

*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**

**MARCH 12, 2020**

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The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education (Committee of the Whole – Operations) was held on Thursday, March 12, 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 6:34 p.m.

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

Administration present: Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools; Steven Madancy, Assistant Superintendent, and Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance.

#### **2. EXECUTIVE SESSION ~ UNAFFILIATED BENEFITS, SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING-MULTIPLE UNITS**

**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 Unaffiliated Benefits, School Safety and Security and Collective Bargaining-Multiple Units."**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

*Mrs. Carmody declared Executive Session ended at 7:10 p.m.*

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

*Mrs. Carmody reconvened the Board of Education Regular Session at 7:16 p.m.*

Board members were Mr. Joseph Baczewski, Mr. Robert Brown, Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mr. James Chrzanowski, Mrs. Missy Cipriano (*arrived 7:09 p.m.*), 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 and Finance, and Ms. Margaret Walsh, Director of Special Services.

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

**4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ February 27, 2020**

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

**“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of February 27, 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**

As the Board of Education Liaison to STEPS (Southington Town-wide Effort to Promote Success), Mrs. Cipriano shared the activities over the last few months and applauded STEPS for educating the community with their programs on substance abuse and prevention.

**c. Communication from Administration**

Administration reported on the following:

**1. Update COVID-19:** Mr. Connellan provided a brief update on what was discussed today on the preparations for the Coronavirus. He sent out detailed update on actions that had been taken and the actions that would be forthcoming. The information changes daily and the recommendations coming from the state changes hourly. As of today, Governor Lamont held a press conference and signed an Executive Order to waive the 180-day school requirement. For purposes of clarification, Mr. Connellan stated that a district is supposed to use all its days available in June and the April vacation to June 30, 2020. If June 30 ends up being the 178th or 179th day, then the 180-day requirement would be waived. Mr. Connellan anticipated that they would continue to receive additional information from the state including the Governor’s stance that there will not be gatherings of more than 250 people. If/when school’s close, the school district has the option to provide students with materials and there is a waiver available to engage students in distance learning in a variety of ways. Those days could count toward the 180-days. Teachers are preparing materials and sending them home with students. Some

students do not have Internet access and the school district is working on obtaining that for those students. Some students do not have a device available and those students will be able to take the Chromebooks home. The district will continue to listen directions and recommendations from the state. Mr. Connellan explained that it was clearly a public health issue and that it was the State Department of Public Health and the local Health Department issuing the recommendations and the guidance. Mr. Connellan works closely with the Regional Health Department Director, Shane Lockwood. Mr. Connellan would be sending information to parents after the Board of Education meeting.

Mrs. Carmody thanked Mr. Connellan for the communication that he sends to the parents and Board members keeping everyone informed.

**d. Communication from Students Representatives**

Mr. Trevor Messina read a statement on behalf of the student representatives regarding the Covid-19 (Coronavirus). *“The uproar of Covid-19 has been spreading as fast as the virus itself. In the past couple of days upon hearing what was discussed at the staff meeting on Tuesday, teachers have informed their students about potential courses of action. Fortunately, the teachers presented this information in a calm and civil manner and the student body clearly does not want to extend school until June 30<sup>th</sup>. Many students are advocating for the online learning to count for physical school days or for learning new material with pencil and paper. Although teachers were told put together contingency plans for review, many students feel that it would be used as ‘busy work’ and would prefer learning new material. As of this time, students of all schools need to cooperate with the staff to overcome this issue.”*

The students did not have anything else to report because everything was cancelled.

**7. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

**a. Personnel Report**

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

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

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**8. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Town Government Communications**

There were no Town Government Communications.

**b. Primary Election**

Mrs. Carmody explained that the Presidential Primary Election would be held on Tuesday, April 28, 2020, which would be an early release day for all grade levels in the Southington Public Schools. Voting takes place in most of the schools.

Mr. Connellan added that Mr. Romano, Director of Operations, and his staff issued memos pertaining to the building administrators and safety plans were in place because it occurs on a school day, although it is an early release day.

**c. SHS Partial Roof Replacement Project Close-Out (131-0129RR)**

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

**“Move that the Board of Education accept the Southington High School Partial Roof Replacement Project #131-0129RR as completed and direct the administration to close-out the project with the Town’s Finance Department and the Department of Administrative Services.”**

Mr. Connellan noted that this project came in on time and under budget because of Mr. Peter Romano, Director of Operation, and his team’s work in a very efficient manner.

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. YMCA Lease at Oshana Elementary School**

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

**“Move to approve a five-year lease with the Southington YMCA from August 2020 to June 2025 for the School-Age Child Care program at Oshana Elementary School and the 2020-2021 reimbursement rates.”**

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

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**“Move to adjourn.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Linda Blanchard*  
Recording Secretary