

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

NOVEMBER 14, 2019

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education (Committee of the Whole – Operations) was held on Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the John Weichsel Municipal Center Public Assembly Room, 200 North Main Street, Southington, Connecticut.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Connellan, Superintendent of Schools, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board members present: Mr. Joseph Baczewski, Mr. Robert Brown, Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mr. James Chrzanowski, Mrs. Missy Cipriano, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mr. David Falvo, and Mr. Zaya Oshana.

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

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Student Representatives led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. SWEARING IN OF THE BOARD MEMBERS BY THE TOWN CLERK

Mr. Connellan turned the meeting over to Mrs. Kathy Larkin, Southington Town Clerk, who conducted the swearing in ceremony and administered the oath of affirmation to the Board.

4. ELECTION OF THE BOARD OFFICERS

Mr. Connellan called for nominations for the Chairperson of the Board of Education. Mr. Baczewski nominated Mrs. Carmody as Chairperson. There were no other nominations.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES: Mr. Baczewski, Mr. Brown, Mr. Chrzanowski, Mrs. Cipriano, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mr. Falvo, Mr. Oshana, and Mrs. Carmody.

Mrs. Carmody was unanimously elected Chairperson of the Board of Education.

Mrs. Carmody took over the meeting and requested nominations for the position of Board Vice Chairperson. Mrs. Clark nominated Mr. Baczewski. There were no other nominations.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES: Mr. Brown, Mr. Chrzanowski, Mrs. Cipriano, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mr. Falvo, Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Carmody, and Mr. Baczewski.

Mr. Baczewski was unanimously elected Vice Chairperson of the Board of Education.

Mrs. Carmody requested nominations for the position of Board Secretary. Mrs. Cipriano nominated Mrs. Clark. There were no other nominations.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES: Mr. Baczewski, Mr. Brown, Mr. Chrzanowski, Mrs. Cipriano, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mr. Falvo, Mr. Oshana, and Mrs. Carmody.

Mrs. Clark was unanimously elected Secretary of the Board of Education.

Mrs. Carmody congratulated all the Board members and began the process of naming the committees. She reminded the Board members to work through the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent with questions and to copy her with any emails and correspondence pertaining to specific areas.

Board of Education Committees:

Policy & Personnel: Mrs. Clark, Chairperson; Mr. Oshana, Mr. Falvo, Mr. Derynoski

Finance Committee: Mr. Oshana, Chairperson; Mrs. Clark, Mr. Chrzanowski, Mr. Baczewski

Curriculum & Instruction: Mr. Brown, Chairperson; Mrs. Cipriano, Mrs. Carmody

Middle School Sports/Activities: Mr. Oshana, Mr. Falvo

Town Committees:

Self-Insurance: Mrs. Clark, Mr. Oshana, Mr. Chrzanowski, Mrs. Sherri DiNello (Ex-Officio)

Ordinance Review: Mr. Falvo, Mr. Oshana

SEED: Mrs. Carmody

Board Liaison/Representative:

CREC Council: Mr. Brown

CABE Liaison: Mr. Brown

STEPS Liaison: Mrs. Cipriano

High School Business Advisory: Mr. Oshana, Mrs. Carmody

High School Manufacturing/Technology Advisory: Mr. Derynoski, Mr. Chrzanowski

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ October 24, 2019

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

“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of October 24, 2019, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING ~ October 22, 2019

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

“Move to approve the Special Board of Education minutes of October 22, 2019, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience

There was no communication from the public.

b. Communications from Board of Education

Board members discussed the following:

- Mr. Brown congratulated all the Board members elected to serve on the Board of Education and looked forward to working together to support the teachers in educating the students the best way possible.
- Mr. Brown announced the Wall of Honor honorees: Sandy and Dr. Gino Brino, who started the CyberKnights Robotics Team that had finished in the top five in the entire world; Cara Belvin, Founder and Executive Director, who started a national organization named “empowerHER” for girls that have lost their mothers; Rob Dibble who is a nationally known radio broadcaster and former major league baseball pitcher. The ceremony will be held on April 22, 2019 at the high school. The Southington World War II casualties to be honored this year are: Lawrence Bowers, Roger Jurglewicz, Harold Limmer, and Paul Reussner.
- Mr. Brown reported that the Social Justice Committee met, and that they were working on plans to deal with these issues.
- Mr. Derynoski reported that the Kennedy Middle School Career Day was held on Friday, November 15 and that the first Tech Ed Advisory Committee meeting was held early in the morning on November 14 at the high school. DePaolo Middle School will hold their Career Day on March 6, 2019 and they are looking for people to participate.
- Mr. Derynoski announced that former Board of Education Student Representative, Leon Peschel, who graduated from UConn and Harvard Law School, passed the Bar and will be sworn in as a lawyer in Boston.
- Mr. Oshana addressed Veterans Day and the excellent partnership that the Board has with the Town Veterans Committee whose members speak at our schools.

Mrs. Carmody called for a moment of silence in memory of Elizabeth Rimkie, who was a special education teacher at Thalberg and Strong Schools and recently passed away, and for two students in California who were recently killed in a school shooting. Mr. Oshana noted that this has become so commonplace now and thanked the administration for what is being done in Southington to protect and keep our students and schools safe, which is an ongoing process. Mr. Connellan noted that the next Interagency Committee meeting for student safety will be held next week with the schools, police and fire departments and the Southington YMCA.

c. Communication from Administration

Administration reported on the following:

1. SHS Roof Replacement: Mr. Connellan reported that the referendum was passed for \$2.6 million and the cost, not including cost for bonding, was \$1.8 million, with the project finishing on time and under budget. He thanked Mr. Romano and the building committee for making this happen.
2. Farm to Table: Mrs. DiNello shared that the DePaolo Middle School students took a field trip to LEAF (Lewis Educational Agricultural Farm) to learn about the farm and picked vegetables that were used by the Food Service program and served to students. She reported that Wednesday, November 13 was “National Kindness Day” and that a gentleman, who did not want recognition, went to the Food Service Office at Derynoski School and wrote a generous check as an act of kindness to pay off all the outstanding balances for students’ district-wide who owed money on their meal accounts. Mrs. Carmody requested Mrs. DiNello to give her the name of the gentleman so she could write a thank you note on behalf of the Board.
3. Southington Education Foundation (SEF) Recognitions: Mr. Connellan reported that on December 3, 2019 the SEF will hold their recognition for grant recipients at SoCCA (Southington Community Cultural Arts). Recipients awarded grants are: Jessica Monson for the high school STELLAR Program, Kara Sievel for “Fund for Teachers” grant, and the district Emotional Intelligence Team (EI) was awarded a grant to support the continued roll-out for Emotional Intelligence.
4. Connecticut Association of Prevention Professionals: Mr. Connellan reported that this organization presented Bill Palmieri, Chris Palmieri and Denise Sicotte an award for their involvement with the STEPS Coalition, which has been recognized state-wide, and that Kelly Leppard was named as the Prevention Professional of the Year.
5. Southington Public Schools Coalition for Social Justice: Mr. Madancy reported that Trevor Messina and other high school students, Mrs. Tina Riccio, and partners from CREC will be presenting at the CABE/CAPPS Conference on Saturday, November 16, to share some of the work that is being done at Southington High School to raise racial awareness and other work that the students and the school district had done regarding issues.

d. Communication from Students Representatives

Trevor Messina reported on the following:

- The SHS Marching Band placed second in the nation for the second time in a row and will perform their last performance on Friday night at the football game.
- The Veteran’s Day Concert was held on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 and honored the American Legion that celebrated 100 years of service this month.
- On December 6 and 7, the high school will be presenting their fall play “Love Sick” and Trevor was a student director of one of the vignettes.
- Homecoming is Friday, November 22, 2019 with all the tickets sold out.

Brett Sheldrick reported on the following:

- A Pep Rally will be held on Thursday, November 21.
- Wednesday, November 20, the annual Southington/Cheshire Football Luncheon will be held.
- Wednesday, November 20, “School 101” will be held for incoming ninth grade parents.
- Tuesday, November 26, ALTA will hold their Thanksgiving Luncheon.

Amrit Kaur reported on the following:

- Teacher/Parent Conferences were held on Thursday, November 14 at SHS.

- The Girls Volleyball States game will be held against Trumbull.
- During the football half-time on Friday, November 15, the Girls Softball Team will receive their rings for winning last year.
- Thursday, November 28, the Southington/Cheshire Football game will be held at Cheshire.
- The Girls Soccer Team won against Amity today and will play again on Saturday.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting ~ October 28, 2019

Mrs. Carmody reported that Stephanie Lawlor, District ELA Coordinator, presented new units of study in reading for grades 7 and 8 and John Duffy, District Science Coordinator, presented a new course "Forensics I"; a revised course, AP Physics I, which replaces the current Honors Physics; and a proposal to collapse levels in certain science courses. The two presenters spoke to the committee in detail about the changes to their curriculum areas. A letter will be sent to parents of students in grades 7 and 8 informing them of what the new reading units are about that within the new textbooks that address difficult issues.

9. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

a. Personnel Report

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

"Move to approve the Personnel Report, as presented."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

There were no Town Government Communications.

Mr. Connellan reported that he, Mr. Madancy and Mrs. DiNello attended the Town Board of Finance meeting where the Board of Finance discussed providing guidance for the budget development process on expenditures versus guidance on the entire budget and the impact on the mill rate. The committee decided to provide guidance on the total municipal budget based on the impact on the mill rate. The Board of Finance would like to see the budgets developed and come in so the total impact on the mill rate is no more than one and one-half percent (1½%), which is a .46 mill increase. The discussion was on guidance, not a mandate. Per state statute, the administrative leadership team will provide a budget that meets the needs of the school district. The Board of Finance approved the list for the carry forward money. The parking lot expansion at the high school will be funded with the help of the general government funds. Mr. Connellan added that the areas to be carpeted at the high school, such as the band room, were incorporated into the list. Mr. Connellan was encouraged because the discussions were respectful and that he and Mr. Mark Sciota, Town Manager, and other Board Chairs are united in saying that the money all comes from one place and they try to do the best for the community.

11. NEW BUSINESS**a. Capital Improvement Plan 2020-21 to 2024-25 ~ First Reading**

Mrs. Carmody thanked Mr. Peter Romano, Director of Operations, who is in charge of the buildings and maintenance, Mrs. DiNello and Mrs. Jennifer Mellitt, Accounting Manager, for the wonderful job of putting together the Capital Improvement Plan. At the next Board meeting, the Board would discuss the Capital Plan in detail for approval. She asked the Board members to direct any questions to central office administrators and to copy her. Mr. Derynoski noted that the pages were not identified by number and addressed the Athletic Facility Projects and retrofitting the stadium lights to LED. He questioned if the utility company was contacted about rebates. Mr. Derynoski noted the updates to the softball field and questioned if this addressed the Title IX Report. Mr. Connellan responded that it did address equity between the boys' baseball and girls' softball teams. Mrs. DiNello introduced Mrs. Jennifer Mellitt, who was in the audience, to the new Board members. Mr. Connellan addressed the auditorium sound system replacement and auditorium sound field system on the Capital Plan.

b. ELA – Grades 7 & 8 Curriculum ~ First Reading

Mr. Madancy stated that the reason they do not post the entire curriculum online is because it is proprietary and what the Board had in their packet were the overviews for each of the units. The full spiral-bound books, per grade level, could be provided to his office if any Board members would like to review them.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Blanchard
Recording Secretary