

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 on the video recording of the Board meeting, please contact the Superintendent of Schools. These minutes are considered a draft until approved at the following regular Board of Education meeting.

**Southington Board of Education
Southington, Connecticut
Regular Meeting**

October 22, 2020

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held as a Zoom video and teleconference on Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. with an Executive Session held prior as a Zoom video and teleconference at 6:15 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Terri Carmody, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:15 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 Falvo, and Mr. Zaya Oshana. Absent was Mr. David Derynoski.

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

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

“Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and press, to discuss security matters. We are inviting Mr. Chris Luise to join us.”

Motion carried with unanimous vote.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Security Matters

3. RECONVENE MEETING – REGULAR SESSION

Mrs. Terri Carmody, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 Falvo, and Mr. Zaya Oshana. Absent was Mr. David Derynoski.

Administrators present were Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Steven Madancy, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance; Mrs. Rebecca Cavallaro, Director of Pupil Services, Mrs. Michelle Passamano, Human Resource Manager, Mrs. Jennifer Mellitt, Accounting Manager, Mr. Frank Pepe, SHS Principal, Mr. Chris Palmieri, JAD Principal, and Mrs. Katie Guerrette, Flanders Elementary Principal.

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

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Student Representatives led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Clark called for a Moment of Silence for John “Jack” Formeister who died on October 17th and shared some special memories of Jack who was always accommodating to families and went above and beyond especially for children. He leaves a wife, 3 children and 3 grandchildren.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ October 8, 2020 – Regular Meeting

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

“Move to approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting of October 8, 2020 as submitted.”

Motion carried with unanimous vote.

6. PRESENTATION – Raptor Visitor Management System – Christine Mcnelly

Mr. Connellan explained that this was discussed last year, and the Board chose to move funds from this area to another part of the operating budget. Our interagency committee met with Ms. Mcnelly where she held a presentation, and that group thought it would be beneficial to have Ms. Mcnelly present to the full Board. Raptor’s mission is to protect every child in every school every day. Over 320 schools in 32 districts are currently covered in CT by Raptor. This product includes Visitor Management, which will be focused on today, Volunteer Management and Emergency Management. Raptor is completely web-based. A demonstration of how visitors would check in and out of buildings was given. This product scans the federal sexual offender database when someone visits the school but does not access other possible criminal records. If there is a match, secretary/staff member can match the person trying to enter with possible database matches. Machine will not print a badge until matches are cleared. If there is a match, an email or text message can be set up to go to those indicated. Custody, etc. issues can also be customized to show up as alerts when a restricted person is trying to enter.

Mr. Chrzanowski questioned if there is a loss of power/internet connection, sex offender information may not be available during that time, and this was confirmed.

Mr. Oshana questioned the statistic of 2400 sex offender alerts issued within a year – Ms. Mcnelly will confirm that amount.

Mr. Connellan noted that there are issues in some of our schools related to where the main office is located with relation to where the visitors are entering. This is a matter the Safety Committee will be addressing.

This product can also be used to track students coming in late or leaving early. This is attached to the SIS – when students scan in, their information does not go thru the sex offender database. For pick-ups, the parent/guardian is checked, and they do go through the sex offender database.

This system would be able to be used to track when staff who are in and out of the building throughout the day –kiosks can be set up for staff entering and leaving throughout the day.

Mr. Falvo thanked Ms. Mcnelly for the presentation but thinks we should pursue other options and other companies to present to the Board. Full Board should have a discussion with the safety committee on what we already have in the schools.

Mr. Baczewski confirmed with Mc Mcnelly that the sexual offender database is a federal database. He voiced concerns with the matching process. It was confirmed that the secondary database which would flag custody or restrictions would be pulled from the SIS.

Ms. Mcnelly was thanked for the presentation and welcomes any further questions on the product.

7. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Public

There was no communication from the public.

b. Communications from Board Members

The Board members reported on the following:

- Mr. Brown made a brief statement. He has a lot of contact with many districts and wants to say that Southington is doing such an incredible job. He asked that everyone be patient with teachers, administrators, parents, etc. Please be supportive of those working incredibly stressful jobs right now, and our district is doing as well if not better than other districts.

c. Communications from Administration

Administration reported on the following:

- Mr. Connellan reminded everyone to identify themselves before speaking because we are virtual. He commented that we are getting many positive emails from parents and staff – there are also some less supportive ones, but there have been several very supportive communications.
- Chromebook shipment of 3,700 is still scheduled for mid-November – this date has held as the scheduled date for some time, so we are optimistic that they will be delivered at that time. There will be a lot of work to do when they are delivered.
- Mr. Madancy reported good news from the state. On Monday, we will be receiving 1,100 Chromebooks with “white glove service” that will be ready to deploy. We have our tech department and some students who will be helping with the deployment. About four class sets will be sent to each elementary school; 100 devices to each middle school and 100 devices to the high school. Goal is to get our youngest learners exposed. Training materials will be sent out to families, and this is a next step for readiness should we need to be remote. Mr. Madancy commented that the Technology Department has been doing an amazing job to support our students.

Mr. Falvo asked for an explanation of deployment of devices. Mr. Madancy and Mr. Connellan explained that because of the backordered Chromebooks we weren't able to accomplish a true 1:1 in the past, but now every student will have access to a device. K-2 will be located in carts in classrooms, and if deployment is needed to those students, a grab-n-go will be scheduled as quickly as possible. We will always do the best we can but cannot always have instant deployment. In March, before the Governor announced closures, we were ready with 2-weeks of work for students along with devices to be used. If we see that anything would be trending toward a full remote scenario, we will be getting things in place for that. Grades 3-12 will be provided with their own device.

Mr. Falvo asked what percentage of families do not have internet access. Mr. Madancy explained that we are addressing access issues and just sent a communication to families. The number of families without internet access is not probably as high as the number of families requesting access. Issues are not always internet access but if several devices are being run at the same time, bandwidth is being drained. Mr. Madancy explained that adjustments and fixes are being discovered to help with this and a document created on how to trouble shoot internet issues. Our goal is to provide internet for families who do not have it available, and the Tech Team will address each request.

- Mr. Connellan – Guidance has been revised on when to move to remote learning. Last week Southington was at 4.1% and two weeks prior we were at 2.8% and these are based on two weeks data. Mr. Madancy reported that this week we are now at 5.7%. The DPH is continually reporting that transmission is not occurring at schools but is happening at outside events. Decisions on schools will be made using DPH, State Department of Education, and local Health Department of school district levels.
- Athletic Facilities Study has been completed. Mr. Connellan and Mrs. Carmody will work on a date for the presentation because this is a detailed report with a lengthy presentation. It should be a non-Board meeting day for a virtual meeting presentation.
- Mr. Connellan announced that Southington High School has been given the national recognition of being a Special Olympics National Unified Champion School. November 5th is the date that is being targeted for honoring this recognition at Girls Volleyball Game and Boys Soccer Game on that date. More information will be forthcoming.

d. Communications from Student Board Representatives

Jhalissa Vincent reported on the following:

- Jhalissa reported that the STEPS Halloween costume contest will take place on Friday, October 30th. Students will wear appropriate costumes and they will be judged by Mr. Pepe for prizes. Pictures in costumes will be submitted on social media. Hats/head pieces may be worn as long as students are still able to be identified. Winners will be announced during Period 8 on the 30th. Students are trying to keep positive vibes flowing at SHS.
- Student elections have been completed and have been announced. Congratulations to all class officers for 2021, 2022, and 2023 and 2024.

Brett Sheldrick reported on the following:

- Brett announced that Jhalissa has been selected as the Secretary for the Class of 2022

- and was congratulated by all.
- Tonight is the virtual open house. Videos have been created for parents and are available beginning at 5:00 p.m. today. PSAT Day is October 29th for grade 11 students. Grades 9, 10 and 12 will be remote on that day.
 - Music of the Night was held on October 14th – other school districts were not in attendance, but it was a wonderful performance for parents.

Amrit Kaur reported on the following:

- Amrit provided a report of sports teams update and current rankings. Girls Soccer Team is undefeated and has not allowed an opposition goal all season. Boys soccer just collected their second win of the season. Girls Cross Country and Boys Cross Country is 3-0 and 3-1, next meeting is October 28th. Dive team is waiting for results for their first ever virtual meet against Bristol; Volleyball Team just had their 3rd victory of the season. Volleyball game against Bristol is being streamed live tonight. Field Hockey travels to Simsbury tomorrow afternoon – this team is currently tied with Farmington and Canton.
- Blue Knights football game tomorrow night – non-contact game. Cheerleaders and Dance Team will be present in recognition of seniors.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Policy and Personnel Committee Meeting – October 8, 2020 – Bringing forth two job descriptions and four policies. There is an abundance of legislation continually – goal is to get large batches of policies to bring before the Policy Committee which will mean fewer meetings with more policies and an adequate amount of time to review policies before meetings.

MOTION: by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mrs. Clark:

“Move to approve the Policy and Personnel Committee Report as submitted.”

Motion was carried by voice vote unanimously.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

Mrs. Dinello, Mrs. Clark and Mr. Connellan attended the Board of Finance Meeting last week where Mrs. Dinello did an outstanding job explaining the non-lapsing account. The Board of Finance agreed to fund the non-lapsing account at the maximum level which is 2% of the previous year’s budget which is \$1,993,707. Mr. Connellan thanked the members of the Board of Finance and Mr. Sciota for the collaborative work in continuing to do the right thing for our students. Mrs. Carmody thanked everyone involved. Mrs. Clark noted that Mr. Connellan and Mrs. Dinello were very well prepared and there was a great spirit of cooperation at the meeting.

b. SHS Citizenship in Action Units – Second Reading

c SHS Science Units – Second Reading

Mr. Brown commended the teachers for their hard work on these units – they have worked extremely hard, and also thanked Mr. Madancy and the members of the Curriculum Committee.

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

“Move that the Board approve the SHS Citizenship in Action Units and the SHS Science Units as recommended by the Curriculum & Instruction Committee”

Mr. Baczewski commended everyone on their hard work, and something he is very passionate about. This is a really good start to having conversations and shedding light on both sides of an argument and teaching our students about history. Discussions should be done with respect for both sides. Mr. Brown and Mr. Oshana also commended the teachers.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Clarification was made that both 9b and 9c were included in the motion.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approval of Job Descriptions – Network Manager; Assistant Athletic Director

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

“Move to approve the job descriptions of Network Manager and Assistant Athletic Director as presented.” Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

b. Policy 1313 – Non -Discrimination (Community) – First Reading

c. Policy 3281 – Code of Conduct Child Nutrition Programs – NEW – First Reading

d. Policy 4118.112 – Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Personnel) – First Reading

e. Policy 5114 – Student Discipline – First Reading

Mrs. Carmody mentioned how well done the policies were, a lot of information to read but very impressive. These are first readings, and no Board action is needed at this time.

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

“Move to adjourn the Board of Education meeting”

Motion was carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by,

Teresa Colegrave

Recording Secretary