

*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**

**JUNE 20, 2019**

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The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education (Committee of the Whole-Operations) was held on Thursday, June 20, 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 6:30 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 PERSONNEL MATTERS**

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

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

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

*Mr. Goralski declared Executive Session ended at 6:53 p.m.*

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

*Mr. Goralski reconvened the Board of Education Regular Session at 7:04 p.m.*

Board members present: Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mr. 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.

#### **4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Lady Knight's Softball Team led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**“Move to add Agenda Item 7.a ‘Appointment of Assistant Principal of J. A. DePaolo Middle School’ to the agenda.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

#### **5. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE**

In Celebration of Excellence, the Board of Education recognized the Southington High School Lady Knights Softball Team and Head Coach Davina Hernandez who won the 2019 Softball Class LL State Championship. Team members present were Nicole Greco (left fielder), Kelsey Fernandez (center fielder), Chrissy Marotto (shortstop and MVP), Gabby Malachowski (right fielder), Katie Gunderson (first baseman), Sam Sullivan (freshman pitcher), Julia Panarella (sophomore pitcher), Abby Lamson (senior third baseman), Kayla Pelletier (sophomore catcher). Mr. Goralski presented the team with a Certificate of Excellence for winning the school's 18<sup>th</sup> Softball State Championship.

#### **6. APPOINTMENT OF PRINCIPAL OF J. A. DEPAOLO MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

**“Move to appoint Christopher Palmieri as the principal of J. A. DePaolo Middle School effective July 1, 2019 at a salary of \$153,675.”**

Mr. Baczewski congratulated and praised Mr. Palmieri for all the work he has done for the students and community and hoped that with his involvement serving as Town Council Chairman, he would be able to commit his time, first and foremost, to the students of the DePaolo Middle School.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES - Mr. Brown, Ms. Cammuso, Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Queen. NO – Mr. Baczewski and Mr. Goralski.

**Motion carried with seven in favor and two opposed.**

Mr. Palmieri, current Assistant Principal of J. A. DePaolo Middle School, thanked both the Board for their confidence in him and the administration for this opportunity to continue to serve the students of Southington. He said he believes nothing is done alone and success is achieved as a result of synergy from all involved. As Assistant Principal of DePaolo Middle School for 14 years he felt that he has proven that his students come first over everything else that he is involved with.



Mr. Goralski stated that moving forward Mr. Palmieri would have 100% support of the Board of Education and was proud of the work that he has done as assistant principal.

**7. APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF SOUTHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL**

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

**“Move to appoint Leah Clark as Assistant Principal of Southington High School effective July 1, 2019 at a salary of \$136,489.**

Mr. Goralski pointed out that Mrs. Leah Clark was no relation to Mrs. Colleen Clark who serves on the Board of Education.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mr. Brown, Mr. Baczewski, Ms. Cammuso, Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Queen, Mr. Goralski.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

Mrs. Leah Clark thanked the Board and administration for their support. For the past six years she has been the Dean of Students at CREC Academy of Aerospace and Engineering in Windsor and prior to that she was a mathematics teacher in the Litchfield and Newtown school districts.

**a. APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AT J. A. DEPAOLO MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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

**“Move to appoint Robert Lasbury as Assistant Principal at J. A. DePaolo Middle School effective July 1, 2019 at a salary of \$134,225.”**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mr. Brown, Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mr. Baczewski, Mr. Cammuso, Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Queen, Mr. Goralski.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Lasbury was honored and thanked the Board and administration for this opportunity along with the trust and confidence in his abilities to join the administrative team at DePaolo Middle School. It was bittersweet for him to leave the high school where he taught for 21 years.

*Mr. Goralski called for a recess at 7:25 p.m.*

*Mr. Goralski reconvened regular session at 7:45 p.m.*

**8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ June 6, 2019**

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

**“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of June 6, 2019, as submitted.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING – JUNE 4, 2019**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Derynoski, seconded by Mr. Brown:

**“Move to approve the special Board of Education minutes of June 4, 2019, as submitted.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Derynoski, seconded by Mr. Brown:

**“Move to approve the special Board of Education minutes of June 18, 2019, as submitted.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote**

**10. COMMUNICATIONS**

**a. Communications from Public**

The following people came to the podium and all supported and thought that Zaya A. Oshana was more than deserving of the honor of having a school/facility named after him.

David Ciarcia, 157 Dunham Street, was a friend of Zaya A. Oshana and had him for a teacher in New Britain. He stated that Zaya was a mentor to him, an honorable man, and the epitome of education.

Joe DelDebbio, 79 Pheasant Run Road, he supported renaming a building after Zaya A. Oshana who was a strong educational and community leader and an amazing and outstanding person. Zaya was a well-liked community member who could always be turned to for good advice or a kind word.

Jeff Warner, 77 Brownstone Drive, he did not oppose a school being named after Mr. Oshana but opposed renaming South End School because of its long heritage and history. He gave a history of South End School of over 200 years. He thought that Zaya A. Oshana deserved a facility named after him and recommended that John F. Kennedy Middle School be considered for renaming.

Carol Ladd, 139 Pondview Drive, she stated that Zaya A. Oshana was a legacy in Southington and devoted his life to education. She noted that South End School is not the same building from 200 years ago and is a different building.

John DeMello, 56 Hobart Street, he knew Zaya A. Oshana and his family personally. He stated Zaya was a humble man and so deserving of the honor to have South End School named after him.

Andre Loubier, 27 Sultana Terrace, he supported renaming a school after Mr. Oshana and liked Mr. Warner’s idea to rename Kennedy Middle School.

Bryan Meccariello, 1096 West Street, spoke to the school district policy and the two-criterion necessary to rename a school after a person and thought that Zaya A. Oshana met and exceeded the requirements.

Louis A. Perillo, III, submitted a letter of support and endorsement to change the name of South End Elementary School to honor Zaya A. Oshana, which Mr. Goralski read (*Attachment #1*).



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

**“Move Agenda Item 13.b ‘Approval of Out of State / Overnight Field Trips’ to Agenda Item 10.a.1.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

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

**“Move Agenda Item 13.d ‘Additional Staffing at Southington High School’ to Agenda Item 13.c.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**a.1 Approval of Out of State / Overnight Field Trip *(formerly Agenda Item 13.b)***

Coach Dan Dachelet explained that this was the fifth year that the Cross Country Team would be traveling out of state and going to New Jersey to tour the Thomas Edison National Historic Park and run in the Six Flags Great Adventure Wild Safari Cross Country Invitational in September 2019.

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

**“Move that the Board approve the out of state field trip in September 2019 for the Southington High School Cross Country Invitational, as presented.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**b. Communication from Board of Education Members**

Mr. Goralski announced that the Board of Education meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 11, 2019 would be cancelled, and notification would be sent to the Town Clerk’s Office.

**c. Communication from Administration**

1. STELLAR Graduation Ceremony: Ms. Walsh reported that on Thursday, June 13, 2019 she attended the STELLAR graduation ceremony at the Homewood Suites Inn. The program services students ages 18-21 and part of the fifth and sixth year for students who are identified with special education needs. Four students were presented with diplomas from Jessica Monson, STELLAR teacher, and Amy Aresco, Special Education Coordinator who oversees the program. The STELLAR Program was formerly housed at Lincoln College and this year is housed at Branford Hall in downtown Southington. Currently, there are 32 businesses who have agreed to support the students with 22 businesses who have taken on students as interns, job shadowing and paid employment. She named a few of the businesses and provided a list of the businesses (*Attachment #2*).

2. Extended School Year (ESY): Ms. Walsh explained that the ESY Program is for students with Individual Education Plans (IEP) in place that require summer education so that they do not regress with their academic, communication or social progress that they have made. Grades Pre-K through age 21 are serviced by the program that runs July 1-29, 4-hour days for 16

days, located at Kennedy Middle School and Hatton Elementary School with 175 students attending. Sixteen students of the 175 would be tutored. The district is responsible for 29 students who are out-of-district placements. Coordinating transportation is also involved.

Mr. Goralski praised the programs and staff and addressed that the Board approved part-time custodians at the high school, which might be suitable for the students to be mentored. Ms. Walsh added that the STELLAR students have YMCA memberships and there are four job coaches. Mrs. Clark praised the program and job coaches as an employer of interns for over three years at the nursery school where she is the director.

3. SHS Roof Project Bids: Mr. Connellan gave an update on the bids received with a low of \$1.7 million to a high of \$2.3 million. Depending on state approval, the bid will probably be awarded to Silktown. Mr. Mark Sciota, Town Manager, is currently drawing up the AIA contract.

## 11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### a. Facility Naming Committee Meetings ~ May 21, 2019 & June 11, 2019

Mrs. Carmody reported that the minutes of the meetings were submitted to the Board members and that she will go into detail later in the meeting.

## 12. OLD BUSINESS

### a. Town Government Communications

There were no Town Government Communications.

## 13. NEW BUSINESS

### a. Obsolete Textbooks

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

**“Move that the Board approves disposal of outdated obsolete textbooks, as submitted by the administration.”**

Mr. Derynoski requested that, if possible, the obsolete textbooks would be sent to needy school districts in the country who could reuse them.

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

b. **Approval of Out of State / Overnight Field Trip** (*Moved to Agenda Item 10.a.1*)

### c. Additional Staffing at Southington High School

Mr. Connellan stated that due to additional enrollment administration was requesting an additional .2 FTE teacher for earth science at the high school.



**MOTION:** by Mr. Baczewski, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

**“Move to add a .2 Full Time Equivalent Teacher for Science at Southington High School.”**

**Motional carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**d. Action on Recommendation of Facility Naming Committee**

Board member Zaya G. Oshana, son of Zaya A. Oshana, recused himself from the discussion and vote and took a seat in the audience.

Mrs. Carmody explained that the Board received a request from six people to rename a facility after Zaya A. Oshana, who served 34-years on the Board of Education. Mr. Goralski appointed an ad hoc School/Facility Renaming Committee (Terri Carmody, Lisa Cammuso, Patricia Queen, Dr. Angelo Coppola and Beecher Lajoie) with Mrs. Carmody chairing the committee. The initial charge of the Facility Naming Committee was to review state statute and Board of Education policy to see if the criteria for renaming a school/facility was met, which the ad hoc committee unanimously agreed that it did. A Public Hearing was held on May 21, 2019 for public comments on the renaming of South End School, Plantsville School or Flanders School. The committee received numerous emails, which were equally divided between the South End and Plantsville parents. The Board of Education was aware that a precedent had been set by previous Boards' of Education to name schools after Board of Education members who had long served the Board of Education, including Zaya A. Oshana who fit into that category. The ad hoc School Renaming Committee was comfortable in their decision to name South End Elementary School in his honor. After investigating historical backgrounds, South End Elementary was chosen because the old South End School building still remains, and the current South End School was a new building. The committee felt that Plantsville School was a part of Southington that was a village. Flanders was not considered because of the possibility that Flanders School might be closed in the future due to low enrollment, as indicated by a recent Feasibility Study. The ad hoc School Renaming Committee gave their unanimous recommendation to rename South End School to the Superintendent of Schools, which was put on the agenda for action by the full Board at this meeting.

Mrs. Queen added that Mrs. Carmody, as chair of this committee, tried to take the emotion out of the charge and to be objective. It was easy to determine that Zaya A. Oshana was deserving of this honor because of the overwhelming support, even from the people who opposed renaming a school. Mrs. Queen kept track of all the formal communications and it was evenly divided between the people in support and opposed to renaming South End School. She noted that many people mentioned cost as a primary concern to the change. It was mentioned before and was important to mention again that the initial group that proposed this name change offered to raise the funds to cover the Board of Education costs to rename the school so that it does not come out of the Board of Education Operating Budget.

Ms. Cammuso addressed the emails that she received and agreed that the name of a school has a meaning for many people. She lives in the South End School area and attended South End School. After reviewing the emails received and looking at everything objectively, she agreed that there was no question in honoring Zaya A. Oshana and renaming South End School after him. She noted that it was an emotional topic.



Mr. Baczewski did not know Zaya A. Oshana but heard many positive things about him and that he was a steward of the community who deserved a school named after him.

Mr. Goralski encouraged the people who questioned the process to do their homework. The policy is on the Southington Public Schools website and is what guides the Board of Education. It stated that two-thirds votes of the Board members was required to pass, which would be six votes. Mr. Goralski took responsibility for naming the people to serve on the ad hoc School Renaming Committee and explained that he followed policy and regulations. He was proud of the three Board of Education members and the two community members who served. One of the community members was a retired administrator in the district and one was a retired assistant superintendent of the district.

Mr. Brown agreed that it was an emotional topic and that he received numerous emails. There were five things that helped in making his decision. 1) Desire by people to name an elementary school after a man who served this town for over 30-years and deserves to be honored; 2) the people who contacted him were overwhelming against renaming South End School; 3) cost factor; he would be against any change if it involved a cost to the Board of Education budget; 4) loss of neighborhood school; he personally thought that no matter what it was named it would still be a neighborhood school; 5) as a former history teacher, the historical part means a lot and he would be in favor of looking at a different school such as Plantsville School. There are many buildings named Plantsville and the name would not disappear if the name of the school is changed. He thought the name South End would disappear after a long history. He also thought changing the name of J. F. Kennedy Middle School was a valid idea.

Mrs. Clark had the pleasure of serving on the Board of Education with Zaya A. Oshana. She also has a long history with South End because she lives on South End Road and was president of the South End PTO and co-chair of the building committee for Plantsville and South End Schools. She agreed that Zaya A. Oshana should be honored but questioned if anything else was looked at. She remembered Zaya A. Oshana's love of books and students having books. She thought it would be a tribute to refurbish the high school library and name it after Zaya A. Oshana because of his great love of books. She stated that the majority of the people who contacted her from South End School were not in favor of the name change.

Mrs. Carmody stated that the renaming committee did discuss the Southington High School Library because of his love of books. She reiterated the precedent set by the previous Boards' of Education and honoring two previous long-term Board members with schools renamed after them. She thought it would be a disservice to Zaya A. Oshana to not give him the same honor. Her first choice was a school, which was the charge. Mrs. Queen was open to look at another school other than South End.

Mr. Derynoski stated that of the 28 years he has served on the Board of Education, 22 years was with Zaya A. Oshana. He noted Zaya's passion for the way things should be such as students learning cursive writing and what was best for the students. Mr. Derynoski thought that Plantsville School would be a good alternative than South End School because it does not have the same historical significance.

Mr. Goralski stated that he would not vote for South End School to be renamed. He was happy to hear some of his colleague's favor renaming Plantsville. He did not think if the motion goes through to rename South End that it would get the six votes needed. He asked everyone to consider Plantsville School and take out some of the misconceptions that they have heard about. The Plant brothers were respected, had factories and a village named after them. Plantsville



School is named after the village and did not directly have the school named after the Plant brothers. They did not donate the land and build the original school. He gave a history of South End School. Mr. Goralski asked that two motions be made; one that honors Mr. Oshana, and one that formally, as Board of Education policy, names South End School so that it remains South End School and future Boards' of Education and the community cannot debate this ever again. He supported a motion to rename Plantsville School after Zaya A. Oshana and in some way put Plantsville into the name.

Mrs. Carmody stated that if they make a motion to rename Plantsville School they would be flooded with emails on Friday just like they were for South End. She noted that there was just as much controversy with the renaming of Kelley and Derynoski Schools. Mr. Goralski felt that a failing vote would be disparaging to the Oshana's.

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

**“Move to rename South End the Zaya A. Oshana Elementary School.”**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Queen.

NO – Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mr. Brown, Mr. Baczewski, Ms. Cammuso, Mr. Goralski

**Motion failed with two in favor and six opposed.**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

**“Move to rename Plantsville School the Zaya A. Oshana School.”**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mr. Brown, Ms. Cammuso, Mr. Baczewski, Mrs. Queen, Mr. Goralski. NO – Mrs. Carmody.

**Motion passed with seven in favor and one opposed.**

Mr. Goralski congratulated the Oshana family and notified the public that the name change would be planned as appropriate. There would be no public dollars used for the dedication and would be coordinated with a committee and the Oshana family. Anyone interested in participating in the planning of the dedication should contact Mr. Goralski via email. The ad hoc School Renaming Committee has ended their work.

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

**“Move to formally name South End Elementary School as South End Elementary School per Board policy.”**

Mr. Brown thought that the motion needed clarification because it might become an issue in the future. Mr. Goralski clarified that someone who votes in the affirmative can make the motion or second the motion and then it becomes a Board of Education item. Should no one that voted in the affirmative on the motion before them be available, they have to follow other rules within Robert's Rules of Order that states that they cannot do it. Mr. Brown asked if it holds true even if it is a different Board of Education. Mr. Derynoski clarified that the only way that it could be changed would be for the current Board of Education at that time to change the policy, so they could do things differently.

Mr. Oshana rejoined the Board members at the dais at this point and thanked the Board for their support.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mr. Brown, Mr. Baczewski, Ms. Cammuso, Mr. Oshana, Mr. Goralski. NO – Mrs. Queen.

**Motion carried with eight in favor and one opposed.**

#### **14. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**“Move to adjourn.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Blanchard*

Recording Secretary



June 20, 2019

Dear Members of the Board of Education,

The purpose of this correspondence is to urge your support in endorsing and adopting the name change of South End Elementary School in honor of Zaya A. Oshana Sr. for his years of dedication and service to the Town's education system. The Naming Committee did a beautiful job with the naming as the Zaya A. Oshana Elementary School at South End by honoring a devoted 34-year Board of Education member and retaining the emotional attachment our community may have to the school.

Our Town has recognized citizens who have gone to great lengths devoting their time, talents and energy to the community. When it comes to our educational system, three Board of Education members longevity certainly stand out. First, the Derynoski family, with Mr. Walter Derynoski with 44 years of service, recognized with renaming the former Central Elementary School in his honor. It should also be noted that his nephew David Derynoski, a current Board of Education member, adds another three decades and is still going like the Energizer Bunny. Urbin T. Kelley, another member with 43 years of service, with West Ridge Elementary School renamed in his honor. His son, Kevin T. Kelley, also served on the Board and was a past Board Chairman.

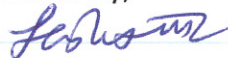
Another person with longevity is Zaya A. Oshana, serving 34 years on the Board. Mr. Oshana's commitment to education is easy to understand as it was a big part of his life and who he was. I have directly witnessed his devotion to the children of our community putting what he believed was in their best interest at all times. Students and staff had a voice....an extremely polite, kind but firm and persistent voice. Zaya was a Master at getting his point across and ensuring that educational values were open and apparent. Each student has individual value and is not a number nor to be overlooked for any reason as part of a system.

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We are a very fortunate in Southington to have a family theme committed to education in the three families mentioned as Mr. Oshana's son continues to follow in his dad's footsteps.

In conclusion, thank you for your support of the Committee's efforts in honoring Mr. Oshana by renaming South End School to the Zaya A. Oshana Elementary School at South End.

Sincerely,



Louis A. Perillo III

**STELLAR Program Businesses in Southington that have agreed to support students.**

- \* TJ Maxx
- \* Outback Steakhouse
- \* Paul Gregory's
- \* Chick Fila
- \* D's Hand Car Wash
- \* Homewood Suites
- \* Napa Auto
- \* JJ Auto
- \* Community Services
- \* Petco
- \* Lather and Laughs
- \* JoAnn's
- \* LEAF
- \* YMCA Camp Sloper
- \* Zion Nursery
- \* Goodwill
- \* Summit
- \* Walgreen's
- \* YMCA Learning Center
- \* Southington Library
- \* Close to Home
- The Music Shop
- M and J Video Games
- Pilgrim Furniture
- DePaolo Furniture
- Art Rich
- CT Scrapbooks
- TLC Photos
- ShopRite
- AquaTurf
- Awards of Elegance
  
- \* **Students have had the opportunity for work experience at these businesses.**