

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
MAY 26, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education (Committee of the Whole - Instruction) was held on Thursday, May 26, 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 6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Colleen Clark, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

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

Cabinet administrator present was Mr. Frank Pepe, Assistant Superintendent.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – UPSEU Negotiations Update 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 UPSEU Negotiations Update 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 7:07 p.m.

3. RECONVENE MEETING – REGULAR SESSION

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

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

Student Representatives present were Ethan Solury and Angelina Micacci.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

Mrs. Clark called for a moment of silence in memory of:

- Sharon Uliasz, who passed away on May 15, 2022. Mrs. Uliasz was a paraeducator at DePaolo Middle School from 2013 until her retirement in June 2020.
- Rita Kennedy, who passed away on May 19, 2022. Ms. Kennedy worked as a paraeducator at Southington High School from August 1994 until her retirement in 2014.
- Nick Economopoulos, father-in-law of Superintendent Steve Madancy, who passed away that morning.
- The victims’ and their families at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

5. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

For the Celebration of Excellence, teachers Amy Zappone, District Math & Science Coordinator, and Melissa O’Neill, District Elementary Science Specialist, recognized 12 fifth-grade students who received state and/or national Invention Convention recognition for their inventions this year in various categories. She announced the Invention Convention winners, their school, teacher, and invention. Six of the winners were national finalists and would be attending the national finals in Dearborn, Michigan next week. The students were presented with a trophy and a plaque.

Mrs. Clark called for a short recess 7:17 - 7:30 p.m.

6. APPROVALS

a. Approval of Minutes – May 12, 2022

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

“Move to approve the Regular Board of Education Minutes of May 12, 2022, as submitted.”

Motion carried by voice vote with Mr. Baczewski abstaining.

b. Approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trips

Mr. Derynoski stated that the field trip approvals needed to be separate motions.

1. Approval of World Language Foreign Trip to Dominican Republic

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

“Move to approve the World Language Foreign Field Trip to the Dominican Republic in April 2023.”

Ms. Megan Martin, SHS World Language Teacher, explained that students would be traveling to the Dominican Republic in April 2023 for language immersion and a service trip.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

2. Approval of Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trip

Mr. Steve Risser, Athletic Director introduced the SHS Girls Volleyball Coach, Rich Heitz, who explained that the Girls Varsity Volleyball Team were extended an invitation to play at the Burnt Hills/Ballston Spa Volleyball Tournament in September 2022.

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

“Move to approve the SHS Girls Volleyball Out of State/Overnight Field Trip, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

7. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Student Board Representatives

Ethan Solury reported on the following:

- Senior Prom was held on Saturday, May 21 at Aqua Turf.
- Class Night is June 2, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. on the SHS athletic fields with food trucks serving American & Mexican cuisine, wings, and a fire truck converted as a pizza food truck. There will be numerous activities. Students will write letters to themselves to be opened at their five-year reunion.
- Class Day is June 3 at Six Flags in Agawam, Massachusetts.
- SHS Project Lead the Way senior night was held on Friday with seniors presenting their yearlong projects.
- He gave updates on the spring activities for Thalberg, Oshana and Derynoski Elementary Schools and DePaolo Middle School.

Angelina Micacci reported on the following:

- SHS Activity Fair was held on Tuesday. Eighth-grade students attended to learn about the opportunities available (clubs, languages, sports, etc.) to them at SHS.
- On June 1, the SHS Drama Club will attend the HALO Awards at the Palace Theater. It is a theater award show for all of Connecticut with the SHS Drama Club receiving 18 nominations.
- All nine of the spring sports teams qualified for the CIAC State Championships: Girls Lacrosse, Boys Lacrosse, Boys Tennis, Girls Tennis, Baseball, Girls Softball, Girls & Boys Outdoor Track, Boys Volleyball, and Girls Volleyball.
- The SHS Unified Track & Field Team will host the CIAC Unified Track & Field Meet on June 1 at 3:00 p.m.

Mrs. Carmody noted that there were 28 students who were being interviewed to be Board of Education Student Representatives. Ethan and Angelina stated that they were currently interviewing and that the selected representatives would be introduced at the June 8 BOE meeting.

b. Communications from Board Members

Mr. Baczewski stated that he attended the Silver Star Band Concert at the high school, his daughter's choir concert, and noted the upcoming band concerts. He was happy that things were getting back to normal after the pandemic the past two years.

Mr. Derynoski stated that the Military Luncheon was held in the Public Assembly Room that afternoon for two of the three SHS students who were going into the military. He noted that it was touching and very well organized. A former SHS student who entered the military was the keynote speaker. Mrs. Clark thanked Mrs. Teresa Colegrove, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, and all who helped make it a success.

c. Communications from Administration

Administration reported on the following:

1. PEGPETIA Grant: Mr. Pepe announced that the school district was awarded a \$44,000 grant through PEGPETIA (Public, Educational and Governmental Programming and Educational Technology Investment Account), and in partnership with the Town, they will be able to upgrade the AV system in the Municipal Center Public Assembly Room.
2. Public Hearing for Athletic Facilities: Mr. Pepe reported that through a Planning and Zoning Public Hearing, Town Council and Board of Finance meetings, the school district had unanimous support for the Athletic Facility Plan to move forward to referendum in November 2022. As it progresses, there will be a special link on the SPS website to keep the public updated on the phases. Mrs. Clark noted that no one spoke against it at the public hearing.

d. Communication from Public

Mr. Michael Kryzanski, 27 Hitching Post Drive, spoke about parents increasing distrust in public schools throughout the nation and students being pulled out of school due to the social agenda being pushed such as some of the questions on the STEPS Survey, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Workshops, White Privilege Workshops, etc. Many parents do not like the social agenda that is being pushed nationally. He thought that the parents needed options instead of receiving emails, which could be missed. He proposed that the SPS website, which parents log into, have a webpage with a list of activities and preferences for opting in to participate, not opting out of the non-academic related activities for students. A one and done process, which saves time. He asked the Board to let him know at the next BOE meeting if that process could be done or not or via an email. He thanked the Board members for their time and dedication.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Policy & Personnel Committee Report – May 11, 2022

Mr. Pepe reported that the committee met and discussed revisions to Policy 4118.7 – Social Networking and combining it with Policy 4118.4. The recommendation is to keep the two policies separate and accept the suggested edits for Policy 4118.7. Policy 4118.4 will continue as a second read at the May 12 BOE meeting and Policy 4118.7 is recommended for a first reading at the May 26 BOE meeting. Policy 6173 – Enrollment in Advanced Course/Program and Challenging Curriculum was presented as new based on recent legislation and is on the agenda as a first read. An investigation for policy regarding technology replacement yielded a district replacement process/plan, which was presented and reviewed and did not need action.

b. Curriculum & Instruction Committee Report – May 20, 2022

Mrs. Carmody reported that the committee discussed Grade 7 Science Unit 1: Chemical Reactions and were provided an overview by Mrs. Holst-Grubbe, Director of Teaching & Learning for Secondary Education. This unit continues to expand on the concept of science explored as a recursive process. Students synthesize data and apply the newly gained knowledge to recreate phenomenon. The committee received an overview of SHS Elective Course Introduction to Sociology: Unit 1 - Origins and Perspectives of Sociology, Unit 2 - Research and Ethics, Unit 3 - Culture, Unit 4 - Socialization and Unit 5 – Intersectionality, which teaches students how to think versus what to think. Mrs. Savelkoul, Digital Learning Coordinator, provided an overview on Grade K-2 Library Media Unit 1 – Technology Operations and Digital Citizenship, Unit 2 – Research and Information Literacy, and Unit 3 – Innovative Design. Unit 1 teaches concepts from how to carry the Chromebook and the care and feeding of Chromebooks to how a student’s online presence reflects who he/she is as a person.

Mr. Oshana asked for more specifics on how to think versus what to think and who decides the issues that the students talk about. Mrs. Holst-Grubbe explained that they want the students to think in the role of a sociologist. They are presented a study and must pick it apart such as ethics, critically examining, trends, data, etc. and it empowers them to think like a sociologist based on facts and not opinion. Mr. Baczewski questioned what the three theoretical perspectives and current relevance were. Mr. Pepe stated that they were Functionalist, Symbolic Interactionist, and Conflict, which are applied to contemporary issues. Board members had questions on the Sociology units.

c. Finance Committee Meeting – May 16, 2022

Mr. Carson reported that the sub-committee met and discussed the Self-Insurance Report and financial updates, renewal of the Apple Lease, use of Non-Lapsing Fiscal Year 2021 funds for a Request for Proposal (RFP) for elementary air conditioning, and a Food Service update. The district is waiting to hear if the USDA waivers are extended into the next school year for free meals. The Seamless Summer Option (SSO) provides breakfast and lunches that are reimbursed from the federal government has been in place in the district for two years resulting in an increase in the number of meals being served to Southington students. The waiver goes before the legislature in July to see if it is extended for another school year. If it is not extended, it would affect the budget and would be an ongoing conversation.

Mr. Carson reported that the Apple Lease Agreement has been in place since 2007. The committee is recommending adding a new three-year lease to the Apple Agreement at an annual cost of \$170,000 per year beginning in June 2022. He noted that the word “lease” is used in title to describe the agreement, but it is really a purchase and any equipment through the three-year master lease program is owned by the school district.

Mr. Carson reported that the committee also discussed an elementary school air conditioning Request for Proposal (RFP) and allocating \$70,000 of the Non-Lapsing Fiscal Year 2021 funds for that purpose. The RFP is to hire an engineering firm to evaluate adding air conditioning and indoor air quality at five elementary schools Hatton, Oshana, South End, Strong, and Thalberg.

1. Renewal of Apple Lease

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

“Move to approve renewing the three-year Apple Lease for technology equipment, as presented.”

Mr. Derynoski questioned what would happen to the equipment that the Apple Lease would replace. He did not want the school district to have a junkyard of old technology.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

2. Use of Non-lapsing FY’21 Funds for Elementary Air Quality RFP

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

“Move to allocate \$70,000 from the FY’21 Non-lapsing Account towards the cost of an indoor air quality study at five (5) elementary schools, as presented.”

Mr. Derynoski noted that the study was not just to add air conditioning but to also enhance indoor air quality purification.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Maintained School Access Sidewalks – Second Reading

MOTION: by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mr. Oshana:

“Move to approve the Town Maintained School Access Sidewalks proposal, as presented by the administration.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Enrollment Study

Mr. John Koplas from Colliers Project Leaders and Mr. Pat Gallagher from the SLAM Collaborative architecture firm gave a PowerPoint presentation on an updated projected Enrollment Study that SLAM conducted (*Attachment #1*). Mr. Gallagher spoke at length about the 10-year enrollment projections and Elementary Facility Plan required by the state for the facilities grant application. The last time a comprehensive study was done was in the spring of 2019, using October 1, 2018 data. Mr. Gallagher highlighted the projections comparison over the past three years and the changes due to the pandemic. He discussed factors influencing the Southington Public Schools (SPS) enrollment such as: population and demographic trends, reported births and projections, employment trends, housing market, price points for housing market, housing trends (new construction), recent and approved housing single family homes (70% of town’s housing stock is single family detached units peaking at 584 in 2021), and

estimated student generation from housing units not yet built. Mr. Gallagher addressed enrollment trends and analysis such as: districtwide historic enrollments, elementary and middle school historic enrollments, net migration for elementary, middle schools and high school students with more moving into district than moving out of district over last two years, in-migration by grade for “new-to-district students” at individual elementary and middle schools. Mr. Gallagher explained the enrollment projections over the next 10-years, and the enrollment projection building blocks (starting data, demographic and housing data, and projection assumptions); projections primer based on Cohort Survivor Methodology (which is the standard method that the state looks at for school projects); projection assumptions based on High, Medium, and Low Projection Models; persistency ratios, districtwide projections using the Medium Model SLAM recommends. Mr. Gallagher explained the districtwide projections using the Medium Model. He prepared individual elementary, middle, and high school projections (existing) and addressed projection takeaways (projections revised slightly upwards due to continued strong housing market, in-migration rates and larger birth rates using the recommended Medium Model for planning). Mr. Gallagher addressed how the enrollment ties into capacity and utilization of buildings including special education programs.

Mr. Koplas addressed the project schedule and process and spoke at length on what had been done to date since Colliers spoke at the Board meeting one year ago. He explained the Macro Project Schedule, which is an overview of what is required in the coming year to reach the point of a Referendum in November 2023.

Mr. Carson questioned if a baseline property value assessment was done at the three elementary school sites that were originally discussed one year ago (Derynoski, Kelley and Flanders Elementary Schools) and what the value of the property would be to the town if there was not a school on the site. He noted the current enrollment for middle school and high school and questioned where the additional students would be coming from beyond the middle school system. Mr. Carson questioned the housing market sales trends and what resources, or data was available outside of actual school enrollment to see if housing sales were connected to families with young children or not.

Mr. Baczewski stated that it was a great presentation and showed the enrollment trending upward compared to the presentation over a year ago that showed a downward projection.

b. 2022-2023 Operating Budget Reallocation/Adoption

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

“Move to adopt the 2022-2023 Board of Education Operating Budget with revised adjustments.”

Mr. Oshana summarized that the \$500,000 reduction to the 2022-2023 Operating Budget was coming from teachers’ salaries and paraeducators. He questioned what they were losing in the budget to make up for the \$500,000 cut. Mrs. Mellitt stated that no jobs were lost by this cut, paraeducator positions were left vacant. Four teachers would be able to be funded through the Nexus tuition. Mr. Baczewski stressed that the original budget request was an even budget and was not bringing in anything new and thought it was frustrating to be squabbling with the town over \$500,000 of lost funding.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mr. Baczewski, Mrs. Anastasio, Mrs. Carmody, Mr. Carson, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Clark. NO – Mr. Oshana.

Motion carried with six in favor and one opposed.

- c. Resolution for Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) and the Town of Southington / Board of Education**

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

“Move to approve the DMHAS Resolution, as presented.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

- d. Policy 4118.7 – Social Networking – First Reading**
- e. Policy 6173 – Enrollment in Advanced Course/Program and Challenging Curriculum – First Reading**
- f. Grade 7 Science Curriculum – Unit 1: Chemical Reaction – First Reading**
- g. SHS Sociology Curriculum – Units 1-5 – First Reading**
- h. K-2 Curriculum – Library Media Units – First Reading**

These agenda items were first reads and will be brought to the Board at their next meeting for action.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Blanchard

Recording Secretary

ATTACHMENT #1 – ENROLLMENT STUDY PRESENTATION



SLAM-Colliers PP Presentation_05-26-22.pdf
