

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

MAY 9, 2019

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education (Committee of the Whole-Operations) was held on Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the John Weichsel Municipal Center Public Assembly Room, 200 North Main Street, Southington, Connecticut with an 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.

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 and Mr. Steven Madancy, Assistant Superintendent.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION ~ STUDENT MATTERS AND CONTRACTUAL MATTERS

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 Contractual Matters, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Goralski declared Executive Session ended at 7:02 p.m.

3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Goralski reconvened the Board of Education Regular Session at 7:11 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 and Mr. Steven Madancy, Assistant Superintendent.

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.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ April 25, 2019

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

“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of April 25, 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 students of today have more difficult situations and issues to deal with than the students of past years because it is a different world that we currently live in compared to years ago. The Board needs to find ways to help students with serious issues, which requires more services and programs, not cutting them.
- This week was Teacher Appreciation Week and the Board was very appreciative of the teachers as well as the work and contributions of all Southington Public School employees. Mr. Baczewski added that everyone should be appreciated every day; not just on a special day.
- Discussed was the proposed \$35,000 Southington Public Library Building Concept Plan that Kristi Sadowski, Southington Library Director, requested in the proposed 2019-2020 budget for a much-needed expansion project. Board members discussed the different programs and ways the library, which was built in 1974, was being used and needed to be updated. The library services people from preschool through retirement. The Board members discussed ways to support this endeavor. Mr. Baczewski questioned if the Library Board looked into a corporate partner such as Starbucks and will email that idea to the town. Mr. Derynoski recommended that Mr. Goralski contact Kevin Curtiss, Chair of the Library Board of Directors, to initiate support and request any information.

c. Communication from Administration

Administration reported on the following:

1. Elementary Homeroom Teachers: Mr. Madancy explained there was a request by school principals to hold off on naming the elementary homeroom teacher on the last day of school and to follow the practice of the middle schools and high school by doing the mailing in August. If there are shifts in enrollments, it would allow administration to reallocate FTEs and resources accordingly. In Southington, it has been a longstanding tradition for students/parents to know who their teacher would be for the next school year on the last day of school. Mr. Madancy's office will notify the families of the change in practice if the Board agrees. Elementary students would have the ability to meet their teacher the end of August before the start of school for a meet and greet and to see their classroom. In addition, because of this shift in practice, the elementary report cards would be sent home electronically a day or two after the school year ends, like the middle schools and high school. Board members were in support of the change in practice and requested notification to parents to be sent as soon as possible, well in advance.
2. SERC Recognition Award: Mr. Madancy stated that he attended a SERC (State Education Resource Center) Dismantling Systemic Racism and Equity Conference in Hartford on Friday, May 3, 2019. The Southington Public Schools received an award for partnering with SERC in supporting efforts to create culturally responsive and relevant learning environments through the intentional focus on racial equity and social justice. Southington was one of 12 districts in the state out of 169 school districts to receive this award for being at the forefront of this endeavor.
3. Camera System – Southington High School: Mr. Connellan reported that the installation of the new camera system at SHS began over the April vacation with the district's maintenance staff doing the installation work. One-third of the system has been installed to date. The security employees at the high school are very happy with the high definition quality. The Southington Police Department will have access to the camera system via an app.
4. High School Roof Replacement Project: Mr. Connellan reported that after much communication with the state through Mr. Romano's office, this project has finally been assigned a project number. The work will occur during the summer months.
5. Staff Appreciation Week: Mr. Connellan stated that the school district expanded Teacher Appreciation Week to include all staff who have important roles in making the schools run smoothly as well as teachers. The work of all employees is much appreciated.
6. National Honor Society Members: Mr. Connellan announced that Trevor Messina, student representative, was inducted into the National Honor Society (NHS). Nicholas Mangene and Bianca Spataro are also National Honor Society (NHS) members. The ceremony was run by the students. Mr. Connellan added that he attended the Academic Awards Night that was well organized, and Miss Spataro received the CAS Student Leadership Award receiving many accolades.

d. Communications from Student Representatives:

Miss Spataro reported on the following:

- The CyberKnights Robotics Team competed in Detroit and placed third in the world.
- The Special Education Transition Night will be held on Wednesday, May 15.
- Thursday, May 16, Scholarship Night will be held at 7:00 p.m. for seniors.
- Senior Prom will be held on Saturday, May 18 at the Aqua Turf with the theme "A Knight at Gatsby's Mansion."

Mr. Mangene reported on the following:

- AP testing began the beginning of May and will continue to the middle of May. He and Bianca took the AP test in Politics and Government.
- Academic Awards Night was held Wednesday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m. The Top Three students for the Class of 2019 are Max Heath, Mia Langston and Aliya Sarris.
- The Art Show will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 13 in the SHS Auditorium Lobby.

Mr. Trevor Messina reported on the following:

- The Spring Band Concert was held on April 30, 2019.
- The Chorus and Jazz Concert was held on May 1, 2019.
- Project Lead the Way Senior Night will be held on May 22, 2019.
- Alta graduation will be held on May 23, 2019.
- The Military Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, May 22 at 11:30 a.m.

Mr. Baczewski questioned the results of the raffle for the prom tickets, to which he donated. Mr. Mangene stated that there were three pairs of tickets that were raffled and some of his friends won and were looking forward to attending.

Mr. Goralski noted that Mr. Brian Stranieri, Principal of Southington High School, attended the FIRST Robotics competition in Detroit the past two years and the students were appreciative of his support. The CyberKnights were placed in the Curie Division that had seven of the top 10 American teams, which the CyberKnights won. Freshmen and sophomores have to apply and be interviewed to become a member of the CyberKnights team. Trevor Messina noted that Southington High School is well-known for activities such as sports, band, arts and robotics.

7. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

a. Personnel Report

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

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

Mr. Derynoski questioned a discrepancy in two newly hired Registered Nurses (RN) salaries. Administration would look into it but believed it was due to being pro-rated because of the start date and expertise with one RN starting in April of this year and the other starting in the 2019-2020 school year.

Mr. Connellan pointed out that Mr. Brian Stranieri, Principal of Southington High School, was on the resignation list and would be retiring after 37 years devoted entirely to the Southington school district. He congratulated and thanked Mr. Stranieri for all the students he has interacted with over the years.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting ~April 23, 2019

Mrs. Carmody reported that the committee addressed K-2 Math with a presentation by Amy Zappone, District Math Coordinator, on Ready Math and two other programs (Bridges and Eureka Math). Ready Math was determined the best to serve our students. By fifth grade, all the students would be introduced to the program. The committee also had a presentation by Mr. Joe Nunes, teacher, and Mr. Rick Terino, Principal at Kennedy Middle School, on a revised Health Curriculum Grades 6-8 addressing vaping, e-cigarettes, cyberbullying and mental and emotional disorders, which is mandated by the state to be part of the health curriculum. The committee also addressed dual eligibility for STEM and Humanities courses, which cannot be done because assessments dictate what a course should be credited as.

Mr. Baczewski questioned parent involvement with the health curriculum. Mr. Madancy stated that prior to discussion on some health topics, correspondence is sent home to alert them to the classroom conversation that are sensitive in nature, so parents can start the conversation at home. There is also resource information provided through newsletters. Mr. Baczewski questioned if safety regarding guns in the home is addressed. Mr. Madancy thought it was a good idea to have it addressed at a middle school health teacher workshop.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

Mr. Goralski reported that 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. Right now, the Board of Education has \$1.3 million reduced from their proposed budget request.

b. ELA – K-5 Units of Study for Reading & Writing ~ Second Reading

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

“Move to approve the ELA K-5 Units of Study for Reading and Writing as recommended by the Curriculum and Instruction Committee.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

c. Modification / Rescheduling Dates of Board of Education Regular Meetings in June

Mr. Goralski asked the student representatives to schedule the introduction of the new student representatives that will replace the two seniors at the May 23 or June 6 Board of Education meeting. On June 6, 2019, which is the last Board meeting for the student representatives this year, the graduating student representatives Bianca Spataro and Nicholas Mangene, will be recognized for serving on the Board with their parents invited to attend.

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

“Move to reschedule the regular Board of Education June meetings from June 13 and June 27, 2019 to June 6 and June 20, 2019, as recommended by administration.”

Mr. Derynoski stated that he was in favor of the motion with the dates, but he would not be able to attend the June 20, 2019 meeting.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Naming of Negotiations Committee Board – SAA

Mrs. Carmody appointed the following Board members to serve on the Southington Administrators Association (SAA) Negotiating Committee: Mr. Bob Brown, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Ms. Lisa Cammuso and Mr. Zaya Oshana. Mrs. Carmody thanked them for volunteering and stated that Mrs. DiNello would be contacting them.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Blanchard
Recording Secretary