Writing ~ First Reading**

There was no discussion.

**j. SHS Textbook Adoption – Algebra 2 – Big Ideas Math**

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

**“Move to approve the purchase of Algebra 2 - Big Ideas Math Textbooks endorsed by the Curriculum & Instruction Committee.”**

Mr. Goralski explained that this approval was contingent on the 2019-2020 Operations Budget's final approval and reallocation.

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

- k. Approval of Job Descriptions – Director of Operations, Maintenance Working Foreman, School Counselor, Purchasing Secretary ~ First Reading**

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

**“Move to waive the first reading.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

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

**“Move to approve the job descriptions of Director of Operations, Maintenance Working Foreman, School Counselor, and Purchasing Secretary, as recommended by the Policy and Personnel Committee.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

- l. Student Expulsion**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mr. Oshana:

**“Move to expel student #2018-2019-12 as stipulated by the Superintendent of Schools.”**

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**“Move to adjourn.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Linda Blanchard*  
Recording Secretary