

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

AUGUST 15, 2019

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education (Committee of the Whole-Operations) was held on Thursday, August 15, 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. Joseph Baczewski, Mr. Robert Brown, Ms. Lisa Cammuso, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mr. Brian Goralski (*left Executive Session at 6:36 p.m. and returned 7:02 p.m.*), and Mrs. Patricia Queen. Absent was Mr. Zaya Oshana.

Administration present: Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Steven Madancy, Assistant Superintendent and Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business & Finance.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – SAA NEGOTIATIONS AND PERSONNEL MATTERS

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

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

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Goralski declared Executive Session ended at 7:06 p.m.

3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Goralski reconvened the Board of Education Regular Session at 7:12 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, and Mrs. Patricia Queen. Absent was Mr. Zaya Oshana.

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

Carson Cook, a Boy Scout and sixth grade student at Kennedy Middle School, led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. APPOINTMENT OF PRINCIPAL OF ZAYA A. OSHANA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

“Move to appoint Josephine Huntley Rogala as the principal of Zaya A. Oshana Elementary School on a date to be determined at a salary of \$137,054.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mrs. Rogala came to the podium and thanked the Board of Education, administration and her family for the opportunity to once again serve the students of Southington Public Schools and the Oshana Elementary School community.

Mr. Goralski called for a recess at 7:14 p.m.

Mr. Goralski reconvened the regular meeting at 7:36 p.m.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ June 20, 2019

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

“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of June 20, 2019, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING – AUGUST 13, 2019

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

“Move to approve the special Board of Education minutes of August 13, 2019, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote

8. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Public

There were no public communications.

b. Communication from Board of Education Members

Mrs. Queen shared information regarding a letter from the Southington Middle School Athletic Association (SMSAA) that was sent via School Messenger by the middle school principals to the middle school community. The SMSAA is in urgent need of volunteers. A meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 21, 2019, 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Center Public Assembly Room to recruit volunteers. The failure to fill the need will result in no middle school sports for the coming school year and the years after. The need is for at least four SMSAA Board members and six committee members in order to offer middle school sports in the 2019-2020 school year. The activity fee is \$150 per student per roster spot and the Board of Education operating budget contributes \$15,000. The SMSAA needs to raise \$40,000.

Mr. Brown noted that the feature article in this weeks Observer was the Wall of Honor. Mr. Brown is working with Mr. Pepe, Principal of Southington High School, about involving students in making larger posters and changing the timeline. Mr. Brown was happy to read the Personnel Report and noticed that many of the teacher new hires are former Southington Public School students.

Mr. Goralski announced that he received a number of letters over the summer. One letter was that UNICO was planning a 75th Diamond Anniversary Jubilee. Another letter was that a former Board of Education Student Representative and Eagle Scout, Leon Peschel, was graduating from Harvard Law School.

c. Communication from Administration

1. Bread for Life: Mr. Connellan reported that he received a letter from Donna Ayer, Executive Director for Bread for Life, thanking a student who organized a Hat Day that resulted in a donation of \$792. The Board members noted that the letter was not a part of their Board packet and requested that Mr. Connellan send it to them. Mr. Goralski requested that Bread for Life be recognized in the Celebration of Excellence at the next Board meeting.
2. Administrator Evaluation and Support Plan: Mr. Madancy reported that they have been working on the Vision of the Graduate and how to align the evaluation system, which is one of the strategies that goes along with the implementation around systemic transformation. As part of aligning the evaluation system, he talked about the differences between Leader "A" and Leader "B". They have worked together to revise the Administrator Evaluation Plan and the rubric that measures the performance and practice of our administrators to align with the Vision of the Graduate in order to help teachers move that work forward. The Administrator Evaluation and Support Plan will be sent to the state for initial review and approval.
3. Staffing Update: Mr. Connellan reported that there is currently one certified elementary teacher opening; however, a recommendation for hire will be forthcoming on Friday. There are still a number of openings for paraeducators that will be reduced by the beginning of school. There is one secretarial opening that will be filled on Friday. There are two openings in nursing that includes one full-time Registered Nurse (RN) district-wide substitute and a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) opening at the high school. There will be full coverage for students

- by the opening of school. One second shift full-time Security Attendant at the high school is in the process of being hired.
4. High School Roof Project Update: Mr. Connellan reported that the high school roofing project is on schedule and under budget and will be completed by the start of school.
 5. Convocation: Mr. Connellan noted that this year will be different with staff reporting on the first day right to their buildings and Convocation will be held on Wednesday, August 28 at 1:00 p.m. at the high school. Dr. Mark Brackett from Yale University Center for Emotional Intelligence will be the keynote speaker.
 6. Presidential Primary: Mr. Connellan stated that the Presidential Primary will be held on April 28, 2020, which is an early release day for professional development.

Mr. Madancy added that the goal of the change for Convocation this year is to change it from informational to inspirational. Due to a grant that Ms. Walsh, Director of Pupil Services, was able to obtain through the Main Street Foundation they were able to acquire Dr. Brackett as the keynote speaker.

9. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS

a. Personnel Report

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

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

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Board members liked the new format of the Personnel Report.

10. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

Mr. Goralski stated that three days a week LEAF (Lewis Educational Agriculture Farm) is open selling fresh produce from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Sixth and seventh grade students from DePaolo Middle School and sixth grade students from Kennedy Middle School have been participating, which connects with the curriculum.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Review and Approval of 2019-2020 Teacher Evaluation and Support Plan

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

“Move that the Board of Education approve the 2019-2020 Teacher Evaluation and Support Plan as presented.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

b. Superintendent’s Annual Report 2018-2019

Mr. Goralski stated that this was the best 57 pages that people can read about the schools. There was continuity between the schools and individuality. Mr. Connellan thanked Mrs. Linda Blanchard, Executive Assistant and Board Recording Secretary, for her work on putting together this document and editing the report. Mr. Derynoski found the report reflective of the unification of all the administrators and that it was the best, easiest read with detail that he has seen over many years. Mrs. Queen noted the new reports from the Math, Science and English Language Arts Coordinators were added this year. Mrs. Carmody added that the public needed to see this report. Mr. Goralski requested that the annual report to be forwarded to the other elected boards and be put it on the school district’s website.

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

“Move to approve the Superintendent’s Annual Report for 2018-2019, as presented.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

c. Class Size Report

Mr. Connellan stated that the class sizes were still a work in progress; however, as of today, the numbers look good. Mr. Madancy thanked the Board for the shift in practice this year of not notifying students and families of who their teacher would be on the last day of school. This allowed for shifts in enrollment and sections in teacher assignments across schools without having to come before the Board for any new teachers. All families were notified Wednesday evening, August 14, of who their teachers were, which is two weeks advance notice. During the three-day August return of teachers there would be the opportunity for students/families to drop in to meet their teacher prior to the start of school. Project Choice students were reflected in the numbers.

d. School Opening Dates 2019-2020

Mr. Connellan stated that Mrs. Debi Albaitis, Superintendent Executive Assistant, put together the dates for the Board members.

e. Unaffiliated Compensation

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

“Move to approve the unaffiliated Lead OT/PT Therapist position salary as presented.”

Mr. Goralski stated that this position was an oversight and left off the grid that the Board acts upon.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Blanchard
Recording Secretary