

*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**

**FEBRUARY 27, 2020**

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The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education (Committee of the Whole – Operations) was held on Thursday, February 27, 2020, 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, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Board members present were Mr. Joseph Baczewski (*arrived at 6:34 p.m.*), 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 were Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Steven Madancy, Assistant Superintendent; and Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance.

#### **2. EXECUTIVE SESSION ~ STUDENT MATTERS, UPSEU AND AFSCME CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS, SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY**

**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 Student Matters, UPSEU and AFSCME Contract Negotiations, School Safety and Security, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

*Mrs. Carmody recessed Executive Session at 7:15 p.m.*

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

*Mrs. Carmody reconvened the Board of Education Regular Session at 7:19 p.m.*

Board members present were 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 were 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 Mr. Brett Sheldrick and Miss Amrit Kaur.

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

The student representatives led in reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Carmody called for a moment of silence in memory of Lorraine DeCarlo who was a paraeducator in the library at Hatton School and retired in 1994 after working for the Southington Public Schools for 20 years.

#### **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ January 23, 2020**

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

**“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of January 23, 2020, as submitted.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

#### **6. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

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

There was no public communication.

##### **b. Communications from Board Members**

Board members discussed the following:

- A breakfast event at DePaolo Middle School on Wednesday, February 26 was held to honor students nominated by teachers for citizenship or academic accomplishments and their parents were invited to attend.
- Megan Albanese and Kelly Leppard from STEPS gave a presentation at Rotary last week regarding vaping.
- The Social Justice Committee has been meeting and was slowly making progress.

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

**“Move to move Agenda Item 10.b ‘Approval of Out of State / Overnight Field Trips’ to Agenda Item 6.e.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

- The SMSAA (Southington Middle School Athletic Association) held their annual “Taste of Southington” event in the high school cafeteria Friday night, which was

packed with people and showed the commitment that the community has to the middle school sports program to raise money.

- Mr. Baczewski thanked his fellow Board members who supported him on the passing of his mother and contributed to the Glioblastoma Foundation.
- Hatton School Principal, Mr. Bob Garry, was on Channel 3 News, which highlighted the “Friday Phone Calls” that he makes to parents.
- Mr. Baczewski and Mrs. Clark spent a day traveling around the district to observe the various Special Education Programs offered to students.

Mrs. Carmody addressed a memo from Mr. Connellan regarding the disposition of the elementary schools that have yet to be renovated. They have the enrollment projections from Milone and MacBroom and need to move the discussion forward. Mrs. Carmody appointed an ad hoc committee to examine data, explore options, and bring the information to the full Board. Appointed Board Members are Mrs. Clark, Chair; Mr. Oshana, Mr. Brown and Mr. Chrzanowski. Ex-officio members are Mrs. DiNello, Mr. Connellan and Mr. Romano.

#### **c. Communication from Administration**

Administration reported on the following:

1. School Security Grant: Mr. Connellan reported that it was the third year that the school district received a school security grant from the Schaller Auto World Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain in the amount of \$5,000. It will be used to continue to expand the two-way radios.
2. Update on Coalition for Social Justice: Mr. Madancy reported that the Coalition for Social Justice was formed one-year ago. They met Tuesday, February 25 and looked at a comprehensive plan that included an asset inventory of what they have already done, were current doing, and what they hoped to do in the next year to make progress in being a more inclusive community and to recognize the diversity that exists. It is a volunteer coalition comprised of different sub-committees. The goal is to bring to the full Board a copy of the plan that the coalition developed for endorsement and adoption.
3. Graduation Date – March Agenda: Mr. Connellan stated that the Board could decide graduation at the March 12<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Currently, the graduation date would be June 16, 2020, depending on weather events.
4. Special BOE Meeting – March 26, 2020: Mr. Connellan noted that this meeting would be for the appointment of a new Director of Pupil Personnel Services.
5. Grant for Stop Bleed Kits: Mr. Connellan explained that the Interagency Safety & Security Committee has met every month for two years. The Stop the Bleed Program was highly recommended by Homeland Security and the FBI. The YMCA is sponsoring a Grant Writer, Dave Donnelly, with the intent to fund enough kits in all the schools, on all the floors, the YMCA, town buildings, and in police and fire department control cars. The School Nurses have already been trained. The biggest advantage was that anyone can use the Stop the Bleed kits because it walks people through the process.

#### **d. Communication from Students Representatives**

Miss Amrit Kaur read a note from student representative, Trevor Messina, who was absent from the meeting because he was recovering from appendix surgery.

Miss Amrit Kaur reported on the following:

- NGSS Testing started on Friday, February 21 and will end on Monday, March 2.
- Junior Prom tickets are on sale and Friday, February 21 was the last day to purchase tickets.
- SATs will be held on March 25, 2020.
- The #1 state ranked Blue Knights Girls Gymnastics Team will be competing in the Class L championships meet on Saturday, February 29 at Jonathan Law High School in Milford at 9:00 a.m.
- The Wrestling Team finished third in the CIAC Class LL Championship last weekend at Trumbull and will compete in the CIAC State Open Championship at Hillhouse High School in New Haven on Friday, February 28 at 3:00 p.m.
- The Girls Co-op Ice Hockey Team at Hall High School qualified for the Division III Championships starting Monday, March 9. The Ice Hockey Team is playing Avon, Wethersfield and Newington in the Championship game on Friday, February 28 in the Trinity College ice rink at 7:00 p.m. This co-op team started at SHS as a club sport.
- The Boys Basketball Team was playing Thursday, February 27 at Manchester High School in the first round of the CCC Championship Tournament. They also qualified for the Class LL Championship Tournament on Tuesday, March 10.

Mr. Brett Sheldrick reported on the following:

- The Multicultural Student Union Executive Officers had their third training session with SERC.
- The high school Marching Band traveled to Disney World in Florida for a concert.
- The Unified Basketball Team played during half-time of the Boys Basketball game between Southington vs. Cheshire.
- The Drama Show production of “All Shook Up” will be held on March 6 and 7, 2020 at the high school.
- The Girls Indoor Track CIAC Class LL Shot-put State Champion senior Trinity Cardillo and CIAC State Open High Jump Champion, senior Sydney Garrison, and the Relay Team have qualified for and will participate in New England Championship on Saturday, February 29 at the Reggie Lewis Center in Boston.
- The SHS Swimming and Diving Team will be competing at the CCC West Championships on Thursday, March 5, 2020.
- The Girls Basketball Team qualified for Class LL Championship Tournament and will play at home on March 2 against Middletown High School for the first round.

**e. Approval of Out of State / Overnight Field Trips (formerly Agenda Item 10.b)**

Mrs. Carmody explained that the field trips on the agenda were for the New England Key Club Convention in Springfield, Massachusetts for April 5, 2020 to April 5, 2020, FIRST Robotics Competition in Detroit, Michigan on April 28, 2020 to May 3, 2020 and the International Field Trip to Scotland, Stratford-on-Avon, and London for next year on April 8-10, 2021 to April 16-18, 2021.

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

**“Move to approve the field trips as submitted with the standard caveat that the Board of Education has the prerogative to cancel the trips in the event of national emergency and travel alerts at no expensive to the Board of Education.”**

Mr. Brown had some serious concerns about the field trips planned this year for Italy. Board members pointed out that the motion on the floor for discussion was for the International Field Trip next year in 2021, not this year, and for out of state field trips this year.

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

## **7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **a. Finance Committee Meeting ~ February 19, 2020**

Mr. Oshana, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, reported that the committee met and continued discussion from the last meeting on the organic waste recycling with a presentation from HQ Dumpsters & Recycling and extending the program into other schools in the district. Mr. Oshana gave an overview of the committee discussions on the Self Insurance Report, Transfer of Funds, Preschool Regular Education Tuition Rates, YMCA Contract Extensions, YMCA Before and After Care Program Rates for 2020-2021, Painting at Southington High School, Bid Award #2020-15 for Lawn Mowing, Bid Award #2020-101 to Replace Auditorium Stage Curtains at the high school, Project Award for Flooring Replacement at the high school and Custodial Contracts that were expiring June 30, 2020 at the Municipal Center, DePaolo and Kennedy Middle Schools and Derynoski Elementary School.

#### **7.a.1 Transfer of Funds:**

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

**“Move to approve the Transfer of Funds for Kennedy Middle School for purchasing a laminator.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

#### **7.a.2 Preschool Regular Education Tuition Rates:**

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

**“Move to approve the 2020-2021 Preschool Tuition Rates, as presented.”**

**Motion carried with eight in favor and Mrs. Clark abstaining.**

#### **7.a.3 YMCA Contract Extensions:**

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

**“Move to approve the five-year leases for the use of six elementary schools by the Southington YMCA School-Aged Childcare Program from August 2020 through June 2025.”**

Mr. Derynoski questioned the five-year extension and costs for custodial, electricity and supply costs. Mrs. DiNello explained in detail the language in the five-year lease contract and that the rates for reimbursement were adjusted on an annual basis. Language was in the contract to terminate it if the YMCA and the BOE could not agree on the reimbursement rates.

**Motion carried with eight in favor and Mrs. Clark abstaining.**

**7.a.4 YMCA Before & After Care Program Rates 2020-2021:**

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

**“Move to approve the 2020-2021 YMCA Lease Rates, as presented.”**

**Motion carried with eight in favor and Mrs. Clark abstaining.**

Mr. Oshana explained that the committee discussed painting across the district and at the high school and that the 2020-2021 BOE budget included \$100,000 for the painting. Since the budget would not be finalized until May 2020, they were requesting a commitment from the BOE that the funds would remain in the budget to paint the rooms at SHS. The committee recommended that the BOE commit to keep a minimum of \$50,000 in the new year budget even if a reallocation was necessary if the operating budget was reduced. The committee was looking for a consensus from the full Board.

**CONSENSUS:** To commit that the 2020-2021 BOE Operating Budget will include a minimum of \$50,000 for painting even if reallocation is needed.

Mr. Derynoski was in favor of a consensus with the understanding that depending on where the BOE stands with funds, there were no guarantees.

**AMENDED CONSENSUS:** Mrs. Carmody stated that the consensus would be that the BOE agrees to it, unless the money is not there.

**The Board members approved the amended consensus.**

**7.a.5 Bid Award #2020-15: Lawn Mowing & Debris Clean-up:**

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

**“Move to award the Lawn Mowing and Debris Clean-up bids, as presented.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**7.a.6 Bid Award #2020-101: Replace Auditorium Stage Curtain – SHS:**

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

**“Move to award Bid #2020-101 for Replacement of SHS Auditorium Stage Curtain to Walker Specialties, as presented.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**7.a.7 Project Award: Flooring Replacement at SHS:**

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

**“Move to approve the Flooring Replacement work at SHS to Bartholomew Contract Interiors (BMC) in the amount of \$39,789 for VCT tile and \$80,334 for carpeting.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**Contract: Rubbish Removal:**

Mr. Oshana stated that the consensus of the Finance Committee regarding rubbish removal was to recommend waiving the bid process and allow administration to work with HQ Rubbish & Recycling to work out a new five-year contract that would include expanding the organic recycling program with a clause to opt out, if needed. There would be a review in the spring of year two to determine if this program was something that the district wanted to continue.

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

**“Move to expand organic recycling to all schools during the 2020-2021 school year.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**7.a.8 Contracted Custodial:**

Mr. Oshana explained that contracted custodial services expires on June 30, 2020 at the Municipal Center, DePaolo and Kennedy Middle Schools and Derynoski Elementary School. He explained the custodial services at the high school this year by part-time employees during the school year and contractors for summer cleaning. Mr. Oshana and Mrs. DiNello explained the contracted custodial services in detail.

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

**“Move to waive the bid process on the contracted custodial services and allow administration to work directly to get that work done.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

Mrs. DiNello acknowledged and appreciated all the work that was done behind the scenes by Mrs. Jennifer Mellitt, Accounting Manager, and Mr. Peter Romano, Director of Operations, for their work in putting together these agenda items.

**8. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

**a. Personnel Report**

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

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

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**9. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Town Government Communications**

Mrs. Carmody reminded the Board members and public of the following budget dates:

- Monday, March 2, 2020, Board of Finance 2020-2021 Public Budget Hearing, 7:00 p.m. at DePaolo Middle School.
- Wednesday, March 25, 2020, Board of Finance recommends 2020-21 Budget.

## 10. NEW BUSINESS

### a. Leonard and Gladys Joll Scholarship Committee Appointment

Mrs. Carmody appointed the following Board members to serve on this committee: Mr. Derynoski, Mr. Falvo and Mrs. Cipriano.

### b. Approval of Overnight/Out of State and Foreign Field Trips (*Moved to Agenda Item 6.e*)

### c. New Britain Transportation Contract Approval

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

**“Move to contract Addendum #1 between the Southington Board of Education and New Britain Transportation Company for 2020-2025.**

Mrs. DiNello shared that administration had been working with New Britain Transportation since October on the contract extension and was proud of the collaboration with Mr. Peter Agostini, President of NBT, Rich Spencer, CFO, and Katie Valenti, Operations Manager, who had been a pleasure to work with throughout the process.

**Motion carried with eight in favor and Mr. Falvo abstaining.**

*At 8:06 p.m., Mrs. Carmody recessed the regular meeting and the Board members returned to Executive Session.*

Mrs. Carmody ended Executive Session at 8:58 p.m. and the Board members returned to Regular Session to adjourn.

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

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

**“Move to adjourn.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Linda Blanchard*  
Recording Secretary