

*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**

**SEPTEMBER 12, 2019**

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The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education (Committee of the Whole-Operations) was held on Thursday, September 12, 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**

Mrs. Terri Carmody, Vice-Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

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

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

#### **2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – SAA CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE**

**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 Contract Negotiations, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

*Mrs. Carmody declared Executive Session ended at 6:45 p.m.*

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

*Mr. Goralski, Chairperson, reconvened the Board of Education Regular Session at 7:00 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; Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance; and Ms. Margaret Walsh, Director of Special Services.

Student representatives present were Trevor Messina, Amrit Kaur and Brett Sheldrick.

#### **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 the lives lost and affected by 9/11 and for high school student, Julie Bruno, who recently tragically passed away.

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

The Board of Education recognized the members of Bread for Life for their partnership in support of the children in the community. Bread for Life and Youth Services partnered with the Southington Board of Education to create a PTO serving the Alternative Program (ALTA) and the Food for Fuel Program to provide healthy snacks in the school counseling departments during the day for students who need a snack. Ms. Donna Ayer, Director of Bread for Life, spoke briefly about the Summer Lunch Program that served 2,970 lunches to children in need. She noted that 22% of students in the Southington Public Schools receive free or reduced meals. She also highlighted their partnership with Southington Youth Services and many other Southington agencies that support the children in the community. The Board presented Bread for Life with a Certificate of Excellence.

*Mr. Goralski called for a recess at 7:10 p.m.*

*Mr. Goralski reconvened the regular meeting at 7:24 p.m.*

#### **6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ August 15, 2019**

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

**“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of August 15, 2019, as submitted.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

#### **7. COMMUNICATIONS**

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

There was no public communication.

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

Mr. Brown addressed 9/11 and thought foreign languages, social studies, emotional intelligence and education, as a whole, are things that the Southington students need to be productive, global students who understand the rest of the world.

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

**“Move to move Agenda Item #11.a ‘Approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trips’ to Agenda Item #7.e.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

Mr. Goralski announced that STEPS was offering a Parent University on September 21, 2019, from 8:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at DePaolo Middle School, which is an opportunity for parents to attend a workshop regarding suicide prevention, vaping, underage drinking, Internet safety, asset building, mindfulness, Emotional Intelligence and how to effectively talk to their children. More information and registration can be found at [www.southingtonsteps.org](http://www.southingtonsteps.org).

Mr. Goralski stated that the Convocation for the 2019-2020 school year was the best that he attended because of the guest speaker, Dr. Marc Brackett, from Yale University, who addressed Emotional Intelligence and motivated all in attendance. A few days after Convocation, Mr. Goralski saw Dr. Brackett on the television show ‘Good Morning America’ and planned to read his book.

**c. Communication from Administration**

1. Extended School Year (ESY): Ms. Walsh distributed an outline of the mandated Extended School Year program (*Attachment #1*) that served 164 identified students during the summer. She spoke at length and in detail regarding the special education programs served for students with Individual Education Plans (IEP), the focused instruction to meet the students’ goals and objectives for students to not regress during the summer from the advances made during the school year, staffing, and program venues. The STELLAR program (for students aged 19-21) was offered for the first time this year. Attendance was decided at the student’s PPT (Planning Placement Team) meeting, and in order not to overstaff, letters were sent home to parents to see if they were planning to go on vacation or decided not to send their child to ESY. Mrs. Clark questioned students who were recommended to attend, but never attended.

2. Summer School Report: Mr. David DeStefano gave a PowerPoint presentation (*Attachment #2*) highlighting courses and data from the Summer School programs that were offered to students in July 2019. He discussed in detail the school enrichment programs and high school and middle school credit recovery programs including enrollment over the past 10 years, and recommendations for the summer of 2020. Southington Community Services provided financial assistance to 10 families totaling \$2,950. Mr. DeStefano also addressed the highlights of Camp Invention that was held at Strong Elementary School and the programs that were offered. There were 120 participants with a wait list of 44 students. Southington was the first in the region of 125 districts in New England and Long Island to reach full enrollment. Four scholarships of \$470 were offered. Mr. DeStefano requested that Camp Invention be held at a different venue in 2020 and to rotate among all the elementary schools.

3. Operations Projects Update: Mr. Connellan gave an update from Mr. Romano, Director of Operations, highlighting operations/maintenance/custodial work completed during the summer of 2019 in addition to the 498 work orders received over the summer.

Mr. Connellan praised the maintenance and custodial staff and noted all the work that they accomplished over the summer. Mr. Romano was able to save money on many of the projects by using the talented in-house maintenance employees instead of going to bid on these projects. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Goralski asked Mr. Connellan to inform Mr. Romano and the maintenance and custodial staff how appreciative the Board is of their expertise. Mr. Connellan pointed out Mr. Romano's great leadership and working relationship that he has built with the collective bargaining units.

For the next Board meeting, Mr. Connellan asked Ms. Walsh to give a presentation on the Collaborative Learning (CLP) Program formerly called Therapeutic Education Program (TEP) and how this was restructured in partnership and collaboration with Wheeler Clinic.

Mrs. Queen addressed Maker Space and requested a presentation on this at a future Board meeting. Mr. Connellan stated that this year his goal was to do a better job sharing and communicating with the community on the good things that are happening in the school district.

d. Communications from Student Representatives

Trevor Messina reported the following:

- Senior Sunrise was held on Tuesday before the first day of school. The seniors gather on Fontana field to view the sunrise and then go to breakfast. On the last day of school, they hold a senior sunset.
- On Sunday, September 3, there was a vigil held for Julia Bruno with a large turnout by the community. Many high school groups were holding fundraisers to raise money for a scholarship fund in her memory.
- On Friday, September 13, the Marching Band will perform their preview show at 8:00 p.m. with the first competition to be held at Maloney High School on Saturday, September 14.

Amrit Kaur reported the following:

- Freshman orientation was held on August 20, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- The high school Open House will be held on September 19 at 6:00 p.m. with Key Club attending to help parents find classrooms and answer questions.

Brett Sheldrick reported the following:

- The girls' soccer team had an away scrimmage that they won.
- The Southington High School College and Career Fair will be held on September 17 at 6:30 p.m. with over 100 colleges represented.
- The boys' varsity football game will be held on Friday, September 13 at Conard.

e. **Approval of Out of State / Overnight Field Trips**

The teacher co-advisors for DECA, Theresa Brooks and Sandy Spinello, introduced the DECA officers who spoke about their past experiences with the DECA field trip conferences and the value that the students receive in attending them. Brian Egan, co-president of DECA, addressed the New York City field trip. Avery Korp, co-president of DECA, spoke about her experience at Nationals last year in Orlando, Florida. This year, the International Career

Development Conference will be held in Nashville, Tennessee. Brianna Harris, Vice President of Competitive Events, spoke about her experience last year in Orlando.

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

**“Move to approve the SHS DECA field trip requests, as presented.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

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

**“Move to approve the SHS Wrestling Team field trip to Tsongas Arena in Lowell, Massachusetts and Plaistow, New Hampshire, as submitted.”**

Mr. Goralski announced that wrestling Coach Dion informed him that the SHS wrestling team student-athletes achieved Academic All American more than any other school in the country and in the history of the SHS wrestling team.

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

## **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **a. Finance Committee Meeting – August 27, 2019**

Mrs. Clark reported that the Self Insurance Report showed that claims were less this year, which shows the High Deductible Health Plan had been successful. Mrs. DiNello reminded the Board that last year the Southington Middle School Athletic Association (SMSAA) had covered the full cost of the program; however, they had a difficult time with the fundraising the past school year. The SMSAA ended the year with a shortfall of \$2,500 to cover all the costs. The Finance Committee questioned how sustainable the SMSAA would be moving forward. The SMSAA had a meeting in August and elected new leadership and planned fundraisers. The Board budgeted a contribution of \$15,000 this year from the operating budget for middle school sports. There will be enough funds available to cover the fall sports season; however, to date, there has not been any type of contribution from the SMSAA. The expectation was that the Board would receive a check prior to the start of each season. The Finance Committee was looking for a consensus from the full Board that the SMSAA must pay the anticipated winter coaching salaries by November 1 and spring salaries by April 1, prior to team tryouts taking place. If the Board agrees, then there would be a meeting with the SMSAA leadership to communicate the timeline expectations.

Mr. Goralski questioned why the Board would take a consensus instead of making it a motion. After lengthy discussion by the Board and administration, the Board agreed to take a consensus. However, in the future, the Board would take a vote to make November 1 and April 1 firm timelines for the SMSAA to pay the anticipated coaching salaries.

**Consensus:** To give the administration the directive to share these dates with the leadership of the SMSAA and to continue the collaboration and partnership with the work that they are doing.

**The Board members unanimously agreed with the consensus.**

Mrs. Clark reported on the Unexpended Education Fund account timelines and that administration plans to meet in mid-September to review the current Capital Plan and prioritize a list of projects to bring before the full Board for approval before submitting to the Town Board of Finance.

Mrs. DiNello explained the Board is currently in a five-year contract with New Britain Transportation (NBT) that would expire on June 30, 2020. The Finance Committee discussed the pros and cons of bidding the transportation contract and the reasons not to go to bid far outweighed the reasons to bid. Administration is very satisfied with the current services and management at New Britain Transportation.

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

**“Move to waive the bidding process and authorize the administration to begin negotiations on a contract extension.”**

Mr. Baczewski questioned if any thought was given for Southington to develop their own transportation fleet for students. Mrs. DiNello stated that during her tenure with the Southington Public Schools, the Board never entertained making that type of capital investment of buying their own fleet of buses and employing the drivers. Getting viable drivers would be a big challenge. In order for Mr. Baczewski to agree to a contract extension, whenever there is any issue with New Britain Transportation staff, he wanted the Board of Education members to be notified immediately. Mr. Connellan confirmed that there is a state law that it is a requirement that if a driver is reported to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) then administration is notified immediately. Mr. Derynoski shared that when he first was elected to the Board, they looked into owning a fleet of buses and the cost was prohibitive. Mr. Goralski added that in the past there was an audit that showed the Board was getting valuable bus services for their money. Miss Cammuso added that on the first day of school she was at the high school where there were two NBT representatives making sure that the buses were running smoothly. Mrs. DiNello complimented Mr. Romano and his office for the relationship that they have with New Britain Transportation and their management.

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

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

**“Move to approve the Year End Close-out of the 2018-2019 Operating Budget.”**

Mr. Goralski hoped that the new energy company will do better with their projections moving forward. There were factors out of the Board’s control in the 2018-19 budget.

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

## **9. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS**

### **a. Personnel Report**

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

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

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

Mrs. Carmody thanked the Human Resources Department for all the work that was done over the summer with so much turnover. The Board liked the changes made with postings now emailed to all internal staff.

**10. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Town Government Communications**

Mr. Baczewski addressed that he had stopped at the Grosky Farm Stand, which is run by students, to buy flowers and produce on his way home. He thought it would be a great spot to sell Christmas trees. Mrs. Queen added that there is a student at the farm stand who is very helpful and has very knowledgeable about the produce and how to cook it.

Mr. Goralski reported that the Committee of the Chairs recently met and that Planning and Zoning shared information regarding a Washing Station that is being built by the Bowling Alley, which will be savings for the community because of the environmental laws that were passed regarding washing trucks and buses in a containment area.

Mr. Goralski reported that the Board of Education was partnering with the Town to make presentations to PTOs about the referendum this fall regarding the town of Southington buying back the Municipal Center building, which was the former North Center School, instead of leasing the building. Mr. Connellan has already made presentations to two PTOs (Flanders and Kelley) regarding the referendum.

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trips (*Moved to Agenda Item 7.e*)**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**“Move to adjourn.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Linda Blanchard*  
Recording Secretary

**ESY Summary - 2019**

This summer the Extended School Year program serviced 164 identified students. The program was structured into specialized district programs with the introduction of the STELLAR program into ESY this year. Additionally, there were 11 classrooms broken down by students grade level, two Jumpstart classrooms servicing typically peers as well as our students with IEPs and the district tutoring as part of ESY. The STELLAR, ACHIEVE, EASE, Launch, Lids and lids primary were all run over the summer as well as the ABA room that was supervised by the BCBA's. We were able to provide a wide spectrum of programming and even had one student attend the enrichment program for the second year. This proved to be a great success! Students attended the program Monday through Thursday from 8:30 to 12:00. During their time with us instruction focused on maintaining skills learned throughout the school year to meet students' goals and objectives. Occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech and language services were also provided. Students in the National Honors Society volunteered in the program and proved great peer role models for our students. With the smiles on students faces it was easy to see that the relationship between the students attending and the student volunteers was mutually beneficial.

**Staffing**

Certified Teachers 19 - addition of STELLAR and tutoring program

Paraprofessionals: 48

ABA Therapists: 13

BCBA: 2

Paraprofessionals working in our specialized programs (EASE, ACHIEVE, LIDS, LAUNCH): 27 about 56%

**Total Students**

Identified Students enrolled in ESY: 164

Students in specialized program: 47

Students who never attended: 13

\* This year a form was sent to parents and prior to the start of the program 19 students who were IEPed into ESY declined the opportunity to attend. The number listed above is the number of students who did not attend but did not let us know prior to the start of the program.

**Hatton School Location**

Number of Identified Students: 128

Number of students attending enrichment: 1

Number of Students in Launch: 14

Number of Students in Lids/Lids Primary: 12

Students Receiving Speech Only: 3

Students Recommended Who never attended: 12

**Middle/ High School Location**

Number of Students: 36

Number of Students in EASE: 8

Number of Students in ACHIEVE: 10

Number of Students not attending: 1

# Southington Summer Programs



2019

Presented by:  
**Dave DeStefano**

## Program Highlights



- Summer school relocated to DePaolo Middle School.
  - Very accommodating and location was ideal.
- 55 students enrolled in the high school enrichment program. Up 52% from last year.
- Middle school enrichment featured 7 courses to choose from.
  - 42 middle school students enrolled
- The Southington Community Services provided financial assistance to 10 families totaling \$2,950 in coverage.

## Elementary Enrichment Data

	# of students	Vs. LY	# of sessions	Vs. LY
<b>Elementary</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>-9</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>-7</b>
Pre-K	6	+2	9	+3
Kindergarten	8	-6	16	-7
Grade 1	21	+8	37	+14
Grade 2	12	-7	19	-13
Grade 3	11	±0	20	+9
Grade 4	7	-6	13	-9
Grade 5	6	±0	12	+4

## Elementary Enrichment Photos



# Elementary Enrichment Photos



# Middle School Remediation

Representing Schools	Number Enrolled	Versus 2018
DePaolo	14	+7
Kennedy	14	+7
Tyrell MS	1	+1
S. Catholic	1	+1
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>+16</b>

	# of students	Vs. LY
<b>Middle School</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>+16</b>
Grade 5 (audit)	1	-1
Grade 6	0	-3
Grade 7	13	+8
Grade 8	16	+12

	# of sessions	Vs. LY
	<b>48</b>	<b>+26</b>
Grade 5 (audit)	2	-1
Grade 6	0	-5
Grade 7	17	+9
Grade 8	29	+23

## High School Credit Recovery

- At the high school level, low enrollment was attributed to student success during the school year by successfully earning credit.
  - As a result there were less students eligible for summer school.
- Class sizes were relatively low.
  - As a result there was greater one-on-one instruction
- Several computer rooms and a chrome cart were available.
  - Teachers were able to use Google documents and classroom. Work was monitored and allowed for immediate feedback.
- Four students earned their diploma at the conclusion of the program.

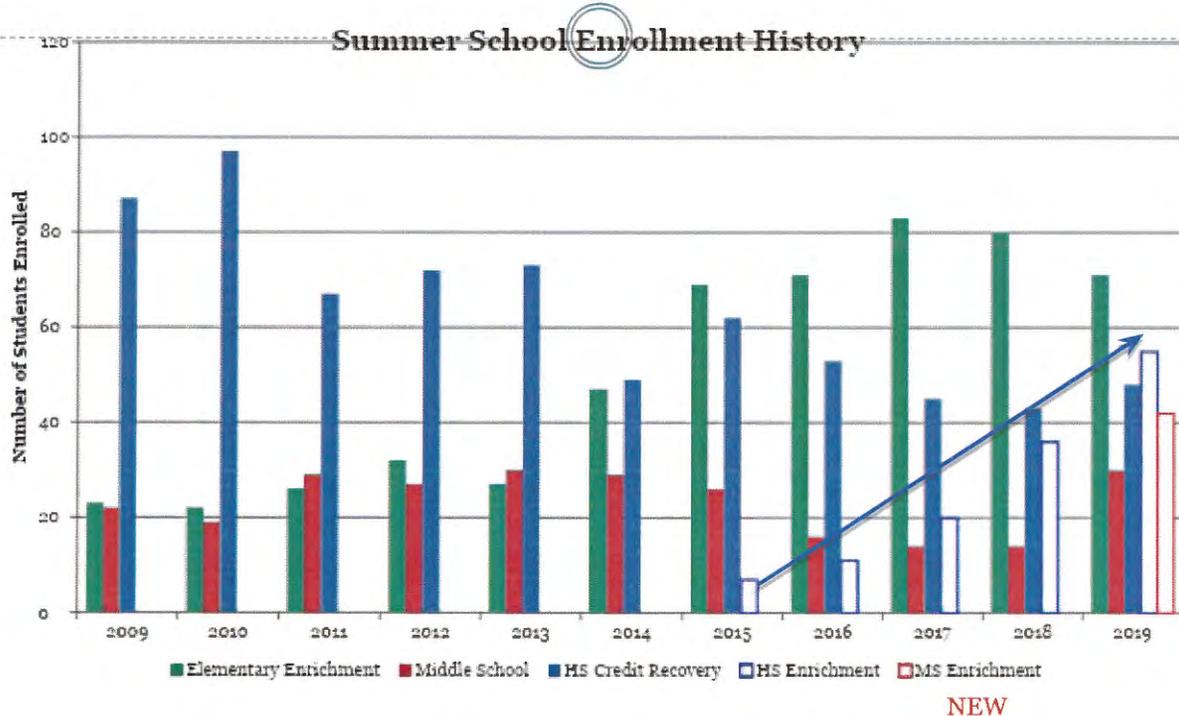
## High School Credit Recovery

Sessions	# Enrolled	Vs. 2018
English 9	8	+4
English 10	3	-1
English 11	11	+4
English 12	3	+2
Algebra I	6	-7
Algebra II	5	+2
Geometry	5	-2
Earth Science	2	-2
Biology	2	-2
Modern U.S. History (NEW)	4	+4
World History	2	+2
Health	0	-2
P.E.	7	+4
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>-5</b>

# High School Credit Recovery

	# of students	Vs. LY	# of sessions	Vs. LY
<b>High School</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>+5</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>+6</b>
Grade 8 (audit)	1	+1	1	+1
Grade 9	17	+1	21	+4
Grade 10	8	-5	10	-7
Grade 11	18	+7	21	+7
Grade 12	4	+1	5	+1

## Enrollment – Past Ten Years



Note: Elementary enrichment program began in 2005

# Grades 6 - 12 Enrichment



	# of students	Vs. LY
<b>HS Enrichment</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>+19</b>
Grade 9	5	±0
Grade 10	14	+5
Grade 11	35	+17
Grade 12	1	+1

	# of sessions	Vs. LY
	<b>72</b>	<b>+23</b>
	6	-1
	22	+7
	43	+20
	1	+1

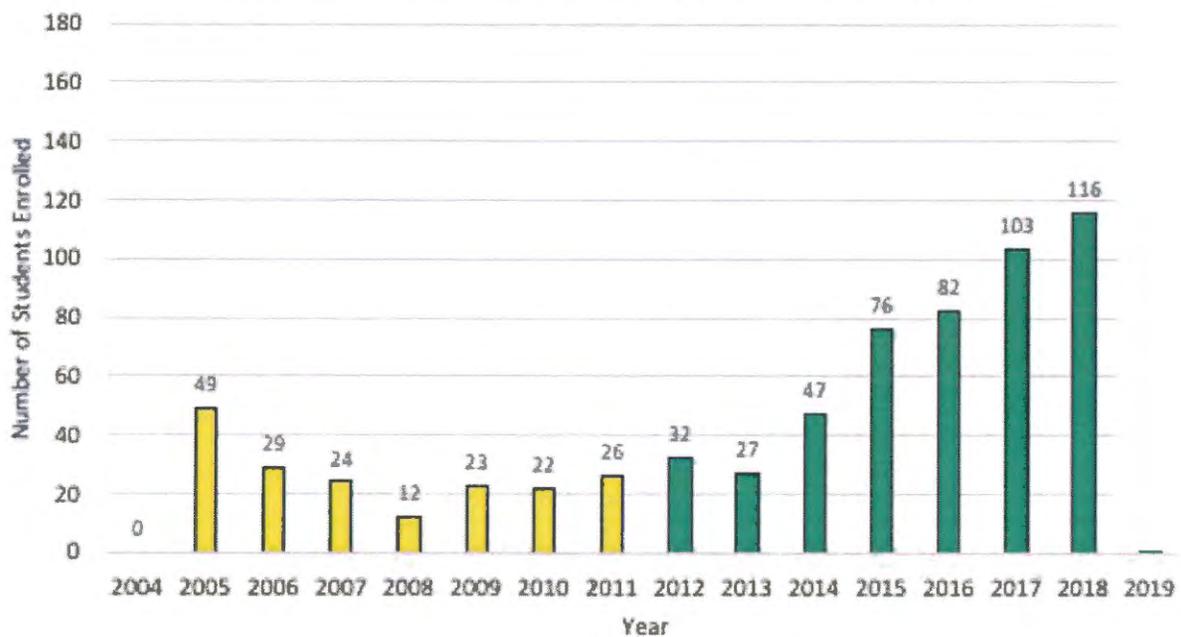
	# of students	Vs. LY
<b>MS Enrichment</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>+42</b>
Grade 5	2	New
Grade 6	20	New
Grade 7	6	New
Grade 8	14	New

	# of sessions	Vs. LY
	<b>61</b>	<b>+61</b>
	2	New
	33	New
	8	New
	18	New

## Students Enrolled in Enrichment Courses



Total Number of Students Enrolled in Enrichment Courses



## Recommendations for 2020



- Prepare for the increased number of credits needed for graduation.
  - Meet with school admin and guidance regarding credit concerns
- Advertise the middle school enrichment courses
  - Consider making JAD a permanent home
  - Redesign the tech courses to make a STEM academy
- Restructure the credit recovery senior English courses (0.5 credits)
  - Potentially meet 9-10 days and pay a reduced tuition.



**Camp Invention®**



**Strong Elementary School**

July 29<sup>th</sup> – August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

Presented by:  
**Dave DeStefano**

**2019**

**“Supercharged”**



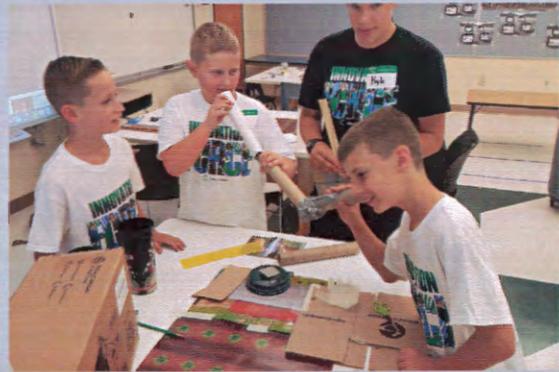
**Camp Invention®**

**Snapshots**

## Camp Invention: Games™



## Farm Tech™



# Deep Sea Mystery™



# Innovation Force™



## DIY Orbit™



## Moving Forward

### 2019 Highlights

- 120 participants (Full enrollment –all six years)
  - First in region (125 districts participating in New England + Long Island) to reach full enrollment
  - 44 wait-listed
- Four scholarships offered totaling \$470 in tuition reduction.

### 2020 Suggestions

- Consider new venue to mix things up.
  - Possibly rotate among elementary schools
- Continue to offer scholarships.

## Six Years and Going Strong!!

