

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 22, 2021

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, April 22, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. as a Zoom and teleconference meeting with an Executive Session held prior as a Zoom video meeting at 6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Terri Carmody, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:30 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, and Mr. Zaya Oshana. Absent was Mr. David Falvo.

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

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION ~ CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS – NIPSEU & AFSCME

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

"Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing NIPSEU (Nutmeg Independent Public Safety Employees Union) and AFSCME (American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees) Contract Negotiations, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Executive Session recessed at 6:56 p.m.

3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

Mrs. Carmody reconvened the Board of Education Regular Session at 7:04 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, and Mr. Zaya Oshana. Absent was Mr. David Falvo.

Cabinet administrators present were Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Steven Madancy, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance and Ms. Rebecca Cavallaro, Director of Pupil Services.

Student representatives present were Mr. Brett Sheldrick, Miss Amrit Kaur and Miss Jhalissa Vincent

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

5. APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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

“Move to appoint Mr. Frank Pepe as Assistant Superintendent of the Southington Public Schools, effective July 1, 2021 at a salary of \$185,000.”

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES - Mr. Baczewski, Mr. Brown, Mr. Chrzanowski, Mrs. Cipriano, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Derynoski, Mr. Oshana, and Mrs. Carmody.

Motion carried unanimously 8-0.

Mrs. Carmody stated that the Board was confident that Mr. Pepe would continue the work that he has been doing in the Southington school district for the last 16 years and that he would continue to support the vision of a Southington graduate to be both college and career ready working with Mr. Madancy as Superintendent of Schools (*as of 07-01-21*). The Board members all congratulated Mr. Pepe who introduced his family and thanked the Board for the opportunity.

6. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE – FOOD SERVICE

Mrs. DiNello stated that the Board wanted to recognize and celebrate the Food Service Director, Ms. Nya Welinsky, Kitchen Managers, and Food Technicians of the Food Service Program for their hard work meeting the changing needs and challenges during the pandemic by providing nutritious meals including a remote Grab & Go Program and remote Evening Meal Program. The program did not go one day without offering meals to families. Everyone was flexible when staff had to be shifted to other schools due to school closures and staff shortages. Mrs. DiNello also recognized the work of the Food Service Program office staff Marcia and Marina.

Ms. Nya Welinsky thanked the Board for the recognition and the entire Food Service team for their adaptability to all the new safety protocols and their teamwork effort. The program continues evening remote meal handouts at DePaolo Middle School on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 5:00-6:00 p.m. serving 500-2,000 meals per night. Since the first day of school through March 31, 2021, they handed out 79,762 free meals to the community for students. Ms. Welinsky personally named and thanked all the Food Service staff who packaged and gave up their evenings to hand out and carry on the meal distribution program during these unprecedented times.

Mrs. Carmody recognized Student Representative Jhalissa Vincent who was recently accepted into the All-State Choir after completing two virtual auditions. She will be representing Southington and singing soprano with the virtual All-State Choir this weekend.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 25, 2021

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

“Move to approve the regular Board of Education meeting minutes of March 25, 2021, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

8. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

a. Communications from Public

There was no communication from the public.

b. Communications from Board Members

Board members discussed the following:

- Mr. Oshana thanked Mr. Connellan and administration for the work that they did in coordinating an opportunity for Southington students age 16 and older to sign up to get vaccinated against Covid-19. The survey that was sent had an overwhelmingly positive response from the families with 600 students showing interest, which is 80% participation of those students that are eligible. The vaccine would be given on Friday, April 23, 2021 by Hartford Healthcare at the Oakdale Theater. He thanked Mrs. Michelle Passamano, Human Resource Manager, who worked relentlessly to pursue this opportunity.
- Mrs. Cipriano, a Director of Bread for Life, thanked the School Food Service staff for their hard work serving students and the community during the pandemic, which brought relief and less stress to many Southington families knowing that food was provided.
- Mr. Brown updated the Board on the Social Justice Committee Coalition initiatives and the \$10,000 grant that they received for marketing purposes. He and Mr. Madancy would be meeting with a marketer on Friday, April 23, 2021 regarding helping people in need know where they could go for help.

c. Communication from Administration

Administration reported on the following:

1. **Recruiting Fairs Participation:** Mr. Connellan reported that the district, through the leadership of Mrs. Passamano, participates in a number of recruiting fairs including the NEAG School of Education (UConn) and CREC Minority Recruitment Fair, which are virtual.
2. **Best Communities for Music Education Designation:** Mr. Connellan announced that the Southington Public Schools was honored as one of the Best Communities for Music Education from the NAMM Foundation (National Association of Music Merchants). The district has won this award for many years in a row.

3. Ocean State Job Lot Donation: Mr. Connellan announced that Ocean State Job Lot donated PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) items to the Southington Public Schools such as face shields, hand sanitizers and disinfecting wipes. The estimated value was approximately \$24,000. Mrs. Mellitt, Accounting Manager, would be sending a thank you on behalf of the district.

4. FBLA State Leadership Conference: Mr. Connellan announced that the Future Business Leaders of America had students who placed in all levels of categories at the State Leadership Conference. Of the 28 students who participated, 21 students placed in the top five in the state and earned first place in five events. Twenty students qualified to compete at the national level in June. Mr. Connellan congratulated Mrs. Joy Cooney and the students and announced that the students would be invited to a Celebration of Excellence at the May 13 Board of Education meeting.

5. ADNET Technology Donation: Mr. Madancy explained the support the district receives for technology from ADNET. He stated that ADNET was downsizing and moving to a new location in Hartford where they are retrofitting offices and reducing their space. They had very large office space in Farmington and a lot of gently used furniture and office equipment that they gave to the Southington school district. Mr. Madancy and Mr. Romano, Director of Operations, selected high-end office cubicle arrangements and partitions for the high school teacher's room. There were conference tables, office desks, file cabinets, flat screen monitors, which are being stored in trailers at the high school temporarily until the summer. He thanked Mr. Romano and the Maintenance Department for moving these items and Mr. Luise, CEO of ADNET, for supporting the school system.

Mrs. Carmody called for a Moment of Silence in memory of the following:

- 1) Ada Peterson, who was an elementary teacher at North Center School for 39 years from 1963 to 2002 and passed away on April 2, 2021.
- 2) Shelly Ayn Hatheway, who was a hall monitor at Derynoski School from 2009 to 2012 and passed away on March 31, 2021.
- 3) Thad Weaver, who was a special education teacher at Southington High School and most recently The Karen Smith Academy since 2004. He passed away on April 5, 2021.
- 4) Pearl R. Bennett, who was a former secretary at DePaolo Middle School and passed away on April 18, 2021.

d. Communication from Students Representatives

Mr. Brett Sheldrick reported on the following:

- On behalf of the Student Representatives, he congratulated Mr. Pepe for the position of Assistant Superintendent and was thankful that he and Amrit were ending their senior year with Mr. Pepe as principal of SHS.
- Brett reported on the athletic season results to date and previous and upcoming games / meets for SHS Baseball, Girls Softball, Boys Volleyball, Girls Lacrosse, Boys Lacrosse and Girls/Boys Track.
- The SHS Academic Awards program is Wednesday, May 5 with the rain date May 6 at 6:00 p.m. on Fontana Field.

Miss Amrit Kaur reported on the following:

- Amrit reported on the athletic season results to date and previous and upcoming matches for the Golf Team and Boys Tennis.

- Senior events are still in the process of being planned.
- Scholarship Night is on May 20 and the rain date is May 21 at 6:00 p.m.

Miss Jhalissa Vincent reported on the following:

- Jhalissa reported on the athletic season results to date and previous and upcoming games / matches for the Girls Tennis Team, Boys and Girls Rugby Club Teams, and middle school baseball / softball teams at Kennedy and DePaolo.
- Advanced Placement (AP) testing will start at the beginning of May and will end at the end of May. It will be administered either in person, on paper, or digital in person. Testing will be held at St. Aloysius Church and at the high school.
- April break was last week and much needed.
- On April 27 there will be a SHS Wind and Orchestra Concert and a SHS Band and Symphonic Concert on April 28 and SHS Jazz and Choir Concert on April 29.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Carmody thanked her fellow Board members for all their time and hard work that they do serving on the committees.

a. Policy & Personnel Committee Meeting ~ April 6, 2021

Mrs. Clark reported that the Policy & Personnel Committee met and reviewed the changes in job descriptions that will come before the full Board later on the agenda. The change in the Director of Business and Finance job description is that the position no longer is assigned as the primary representative for negotiations and will shift to the Human Resource Manager and Board Attorney with the Director of Business and Finance providing financial information and support. The Accounting Manager description only had minor language updates. The Library Media Specialist was not reviewed or revised since 1996 and reflects the changes in the job. The Production Secretary was reviewed and revised and did not have any substantive changes. The Associate Athletic Director had one proposed change with the requirement of an 092 Certification due to supervisory responsibilities. Mrs. Clark explained in detail the Elementary Science Specialist, Interventionist-Elementary Schools, and World Language Specialist job descriptions that have no impact to the operating budget and are covered by the ESSR Grant Funds or Title II Grant funds.

Mrs. Clark explained the revisions to Policy 3281-Code of Conduct, Child Nutrition Programs and to Policy 3320-Purchasing Procedures based on additions or deletions as advised by Shipman & Goodwin legal counsel.

b. Curriculum & Instructions Committee Meeting ~ April 6, 2021

Mr. Brown reported that the committee met and discussed the Mandarin curriculum and adding Mandarin 2, 3, 4 at no extra cost to the district due to class sizes and using current teachers. Mandarin 1 is already offered. African and Caribbean Studies in French was already approved but students will now be getting three (3) UConn credits for this course, which very few districts offer. There is no change to the curriculum for Italian 4 CCP Conversation and Composition 1; however, three (3) college credits can now be earned. The committee was updated by Mr. Pepe on SHS Credit Recovery Modules and putting together a program to offer credit recovery during the second half of the year for students who are failing and need help.

ESSR II funds will be used for staffing. The committee received an update from Mr. Pepe and Ms. Diane Holst-Grubbe on the design and implementation of the SHS Capstone requirement. Ms. Rebecca Migliaro provided the committee with an update on the end of junior year work on Essay Writing for Junior English and tying it into the process of applying to colleges and for students who are not planning to go to college to work on their spoken and writing skills needed for career readiness. Mr. Brown reported that Ms. Holst-Grubbe and Ms. Mary Lynne Osborn gave a presentation on Food Service Certification and connecting to area restaurants to ensure students receive proper certification in food handling and manager certification. Perkins Grant funds will be used to pay for it. The committee received a presentation from Mrs. Stephanie Lawlor and Mrs. Josie Rogala on a new Grade 5 Civics Unit called *“Reading in the Content Areas: How Key Events Shape Nations, with a focus on the Civil Rights Movement and the continuing fight for Equity.”* Mrs. Lawlor connected this work to the Black History IS American History Institute that she attended with 27 Southington teachers. Mrs. Sue Vitcavage, JFK Assistant Principal, gave a presentation to the committee on the Middle School Scheduling Pilot for next year that would include a daily intervention block. She will report back to the Curriculum and Instruction Committee after the school year on the success of the pilot.

Mrs. Clark commented on the Essay Writing and was happy that this real-life skill was offered to college-bound students and students entering into the work world for career readiness.

Mr. Derynoski questioned if the ESSR Grant funding for some of these initiatives was for one year or multiple years. Mr. Brown believed that it was about the credit recovery work, and it is not something they have to do in the future once the curricula is created. Mr. Madancy added that only the SHS Credit Recovery Modules were using the ESSR II funds, which is a requirement that is associated with the use of the funds to address learning lost during the pandemic.

c. Elementary Facilities Committee Report

There was no report. The committee does not meet until April 27, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

10. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

a. Personnel Report

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

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

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

1. Appointment of Representative on the Town Cable Advisory Council

Mrs. Carmody explained that the name given to her to serve on the Advisory Council was Mr. Jacob Gorski. Mr. Oshana was not familiar with that name and questioned if he was associated with the school system. Mr. Connellan explained that

after the last election there was an organizational meeting and committee positions were proposed. Mr. Rick Campbell formerly had this position and works at the high school as a Tech Analyst. He is no longer interested in serving as a representative on the Town Cable Advisory Council. At that time, Mrs. Carmody asked if anyone was interested in the position and no one volunteered, which left the position open. Mr. Oshana stated that if it is a Board appointment, then it should be someone associated with the Board of Education. He stated that many years ago former Board member Mr. Leonard Marcheselle served on this committee. Mr. Oshana requested to table this appointment to see if a Board member or someone within the school system was interested in this position.

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

“Move to Table.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mrs. Carmody asked if there was a Board member willing to serve on the Town Cable Advisory Council. Mr. Baczewski recommended that the Board receive more information on Mr. Gorski who may be suitable for the job. Mr. Derynoski suggested that from now until the next Board meeting to see if anybody from within the school system would be willing to participate rather than fill the position right now. Mr. Brown added that the person recommended might be qualified and should be looked into. Mr. Baczewski stated that the Board did not really know what exactly the Town Cable Advisory Council does and asked that something be emailed to the Board members about the role of the Cable Council. Mrs. Carmody stated that she would contact the Town Council Chair for more information. Mr. Connellan stated that he would call the Town manager to provide a job description of the role and the charge of the Town Cable Advisory Council and send it to the Board members.

12. NEW BUSINESS

a. Adoption of 2022 Board of Education Meeting Dates

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

“Move to adopt the 2022 Board of Education Meeting Dates, as presented.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

b. Approval of Job Descriptions ~ Director of Business & Finance, Accounting Manager, Library Media Specialist, Production Secretary, Associate Athletic Director, Elementary Science Specialist, Interventionist- Elementary, and World Language Specialist.

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

“Move to approve the job descriptions as recommended by the Policy and Personnel Committee.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

- c. **Policy 3281- Code of Conduct, Child Nutrition Programs – First Reading**
- d. **Policy 3320 – Purchasing Procedures – First Reading**
- e. **SHS Mandarin 2, 3, 4 Course Proposal and Curriculum Review – First Reading**

Mrs. Clark stated that the above agenda items were first reads and that if anyone had questions to reach out to her or Mr. Madancy.

- f. **2021-2022 Healthy Food Certification**

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

“Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Board of Education 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, 2021, through June 30, 2022. 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.

- g. **2021-2022 Food and Beverage Exemption**

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

“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.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move to go into Executive Session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The regular meeting ended at 8:12 p.m.

The recessed Executive Session started at 8:13 p.m.

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Executive Session ended at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Blanchard
Recording Secretary