

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 13, 2021

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, May 13, 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 6:32 p.m.

Board members present were Mr. Joseph Baczewski, Mr. Robert Brown, Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mr. James Chrzanowski, Mrs. Missy Cipriano (*arrived at 6:44 p.m.*), Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mr. David Falvo, and Mr. Zaya Oshana.

Cabinet administrators present were Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Steven Madancy, Assistant Superintendent.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION ~ 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 student matters and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Executive Session ended at 6:51 p.m.

3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

Mrs. Carmody reconvened the Board of Education Regular Session at 7:01 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.

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

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 DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS & FINANCE

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

“Move to appoint Mrs. Jennifer Mellitt as Director of Business and Finance, effective July 1, 2021 at a salary of \$139,000.”

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

Motion carried unanimously 9-0.

Mrs. Carmody and the Board congratulated and welcomed Mrs. Mellitt to her new position as Director of Business and Finance effective July 1, 2021 after serving the Southington Public Schools as Accounting Manager under the mentorship of Mrs. DiNello since March of 2015. Mrs. Mellitt thanked the Board and administration for their support and introduced her family members who were virtually present.

6. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

a. FBLA State Competition Winners

Ms. Joy Cooney, FBLA Advisor, explained that 28 FBLA chapter members competed virtually with 21 winners at the state level. At the end of June 15 FBLA chapter members will be competing at the National level. She hoped that next year’s competition would be in person. Mr. Oshana read the names of the FBLA State Competition Winners with Mrs. Teresa Colegrove, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, virtually holding up the framed Certificates of Excellence that the winners would be receiving (*Attachment #1*).

b. CCC Champion SHS Girls Gymnastics Team

Mrs. Carmody read the names of the CCC Champion SHS Girls Gymnastics Team while Mrs. Colegrove held up their framed Certificate of Excellence that they would be receiving (*Attachment #2*). Mr. Steve Risser, Athletic Director, thanked the Board for the special presentation and explained that the CCC Championship was the only competition that the Girls Gymnastics Team was able to compete in this year after following CDC guidelines for indoor sports. Mr. Risser also thanked Assistant Coach, Marilyn Sporbert, who stepped in when Coach Chamberland was quarantined. He introduced Coach Cassidy Chamberland who explained that the team did not know if they were going to have a season this year but still worked out and conditioned with the biggest team in school history of 18 girls. She congratulated the team for going undefeated for the second year in a row and recognized the six seniors on the team who were graduating.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 22, 2021

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

“Move to approve the regular Board of Education meeting minutes of April 22, 2021, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

8. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

a. Communications from Public

1. Alpha Gamma Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa Organization Presentation

Mrs. Joyce McAloon, Alpha Gamma President and retired Southington teacher, explained the mission of the local chapter, which is part of an international organization, that is comprised of women educators (*Attachment #3*). She pointed out the different community activities that the local chapter supports. Mrs. McAloon presented 11 books that the chapter was donating to be used as resources by teachers at the high school, middle schools, and elementary levels promoting world understanding. The books will be delivered the first week of June to each of the respective schools.

Mrs. Clark noted that there were no email communications from the public.

b. Communications from Board Members

Mrs. Carmody read a statement that she received from Mrs. Rachel Wache, STEPS board member. *“On March 10, 2021, 65 Army National Guard Troops left from Southington Armory for a tour of duty in Africa. The STEPS Coalition initiated the task of sending boxes to them in May. In addition, the American Legion Auxiliary Kiltonic Post 72 has kindly donated \$500 towards the mailing expenses of these boxes. We are now reaching out to our community to help fill these boxes, which are located at several locations in town including the YMCA, Southington Municipal Center, Southington Town Hall, Southington Public Library, Calendar House Senior Center, Southington High School and Fancy Bagels on Queen Street. A list of the most needed food, hygiene and miscellaneous items will be shared with the Southington Public Schools staff and families. We will send a flyer to all of them telling them of our needs.”*

Mrs. Carmody stated that the SEA (Southington Education Association) Contract Negotiations would be starting in August 2021 and asked for Board members who would like to serve on the teachers negotiating committee to please email her of their interest and she would name the committee at the next Board meeting. Mrs. DiNello stated that the negotiations run until the end of October and by state statute negotiations must be wrapped up in November.

Mr. Brown addressed the puzzling comment that a Town Councilor made Monday night and misconceptions when the Town Council passed the 2021-2022 Budget regarding the need for the Board of Education to show more transparency. Mr. Brown wanted the public to be aware that the Board of Education held a number of public workshops going page by page discussing the proposed school budget in which elected officials were invited; however, few of them

attended. A Question-and-Answer grid was set-up for elected officials to ask questions and unlike past years, there was not a single question asked.

Mr. Brown explained how contracts and salaries work and that most of the Board of Education employees work under contracts. There are statutes that govern how those contracts are negotiated. Because of collective bargaining, the Board cannot tell union employees that they cannot have raises or freeze their salaries for a couple of years. The Board of Education (BOE) is obligated to pay whatever those contracts say the increases are to be. He remarked that nobody was getting rich through collective bargaining in Southington. He hoped that the public was aware that by the Town Council cutting the Board of Education budget as much as they did, they were creating a financial cliff. The BOE will need to use federal and state money that will disappear in three years and when that money disappears there will be a huge gap between the BOE budget and what the town's tax dollars would cover. He thought it would have been better to have incremental increases every year rather than make a draconian cut to the 2021-2022 BOE Budget like what was done by the Town Council on Monday night. He did not know how the BOE was going to reallocate the money and, if possible, they may have to use some of the ESSR (*Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief*) federal funds to cover some of the salaries of existing staff. The Board planned to use those funds to do some mitigation for the students to get social and emotional services because of the difficulty people were experiencing due to the pandemic. It is now difficult for the Board to provide those services because that money would be used instead to pay for the operating budget.

Mr. Oshana reported that the Drama Club at the middle schools and high school were putting on a virtual show called, "Many Ways to Survive Life in Quarantine." He thanked Mr. Christopher Palmieri, Principal of DePaolo Middle School, for his work with the Drama Club.

Mr. Oshana agreed with Mr. Brown and did not know how the BOE could have been more transparent with the 2021-2022 operating budget request. He noted that the BOE and Town Board of Finance members held multiple workshops and shared questions and answers and worked as a team. There was also a Town Council Public Hearing on the budget and that several members of the BOE members and administration attended but there was no questions or comments, which is why he found it very disturbing that the Town Council would say that there was no transparency on the budget. He agreed that the financial cliff issue was huge and was like kicking the can down the road. Three years from now they were going to be in a very deep hole. He noted that the administration was currently working on reallocation and did not know what the outcome would be. Mr. Oshana explained that the Board of Education could not cover their contractual responsibilities with just a \$300,000 increase over the current year's budget. He stated that the BOE budget number was presented to the Town Council by the bipartisan Town Board of Finance who did their research and held significant discussions with central office administration and the BOE members. He noted that the BOE and administration was blindsided by the Town Council with a cut to the 2021-2022 proposed school budget of \$1.5 million without asking what the impact would be on the school system. He remarked that by doing that there was no transparency by the Town Council. Mr. Oshana thought that it was fiscally irresponsible for the Town Council members to significantly cut the budget without questioning the impact on the school district and wanted the public to know what happened during the budget process.

c. Communication from Administration

Administration reported on the following:

1. STEPS – DMHAS Grant Award: Mr. Connellan reported that the administration collaborated with the STEPS (*Southington Town-wide Effort to Promote Success*) who was successful in obtaining the DMHAS (*Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services*) Grant with the Southington Public Schools acting as the fiscal agent, which has been a partnership between STEPS and the school district for the past 10 years starting with the original STEPS grant. This grant provides preventive and educational services for youth and teens in the community.

2. Handwritten Thank You Cards for Staff: Mr. Madancy announced that the Grace United Methodist Church congregation took on the task of handwriting 1,300 personalized thank you cards for every person who was affiliated with the school system for their efforts during the pandemic. He thanked Grace Methodist Church for their kind and caring gesture to the school system.

3. STEM Without Boundaries: Mr. Madancy announced that Ms. Victoria Bogdanski, Southington High School science teacher affiliated with STEM (*Science, Technology, Engineering & Math*) Without Boundaries held a STEM event on a Saturday night for students. Ms. Bogdanski wanted to recognize the Club President, Kay Cotillion, who is a biology student, that deserved special praise for an outstanding job of planning and executing the STEM event. Through the efforts of Miss Cotillion, STEM Without Boundaries is an official Southington High School Club with 35 members and Ms. Bogdanski as Club Advisor. Mr. Madancy also recognized the club officers. Ms. Bogdanski is also engaged in credit recovery for Southington students and is the epitome of a professional.

4. Senior Class Events - Update: Mr. Connellan deferred to the student representatives to give the update in their report.

Mr. Madancy thanked Mrs. Teresa Colegrove for staying late after work hours to hold up the Certificates of Excellence for the students, who were recognized earlier, to see. He noted it was testament to the dedication of the employees in the school district who go the extra mile for the students. Mr. Connellan acknowledged that when people ask him how Southington students do so well, because the per pupil funding is not adequate given that the town’s wealth rank, which is in the middle according to state data, and that the Southington per pupil funding is continually on the bottom. He answers them that it was because they have dedicated families, teachers, and staff that support the students.

d. Communication from Students Representatives

Mr. Brett Sheldrick reported on the following:

- The Robotics Team was planning their end of the year awards night after working extremely hard within the pandemic restrictions and still accomplishing an enormous number of activities.
- The full spring sports season returned this year after a lost season last year due to the pandemic. The Blue Knight’s spring sports teams were enjoying a terrific season heading into the final two weeks of the regular season before CIAC postseason tournaments begin on Tuesday, June 1.
- With the final third of the spring season still to be played, interscholastic athletic programs have qualified for CIAC postseason tournament play led by the baseball, softball, girl lacrosse, boys volleyball and girls outdoor track and field teams that have outstanding records of 13 to 1, 11 to 1, 10 to 1, 8 to 1, and 5 to 1 respectively.
- Scholarship Night will be held on May 21 at 6:00 p.m. on Fontana Field.
- Class Night will be held on May 27 at the high school at 6:00 p.m.

Miss Jhalissa Vincent reported on the following:

- The SHS girls and boys track and field program celebrated Senior Day on the turf field before their final home meet versus Simsbury and recognized 53 female and male track and field seniors.
- On Saturday, the Blue Knights freshmen and senior varsity meet, called the “Froshmore Meet” will be held for upcoming CIAC Track and Field athletes throughout the state.

At this point, transmission was lost with Miss Vincent and Miss Kaur resumed the reporting.

Miss Amrit Kaur reported on the following:

- The Diamond Club was holding a pre-sale of tickets in advance of the baseball game with tickets available on site for purchase as well.
- Class Day will be held on May 28 at High Meadows in North Granby.
- Senior Prom will be held at Lake Compounce.
- Awards Night was held on May 6 on Fontana Field.
- National Honor Society and the World Language Honor Society Inductions were held on May 11 on Fontana Field,
- AP (Advance Placement) testing were half-way through and end on May 28.
- The Spring Drama Show will be held on May 22 and 23.
- The Senior Motorcade will take place on June 15 with more information forthcoming.

Mr. Connellan added that the Military Luncheon that has been held over the years will be reinstated this year to celebrate and thank the SHS students entering the military services after graduation. Students entering the military from other schools will be invited as well. It will be held outside in the pavilion at the Back Nine, which is a change in venue, on May 27 at noon. Mr. Connellan announced that The Torch Run for Special Olympics will be held on May 17 with the course reversed this year starting on the Cheshire-Southington town line to the Berlin town line. He and his son, Jonathan, will be running the 11 miles. The Southington High School graduation will be held on Friday, June 18 starting at 4:00 p.m., which is earlier this year and will give the seniors extra time for their Graduation Party to be held at Lake Compounce.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Elementary Facilities Committee Report ~ April 27, 2021

Mrs. Clark reported that the committee discussed the Collier presentation and that there were no questions received from other Board of Education members. The committee decided that they needed additional input and dialogue and discussed a presentation before the Town Council. The location of the Karen Smith Academy was discussed along with the possibility of developing education specifications for analysis and project costs. The superintendent will discuss with the Town Manager about a presentation at a Town Council meeting and the administration will continue to work with Colliers regarding additional information. The next virtual committee meeting will be Tuesday, May 18 at 4:00 p.m.

10. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

b. 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

There was no communication.

b. Appointment of Representative on the Town Cable Advisory Council

Mrs. Carmody appointed Mr. Derynoski who volunteered to serve as a representative on the Town Cable Advisory Council.

c. Policy 3281- Code of Conduct, Child Nutrition Programs – Second Reading

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

“Move to approve Policy 3281- Code of Conduct, Child Nutrition Programs, as recommended by the Policy & Personnel Committee.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

d. Policy 3320 – Purchasing Procedures – Second Reading

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

“Move to approve Policy 3320 – Purchasing Procedures, as recommended by the Policy & Personnel Committee.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

e. SHS Mandarin 2, 3, 4 Course Proposal and Curriculum Review – Second Reading

MOTION: by Mr. Brown, second by Mr. Baczewski:

“Move to approve SHS Mandarin 2, 3, 4 Course Proposal and Curriculum Review, as recommended by the Curriculum & Instruction Committee.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

12. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2021-2022 Operating Budget Reallocation / Adoption

Mr. Connellan stated that the Board needed to table the adoption portion because it was a surprise to everyone that the budget was reduced by such a significant amount by the Town Council. He noted that Mrs. DiNello was working on scheduling a BOE Finance Committee meeting on Wednesday.

Mrs. DiNello took the opportunity to congratulate Mrs. Mellitt in her new role as Director of Business and Finance. She had all the confidence in the world that she would do an amazing job after transitioning six years ago into the business world of education and stepped up to every challenge.

Mrs. DiNello addressed the difficulty they were having with the budget reallocation. Administration had every intention that the BOE would be adopting a draft plan this evening and had it ready to share. However, after the Monday Town Council meeting, they had no idea on Tuesday morning that they would be looking at an additional \$1.5 million reduction to the proposed 2021-2022 BOE operating budget. They met on Tuesday morning to start coming up with a plan and would like to bring a draft of a reallocation plan to the BOE Finance Committee on Wednesday, May 19 at 6:30 p.m. following the Self-Insurance Committee Meeting. She explained that it was going to be a challenge and that the only way they were going to be able to balance this budget was to tap into the ARP / ESSR (*American Rescue Plan / Elementary & Secondary Schools Emergency Relief*) Funds. Those funds were clearly set up for learning loss. Twenty percent (20%) of the \$4.1 million specifically needed to be used for learning loss. When she, Mr. Connellan, and Mr. Madancy sat for a webinar with the Commissioner of Education earlier in the week, they learned how the state wanted those funds to be used and how it was going to transform education. The ESSR I funding that became available last summer was to help education districts survive. The ESSR II funding were to help districts thrive with education and provide some programming. The state's goal with the new ESSR III funding was to transform education to bring new programs into the schools. Unfortunately, Southington will be in a position where close to \$1 million will be needed to account for the \$1.5 million in reductions to balance this budget and use the ESSR III funds to make that happen, which will set up a funding cliff. Mrs. DiNello acknowledged that there was one provision in the language in the grant that provides an out, which was supposed to be for town and cities that had suffered severe revenue losses. To not have to increase the mill rate because of revenue losses, the state left in a statement that the ESSR III funding could be used for other activities that are necessary to maintain operations and continuity of services including continuing to employ existing or hiring new staff. Because of that statement, the district was going to have to consider funding the new staff that the BOE thought was important within the special education portion of the budget and reallocate current FTEs to be funded with the ESSR III funds in an effort to maintain the current level of services. The Board will have serious decisions to make moving forward on how to mitigate the fiscal cliff that will occur.

Mrs. DiNello wanted the community to know that the Board of Education was going to be able to adopt a 2021-2022 operating budget on May 27, 2021 and hoped they were going to be in a position where everybody who is currently employed by the Southington Public School system will continue to be employed. It does not mean the school district did not need the \$1.5 million. It means that the students of Southington are missing out on opportunities they could have had for the next three years by transforming education using the ESSR III funds. She stated that was what the community, students and families need to understand that the action of the Town Council on Monday night created. Three years from now, when the community is dealing with significant tax increases because of the fiscal cliff that was created, they will understand what a poor decision was made on Monday by the Town Council.

Mr. Madancy added that the irony of asking for transparency when the Town Council drops a \$1.5 million cut at the 11th hour on the Board of Education without any dialogue, was troubling. There was no dialogue regarding the BOE plans for the use of those funds. He noted that they don't know what all the rules are for use of the ESSR III funds except for a one-page bulleted document received on May 17 from the state. In addition, there is a requirement that this plan be developed, and the public has an opportunity to provide feedback over a 30-day period, before the administration can submit anything for approval, which is going to be after the adoption of the 2021-2022 budget would have occurred. For people to think the Board would have been able to set-up a plan and share it publicly is just a lack of understanding as to the process and regulations that were tied to the use of these funds.

Mrs. Carmody added that the message that they needed to get out to the public was how this reduction in funding was going to hurt the students.

Mr. Connellan followed up that he heard from a Board of Finance member today that the administration was being criticized for not having a "Plan". He reiterated that the webinar with the State Department of Education was just held on Monday, May 10 at 10:00 a.m. when the state started to disclose some of the requirements, which was two-days ago. Administration has not even received the grant "Assurances" that need to be signed off on before it could be moved forward. He thought it was complete and total nonsense for people to say the Board did not have a plan. The information administration would have shared with the Board of Finance and Town Council, if anyone bothered to ask, would have been that the school district did not have the information from the State Department of Education because the State did not have it from the Federal Government. The State Department of Education is still putting together the grant application and the district does not even have guidelines yet. He thought that it was an unfair criticism and a huge injustice to the families in this community for the Town Council to make a horrendous cut to the proposed budget without any dialogue or discussion. He asked the families to speak out because the BOE operating budget supports the students in the community. Administration's recommendation will be to use the federal funds to plug the holes in the 2021-2022 operating budget because that will be the only way to provide the services to students and maintain jobs.

Mr. Madancy added that at a workshop a Board of Finance member recommended cutting \$1 million from the proposed budget before ESSR I, II or III funds were even announced, and the school administration knew they were getting it. For someone to say that there were federal funds, and a plan was not in place even before anyone knew the grants were coming and proposing a cut of \$1 million was interesting timing. Once the funding was announced, which was before the Town Council adopted the 2021-2022 budget, someone at a workshop asked what the school district planned to do with the \$1.8 million. At that time, Mr. Madancy explained a list of items such as interventionists, credit recovery, reducing section numbers, reducing class sizes, technology, etc. He did not know what else school administration could have done differently.

Mrs. DiNello summarized the timeline regarding the ESSR III Funds:

- May 9: The letter from the State Dept. of Education regarding the webinar was dated May 9.
- May 10: The webinar with the State Dept. of Education that administration attended.
- May 13: Tonight's BOE Meeting
- May 17: BOE is expecting to see the grant Assurances that need to be signed off on.

- May 24: Administration anticipates the grant application to be available. The other ESSR grants were always delayed.
- June 07: Conn. State Department of Education expecting to have information that was due to the U. S. Department of Education.
- Mid-August: Grant application due.

Mrs. DiNello stated that the state was giving the school districts the opportunity to try to create thoughtful, well thought out plans when talking about how to utilize \$4.1 million over three years because the funding is three years through September of 2024. Administration does not know what to include in the application because they have not yet seen it and the actual date of availability is not until mid-August.

Brett Sheldrick stated that his knowledge of the subject was limited but thought that it was important to say that from a student standpoint it is unfortunate to see a town governing body pull money out of the school district as education is the silver bullet when it comes to crime, poverty, innovation, and succeeding in the future. He thought that taking a total of \$1.8 million out of the proposed education budget directly and indirectly affects students specifically and is a disappointment regarding town priorities.

Mr. Baczewski stated that the Town Council rolled a proverbial grenade into the room and that there will be consequences. He noted that the Board always figures out a way to continue quality education for the students, but there will be issues down the road.

MOTION: by Mr. Brown, second by Mr. Oshana:

“Move that the Board of Education table the adoption of the 2021-2022 Operating Budget until the next scheduled Board of Education meeting.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

b. Exemptions for Vaccines - Discussion

Mr. Baczewski addressed the legislative debate the past couple of weeks regarding ending the religious exemption for vaccines and he wanted to know what the plan was for the Southington school district. Mr. Connellan explained that the Tuesday webinars he continues to have with the State Department of Public Health and local health officials and State Dept. of Education addressed this briefly. They would be receiving some additional guidance now that the statute has been passed. It does not go into effect until the 2022-2023 school year. All school districts are waiting for guidance from the State Department of Education and then Southington will review it with legal counsel from Shipman & Goodwin. In the 2017-2018 school year, approximately 1.75% of the Southington student population had either a medical exemption or a religious exemption. Medical exemptions are still covered under the statute that was passed. The religious exemption is something new and it is too early for discussion without the guidance from the state, which could change again.

c. Return to Full In-person Learning – Fall, 2021

Mr. Madancy explained that the Hartford area superintendents, comprising of 39 school districts, met last week and along with guidance from the State Dept. of Education were all in

agreement that no school district was planning on offering remote options next year for students. They are all planning for a full in-person return to school of students. The only remote learning that may occur is where it has occurred for medically fragile or homebound students and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis determined by a 504 Plan, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), IDEA, and students with IEPs. It is something that students cannot opt into or opt out of. He added that it has been a tough year for students in terms of screen time, being isolated from peers, and being pulled in and out of school. Students were using it more of a convenience rather than a necessity with students oversleeping and instead of going into school would hop on the computer and turn on the camera. They have had students streaming while on vacation and on road trips, which are not ideal learning environments without the interaction, inquiry, and exposure that students need. He noted that quarantining and risk continues to gradually decline and the recent availability of the vaccine for younger students.

In the near future, Mr. Madancy will be sending something out to families that based on state guidance, and with a consensus of the Board members, administration supports a full in-person return to school in September 2021. He noted that a requirement of the ESSR III grant is once Southington's plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services is available, that it is to be posted on the district's website.

Mr. Baczewski agreed with the state's recommendation that students need to return to school for attendance, instruction, and accountability.

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Regular Board of Education meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Blanchard
Recording Secretary

ATTACHMENT #1

BOE Meeting - Celebration of Excellence - FBLA State Competition Winners			
Melaina	Coleman	First Place	Local Chapter Annual Business Report
Eli	Culotta	Third Place	Intro to Public Speaking
Grace	DellaVecchia	Fourth Place	Cyber Security
Abby	Galvin	Third Place	Publication Design
Jasiah	Greene	First Place	Intro to Business Presentation
Remsha	Hussain	First Place	Intro to FBLA
Sophie	Kastner	First place	Intro to Business Presentation
Erika	Kusiak	Second Place	Agribusiness
Kayla	Nguyen	Fifth Place	Business Communication
Ryan	Ogren	First Place	E-Business
Bianca	Olchanowski	Third Place	Social Media Strategies
Harshita	Rayapureddy	Second Place	Business Communication
Saisarat	Rayapureddy	Fourth Place	Intro to FBLA
William	Reeves	First Place	E-Business
Kelsey	Salerno	Fourth Place	Intro to Business Communication
Delaney	Sicotte	First Place	Job Interview
Benjamin	Thomas	Fourth Place	Intro to Business
Matthew	Walling	Third Place	Intro to Information Technology
Evelyn	Wirkowski	Third Place	Social Media Strategies
Sarah	Wirkowski	Third Place	Social Media Strategies
Riley	Wolf	Third Place	Publication Design

ATTACHMENT #2

CCC GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONS

Madison Allister
Elizabeth Beaulieu
Katherine Beaulieu
Riley Corr
Haley Derwin
Gabrielle Ferreira
Samantha Freyler
Kacie Fusco
Taylor Gaudiosi
Tori Harrington
Taylor Kelly
Kelsey Lamson
Rylee LeClair
Kaylin Leifert
Jillian Miller
Kelly Perrotti
Natalie Reeves
Kelsey Salerno

Coach Cassidy Chamberland
Asst. Coach Marilyn Sporbett

ATTACHMENT #3

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Good Evening

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, as well as others, and give some information about our organization.

My name is Joyce McAloon, President of Alpha Gamma and a retired teacher of this town. Here tonight with me are a few of my sisters in Alpha Gamma – Retired teachers – Cheryl Robertson, Ellen Bellinger, Donna McBride, and an active teacher Bri Reney.

Alpha Gamma Chapter is part of an organization that is called Alpha Delta Kappa. Alpha Delta Kappa is an international honorary organization of women educators dedicated to educational excellence, altruism and world understanding throughout the United States as well as 5 countries Canada, Jamaica, Australia, Mexico, and Puerto Rico.

Alpha Delta Kappa provides the opportunity to make a difference. Around the world, Alpha Delta Kappa members combine their energies and talents to enrich their lives and the lives of others through thousands of heartwarming, community-based altruistic projects.

To go along with our mission, our organization provides different activities within our community. To name a few that we support in our town are:

- Each month, we provide snacks for Southington Community Services for the Alpha Gamma Snack Shelf
- In addition to providing snacks each month, during our Alpha Delta Kappa Month in October --- we honored our Southington Public School staff with an additional donation to Community Services for a job well done during this pandemic.
- Each May, we give a scholarship to a young lady who is going into the field of education.

Now, we are providing resources for our teachers to use with the topic of world understanding. We hope that these books will provide additional support for understanding the world around us.

Each elementary school will receive 4 books titled-----

- The Rabbit Listened by Cori Doerrfeld
- You are Enough - A book about Inclusion – by Sofia Sanchez
- The Little Red Kite by Ellie Brown
- Empathy is your Super Power – A book about understanding the feelings of others – by Cori Buysolari

Each middle school will receive 4 books titled-----

- The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse by Charlie Mackery
- The Skin I'm In by Sharon G. Flake
- George by Alex Gino
- Drita My Homegirl by Jenny Lombard

High School will receive the following 3 books-----

- Under the Mesquite by Guadalupe Garcia McCall
- The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri
- Homecoming by Cynthia Voigt

Inside each book is written ---A gift to ----- School to promote World Understanding from Alpha Gamma, the Southington Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa.

We are hoping that our schools' principals will share this information about the donated books to each of their staff members, so that they are aware of new resources available to them for promoting world understanding.

During the first week of June, I will deliver our donation of books to each of the schools.

Alpha Gamma Chapter thanks you and appreciate your time and support with our presentation of these books.

Joyce McAloon
President – Alpha Gamma Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa