

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**

APRIL 28, 2022

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education (Committee of the Whole - Operations) was held on Thursday, April 28, 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 6:30 p.m.

Board members present were Mrs. Dawn Anastasio, Mr. Sean Carson, Mr. James Chrzanowski (*arrived at 6:55 p.m.*), Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski and Mr. Zaya Oshana. Absent were Mr. Joseph Baczewski, Mrs. Terri Carmody, and Mr. Jasper Williams.

Cabinet administrators present were Mr. Steven Madancy, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Frank Pepe, Assistant Superintendent (*arrived at 6:55 p.m.*).

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Unaffiliated Compensation and Student Matters

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 Compensation and Student Matters, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

*Mrs. Clark ended Executive Session at 7:02 p.m.
The Regular Board Meeting was reconvened at 7:05 p.m.*

3. RECONVENE MEETING – REGULAR SESSION

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

Cabinet administrators present were Mr. Steven Madancy, Superintendent of School; Mr. Frank Pepe, Assistant Superintendent; and Mrs. Jennifer Mellitt, Director of Business & Finance.

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

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

5. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

For the Celebration of Excellence, Mr. Madancy stated that he, Mrs. Clark, and Mr. Michael Crocco, SHS Principal, were judges for the 2022 Oratorical Contest at Southington High School. He gave an overview of the academic speaking challenge of the contest that includes the history of our nation's laws. Mr. Madancy introduced Southington High School student Elise Jamharian who was the 2022 Oratorical Contest Winner of the competition sponsored by the Southington American Legion Kiltonic Post 72. Ms. Jamharian came to the podium and gave a speech on the Preamble of United States Constitution "We the People." Mr. Madancy stated that the judges were very impressed with her communication and critical thinking skills as well as her knowledge of the Constitution. Mrs. Clark presented Elise with a Certificate of Excellence. Board member and attorney Sean Carson, who studied Constitutional Law, personally offered Ms. Jamharian a scholarship if she went to law school.

Mrs. Clark called for a short recess 7:20 p.m. - 7:28 p.m.

6. SOUTHINGTON STEPS PRESENTATION

Mrs. Megan Albanese, Southington Youth Prevention Coordinator who serves on the STEPS Coalition Advisory Board (Southington Town-wide Effort to Promote Success) in partnership with Deputy Police Chief Bill Palmieri of the Southington Police Department, gave a PowerPoint presentation overview on the results of the "2022 Search Institute Attitudes and Behaviors Survey" that was administered to Southington students in grades 7, 9 and 11 (*Attachment #1*). They explained the organizations and stakeholders who comprise the STEPS Coalition which was formed in 2007 due to suicides of youth in Southington. They discussed the coalition's Mission, the Asset Building Classroom Model (ABC) to support prevention efforts and gave a detailed and lengthy presentation on the Search Institute Attitudes & Behaviors Survey. It is an accredited survey that has surveyed over six million youth across the U.S. and the world. They discussed the purpose of the survey, who is surveyed, subjects that the survey asks about, which includes Risk-Taking Behaviors (substance use or misuse, sexual activity, violent behavior, self-harm or self-injurious acts). The noteworthy results of the survey showed 76% of students felt that their family supported them and 36% reported having positive self-esteem. To celebrate from the survey was that 84% of students felt they have positive peer influences, 15% of students read for pleasure and 79% showed school engagement and completed the survey. Negative results from the survey showed that only 19% of Southington students feel valued by the community. Critical concern from the survey was that 57 grade 7 students, 71 grade 9 students and 90 grade 11 students reported that they have attempted suicide. Twenty-four percent (24%) of students felt sad or depressed in the last month with 6% sad or depressed all the time and 18% most of the time. Mrs. Albanese and Deputy Chief Palmieri discussed the next steps and how families and the community can help students. The survey and results will be shared with the community through "Coffee and Conversation" on Saturday, June 4, 2022, 9:00-11:00 a.m., at the Calendar House. Babysitting will be provided.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 24, 2022

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

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

Motion carried by voice vote with Mr. Oshana and Mr. Derynoski abstaining.

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

“Move to move Agenda Item 12.c ‘Out of State/Overnight Field Trip Approval’ to Agenda Item 7.a.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

a. Out of State/Overnight Field Trip Approval (*formerly Agenda Item 12.c*)

Mrs. Clark noted that this was a DePaolo Middle School eighth grade field trip to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty in New York City.

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

“Move to approve the Out of State/Overnight Field Trip, as presented.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

8. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Student Board Representatives

Ethan Solury reported on the following:

- The SHS Robotics “CyberKnights” Team 195 has been a part of the FIRST Robotic competition since 1998 and has accumulated 33 blue banners, qualified and attended World Championships 16 times. The CyberKnights rank 20th out of 180 teams in New England for the 2022 season that resulted in them becoming eligible for the World Championship in Houston, Texas with over 400 teams representing 13 countries. In 2019, the CyberKnights won the World Championship. They have qualified for the World Championship Competition for 11 years in a row and are ranked 40th in the world for the 2022 season.
- SHS DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) returned home from the World Championships in Atlanta, Georgia and are awaiting their world ranking.
- There was a student Coin Challenge at Derynoski School to start the Book Fair with the PTA (Parent-Teacher Association) raising over \$3,000 in change. Grades 3 and 4 won the challenge. Derynoski also held their first Cultural Arts Program singing group.
- The annual DePaolo and Kennedy Middle School Drama Club production this year was “School of Rock” and the shows were all well attended.
- Sixth grade students worked on various Earth Day activities last Friday.

Jhalissa Vincent reported on the following:

- Monday was the first Silver Star Concert for fifth grade students.
- Concert Choir, Band Ensemble, and Orchestra were split between Tuesday and Wednesday.
- The SHS Marching Band went to Washington, D.C. on April 28 to play at the Jefferson Memorial. The performance will be livestreamed on the SHS YouTube channel.
- Saturday, May 21 is Senior Prom at the Aqua Turf Club with over 400 tickets sold.
- She reported on the spring athletic sports season results to date for the following sports teams: SHS Baseball, Girls Softball, Boys and Girls Tennis, Boys and Girls Lacrosse teams, Boys Volleyball, Girls and Boys Outdoor Track & Field teams.
- On May 4 at 3:00 p.m., the SHS Unified Track & Field team will host the CIAC Invitational Meet with over 150 special athletes from around the state competing at the Fontana Stadium Track and Field facilities.

Angelina Micacci reported on the following:

- The National Honor Society and World Language Honor Society held their induction ceremony on April 21.
- SHS Academic Award Ceremony is May 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium.
- The SHS Art Show will be held on May 9 at the high school from 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- Advance Placement (AP) exams are Monday, May 3 through Friday, May 13.
- Thursday, March 17, the Recreational Director at the Summit of Plantsville spoke to Kennedy Middle School students about staying connected to veterans and senior citizens. Students will be making 150 sensory blankets for the Summit of Plantsville. The project will be funded from the State of Connecticut Council for the Social Studies Special Project Award.
- On May 6 and 7, South End School will hold their 4th and 5th grade Drama Club production of “Frozen”. Students in grades 3-5 will participate in the chorus.
- As the junior class Board of Education Student Representative, she noted that her peers would be grateful if the Board members voted to make the official last day of school for all students on Friday, June 17 and not Monday, June 20.

b. Communications from Board Members

Mr. Oshana explained that the Board of Finance cut \$500,000 from the proposed 2022-2023 Board of Education Operational Budget, which had nothing new in it and was a maintenance of the current budget with nothing added. Any increase in the budget was contractual. He addressed the Federal Covid Funds and the funding cliff that will result next school year when those funds end. Mr. Oshana hoped that the Town Council would restore the \$500,000 and not cut the Board of Education budget any further to maintain the status quo and not use the federal funds earmarked for other items to fund the operating budget. A cut of \$500,000 in the budget is truly a cut and not a reduction on the increase because there is nothing new in the budget.

c. Communications from Administration

Administration reported on the following:

1. NEASC Visit: Mr. Madancy announced that next week a visiting team from NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) would be at the high school hosted

by the town for an accreditation visit, which is a long and arduous process with focus groups and evaluations. The Board, as one of the focus groups, was invited to a conversation with the NEASC Visiting Committee on Monday evening. Accreditation is extremely important to student admittance to higher education and indicates that the high school has met standards. He acknowledged teachers Mrs. Kari Luise-Peschel and Mr. Michael Gagnon who are the NEASC Co-chairs at the high school and have been working on the process since before the pandemic.

2. Elementary Robotics and CFGNB Grant: Mr. Madancy reported that he received a notice from the Greater Foundation of Greater New Britain that Southington received a grant to fully fund Elementary Robotics next school year. They will pay a stipend for one staff member at each elementary school and materials.

3. FBLA State Level Competition Results: Mr. Madancy announced that 22 out of the 27 students that competed at the FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) State Championship won in the various competition areas and continue to proudly represent Southington High School and the community.

4. Erin Caouette, Fund for Teachers Grant: Mr. Madancy reported SHS English teacher, Erin Caouette, who applied for and received a Fund for Teachers Grant that allows teachers to customize a professional development experience of their choosing. Ms. Caouette was chosen out of a pool of many applicants. In the summer, she will be traveling to the Pacific Northwest (California, Oregon, Washington state) to study the history and culture of Asian American and Pacific Islanders in the United States to incorporate in her classes.

5. UConn ECE Growth Graph for SHS: Mr. Pepe distributed a graph (*Attachment #2*) which demonstrates the increase over time from 2011-2012 to 2020-2021 of students enrolled and participating in the UConn ECE (Early College Experience) courses at SHS. A number of course offerings continue to be added, which exceeds other high schools in the DRG (District Reference Group). He noted that it was a testament to the dedicated staff and students who continue to challenge themselves.

6. SEF Gala: Mr. Madancy reminded the Board that the Southington Education Foundation (SEF) 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 gave two grants to Southington Public Schools teachers 1) Robot Programming at Flanders Elementary School, and 2) Dash Robots at South End School.

d. Communication from Public

Mrs. Clark read the Policy and Bylaw regarding public comments and clarified that it is not a question-and-answer session and not the time to make personal complaints and comments against staff or employees of the Board. All charges or complaints of employees should be submitted to the Board of Education. No Boisterous conduct would be permitted and would result in removal from the premises. Mrs. Clark allotted five minutes per speaker.

There were a number of residents (*Attachment #3*) who came to the podium to voice their comments, recommendations, requests, concerns, and appreciation regarding the following: Thanking the Board for daughters good experience at SHS, Outside influencers/organizations working with students on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, STEPS Survey questions, Parental access to STEPS Survey, Opting in to surveys and not opting out, sexuality should be addressed by parents and not the school district, taking politics and special interest groups out of the schools and focusing on education, BOE Policy on Rights and Responsibilities for Employees regarding acceptable Computer and Internet Use, student suspended for filming a student bullying her, teachers making 24 TikTok videos with students, double standards applied, Board of Education members should go into schools and see what is happening, BOE should put the

STEPS survey data results to good use, appreciation for the STEPS Program, parents reluctance to speak at BOE meetings because they don't want to become involved with politics, school budget, why no pushback from BOE about \$500,000 cut from BOE 2022-23 budget, why Southington students not worth the same per pupil expenditure as Cheshire or Wallingford, people should not be afraid to speak at BOE meetings.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Policy & Personnel Committee Meeting – April 20, 2022

Mr. Derynoski reported that the committee addressed and reviewed the following policies: Policy 4118.4 revision - Staff Ethics; Policy 4118.5 – Acceptable Computer, Network, and Internet Use; Policy 4118.10 – Misconduct of Staff Members; Policy 5121 revision – Examination/Grading/Rating; Policy 5145.2 Revision – Freedom of Speech/Expression; and Policy Revision 6162 – Care of Instructional Materials. Mr. Derynoski requested a review of policies related to cycle replacement of technology to be presented at the May 11 meeting.

10. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

a. Personnel Report

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

“Move to approve the Personnel Report, as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

Mrs. Clark stated that there was nothing to report.

b. Science – Grade 2 Units – Second Reading

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

“Move to approve the Grade 2 Science Units.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

12. NEW BUSINESS

a. Southington Public Schools Last day of School 2022

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

“Move to approve Friday, June 17, 2022, as the last day of school for all Southington Public Schools.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

b. Adoption of 2023 Board of Education Meeting Dates

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

“Move to approve the proposed schedule of regular Board of Education meeting dates, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

c. Out of State/Overnight Field Trip Approval (*Moved to Agenda Item 7.a*)

d. Policy 4118.4 – Staff Ethics – Revision – First Reading

e. Policy 5145.2 – Freedom of Speech/Expression – Revision – First Reading

f. Policy 6162 – Care of Instructional Materials – Revision – First Reading

These agenda items were first reads and will be brought to the Board at their next meeting for action. Mr. Derynoski recommended that the Board members peruse them and thanked Mr. Pepe.

13. 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

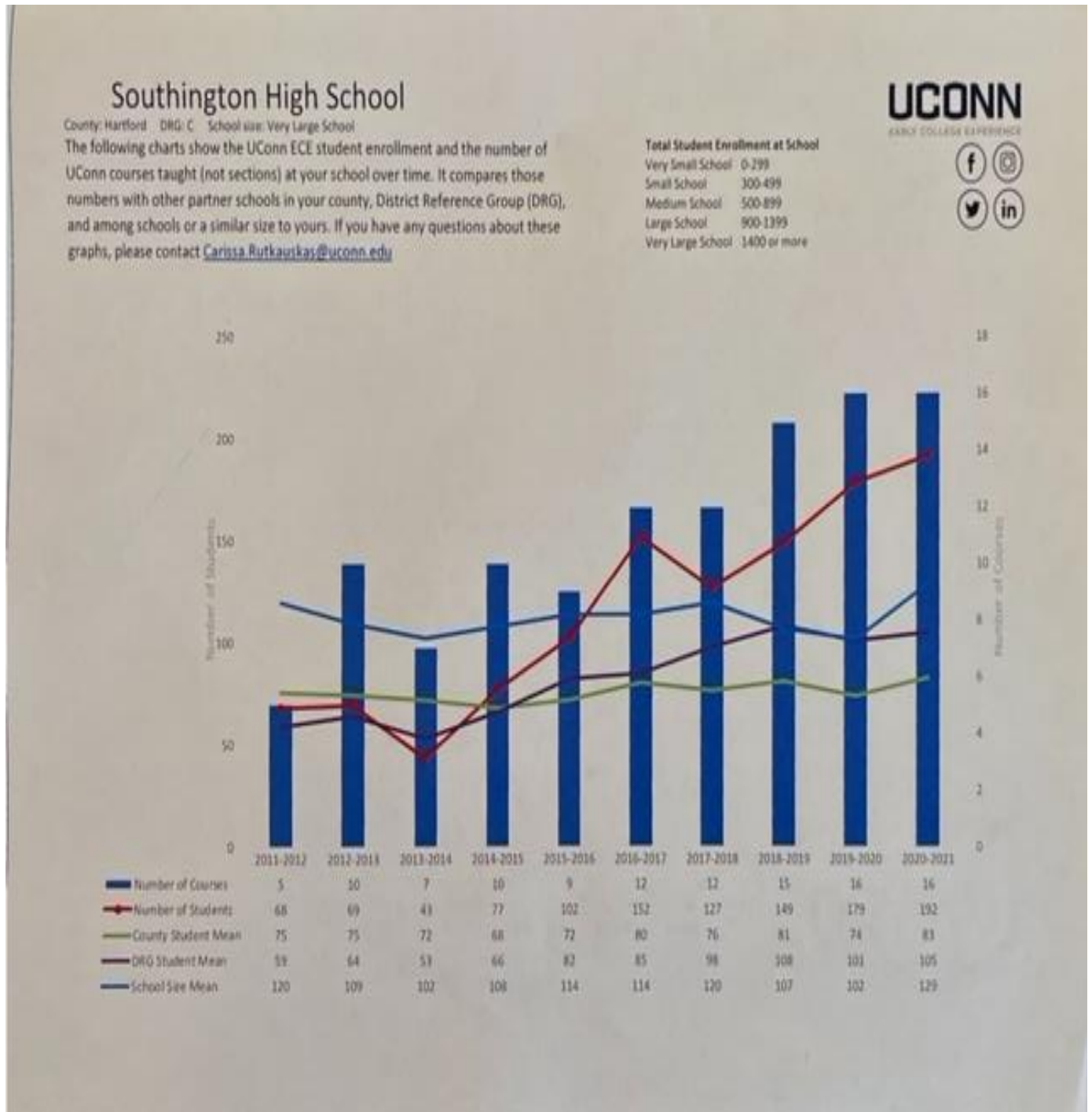
Recording Secretary

ATTACHMENT #1 – STEPS SURVEY RESULTS



STEPS Presentation
Attachment #1.pdf

ATTACHMENT #2 – SHS UCONN ECE GRAPH



Courses Offered & Active Faculty at Southington High School:

AH2001 (E Proctor); CAMS3102 (A Foresman); ECON1000 (H Jayne); ECON1202 (H Jayne); FREN3268 (M Fall); HDFS1070 (M Osborn); ILCS3239 (K Tavera Collins); LLAS1190 (K Stevens); NRE1000E (K Radziwon); SPAN3178 (T Riccio); SPSS1110 (M Stannard); SPSS1150 (M Stannard); FREN3250 (M Fall); ILCS3240 (K Tavera Collins); SPAN3179 (T Riccio); SPSS2520 (M Stannard)



Participation

- 9.7% school-wide participation by Southington High School students (based on 2020-21 Enrollment)
- 7.3% student growth
- 0% course growth
- 10.8% average participation (partner schools)

Southington High School

	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Number of Courses	5	10	7	10	9	12	12	15	16	16
County Course Mean	6	6	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	8
DRG Course Mean	5	5	5	6	7	9	10	10	10	11
Size Course Mean	9	9	9	9	8	10	10	10	9	11

Southington High School

ATTACHMENT #3 – PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Timestamp	Name	Address	Reason to speak
2022/04/28 7:48:23 PM	michael kryzanski	27 hitching post drive	steps survey, pride week
2022/04/28 7:48:44 PM	shawn irwin	32 vermont ave	?
2022/04/28 7:49:07 PM	riley irwin	none	because
2022/04/28 7:50:34 PM	Richard Thomas Cooper	79 Barbara Lane	Still deciding; BOE leadership/accountability/safety
2022/04/28 7:51:27 PM	Katherine Wade	39 Madalyn Ln	Budget