

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

NOVEMBER 12, 2020

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education (Committee of the Whole – Operations) was held as a Zoom video and teleconference on Thursday, November 12, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. with an Executive Session held prior as a Zoom video meeting at 6:15 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Terri Carmody, Chairperson, called the Executive Session to order at 6:21 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

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

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – UNAFFILIATED

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

“Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and press, to discuss unaffiliated matters, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mrs. Carmody ended Executive Session at 6:55 p.m.

3. RECONVENE MEETING – REGULAR SESSION

Mrs. Terri Carmody, Chairperson, called the Regular Session to order at 7:05 p.m.

Board members present were 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. Absent was Mr. Joseph Baczewski.

Administrators present were Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Steven Madancy, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business & Finance; Ms. Rebecca Cavallaro, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Mr. Frank Pepe, Southington High School Principal; Mr. Christopher Palmieri, DePaolo Middle School Principal; and Mrs. Sara Ossais, SHS Band Director.

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

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Student Representatives led in reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Carmody called for a moment of silence in memory of Anthony Mauro, former Southington High School Boys Tennis Coach for 13 years who retired in 2020 and passed away on November 1, 2020. Mr. Mauro led the team to more than 100 wins and a spot in the state championships year after year.

5. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE – BLUE KNIGHTS MARCHING BAND STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

For the Celebration of Excellence, the Board members recognized the Blue Knights Marching Band for winning the 2020 Division III State Championship. Mrs. Sara Ossais addressed the challenges of the season without having in-person competitions. She acknowledged the positive attitude of the band members and support from administration and parents. The band performed a virtual show and submitted the video to States that won the 2020 Division III State Championship. The Board presented a Certificate of Excellence to the SHS Marching Band. Mr. Connellan will forward the video to the Board members of the performance that won.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 22, 2020 – Regular Meeting

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

“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of October 22, 2020, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

a. Special Board of Education Meeting – November 10, 2020

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

“Move to approve the special Board of Education minutes of November 10, 2020, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

7. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

a. Communications from Public

There was no communication from the public.

b. Communications from Board Members

There was no communication from Board Members.

c. Communication from Administration

Mr. Connellan noted that this year, due to the Coronavirus, the school district missed having the military veterans give presentations at the schools throughout the year as they did in the past years. He thanked the veterans for their continued support and hoped that in the next school year their partnership would return to normal.

Administration reported on the following:

1. District Annual Performance Report: Mrs. Rebecca Cavallaro reported on the 2018-2019 District Annual Performance Reports and 2020 IDEA District Determination Process. She explained that the report indicates that Southington was doing a 100% good job regarding reporting on the students with disabilities. Annually, the district reports on a variety of indicators for students with disabilities and on the variety of programs. Mr. Brown questioned if the COVID-19 virus was negatively impacting the students with disabilities. Mrs. Cavallaro explained that the report from the state was about how Southington reported numbers and provided for students in a timely manner. Mr. Connellan stated that it was a concern how the closings and remote learning was impacting special education students. He was surprised at the high number of students with disabilities whose parents elected remote instruction. He noted that it was a difficult task for parents and the teaching professionals.

2. District Diversity and Equity Leadership: Mr. Madancy reported that the district was awarded a grant through the Graustein Foundation for the District Diversity Team leadership development, which is an ongoing series of training sessions. Many meetings have been held to date with the next meeting scheduled for November 22. The charge was to take the plan developed by the coalition and operationalize it. The School Equity Leadership Teams at the elementary level are continuing where they left off in the spring and are partnering with CREC who will be providing training to all eight elementary schools on the anti-racist framework.

3. Middle School Dig Pink Volleyball Game: Mr. Madancy recognized Lisa Volpe, physical education teacher and girls volleyball coach at Kennedy Middle School, who organized the Dig Pink Volleyball event where they raised \$2,100 virtually for the Side-Out Foundation, which is a cancer awareness organization. The volleyball match was against DePaolo Middle School, which Kennedy won.

d. Communications from Student Board Representatives

Mr. Brett Sheldrick reported the following:

- A survey was distributed to all high school students gauging digital screen time and stress of students since the start of school. Parents/guardians were also sent a similar survey with the response rate for both very high.
- The Girls Swim & Dive Team added to their undefeated season by winning the CCC Region B Championship.

- The Girls Cross Country Team won the CCC Region B end of year meet at Stanley Quarter Park in New Britain. The Boys Cross Country Team were runner-up at the same meet.
- On the PSAT day, some students were quarantined with a make-up date scheduled for January 26, 2021.

Miss Jhalissa Vincent reported on the following:

- PSAT Day was held and there were students who could not participate because they were quarantined. There will be no make-up day on January 26, 2021.
- SAT Day was held at the high school on November 7 for SHS students only.
- A ceremony for Unified Sports was November 5 to recognize them for their national ranking with the banner to be hung in the main gym.
- The first quarter of school ended Tuesday, November 10. Teachers were finalizing grades.
- The change in rotation of in-school days starts January 29, 2021 so students in opposite cohorts could participate in in-class lab days.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee Meeting – October 29, 2020

Mr. Oshana reported that the committee discussed the Self-Insurance Report through September with claims running \$856,000 under budget, which should start to run up to normal levels.

a. Maintenance Department Van Lease

The committee discussed the leasing of an additional Maintenance Department van for electricians. The current van would stay in service with an older vehicle retired. The annual payment would be \$9,370.58 for a four-year lease and then owned by the district. Mrs. Mellitt investigated leasing and found that it was cheaper to lease from the state versus the Board leasing on their own.

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

“Move to enter into a four-year lease to purchase a Ford T-250 Cargo Van for the Maintenance Department as recommended by the Board of Education Finance Committee.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

b. STELLAR Van Lease

Mr. Oshana explained that this van would be used to transport students to job sites to learn independent living skills. It is a four-year lease with an annual payment of \$15,650, which would allow expanding the program. Mr. Derynoski questioned who would be driving the van. Mrs. DiNello explained that job coaches have been trained to drive the STELLAR van.

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

“Move to enter into a four-year lease to purchase a Ford Wheelchair Accessible Van for the STELLAR Program, as recommended by the Board of Education Finance Committee.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

c. Terms of Payback for Food Service Loan

Mr. Oshana reported that if there was a profit of over \$30,000 in a given year then the repayment decision would go back to the Finance Committee and then to the full Board to see if the program was in a position to make a repayment on the loan. Mr. Brown questioned how the loan would be repaid if there was not a profit over \$30,000. Mr. Oshana explained that there would not be a payment that particular year if it did not meet the threshold. Mr. Derynoski questioned if \$30,000 was too high. Mrs. DiNello explained that if there was a small profit of \$10,000-\$15,000 in any given year, the program would need it to restore their cash flow and cash balance. The \$30,000 would be a threshold to look at a loan repayment. It is possible they would not have a profit in the range of \$30,000 and the loan would not be repaid. Mr. Derynoski questioned if they were playing games with the system regarding having a loan repayment schedule that would never be able to be repaid. Mrs. DiNello explained the reason why they chose the \$30,000 threshold and that the funding for the \$300,000 was not coming out of the Board of Education Operating budget. It would come from the Unexpended Funds Account on the Town side and if there is a repayment the Town would determine on who would be receiving the funds.

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

“Move to approve that the \$300,000 payment to the Food Service Program is a loan and the repayment of principal will be considered if the program has a profit of more than \$30,000 at the end of any fiscal year. The Finance Committee of the Board of Education will review the financial statements and cash balance and make a recommendation to the full Board of Education on the amount of an installment payment.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

d. Waive Bid-Energy Management System Upgrade

Mr. Oshana reported that the school district received the full amount requested under the Coronavirus Relief Fund Grant for \$856,000 for reopening costs incurred prior to December 31, 2020.

The committee also discussed the need to update the Energy Management System at three schools to address ventilation issues and nightly air purge. All the schools can do this except for three schools. The cost would be between \$24,000-\$28,000 and would need to be done by the proprietary vendor CTC.

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

“Move to waive the bid process to upgrade the energy management systems at South End, Oshana and ASTE building and allow Connecticut Temperature Controls (CTC) perform the work as the proprietary vendor.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

9. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

a. Personnel Report

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

“Move to accept the Personnel Report, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

There was no Town Government Communication.

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

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

“Move to approve Policy 1313 – Non-Discrimination (Community) as recommended by the Policy & Personnel Committee.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

c. Policy 3281 ~ Code of Conduct Child Nutrition Programs ~ Second Reading

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

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

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

d. Policy 4118.112 ~ Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Personnel) ~ Second Reading

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

“Move to approve Policy 4118.112 – Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Personnel) as recommended by the Policy & Personnel Committee.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

e. Policy 5114 ~ Student Discipline ~ Second Reading

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

“Move to approve Policy 5114 – Student Discipline, as recommended by the Policy and Personnel Committee.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Superintendent’s Annual Report – 2019-2020

The Board members were very proud and impressed with the report and what was able to be accomplished at the schools even with the Coronavirus shutdown. It was a tribute to the staff and the town and was an uplifting, detailed, positive report. The consistency from school to school made it an easy, concise read compared to past years. The Board thanked Mr. Connellan and the entire administrative team for a great report on what the Southington School system is all about. Mr. Connellan noted that the report was a reflection of what the staff does day in and day out. The teachers continue to persevere through difficult circumstances and provide the students with wonderful activities and team efforts. He thanked Mrs. Linda Blanchard, BOE Recording Secretary, and Ms. Justine Pagano, for putting the report together.

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

“Move to accept the Superintendent's Annual Report for 2019-2020, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

b. Capital Improvement Plan 2021-22 to 2025-26 – First Reading

Mr. Connellan noted that Mrs. Jennifer Mellitt, Accounting Manager, put this plan together and that it would be on the December agenda for action.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Blanchard
Recording Secretary