

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 on the video recording of the Board meeting, please contact the Superintendent of Schools. These minutes are considered a draft until approved at the following regular Board of Education meeting.

SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT

REGULAR MEETING ~ Via Combined Video and Teleconference

JUNE 25, 2020

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education (Committee of the Whole – Operations) was held via combined video and teleconference on Thursday, June 25, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. with an Executive Session held prior at 6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Terri Carmody, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Board members present were Mr. Joseph Baczewski, Mr. Robert Brown, Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mr. James Chrzanowski, Mrs. Missy Cipriano (*joined at 6:40 p.m.*), 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 & Finance

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION ~ NIPSEU CONTRACT 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 Nutmeg Independent Labor Unions (NIPSEU) Contract Negotiations, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mrs. Carmody ended Executive Session at 6:54 p.m.

3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

Mrs. Carmody reconvened the Board of Education Regular Session at 7:09 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.

Administrators present were Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Steven Madancy, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance; Ms. Margaret Walsh, Director of Pupil Personnel Services (via phone); and Mr. John Duffy, Science Coordinator.

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

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Miss Amrit Kaur led in reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Carmody thanked the Southington Police Department for their cooperation in putting together the Southington High School Class of 2020 Motorcade parade through the streets of Southington along with participation from the community.

Mrs. Carmody recognized Ms. Meg Walsh, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, who was retiring the end of the month, and thanked her for her many years of service and contributions to the school district.

5. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

- a. Community Collaborations**
 - 1. SAVVAS Learning Company, LLC – Jason Macfarland**
 - 2. Lewis Education Agricultural Farm (L.E.A.F) – Mark Ramsay**
 - 3. Miceli Productions, LLC – Michael Miceli & Justin Millet**
 - 4. YMCA Sloper Staff – Justin Hubeny, Tom Sangeloty & Nick Charnysh**
- b. 2020 CT Invention Convention Winners**
- c. 2020 CT Science & Engineering Fair Winners**

For the Celebration of Excellence, through the introductions by Mr. John Duffy, Science Coordinator, the Board of Education recognized community members and students in the groups listed above (*Attachment #1*). The honorees, except Mark Ramsay from L.E.A.F., were virtually present and had already received their Certificates of Excellence in advance of the meeting.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of June 11, 2020, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

7. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

- a. Communications from Public**

There was no communication from the public.

b. Communications from Board Members

The Board members reported the following:

- Mr. Derynoski announced that Bread for Life was holding their Second Annual Food Drive in memory of Cheryl Jankura on Saturday, July 11, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This year, they were also recognizing “Southington 2020 Legacy Honorees” in memory of Karen L. Smith and MaryLou Derynoski (*Attachment #2*).
- Mr. Baczewski spoke enthusiastically about the motorcade parade for the Class of 2020 that his family enjoyed. He reported that he attended a meeting with Mr. Shane Lockwood, Regional Health Director, and Mr. Connellan regarding the guidelines from the Governor’s office for the opening of schools. He stated that he wanted to know and provide the community answers and understanding as to why things are done instead of just giving orders. He would like scientific data on why the school district must do what the state orders for the opening of school in August so he could address it with the parents.
- Mr. Brown agreed with Mr. Baczewski. He also thanked all the employees in the school district for their efforts that went above and beyond what had ever been previously expected of them and noted that the public does not see what goes on behind the scenes.

c. Communication from Administration

Administration reported on the following:

1. State Guidelines for Re-opening School: Mr. Connellan announced that his office would be receiving the full State Guidelines document on Monday, June 29, 2020 for the re-opening of schools and he would distribute it. He noted that the Administrative Leadership Team would be engaged in planning over the next three weeks for the re-opening. He planned to put the State Guidelines on the district website for the public to view.
2. Pupil Personnel Services: Mr. Connellan stated that this was Ms. Meg Walsh’s last Board meeting as the Director of Pupil Personnel Services. He thanked Meg for the work that she has done for the district over the past six years including major restructuring of her department and building a solid team of Special Education Coordinators. Ms. Walsh invested a great deal of herself for the children and families of Southington. He thanked Ms. Walsh on behalf of the entire administrative team. Ms. Walsh spoke and referenced the Circle of Life stating that she started her educational career as a kindergarten student at Thalberg Elementary School and spent 40 years of her life as a special education educator dedicating herself to making sure that all students had an equal playing field. She thanked the Board, administration, and community agencies for helping her department move forward to create a continuum of services for students. She believed that a child’s quality of life was contingent upon his/her success in school.

d. Communication from Student Representatives

Trevor Messina stated that this was his last meeting as a BOE Student Representative and thanked the Board members for the tremendous experience and being part of his life that helped shape him into the person that he is today. On behalf of the Class of 2020, he thanked the Health Director, Board members, Chief of Police, Fire Department Chief, Mr. Connellan and administrators for their hard work and dedication to try to give the seniors back what they could of their senior year that they had lost due to the pandemic. The class was looking forward to graduation in August, no matter what it would look like.

Amrit Kaur thanked Trevor for his leadership and guidance during the school year.

Brett Sheldrick introduced the new Board of Education Student Representative Miss Jhalissa Vincent and spoke about her character and compassion that made her stand out and the best candidate.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting – June 10, 2020

Mr. Brown reported that the curriculum was transitioning from a content only curriculum to a real-world relevant application with problem-solving. All content areas were doing this and coming before the Board tonight were first reads on the curriculum units. The committee discussed the Southington High School Citizenship unit, which is a new version of the Civics class and would be moved from 9th grade to 11th grade. The major focus is a student-driven community project focusing on local, state, or global issues. The committee also received a presentation from John Duffy addressing the grade 4 (Land and Water), grade 7 (Disruptions in Ecosystems), and grade 8 (Traveling through Space) science unit changes that are current and relevant. A new unit, High School Forensics I would be offered in 2020-21 and Forensic II the following year. Mr. Brown reported that the committee received a math presentation from Mrs. Amy Zappone, Math Coordinator, on Illustrative Math Units for grades 6, 7 and 8. These new units address a different way to teaching math and were piloted last year and brings consistency to math applications.

b. Policy and Personnel Committee Meeting – June 17, 2020

Mrs. Clark reported that the committee discussed Policy 3323, which was a request from the Business Office to look at the bid versus quote process and changing the dollar amount on bids from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and keeping the threshold at \$25,000 for purchased professional services instead of increasing to \$50,000 to align with the town. The committee discussed Policy 5131.2 for the one-to-one (1:1) student devices that addresses students using personal devices that could compromise the district network or accessing information that is not allowed by the district. These are on the agenda as a first read at this meeting and would be a second read at the August meeting. The committee discussed and reviewed two job descriptions: 1) Math Specialist, which updated responsibilities, and 2) Secondary Transition Specialist, which is a new position previously approved in the budget. This position would work with 18-21-year-old students.

Mr. Brown questioned the age of the students that the Secondary Transition Specialist would be working with. He thought the age was raised to 22-year-old. Mr. Connellan clarified that it was a court ruling against the state of Connecticut that was in error that raised the age to 22. Education lawyers throughout Connecticut have written opinions that have been submitted to the Attorney General to craft an appeal. For many years, the interpretation was that if the student turned 21 years old after July 1st, the student still qualified for the next school year. As it stands right now, the law is unsettled and the practice that had been in place for the last 30 years of educating students to their 21st birthday is what Southington was continuing with.

c. Finance Committee Meeting – June 22, 2020

1. 2019-2020 Operating Budget Expenses – Devices

Mr. Oshana reported that the committee met to discuss the 2019-2020 Operating Budget and the anticipated surplus. The committee discussed the one-to-one (1:1) devices approved for the next school year, using \$200,000 from the current budget surplus to purchase them, and leaving the Apple Lease funds intact.

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

“Move to approve the utilization of an additional \$200,000 from the 2019-2020 Operating Budget to purchase one-to-one (1:1) devices and not use Apple Lease funds for this purchase.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

2. 2019-2020 Operating Budget Expenses – Tutor Salaries

Mr. Oshana stated that there were grant extensions provided to schools due to closures this year that allowed flexibility to carry grant funds forward into the 2020-2021 school year. These funds could be used to cover Literacy and Math Tutor salaries in 2019-2020.

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

“Move to approve funding of Math and Literacy Tutor Salaries from the current Operating Budget to maximize grant funds carried forward into 2020-2021.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

There was no Town Government Communication.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. SHS Citizenship Curriculum – First Reading**
- b. Science Curriculum Units for Grades 4, 7, 8 and High School Forensics I – First Reading**
- c. Illustrative Math Units for Grades 6, 7, 8 – First Reading**
- d. Policy 3323 – Soliciting Prices (Bids and Quotes) – First Reading**
- e. Policy 5131.2 – Use of Private Technology Devices by Students – First Reading**

Agenda items 10.a through 10.e are all first reads and would be on the August Board of Education agenda for second reads and motions.

Mr. Baczewski questioned what the use of private technology devices by students would look like so that the network system was not overflooded. Mr. Madancy stated that it was a great question because there were a couple of goals with this policy and one was if the students are provided 1:1 devices would there be a need for students to use multiple other devices that might

slowdown the district network? Mr. Madancy stated that he spoke to Mr. Jamie Olander, Technology Director, about using the student domain as the sign-on mechanism and the students could essentially only use the 1:1 device on the network. The student could still use their cell phone data, but it would not be on the district's network. The network would have to be left semi-open because there are guests, e.g. vendors, evaluators, that would need access. The second question was about VPNs (Virtual Private Networks) and the firewall and if students could work around that. The administration felt confident with the current system that flags when people are using VPNs and alerts the technology department that could block it. If the students have 1:1 devices, there was no need to compromise the network by allowing students to use personal devices that don't need to be on the network and don't have the necessary virus scans, ransomware, filtering and monitoring software on it. There were school district's surrounding Southington that their networks were held for ransom earlier this school year. Anything Southington could do to control the network and the traffic on the network would be done.

Mr. Baczewski questioned if there would be a need for cell phones in the classroom because he thought that it was a distraction. Mr. Madancy did not think it would be a need, but there are devices like the iPhone that can act as a clicker. There may be some unique needs. For certain courses, there is software that may not be compatible with a Chromebook. As a former middle school principal, Mr. Madancy has learned "don't create rules that you cannot enforce." He noted that there were school districts that banned all cell phones, which could not be enforced because of civil liberties.

f. Approve of Job Descriptions – Math Specialist and Secondary Transition Specialist

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

“Move to approve the job descriptions of the Math Specialist and Secondary Transition Specialist as recommended by the Policy and Personnel Committee.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Blanchard
Recording Secretary

ATTACHMENT #1

**2019-2020
Southington Public Schools Awards**

June 25, 2020 Board of Education Recognitions

STUDENT NAME	AWARD
Connecticut Invention Convention	
Brooke Flugrad	2020 CT Invention Convention - Invention: Chicken Spinner (National Finalist)
Devon Jasulavic	2020 CT Invention Convention - Invention: Freedom Floaty
Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair	
Zeynep Agirman	2020 CT Science and Engineering Fair - Project: Anti-bacterial packaging for foods sourced from natural bee propolis.
Aravind Bhamidipati	2020 CT Science and Engineering Fair - Project: The Power Saver
Community Collaborations	
Jason Macfarland	Community Collaborations - Southington resident and regional representative for Savvas Learning Company who has donated much time and resources that have greatly helped the middle school science teachers and students be successful during distance learning.
Mark Ramsay	Community Collaborations - Lewis Educational Agricultural Farm (LEAF) with the assistance of Miceli Productions, produced multiple videos about the farm, plants, animals, bees, and soil that became curriculum-based distance learning lessons for all the Southington grades K-2 students.
Michael Miceli	Community Collaborations - Miceli Productions, LLC produced multiple videos with Mark Ramsey from LEAF about the farm, plants, animals, bees, and soil that became curriculum-based distance learning lessons of all the Southington grades K-2 students.
Justin Millett	Community Collaborations - Miceli Productions, LLC was part of producing videos about Lewis Educational Agricultural Farm (LEAF) on plants, animals, bees, and soil that became curriculum-based distance learning lessons for all Southington grades K-2 students.
Justin Hubeny	Community Collaborations -YMCA Sloper Staff. The Sloper crew filmed the workshops that they would have presented in person as part of the canceled fourth grade Science Day at Camp Sloper. The videos, a 4th grade science curriculum collaboration, assisted teachers for 4th grade distance learning lessons.
Tom Sangeloty	Community Collaborations - YMCA Sloper Staff. The Sloper crew filmed the workshops that they would have presented in person as part of the canceled fourth grade Science Day at Camp Sloper. The videos, a 4th grade science curriculum collaboration, assisted teachers for 4th grade distance learning lessons.
Nick Charnysh	Community Collaborations - YMCA Sloper Staff. The Sloper crew filmed the workshops that they would have presented in person as part of the canceled fourth grade Science Day at Camp Sloper. The videos, a 4th grade science curriculum collaboration, assisted teachers for 4th grade distance learning lessons.

Attachment #2

BREAD FOR LIFE

2ND ANNUAL

FOOD DRIVE



*In Memory of
Cheryl A. Jankura*

SUPPORTING THE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

Our help is needed more than ever! Donations of non-perishables can be brought to the CONTACTLESS EXPRESS DRIVE-UP in the Bread For Life parking lot! Here are the most-needed items:

- ★ Water bottles and juice boxes
- ★ Single fruit cups, applesauce
- ★ Granola bars
- ★ Single-serving instant mac-and-cheese
- ★ Single-packaged fruit snacks, chips, cookies, pudding, etc.

PLUS monetary donations to help fund perishable goods can be made securely at SouthingtonBreadForLife.org!



Help us reach our goal by donating in memory of 2020 Southington Legacy honorees



*Karen Smith
& MaryLou Derynoski*



SATURDAY, JULY 11 10-1 P.M.
31 VERMONT AVENUE, SOUTHINGTON

Donations can also be dropped off at the main entrance weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.