

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

FEBRUARY 28, 2019

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education (Committee of the Whole – Operations) was held on Thursday, February 28, 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. Robert Brown, Mr. Joseph Baczewski, 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 and Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION ~ STUDENT MATTERS AND UPSEU PARAEDUCATORS, ABA THERAPISTS, AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE TUTORS NEGOTIATIONS

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

"Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing Student Matters and UPSEU Paraeducators, ABA Therapists and EL Tutors Negotiations, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Goralski declared Executive Session ended at 7:15 p.m.

3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Goralski reconvened the Board of Education Regular Session at 7:17 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; 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 Bianca Spataro and Nicholas Mangene.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The student representatives led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE – SHS ART STUDENT AWARDS

In Celebration of Excellence, the Board recognized two Southington High School students who received Connecticut Scholastics Art Awards at the Connecticut Art Education Association’s annual event held at the University of Hartford. The award recipients were Elaina Rivers, who won Gold Key for drawing and Michaela Hughes, who won Gold Key for photography. Gold key is the highest award to receive. The Board presented them with a Certificate of Excellence.

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

The Regular Board of Education meeting reconvened at 7:31 p.m.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes – January 24, 2019

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

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

Motion carried by voice vote with Mr. Oshana abstaining.

b. Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2019

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

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

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

7. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Public

Deborah Garner, 60 Round Hill Road, addressed racism and discrimination in the community and the Southington Public Schools as a follow-up to a previous Board meeting in which students spoke. She read two scriptures and addressed the emotional, racially charged tirade

of a high school student that previously occurred, which she thought was a harbinger on the community. She addressed school policies, codes of ethics, and whether the Board was putting children first. She acknowledged that she will no longer remain silent addressing these issues.

b. Communications from Board of Education

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

“Move to add Agenda Item 11.k ‘All Night Graduation Party Raffle Approval’ to the agenda.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Board members discussed the following:

- An Oratorical Contest, sponsored by the American Legion, was held on January 30, 2019 at Southington High School with six students participating and Mrs. Carmody a judge. The students spoke on the meaning of the Constitution for them in their life and gave an unprepared speech on search and seizure. The student who won for Southington was Matthew Luponio.
- For the record, Mrs. Carmody commented on remarks that were made by the news media and social media suggesting that the Board was comprised of a “good old boys’ system.” She added that it was being disrespectful to three Board members who have volunteered many years to the community that should be praised for their service giving countless time working to better the school system. To suggest that the present Board of Education members just rubber stamp a budget is very disheartening because hours are spent going over each item and Board members ask questions to ascertain what is necessary to continue to do what is best for the school system. The public has the right to disagree; but, should be informed of all the facts that go in to making these decisions. She acknowledged that freedom of speech and press are the foundation of which our country was founded and asked that the public does not malign the elected officials who volunteer their time to do what they believe is right.
- Mr. Brown attended a Rotary meeting with a presentation by Joanne Kelleher who runs the Early Childhood Collaborative. The presentation was about the problems young people are bringing with them when they attend school for the first time. There are diminished fine motor skills, less empathy for others, declining ability to self-regulate their own behavior and more difficulties with interpersonal relationships and playing together. He stated that the students that teachers are presented with today need more services than 20 years ago, which need to be added to the budget, not cut from the budget.
- Mrs. Queen stated that she read a book recommended to her by Mr. Madancy well before the incident that was a catalyst for the current racial conversation. She read a quote from the book titled, Waking Up White by Debbie Irving about why there are still problems with racism. Mrs. Queen noted that Mr. Connellan went on public radio in January and spoke to how the community has reacted to the incident.
- Bread for Life is hosting a Lunch and Learn on Thursday, March 7, 2019 regarding public transportation in Southington.
- Derynoski School will be hosting the annual Michael Casale Basketball Game fundraiser after school on March 27, 2019, which benefits two scholarships.
- Mr. Goralski encouraged the public to attend the budget workshops and hearings and acknowledged that the proposed Board of Education budget would serve the students well and continue to grow programs. He explained that he wrote a response letter to a newspaper editor

stating that he was proud of every Board member, past and present, whom he has worked with over the 16 years that he has served on the Board of Education. The Board members do their absolute best for the children and the community, despite what was said in a recent editorial.

c. Communication from Administration

Administration reported on the following:

1. Interagency School Safety Committee: Mr. Connellan reported that the committee introduced ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Evacuate) Training to some students at the high school. The website is www.alicetraining.com. He noted that no other school system is doing collaborative work with their police and fire departments like what is being done in Southington. The Southington Fire Department and Police Department continue to give administration positive feedback on the unannounced safety drills that they hold at the schools. He thanked and praised the fire and police departments for their collaborative efforts.
2. Donation of Golf Cart to Southington High School: Mr. Connellan announced that a private citizen, Joseph Colwick, donated a golf cart to the high school.
3. Parent University: Mr. Connellan reported that the STEPS Prevention Coalition and the Southington Drug Task Force will be presenting a workshop called "Parent University" on Thursday, March 7, 2019 from 5:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. at DePaolo Middle School for parents/guardians to learn trends and develop skills for substance abuse prevention.
4. District Equity Advisory Council: Mr. Connellan reported that administration has been trying to take a reasoned and non-knee jerk reaction to all the events and discussions that have occurred since the December racially charged video by a student. They are trying to be intentional and create vehicles to facilitate change. They have put into place a District Equity Advisory Council, Leadership Team and Steering Committee in collaboration with the State Education Resource Center (SERC), who has experience with and will facilitate this work to create something positive. The planning meeting with SERC will take place next week. Mr. Madancy stated that CREC (Capitol Region Education Council) was sponsoring a "Dine & Discuss" on Monday, March 4 that administrators would be attending where the West Hartford Public Schools would share their Diversity and Equity Leadership Team model. Mr. Goralski explained that this would be a recurring agenda item under the Administrative Report.

d. Communication from Students Representatives

Bianca Spataro announced that for the student board report they would be discussing Social Justice Week that was taking place at the high school this week with the ICC (Intercultural Competence Committee). She, Miss Aliya Sarris, representative for the ICC, and Miss Heaven Fraser, representative for the Multicultural Student Union, gave a PowerPoint presentation.

Aliya Sarris explained that ICC was formed two years ago and meets once a month with a focus on building students' skills to respond appropriately to micro aggressions and to facilitate conversations and act as peer mediators. ICC's goal is to teach students to act interculturally with students of other backgrounds. In November, they had training on bias and how to respond to it facilitated by Troy Brown from the Department of Justice in New Haven.

Bianca explained that for Social Justice Week, which started on Monday and will end on Friday, posters were hung around the school for promotion and morning announcements were made on how students could be more inclusive and engage in their communities or groups. The biggest occurrence included members of the ICC going into World Language classrooms to give an

informational presentation/lesson about language and how it plays into their everyday lives. The goal was to make students more aware of any biases or stereotypes they may have so they can open their mind more and learn about cultural competence. The ICC wanted students to see that there are different forms of English including slang. The Spoken Word Essay video that was played for students was called, "Three-Ways to Speak English." In the video, a woman talks about her experience in speaking different dialectics of English and how each is a fundamental part of her culture and identity. Part of the presentation was a packet with six questions and an "Exit Ticket", which Bianca discussed at length. She thought that this discussion helped to create a more positive culture at the high school.

Aliya explained that she facilitated four conversations during the week regarding the video and during a French class the response was overwhelmingly positive. NBC News came to see the discussion, which was on TV at 6:30 p.m. tonight. It was a segment showcasing some of her comments as well as Abby LoPresti and the news reporter interviewed them individually. The video, "Three-Ways to Speak English" can be found on YouTube.

Heaven explained the CREC training that she participated in with other students and staff members. It was a two-day training to give students skills to facilitate a civil discourse across differences and have a dialogue in racial, ethnic, religion, and politics in a respected manner. They are learning how to constructively address comments and actions from bias and discriminatory conversations. She discussed and showed photos of the activities of the training.

Mr. Goralski thanked the three students for their leadership and being role models.

Nicholas Mangene reported on the following:

- The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), which is a science test that all juniors must take, will be taken on the computers in the school library from March 5-11, 2019.
- Navigating the College Process and the NTAA meetings were cancelled for February 12 and February 20, 2019 due to snowstorms.
- Surround Sound is scheduled for March 1, 2 and 3 starting at 7:00 p.m.
- The spring drama show "Grease" will be held on March 15 and 16.
- The National World Language Honor Society induction is on March 21.
- The Unified Theater show is March 22, 2019.
- He participated in the American Legion Oratorical Contest and thanked the American Legion.

Board members questioned the opportunities that the students have in real time regarding the training that they received on peer mediation and discussed Instructional Learning Teams.

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

"Move to move Agenda Item 11.b 'Approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trips' to Agenda Item 7.e."

Motioned carried unanimously by voice vote.

- e. **Approval of Out of State / Overnight Field Trips** (formerly Agenda Item 11.b)

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

“Move that the Board of Education approve the foreign and out of state overnight field trip requests as presented by the administration.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Board of Education Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting – February 11, 2019

Mrs. Carmody reported that Mr. Madancy and Mrs. Riccio, World Language Dept. Chair, met with a representative from the Confucius Institute at CCSU and discussed offering a Mandarin Chinese program at the high school with the institute and a grant paying for a teacher from China. There are 130 Southington students who showed interest in taking the course. The committee recommends this opportunity at minimal risk and cost to the district. The committee also discussed the proposed World Language field trips for 2020 and Grade 7 Historical Fiction Book Clubs unit presented by Mrs. Stephanie Lawlor, ELA Coordinator, which the committee endorses.

b. Board of Education Policy & Personnel Committee Meeting – February 13, 2019

Mrs. Queen reported that the committee reviewed the mandatory 3000 series policies identified by Shipman & Goodwin and discussed the policies that are on tonight’s agenda as a first reading. Policy 3260, Sales and Disposal of Obsolete Books, Equipment and Supplies, and Policy 3280, Gifts, Grants and Bequests, were reviewed and will remain as is with no changes; therefore, these two policies will need no action.

c. Board of Education Finance Committee Meeting – February 21, 2019

Mrs. Clark, Chair of the Finance Committee, had laryngitis; therefore, Mr. Oshana gave the Finance Report. He reported that the Town Self Insurance Committee did a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the medical benefits for the municipal employees and decided to stay with Anthem.

1. Transfer of Funds

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

“Move to approve the Transfer of Funds, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

2. Athletic Training Contract Extension

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

“Move to approve the three-year contract extension with Select Physical Therapy. as recommended by the Finance Committee.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

3. YMCA Before & After Care Program Rates 2019-2020

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

“Move to approve the 2019-2020 YMCA Before & After Care Program Rates, as recommended by the Finance Committee.”

Motion carried by voice vote with Mrs. Clark abstaining.

4. Preschool Tuition Rates 2019-2020

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

“Move to approve the Preschool Tuition rates for 2019-2020, as recommended by the Finance Committee.”

Motion carried by voice vote with Mrs. Clark abstaining.

Mr. Oshana stated that a proposal for Southington High School custodial staffing was submitted by Mr. Romano. Mrs. DiNello explained that it was informational. Administration is planning to post for part-time custodial positions to see if there is a rich candidate pool instead of contracting out the services. The committee also discussed MERS (Municipal Employees Retirement System) and the budget impact if there is a legislative change. The committee also reviewed the financial update and recommends continuing holding back 25% of supply funds and discussed the town’s RFP for hiring an Energy Consultant.

9. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

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 Communication

Mrs. Carmody reported that she is on the Tax Relief Committee and the committee is working on getting information to senior citizens and disabled citizens and veterans who might be eligible. The committee will reconvene in May.

Mr. Goralski reported that the Farm Heritage Committee met and fine-tuned their approval of the Master Plan for Pleasant Street and the Grosky Farm. The committee will be presenting the Master Plan with Milone & MacBroom at the March 25, 2019 Town Council meeting for approval.

Mr. Goralski gave a reminder of the following 2019-2020 Budget dates:

- March 4, 2019: Public Hearing on General Government proposed budget, 7:00 p.m. at DePaolo Middle School.
- March 6, 7, 26, 27, 2019: Budget Review Workshops, Town Hall Board of Finance Conference Room at 6:30 p.m. with the Board of Education workshop on Thursday, March 7, 2019.
- March 27, 2019: Board of Finance recommends 2019-2020 Budget, Town Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m.
- April 22, 2019: Town Council Public Hearing held in the Municipal Center Public Assembly Room at 7:00 p.m.
- May 13, 2019: Town Council votes to adopt the 2019-2020 budget at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Center Public Assembly Room.
- May 15, 2019: Board of Finance sets the Mill Rate at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers at Town Hall.

Mr. Connellan explained that the presentation of the Board of Education budget to the Board of Finance took place on February 13, 2019. He encouraged the public to view that video on the Town website www.southington.org with the presentation starting at about 45 minutes into the recording. The budget information can also be found on the school district website www.southingtonschools.org under the business tab. Mrs. Queen requested that a link to that video be put on the first page of the school district webpage.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Leonard & Gladys Joll Scholarship Committee Appointment

Mr. Goralski appointed the following Board members to serve on the Leonard & Gladys Joll Scholarship Committee: Mr. Derynoski, Mr. Brown, Ms. Cammuso, and Mr. Baczewski.

- b. **Approval of Out of State/Overnight and Foreign Field Trips** (*Moved to Agenda Item 7.e*)
- c. **Policy 3543.1, Policy Regarding Holds on the Destruction of Electronic Information and Paper Records – First Reading**
- d. **Policy 3543, Policy Regarding Retention of Electronic Records and Information – First Reading**
- e. **Policy 5145.14, Uniform Treatment of Recruiters – First Reading**
- f. **Policy 3160, Board Budget Procedures and Line Item Transfers – First Reading**
- g. **Policy 3260, Sales and Disposal of Obsolete Books, Equipment and Supplies – First Reading**
- h. **Policy 3280, Gifts, Grants and Bequests – First Reading**

- i. Policy 3433, IDEA Fiscal Compliance – First Reading**
- j. Policy 3453, School Activities Funds – First Reading**
- k. All Night Graduation Party Approval**

Mr. Madancy explained that a member of the All-Night Graduation Party Committee requested an approval to conduct a raffle in March to sell tickets in the high school cafeteria to students for a pair of Senior Prom tickets with the proceeds going to the All-Night Graduation Party. There will be 500 raffle tickets sold for \$5.00 each or five for \$20. The raffle tickets have been donated. The individual obtained the proper state gaming certificate from the police department to hold the raffle. Mr. Derynoski recommended that Mr. Madancy obtain a copy of the signed document for his office.

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

“Move that the Board of Education approve the All-Night Graduation Raffle of Prom Tickets to raise funds for the event. The state approval document will be delivered to the Assistant Superintendent.”

Mr. Baczewski offered to sponsor another pair of Senior Prom Tickets.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Blanchard
Recording Secretary