

*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 24, 2022**

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The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education (Committee of the Whole - Operations) was held on Thursday, March 24, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. as a public meeting in the John Weichsel Municipal Center Public Assembly Room, 200 North Main Street, Southington, Connecticut with an Executive Session preceding at 6:00 p.m.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. Colleen Clark, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

Board members present were Mrs. Dawn Anastasio, Mr. Joseph Baczewski, Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mr. Sean Carson, Mr. James Chrzanowski, Mrs. Colleen Clark, and Mr. Jasper Williams. Absent were Mr. James Chrzanowski, Mr. David Derynoski and Mr. Zaya Oshana.

Cabinet administrators present were Mr. Steven Madancy, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Frank Pepe, Assistant Superintendent. Also present: Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Consultant (*left Executive Session at 6:44 p.m.*).

**2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Unaffiliated Compensation, UPSEU Contract Negotiations, Legal Matter (Attorney-Client Privileged Communication) and Student Matters**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Anastasio, seconded by Mrs. Carmody:

**“Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing Unaffiliated Compensation, UPSEU Contract Negotiations, Legal Matter (Attorney-Client Privileged Communication) and Student Matters, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

*Mrs. Clark ended Executive Session at 6:58 p.m.  
The Regular Board Meeting was reconvened at 7:09 p.m.*

**3. RECONVENE MEETING – REGULAR SESSION**

Board members present were Mrs. Dawn Anastasio, Mr. Joseph Baczewski, Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mr. Sean Carson, Mr. James Chrzanowski, Mrs. Colleen Clark, and Mr. Jasper Williams. Absent were Mr. David Derynoski and Mr. Zaya Oshana.

Cabinet administrators present were Mr. Steven Madancy, Superintendent of School, and Mr. Frank Pepe, Assistant Superintendent.

Student Representatives present were Jhalissa Vincent, Ethan Solury, and Angelina Micacci.

**4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & NATIONAL ANTHEM**

The student representatives led in reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance followed by Southington High School student Logan Gillis who sang the National Anthem and received standing applause.

**5. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE**

For the Celebration of Excellence, Mr. Michael Crocco, SHS Principal, introduced Mrs. Kari Peschel-Luise, SHS teacher, who gave a brief summary of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) and Project Lead-the-Way programs and outlined the achievements in these fields by SHS student Alisha Paul who won the 2022 Connecticut NCWIT (National Center for Women and Information Technology) Award for Aspirations in Computing. Mrs. Peschel-Luise gave a brief summary of the Architectural Independent Study Program and the accomplishments of SHS student Jillian Christensen in this program who won the 2022 Student Design Competition - Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Central Connecticut with her 2000 square foot residence model. Mrs. Clark presented the students with a Certificate of Excellence.

*Mrs. Clark called for a short recess 7:19 p.m. - 7:23 p.m.*

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

**“Move to add Agenda Item 11.g ‘Student Expulsion 2021-22-05’ to the agenda.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

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

**“Move to add Agenda Item 8.c.1 ‘Bid Award 2022-10 for Lawn Mowing & Trimming Services and Fall/Spring Debris Clean-up and Removal Services’ and add Agenda Item 8.c.2 ‘Preschool Regular Education Rates for 2022-2023’ and Agenda Item 8.c.3 ‘YMCA Before & After Care Program Rates 2022-2023’.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**a. February 24, 2022 Meeting**

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

**“Move to approve the Regular Board of Education Minutes of February 24, 2022, as submitted.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.****7. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS****a. Communications from Student Board Representatives**

Angelina Micacci reported on the following:

- Juniors are scheduled to take the SATs March 23-31. The College Board has changed the way the SATs are administered.
- Juniors and Seniors take their seal of Bi-Literacy exams starting on Monday and continuing through the first week of April. It is a four-part exam including reading, writing, speaking, and listening to display the student's comprehension of their language.
- The Junior Prom will be held April 2, 2022 at La Bella Vista in Waterbury. The prom packet is available on the SHS website.
- The third quarter is ended on April 1, 2022 at the high school.
- The SHS Drama Club performed "Little Mermaid" on March 4 & 5.
- Unified Theatre was held on Friday, March 18. As co-director, she thanked Mrs. Cavanaugh, SHS teacher and advisor, and all those who helped and attended the show.

Ethan Solury reported on the following:

- The Unified Sports Tournament was held in the West Gym at SHS. Southington hosted Meriden, Middletown, and Simsbury.
- Seniors have been committing to colleges the past few weeks. He recognized Jhalissa Vincent for receiving a full tuition scholarship to Fordham University and Taylor DePaolo for receiving a full tuition scholarship to the University of Hartford.
- The SHS Robotics CyberKnights Team 195 attended their first competition in Springfield, Massachusetts and overcame initial learning curves to end the competition as a finalist and move on to their next competition in Hartford April 8 and 9.
- Derynoski School held a contest to name their dragon mascot and the name that won was "Walter". Derynoski held a scavenger hunt to see how many "Walter" dragons each class could find around the building. The winning class received games for indoor recesses.

Jhalissa Vincent reported on the following:

- Spring sports athletic season tryouts started last Saturday, March 19 and end later this week. The Spring Sports "Meet the Blue Knights Sports Teams" event was held on Wednesday evening, March 23 at SHS.
- She reported on the winter athletic sports season and the following teams that won CCC Conference Championships: Gymnastics, Girls Basketball, Boys Swimming and Diving, and Cheerleading,
- The Girls Ice Hockey Team advanced to the state semi-finals for the first time.
- Middle Schools: Tickets are available in the main offices at Kennedy and DePaolo for the Drama Club production of "School of Rock". Tickets cost \$5 for students and \$8 for adults. Show dates are April 1, 2, 7, and 8 at SHS at 7:00 p.m.

- On March 4, Jackson Laboratories recognized seventh grade student Alison Zijack in their “Stand Up for STEM” mentorship award ceremony held virtually for Northeast America. She received the “Youth in Action” award. Alison has been coding since she was eight years old and is now mentoring others.
- On March 2, 3, and 4, each grade 7 social studies class experienced Paul Vivian and Rev. Audley Donaldson’s Diversity Awareness program.
- There are flags on display in the DePaolo Middle School lobby of the countries where each DePaolo student was born.

**b. Communications from Board Members**

Mrs. Carmody praised the Unified Sports Basketball Tournament event, and everybody involved in putting the program together.

Mr. Baczewski commented on the walk-through of the SHS sports complex facility. He thought that it was important that the Board do all that they could to rehab the sports complex.

Mr. Baczewski noted the number of residents who signed up for Public Communications and asked everyone to be understanding, kind, supportive, and learn from one another even if they disagree.

**c. Communications from Administration**

Administration reported on the following:

1. Last Day of School: Mr. Madancy announced that currently the last day of school is Monday, June 20 and high school graduation was set for Friday, June 17, 2022. If there were no more snow days, he may recommend, at another Board meeting, to have the last day of school for all students on Friday, June 17 so students do not have to return to school on Monday. By state law, schools must be in session 180 days and Southington is in session 181 days.

2. Rolling Back of Mitigation Strategies: Mr. Madancy explained that he has sent out correspondence regarding rolling back mitigation strategies because COVID case rates remain low, and he hopes that the re-emergence of variants in China and Europe does not impact the United States. Southington students are currently able to eat at tables in the cafeteria in one location instead of multiple locations. Livestreaming has also been rolled back. He noted that the teachers had been heroes throughout the pandemic and applauded them for their efforts the past couple of years.

3. DECA - States: Mr. Madancy announced that DECA had seven students qualify at the state level and would be sending 10 students to Atlanta, Georgia on April 22 for the National level of competition

4. SEF Gala: Mr. Madancy announced that the Southington Education Foundation Gala fundraiser will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2022, from 6:00-10:00 p.m. in the Pavilion at the Back Nine at the Southington Country Club. The SEF are ambassadors for the Southington Public School students.

5. Kindergarten Information Session: Mr. Pepe reported that Kindergarten registration started with an informational night on February 28 at DePaolo with all the elementary administrators and Mrs. Clark present along with community partners. The National Junior Honor Society students helped families navigate the sign-in and intent to enroll forms. Two Kindergarten teachers Beth Bowman and Angela Weaver presented “A Day in the Life of a Kindergartener.”

6. Unified Sports Event on March 16: Mr. Pepe reported that the event was a huge success and praised the head coach Lisa Carmody and assistant coaches Denise Ingriselli, and Andrew Larkin. He noted that SHS Athletic Director, Steve Risser, was the Master of Ceremony for the event. Mr. Pepe read a letter that was received from the Associate Director, John Niski, of the Unified Sports Tournament program praising Southington for hosting a “class act” event and looked forward to Southington hosting more Unified events. Mr. Pepe noted that Unified Theatre was held on Friday, March 18 with 62 cast and 11 backstage crew members participating and Logan Gillis opening singing the National Anthem.

**d. Communication from Public**

Mrs. Clark read the Policy and Bylaw 9325 regarding public comments and clarified that it is not a question-and-answer session, not the time to make personal complaints and comments against staff or employees of the Board, and yielding time was not allowed. Due to the number of people who signed up to comment, Mrs. Clark was limiting the time allotted to three minutes, not five minutes. Emails would not be read into the record but would be available to Board members prior to the meeting.

There were a number of residents (*Attachment #1*) who came to the podium to voice their comments, recommendations, requests, and concerns regarding the following: Dumbing down of expectations and lowering of the bar for students, Socialism, Critical Race Theory, anti-Christian extremism, families divided; corruption in education, how bullying and harassment is handled, requesting resignations of some administrators and Board members, punishing the victim and not the perpetrator; requesting Board to help youth in town who are bullied, announcing the 10 new honorees for the Wall of Honor at Southington High School with the ceremony on May 5 at 6:00 p.m. (*Attachment #2*); requesting support for LGBTQ+ students starting in middle school and GSA at SHS (Genders & Sexualities Alliances) and the LGBTQIA+ community at large to raise awareness of substance misuse and mental health issues, suicide statistics and homeless rates of LGBTQ+ students, need for anti-bullying and suicide workshops, starting GSA program in middle school; support for a school districtwide PRIDE day/week/month about acceptance; diversity, equity and inclusion; STEPS Survey given in 7, 9, 11 grades not being available to parents, lack of transparency, inappropriate personal questions on a recent STEPS survey regarding use of drugs, alcohol, sexual conduct, and social behavior administered to students as young as 10 years old without parental permission; survey perverting and damaging young children, requesting having material that are not academically related available to parents on the SPS website for a parent to check to opt out, parents becoming distrustful of government and schools on what is being taught; parent thanking STEPS for the survey because education is more than academics and is also about learning social and emotional values and life skills; invitation from the Barnes Committee for BOE to visit the Barnes Museum, passing away of Southington Public Schools 16 year old student RJ Thomas who had a debilitating disease and a thank you from his parents to his teachers; PRIDE curriculum, turning back to God for resolutions; proud of LGBTQ+ students who came forward and spoke of their struggles; inappropriateness of student being approached by PRIDE organization member to become an activist and to speak at this BOE meeting without parent permission first; moral issues should be taught at home, not in school; UNICO fully funds and supports the Southington Public Schools Unified sports and other activities.

*Mrs. Clark called for a recess at 8:41 p.m.*

*Mrs. Clark reconvened the regular meeting at 8:50 p.m.*

## 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### a. Policy & Personnel Committee Meeting – March 2, 2022

Mr. Williams reported that the committee discussed the revisions of the job descriptions for the School Nursing Supervisor, Information Technology Secretary, and the Technology Secretary that were last revised in 2006 and would be presented later on the agenda for action. The committee also discussed and were updated on the implementation of Capstone at Southington High School this year. The administration will continue to monitor the time needed to oversee student progress and will return to the committee next year with further recommendations regarding Capstone.

### b. Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting – March 11, 2022

Mr. Baczewski reported that the committee discussed and received an overview of the three (3) Grade 2 Science Units. Mrs. Carmody noted that the third unit on Beavers was very illuminating and that she and Mrs. Anastasio learned something new. The committee also received an update from the J. F. Kennedy Middle School administration on the Intervention Block pilot that was approved last year. J. A. DePaolo Middle School will institute a version of the intervention block model during the third trimester this year.

### c. Financial Committee Meeting – March 22, 2022

Mr. Chrzanowski reported that the committee met and discussed the following recommendations.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Chrzanowski, seconded by Mr. Williams:

**“Move to award Bid 2022-10, Lawn Mowing & Trimming Services and Fall/Spring Debris Clean-up and Removal Services at the eight (8) school sites to the vendors as presented by administration.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Chrzanowski, seconded by Mrs. Carmody:

**“Move to approve keeping the 2022-2023 Preschool Tuition Rates the same as the 2021-2022 school year, as presented.”**

**Motion carried with Mrs. Clark abstaining.**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Chrzanowski, seconded by Mr. Carson:

**“Move to approve the 2022-2023 YMCA Lease Rates, as presented.”**

**Motion carried with Mrs. Clark abstaining.**

Mr. Chrzanowski reported that the committee received an update on the recent increase in claims paid through the Self-Insurance fund December 21-February 22.

**9. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

**a. Personnel Report**

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

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

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**10. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Town Government Communications**

Mrs. Clark reported that there was a walk-through of the Southington High School Athletic Complex on Wednesday, March 23 with members of the Board of Education, Board of Finance and Town Council. Mr. Madancy stated that if anyone wanted to take a tour of the complex to see what needs to be done, they could contact Mr. Crocco, SHS Principal, Mr. Risser, Athletic Director, or Mr. DiNello, Associate Athletic Director. Mr. Baczewski questioned about the cracks in the Tennis Courts.

**b. Policy 3542.1 – Purposes and Facilities – Food Service – Policy Revision – Second Reading**

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

**“Move to approve Policy 3542.1 – Purposes and Facilities – Food Service.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**c. Policy 5145.3 – Sexual Harassment of Students – Policy Revision – Second Reading**

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

**“Move to approve Policy 5145.3 – Sexual Harassment of Students.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**d. Science – Grade 1 Units – Second Reading**

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

**“Move to approve the Grade 1 Science Units second reading.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**e. Library Media Proposal for Grades 3-5 – Second Reading**

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

**“Move to approve the Library Media Proposal for Grades 3-5, second reading.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Leonard & Gladys Joll Scholarship Recipient**

Mrs. Clark explained that the name of the recipient would be revealed on Scholarship Night at SHS.

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mr. Carson:

**“Move to approve the recipient recommended by the Leonard & Gladys Joll Scholarship Committee.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**b. Approval of Job Descriptions – School Nursing Supervisor, Information Technology Secretary, and Technology Secretary**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Carmody:

**“Move to approve the job descriptions for the School Nursing Supervisor, Information Technology Secretary and Technology Secretary.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**c. Science – Grade 1 Units – First Reading**

This was a first reading and would become before the Board at their next meeting for action.

**e. 2022-2023 Healthy Food Certification**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Chrzanowski, seconded by Mrs. Carmody:

**“Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Board of Education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**



**f. 2022-2023 Food and Beverage Exemption**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Chrzanowski, seconded by Mrs. Carmody:

**“The Board of Education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**g. Student Expulsion**

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

**“Move to expel Student 2021-22-05 as recommended by administration.”**

**Motion carried with Mr. Chrzanowski abstaining.**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Anastasio, seconded by Mr. Baczewski:

**“Move to adjourn.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Blanchard*

Recording Secretary

**ATTACHMENT #1 – PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

Southington Board of Education  
PUBLIC COMMUNICATION  
 MARCH 24, 2022

	NAME	ADDRESS	TOPIC
1	Pat Tavallozi		
2	Bub Brown	587 Burrell St	Wall of Honor
3	Shawn Erwin	32 Vermont Ave	BULLYING
4	Riley Erwin	32 Vermont Ave	BULLYING
5	James Erwin	34 Vermont Ave	BULLYING
6	Michael Krzyzanski	27 Hitching Post Dr.	Chaps Survey
7	Regina Cuiello	12 Beecher St.	Pride Curriculum
8	Lisa Mason	66 Hobart St.	PRIDE Awardees
9	Susan Zabehanski	28 Wadsworth	Policy
10	Kira Vano	4 Wadsworth	Lgbtq education
11	Steven Barshinski	191 Queen Street	GAT / Policy
12	Missy Cipriano	891 Queen Street	Items
13	Lucy Heron	408 Main St	Educators
14	Rich Rice	11 Cedar St. Apt. 1	Survey - Illegal
15	CHRISTOPHER MCKEE	16 Postman Hwy <sup>North Haven</sup>	SUPPORTING PRIDE

Speak together

NAME	ADDRESS	SUBJECT
Steve Michel	209 Hilltop Dr. Southington	Support for Pride
Katie Saltys	175 Berlin Ave. Southington	Support for Pride
John Sussan	40 White Oak Dr. Southington	Support for Pride
Carmela Bucci	160 Colman Ave. Southington	Support for Pride
ROBERT TOWNE	106 Ashcroft Dr. Plainville	UNICEF
Wendy Fischer	482 South End Rd	LGBOA

**ATTACHMENT #2 – PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

Wall of Honor Announcement—March 24, 2022

Bob Brown, 587 Burrirt St. I am here tonight to announce our new honorees for our Southington High School Wall of Honor.

First, let me explain when we will have our ceremony. We will induct these people on May 5 at 6 pm in the high school auditorium. We had planned a gala event at the Aqua Turf for April 26, but several months ago, with Covid numbers still high, we decided to postpone that—it probably will be held next fall.

Let me also thank the committee members—Terri Carmody, Frank Pepe and Chris Palmieri have been a great help attending meetings, as well as Karen Avitable, Miclele Zommer, Vicki Triano, Chris Poulos and Art Secondo giving input.

We have ten new inductees, covering the last three years. More extensive biographies will be included in our press release soon.

First group starts with Cara Belvin, whose mother had cancer growing up, and who started a now nationally recognized organization to help girls growing up in that situation.

Second we have Sandra and Gino Brino, well known I am sure to most people. They are responsible for building our WORLD class and famous Robotics team. Third from two years ago is Rob Dibble, who achieved fame as a hard-throwing relief pitcher for the Cincinnati Reds and has gone on to become a national known radio sportscaster at ESPN.

Then from last year we have Kevin Altieri, an animator and cartoonist in California, Ken DiMauro, longtime town historian, John Gasecki, former principal of SHS and veteran of WW II, and Kristen Guida, decorated practicing nurse, humanitarian and college teacher of nursing.

And for this year we have John DeMello, veteran and longtime advocate for veterans in our town, and Joseph Tranquillo, Associate Provost for Transformative teaching and Learning at Bucknell University and published author.

We also will include more of our WW II soldiers who gave their lives for our country.

As I said, each of these has a much more extensive biography than I listed here. We hope everyone here will attend May 5—school officials, Bd of Ed and the public. We have amazing students from our schools who have gone on to accomplish great things. We should all be proud of them and our schools.