

*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 26, 2019**

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The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education (Committee of the Whole-Instruction) was held on Thursday, September 26, 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. 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 of Curriculum and Instruction.

#### **2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – STUDENT AND PERSONNEL MATTERS**

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

**"Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing Student and Personnel 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, Chairperson, reconvened the Regular Session at 7:06 p.m.*

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

Student representatives present were Amrit Kaur and Brett Sheldrick.

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

The student representatives led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

a. The Board of Education recognized Heather Allenback, 2019-2020 Southington Teacher of the Year, with Mr. Frank Pepe, Principal of Southington High School giving the introductory remarks. The Board presented Ms. Allenback with a Certificate of Excellence plaque.

b. Kelly Leppard, Megan Albanese, Steve Nyerick, Christina McKirryher from STEPS (Southington Town-wide Effort to Promote Success) and ABC (Asset Building Classrooms) recognized the following Southington students for their artwork of the Assets of the Month featured in the 2019-2020 STEPS Calendar: Olivia Bedard, Samantha Barrows, Katia Betros, Isabella Carbone, Carissa Cayer, Joseph Edwards, Adaline Fisher, Tryston Lester, Rachel Martins, Ryan Nicoletti, Morgan Pastor, Thomas Sabino, Sophia Sciascia, Rachel Stumpf and Gianna Wadowski. The students were presented with a framed picture of their artwork.

*Mr. Goralski called for a recess at 7:18 p.m.*

*Mr. Goralski reconvened the regular session at 7:30 p.m.*

#### **6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ September 12, 2019**

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

**“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of September 12, 2019, as submitted.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

#### **7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **a. Finance Committee Meeting ~ September 16, 2019**

##### **1. Bid Award: Bid-2020-09 – Replacement of Water Heat Pumps (SHS)**

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

**“Move to approve the purchase of water heat pumps at Southington High School from Swan Associates in the amount of \$32,110.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**



**2. Bid Award: Bid-2020-10 – Boiler Replacement (SHS)**

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

**“Move to approve Bid-2020-10, Boiler Replacement at Southington High School to Sav-Mor Heating and Cooling for \$153,126.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**3. Bid Award: Bid-2020-12 – Snow Removal & Sanding Services at SHS, JFK, KES, SES, OES, TES**

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

**“Move to award Bid-2020-12, Snow Removal & Sanding Services at the six sites to the vendors recommended by the Finance Committee.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

Mr. Goralski thanked the committee and the administration for all the hard work behind the scenes to make these bids work.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

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

**“Move to add Agenda Item 8.c ‘Student Expulsion’ to the agenda.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**a. Bid Award: Bid-2020-14 – Snow Removal & Sanding (DES & HES)**

Mrs. DiNello explained that the six sites that the Board just took action on were part of the Finance Committee; however, while the bid was out for those six sites, they learned that one of the vendors that was planning to plow at two of the other schools would be in year three of their 3-year contract and that the business had been sold and administration was unable to confirm with the new owners that they have equipment still in town or the state and have not been reactive to Mr. Romano’s telephone calls. The administration did not feel that they could count on the vendor to do the snow removal. Another bid was sent out for Derynoski and Hatton Schools after the Finance Committee meeting. The committee members had agreed to bring the low bidder to the full Board for a vote. Mrs. DiNello noted that there had been a lack of bidders and staying close to the budgeted numbers had been extremely difficult. She praised Mr. Romano for working on negotiating prices with the low bidders and being creative with the work at Derynoski to save money.

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

**“Move to award Bid-2020-14, Snow Removal & Sanding Services at Derynoski and Hatton Schools to the vendor as recommended by the Administration.”**

Mr. Goralski questioned how the bidding process had been affected by the new ordinance that the Town Council put into place giving preferential treatment to Southington businesses. He thought that the ordinance could be hurting taxpayers especially if there were more bidders in the past and if it was impacting getting quality low bids. Mr. Goralski asked Mrs. DiNello to follow-up on that. Based on what Mrs. DiNello had been observing, the cost was not as inviting or lucrative for outside vendors to come to Southington verses them doing commercial sites.

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**b. Ratification of Southington Administrators Association (SAA) Contract**

Mr. Goralski recused himself from the discussion and vote.

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

**“Move to ratify the tentative agreement between the Southington Administrators Association and the Southington Board of Education.”**

Mr. Brown noted that the Board saved money for the town by handling the negotiations in-house.

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

**Motion unanimously passed with seven in favor and one abstention.**

**c. Student Expulsion**

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

**“Move to expel Student 2019-2020-01 as stipulated by the Superintendent.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**9. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

**a. Communications from Public**

There was no public communication.

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

The Board members reported on the following:

- The Wall of Honor is holding a meeting on November 6, 2019 to make selections for this school year with the ceremony next April 2020. Mr. Pepe met with Department Heads to discuss having students involved in making posters for the event.
- Mr. Brown received a letter from the senate majority leader of the state of Connecticut that he had been appointed to a committee that oversees teachers standards for the entire state.



- Mr. Brown reported that the Connecticut Poverty Task Force is up and running to reduce the impact of poverty by education. They have their own website, which is: [www.reduceimpactofpovertybyeducation.com](http://www.reduceimpactofpovertybyeducation.com). The task force will be holding a conference in November for teacher leaders in conjunction with New York State that has a conference called "Poverty Education and Unions in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century". The Poverty Task Force will sponsor a conference next year with Representative Jahana Hayes as keynote speaker.
- On October 24, 2019, at the end of the school day, there will be a formal name change dedication ceremony of Zaya A. Oshana Elementary School.
- Mr. Goralski stated that he was offended by the editorial in The Observer today regarding the Board of Education rubberstamping the budget of the superintendent of schools, which is not true and casts a poor light on the Board of Education and Town Council and does not give credit to the Board of Finance for the work that they do. He was proud of the relationships between the three elected boards that work together for the collaborative good. He thought that the local paper should be celebrating what is great in Southington and not putting down the volunteers who serve the community and support the employees who do what is best for schools and students. He thought that The Observer was a quality newspaper and that the writers do good work and wished that the editor would take their lead.

**c. Communication from Administration**

1. Food Service Professional Development: Mrs. DiNello highlighted some of the training that took place with the Food Service employees to kick off the new year. She stated that Ms. Nya Welinsky, Food Service Director, provided two events with a new product food show for the August professional development day where vendors presented new food items. For the September 17 professional development, there was hands-on culinary training creating and presenting delicious, nutritious plant-based foods (*Attachment #1*). School lunch today is not necessarily how many people remember school lunch. Mr. Goralski asked for follow-up on how the students respond and react to the new menus.
2. Veterans Affairs: Mr. Connellan reported that the Connecticut Department of Education and the Office of Veterans Affairs established an award called, "Remembering Our Heroes: Teaching about Veterans School Recognition Program". Both Derynoski Elementary School and DePaolo Middle School received this award that will be presented at the next Board of Education meeting.
3. Coalition for Social Justice: Mr. Connellan reported that the first meeting for this school year will take place on October 22, 2019.
4. Collaborative Learning Program Presentation: Ms. Walsh reported that the school district and Wheeler Clinic are engaged in a collaborative partnership with Wheeler Clinic to assist in providing more clinical services and structure to the in-district program at the high school for students with significant social and emotional challenges. The program previously was named TEP (Therapeutic Education Program) and now it is CLP (Collaborative Learning Program). She introduced some of the people involved with the program: Nadine Russo, clinician from Wheeler Clinic who works fulltime; Nicole Nemczuk CLP Teacher; Lisa Carmody, CLP Teacher; Evette Aird, Special Education



Coordinator at the high school; Debbie Martinelli, paraeducator; and Dr. Michael Russo from Central Connecticut State University (formerly with Wheeler Clinic). Ms. Walsh stated that a lot of changes were made to the program over the summer including a separate entrance for the students. A PowerPoint presentation was given (*Attachment #2*) that highlighted the changes to the new program servicing the students in-district who in the past would have been outplaced in a private special education facility. The program was discussed in detail including the philosophy, the at-risk students (who receive specialized transportation and relinquish their mobile phones upon arrival), objectives, core model, therapies, students setting their goals, progress, and the administrative role. The maximum number of students in the CLP program is 14 students and currently there are 12. It is a very restrictive program with two students currently on a watch list. This is the first year for the CLP program.

Mrs. Queen noted the statistic that since 2008 the number of children under the age of 18 that have been admitted via emergency room admissions for mental health issues has almost tripled over the years. Mr. Brown stated that was important to offer a program such as this to address a student's issues before it became a major problem. Mrs. Queen questioned tools and strategies that are applied and taught to the students including triggers.

Mr. Goralski apologized that this item was not on the posted agenda because they are evolving the Committee of the Whole – Instructional meetings and changing the structure of the agenda. He asked that a bullet be added underneath the “Communication from Administration” indicating the CLP PowerPoint presentation for future reference and that the PowerPoint presentation is attached to the minutes. Moving forward, he asked that if there is a presentation under “Communication from Administration” that it is listed as a separate freestanding agenda item under “Communication from Administration”.

#### d. Communications from Student Representatives

Amrit Kaur reported the following:

- The College Fair was held on September 17, 2019.
- The high school Open House was held on September 19 at 6:00 p.m. with Key Club attending to help parents find classrooms and answer questions.
- The DECA officer installation ceremony was held on September 25, 2019.

Brett Sheldrick reported the following:

- The first boys home football game is scheduled for Friday, September 27 at 7:00 p.m. against Enfield.
- The girls first volleyball game at home was against Bristol and they won.
- The boys' soccer first home game was against Lewis Mills and they won.
- Financial Aid Night is scheduled for October 3, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Mrs. Queen questioned what they would talk to the college representatives about. Miss Kaur stated that the main concern for her was what the college was known for as well as the requirements and scores. Mr. Sheldrick attended the College Fair last year and questioned SAT, GPA, ACT scores and what the culture was like at the college. Miss Kaur was interested in Brandeis University and Boston University and they did not attend. Mr. Goralski requested that



she share that with the Director of the Guidance Department at the high school to ensure that those colleges attend the next College Fair.

Mr. Goralski told the student representatives that family and school always comes first and that if there was anything on the agenda that they could not stay for, the Board would be happy to make a motion to move it up on the agenda.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**“Move to adjourn.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Linda Blanchard*  
Recording Secretary

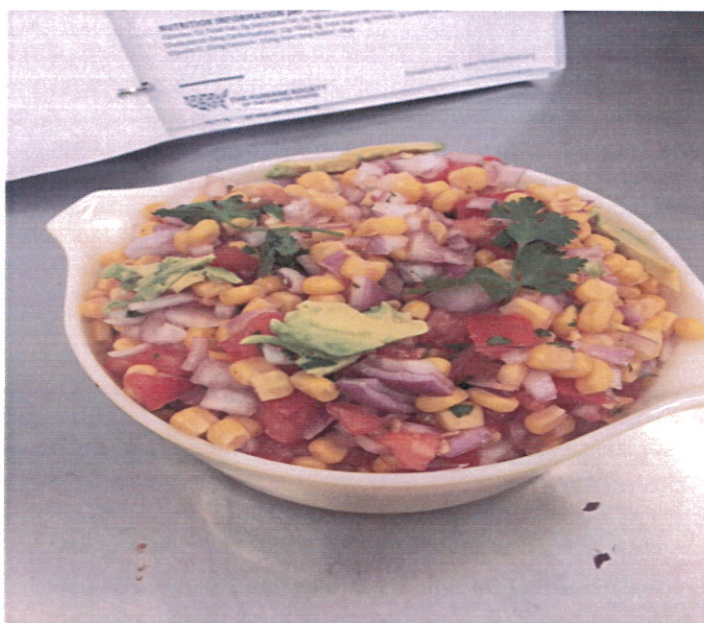




Preparing Homemade Pesto without Nuts



Preparing Amazing Lo Mein Veggies & Street Tacos



Picante Corn Salad



Mediterranean Flatbreads with Homemade Hummus



Nachos with Cilantro Lime Sauce



The Southington Public Schools Food Service Employees received hands-on Professional Development Culinary Training on creating and presenting delicious, nutritious, plant-based foods on September 17, 2019 at Derynoski School. These are some of the food items that they made.





# SOUTHTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Press Release  
September 12, 2019

**For release:**

**Contact: (860) 628-3200 X212**

**Sherri DiNello, Director of Business & Finance**

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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

STEVEN G. MADANCY  
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JAMIE T. OLANDER  
DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY

MICHELLE PASSAMANO  
HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

JENNIFER S. MELLITT  
ACCOUNTING MANAGER

The Southington Public Schools Food Service employees will have hands-on culinary professional development training on creating and presenting delicious, nutritious, plant-based foods on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 from 1:30 – 4:00 p.m. in the Derynoski Elementary School Cafeteria. The goals of this professional development session are:

- identifying the demand for plant-based foods;
- the research on plant-based nutrition;
- plant-based meat alternatives for school / childcare programs;
- marketing meatless meals – tips and tricks;
- culinary hands-on training making recipes.

In addition, all food service staff attended a New Product Food Show on August 28, 2019 at Hatton School. Vendors presented new items for the Southington Public Schools Food Service Staff to taste and learn about. The nutritional values of the products were discussed as well as information regarding sodium, fat, gluten-free, MSG, and high fructose corn syrup.

Some of the new items the students will see on upcoming menus include:

- Amazing Lo Mein
- Chicken Sausage Patty
- BBQ Turkey Sliders
- Italian Combo Platter
- Crispy Chicken Drumsticks
- Blue Knight Burger
- Nacho Bean Bites with Salsa

The feedback from the tasting was extremely positive. We are excited to continue to add items that our students will enjoy while still meeting the nutritional guidelines. Additional information regarding this professional development can be obtained by calling the Director of Business at 860-628-3200 x212.

Sherri DiNello  
Director of Business & Finance

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# CLP

Collaborative Learning Program

## Whose Program is it?

A collaborative partnership between Wheeler and the school district.

"A school within a school"

- CLP staff meeting everyday period 1
- Most students will begin period 2
- All students will hand their phones upon arrival
- Period 2 is a daily morning meeting/social skills with the students as well essential life skills
- Students will have lunch, PE, and Health within the program
- Daily check out at end of day to review progress



## Philosophy

All aspects of the program address the clinical needs to create a pro active environment to assist students

Intervention methods are based on the notion the students are treated with respect, dignity, and compassion.

Focus on crisis prevention rather than crisis intervention

Provide the tools for the student to manage his/her own behavior

Highly trained, compassionate, relationally focused staff make the difference

## Who are the students?

Designed for at risk Southington High School students:

- Emotional and mental health issues which significantly impact their ability to access education in the mainstream (trauma, major depression, oppositional, truant)
- These students are typically considered for outplacement

## Objectives

Provide proactive and immediate services to address mental health needs

Mitigate the impact of students' mental health issues on academic performance

Reduce the need for out of district placement

Reduce truancy

Reduce discipline referrals

Create positive partnerships between the district and parents

## Core Model

Trauma informed relational approach

Transdisciplinary teaming model

Individual group and family counseling

Differentiated instruction based on student need

Student and family engagement; developing meaningful relationships

Integrated classroom based therapeutic learning environment



## Administrative Role

Supportive role to the program and students to foster positive relationships

Be a familiar presence to reduce anxiety

Restorative Relationships

Discharge plan is developed upon entry into program