

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
FEBRUARY 23, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education (Committee of the Whole - Operations) was held on Thursday, February 23, 2023, 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 6:34 p.m.

Board members present: Mrs. Dawn Anastasio, Mr. Joseph Baczewski (*arrived at 6:45 p.m.*), Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mr. Sean Carson (*arrived at 6:45 p.m.*), Mr. James Chrzanowski (*arrived at 6:59 p.m.*), Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mr. Zaya Oshana

Board members absent: Mr. Jasper Williams

Cabinet administrators present: Mr. Steve Madancy, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Frank Pepe, Assistant Superintendent (*left executive session at 6:45 p.m.*)

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Student Matters and Superintendent’s Mid-Year Evaluation

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 Superintendent’s Mid-Year Evaluation, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mrs. Clark ended Executive Session at 7:05 p.m.

The Regular Board Meeting was reconvened at 7:08 p.m.

3. RECONVENE MEETING – REGULAR SESSION

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

Cabinet administrators present: Mr. Steven Madancy, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Frank Pepe, Assistant Superintendent; and Mrs. Jennifer Mellitt, Director of Business & Finance.

Student Representatives present: Angelina Micacci, Uptej Singh, and Ryan Ogren.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

The student representatives led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Clark called for a moment of silence in memory of Ann Cope who passed away on January 30, 2023. Ann was a teacher at JFK Middle School and several elementary schools from 1980 until her retirement in September 2004.

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

“Move to add Agenda Item 13 ‘Student Expulsion’ which changes ‘Adjournment’ to Agenda Item 14.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move to move Agenda Item 11.b.1 & 11.b.2 ‘Approval of Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trips’ to Agenda Items 6.c.1 & 6.c.2.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

5. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

a. Connecticut’s Kid Governor School Nominees

Mrs. Stephanie Lawlor, District Language Arts & Social Studies Coordinator, explained that all fifth-grade classes participated in the Kid Governor Program and the goals of the program. Each school nominated a fifth-grade student candidate who wanted to run for Kid Governor and who met certain criteria. Students nominated five fifth graders who were interested in running for Kid Governor election in November 2022. Four of the five Southington candidates came to the podium and explained their platform and three-step Action Plan. The nominees received a Certificate of Excellence from the Board as a Connecticut Kid Governor School Nominee.

b. Karen Smith Academy Award

Mr. Madancy explained that last Wednesday evening the BOE presented the budget to the Town Board of Finance, which coincided with the YMCA Annual Recognition Meeting that the BOE and administration were unable to attend. He thanked the Southington-Cheshire YMCA for their partnership with the school district. Mr. Madancy explained that The Karen Smith Academy was recognized at the YMCA Annual meeting, spoke of the excellent program, and praised the Academy staff for going above and beyond. Mr. Jess Levin, Program Director, along with a number of students, came to the podium to receive a Certificate of Excellence from the Board and spoke briefly.

Mrs. Clark called for a short recess at 7:26 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 7:33 p.m.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. January 26, 2023 Meeting

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

“Move to approve the regular Board of Education Minutes of January 26, 2023, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

b. February 8, 2023 Special Meeting

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

“Move to approve the special Board of Education Minutes of February 8, 2023, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

c. Approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trips (formerly Agenda Item 11.b.)**1. SHS DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) - Orlando, Florida**

Theresa Brooks and Jackie DeVylder, DECA Advisors, requested approval to attend the Out of State/Overnight Field Trip to the DECA International Career Development Conference to Orlando, Florida. Three DECA officers shared their experiences at the last DECA International Conference. Mr. Madancy stated that DECA was on his Administrative Report on the agenda and acknowledged that he received notification on Tuesday, February 14, that the Southington DECA Store was among 461 school-based enterprises nationally and one of only six in Connecticut achieving Gold Certification for the 2022-2023 school year and would be recognized at the DECA Conference in Orlando. This is the third consecutive year that Southington has won this honor.

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

“Move to approve the Out of State/Overnight field trip to Orlando, Florida, as recommended by the administration.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

2. SHS – Latin – Rome & Pompeii, Italy

SHS Latin Teacher, Alicen Foresman, briefly explained the planned foreign field trip to Rome and Pompeii, Italy.

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

“Move to approve the Foreign Field Trip requested by the SHS Latin Department to Rome and Pompeii, Italy, as recommended by the administration.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

7. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**a. Communications from Student Board Representatives**

Angelina Micacci reported on the two survey results that was sent to all SHS students about mid-terms and general feedback about the school to which 158 students out of 2,000 students responded using Canvas. She gave the breakdown of the grades responding with the Freshmen the majority who responded. She gave a summary of the responses on the mid-terms. She reported on the JFK Middle School events and festivities including Emma DellaVecchia spearheading a community project to help her earn her Black Belt in Karate, winners of the 2023 Geography Bee Team, 364 pounds of canned soups collected and donated to Southington Community Services, JFK staff members were taking part in the Camp Sloper Polar Plunge on Saturday, fundraising activities, and the JFK PTO sponsored a visit from local author Sarah Albee to meet with students.

Ryan Ogren reported on the current events at Southington High School that included: the student representatives sending a general student survey questioning students on their experiences, concerns, struggles, and successes at the high school for the first semester. He addressed the BCAP Program, which is the revised Capstone program this year. The student representatives plan to send out a follow-up survey on the BCAP Program. They plan to send out additional specific surveys during the school year. He reported on the athletic sports season results to date and that the CIAC Post Championships started for Boys' Basketball, Girls Ice Hockey, Boys Ice Hockey, Gymnastics, Wrestling, Boys & Girls Indoor Track, Boys Swim & Diving Team, Girls Basketball, and Varsity Cheerleading.

Uptej Singh reported on the current events and festivities at the high school that included Unified Theatre on March 16, Spring Fling Dance, and the Robotics Team as well as the events at DePaolo Middle School such as 14 staff members taking part in the Polar Plunge with \$1,000 raised, French Class students made Mardi Gras masks, all grade six students had a visit from Author Alexandra Amoroso regarding autism, Taste of Culture event, and 925 Items were collected by students and donated to Community Services. He addressed using Instagram to get upperclassmen more involved in taking the surveys.

Mr. Carson had questions about the SHS student surveys. He was an advocate of the surveys and asked the students to brainstorm ideas and think out of the box for getting more involvement by the upperclassmen to reply to the surveys. He questioned the feedback on the mid-term survey. Ryan Ogden noted that the school counseling sent the survey via Canvas inbox and all 2000 students had the ability to reply. Ryan also addressed the BCAP program that was grade specific. Mr. Carson addressed the mid-terms and if there was prep time outside of school. Ryan noted that of the students who replied 43% of students would prefer to be assessed by a hands-on approach to mid-terms and 56% wanted traditional multiple choice. The student representatives were working with Mr. Crocco, Principal of SHS, on incorporating presentations, seminars and projects for mid-terms and finals. Mr. Carson added that if the BOE and central office could help in any way to please let them know. He told the student representatives to let their classmates know that Block scheduling was coming, which would allow for mid-term prep.

b. Communications from Board Members

The Board members did not have any communications to report.

c. Communications from Administration

1. Wall of Honor at SHS: Mr. Madancy thanked Mr. Peter Romano, Director of Operations, and the Maintenance Carpenters who built a new remodeled Wall of Honor for distinguished SHS graduates and distributed a photo of it.
2. SHS Pothole Project: Mr. Madancy thanked Mrs. Annette Turnquist and the Public Works Department and the Town Manager for taking advantage of the nice weather and filling the potholes at the high school.
3. Public Assembly Room AV Project: Mr. Madancy announced that the Municipal Center Public Assembly Room had new Audiovisual equipment installed and was being used for the first time at this BOE meeting. He thanked Tyler Savage, Network Manager, Rit Campbell, and Jay Baker and Town Manager Mark Sciota for the collaborative project of a new Audio-Visual System, including sound equipment, camera, and control panels. He noted that Tyler Savage had applied for a grant and was originally denied but was persistent and appealed and was eventually awarded the grant for \$44,000 with the town picking up their share.

4. Southington DECA Recognized for Outstanding School-based Enterprise: Mr. Madancy noted that he reported on this earlier on the agenda.

5. District-wide Facilities Committee: Mr. Madancy reported that he requested Mrs. Clark to consider forming a district-wide Facilities Committee with representation from the Board of Finance, Town Council, and community members to collaborate with the Board of Education on projects. Mrs. Clark acknowledged that she reached out to Chairs of the Town Board of Finance, Town Council, and Planning & Zoning for a representative to join the BOE so that everybody is on the same page.

6. Legislative Breakfast: Mr. Madancy reported that he and Mrs. Clark attended the Legislative Breakfast on February 16 and met with town and state representatives on Excess Costs legislation. The Chairperson of the State Education Committee, Representative Jeff Currey, will be visiting Southington High School and Hatton Elementary School along with Representative Christopher Poulos to visit In-District Special Education Programs.

7. Parent Forum and Budget Section of SPS Website: Mr. Madancy reported that there was good parental attendance and participation at the February 9 Budget Forum at JFK Middle School. Mr. Madancy noted that there will be on Public Hearing on the budget on March 6 with the Board of Finance, Board of Education, and Town Manager’s budget presentation and that the “Questions & Answers Budget Document” that the BOE puts together would be shared with the Town Council.

Mr. Baczewski remarked that he had a problem with the use of the word “Investment in the Southington Schools” at the Parent Budget Forum and how it is measured versus “the right thing to do.”

d. Communication from Public – Agenda Items Only

There was no public communication.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting – February 10, 2023

Mrs. Anastasio reported on the C&I Committee meeting of February 10 and spoke at length about the presentations that the committee received on the following: 1) Rebecca Savelkoul presented the SHS-Industry Internship – Student Help Desk proposal. 2) Rich Aroian presented the SHS-Industry Internships – Teacher Assistant Proposal. 3) Amy Zappone presented the SHS-Multi-language Learner Course Program change proposal and a course titled Multilingual Lab Support. 4) Dave Yanosy presented SHS-Physical Education I required for sophomores and Nicole Campochiaro presented SHS – Physical Education II. 5) Rob Levesque presented Lifesaving Certifications Course including CPR and AED, First Aid and Babysitting Training and Wilderness Training. 6) Tim Hinman presented the SHS Math Department Curriculum to align with the SHS Vision of the Graduate and Illustrative Math. Mrs. Anastasio reported that Mr. Pepe and Mrs. Zappone reviewed curricular legal updates from legal counsel Shipman and Goodwin with the committee.

Mr. Carson questioned how taking Physical Education I Course aligned with the student-athletes and Mr. Carson and Mr. Baczewski questioned the Illustrative Math recommended open-source program with teacher Tim Hinman coming to the podium to explain at length.

b. Finance Committee Meeting – February 16, 2023

Mr. Chrzanowski reported that the Finance Committee met on February 16 and discussed the Self Insurance Update and net claims, and a Bid Award for Lawn Mowing & Trimming Services and Fall/Spring Debris Clean-up and Removal Services with Wygant Construction, who is the current vendor for the high school, was recommended for the award. An Addendum was posted for Kennedy Middle School; however, only one bidder responded. The responding bidder's pricing was well above the budget for the services. As a result, the addendum is not being awarded. The site will need to be rebid.

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

“Move to award Bid #2023-07 for three years to Wygant Construction of Bristol, CT for Lawn Mowing & Trimming Services at Hatton, Oshana, South End, and Thalberg Elementary Schools, and Fall and Spring Debris Clean-up & Removal Services at Oshana and South End Elementary Schools.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Chrzanowski continued that the committee discussed the BOE Financial Update through January with a spending freeze in place since December 31, 2022, Food Service Financial Update through January 2023, magnet school tuition, and Excess Cost expenditures. The committee received an update on Universal Free Meals, Seamless Summer revenue and SMART funds provided by the state. On February 14, the state approved funding again for free meals for all, which will be implemented on March 1, 2023, and called SMART Funds 2.0.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. Personnel Report

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

“Move that the Board of Education approve the Personnel Report, as submitted.”

Mr. Derynoski noted that the Personnel Report was not in the BoardBook Portal that is used by the Board of Education. Mrs. Mellitt made copies of the Personnel Report at the meeting for the Board members to review. Mr. Chrzanowski and Mr. Madancy stepped out of the room for a moment while Board members reviewed and voted on the report.

Motion carried by voice vote with Mr. Chrzanowski absent.

10. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

There was no Town Government Communications to report.

b. Approval of 10.b.1, 10.b.2., 10.b.3, 10.b.4, 10.b.5, 10.b.6, 10.b.7, 10.b.8, and 10.b.9.

- 1. SHS English I Proposed Text Changes – Second Reading**
- 2. SHS Conceptual Chemistry Unit 8: Aquatic Apocalypse – Second Reading**
- 3. SHS Special Education Course Proposals – Second Reading**

4. **SHS Health I Course – Second Reading**
5. **SHS Health II Course – Second Reading**
6. **SHS Consumer Math Course – Second Reading**
7. **Science Grade 8 Unit 3: Colossal Collisions Unit – Second Reading**
8. **SHS ACHIEVE ArtShop Course Proposal – Second Reading**
9. **SHS Proposal for First Aid/CPR Elective – Second Reading**

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

“Move that the Board of Education approve Agenda Items 10.b.1 through 10.b.9, as recommended by the Curriculum & Instruction Committee.”

Motion carried by voice vote with Mr. Chrzanowski absent.

Mr. Chrzanowski and Mr. Madancy returned to the meeting.

c. Appointment of UPSEU Negotiating Committee – Tabled at the January 26, 2023 Meeting

Mrs. Clark appointed Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Anastasio, and herself who volunteered to serve on the UPSEU Negotiating Committee.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Elementary Facilities Review

Mr. Madancy explained that the Elementary Facilities Review was the Board’s first time to see this information since last May’s Enrollment and Projected Enrollment Study, which is half of the equation with the other half building usage and occupancy. This information helps the Board to make recommendations to the Town Board of Finance and Town Council for future building construction projects and the November 2023 Referendum. This information will be shared at a future parent forum. He introduced Mr. Patrick Gallagher, Lead Planner, from SLAM who gave a PowerPoint Presentation (*Attachment #1*) on various planning scenarios.

Mr. Gallagher discussed at length the purpose of Scenario Planning, which will help define what those projects would be and the series of metrics to help understand the pros and cons of different scenarios and changes to the middle school feeder pattern, and the impact of redistricting. He discussed capacity for each building and room usage based on classroom size policy. His presentation used three color-coded blocks to identify scenarios as maintaining the status quo, building new, or renovate-to-new, and closing a facility based on assumptions and looking at five years out to 2026-2027 from the initial enrollment projections. He discussed in detail the various scenarios that included conceptual boundaries, pocket redistricting, feasibility, and middle school feeder patterns:

Status Quo – No Change

Scenario A – Maintaining and alignment of the eight (8) elementary schools with three building projects Derynoski, Flanders and Kelley.

Scenario B – Seven (7) elementary schools (closing Flanders) with two (2) building projects Kelley and Derynoski.

Scenario C – Seven (7) elementary schools (closing Flanders) with two (2) building projects Derynoski and making Kelley larger.

Scenario D – Seven (7) Elementary Schools (Close Flanders), Smaller Derynoski with South End Addition with three (3) building projects Kelley, Derynoski, and South End.

Mr. Gallagher provided a matrix comparing the five scenarios with scenario description and objectives.

Mr. Baczewski questioned how the decision was made on what school to close. Mr. Madancy replied in detail on the pre-referendum engineering-type of work of the sites that was done to come to the conclusions. Based on conversations with the state and the Capital Plan with one construction project, the recommendation would be for Kelley Elementary School. He noted that there would be public hearings with Planning & Zoning, Board of Finance, and Town Council.

Mr. Carson emphasized that this was a Feasibility Study and decisions have not been made yet. He thought that it needed to be made clear that a lot is determined on conversations at the state level based on the state's strategy, reimbursement rates, and construction ideology to make the best decision for the school district and community. Mr. Madancy pointed out that the state indicated it was up to the community to decide on new construction or renovate-to-new. He addressed the next important piece was to invite Mr. Gallagher back to a Community Forum and explain how the different scenarios were determined. Mr. Madancy noted that the district enrollment fluctuates and was not decreasing. Mr. Derynoski stated that the Board needed to focus on the timing with the state, which was critical, the referendum, increased enrollment with new home developments being built and to do initial planning for redistricting because they currently have issues resulting in increased transportation costs.

- b. Approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trips (*Moved to Agenda Item 6.c*)**
- c. SHS Multi-Language Learner Course Programming Change Proposal – First Reading**
- d. SHS Industry Internship Proposal - Student Help Desk – First Reading**
- e. SHS Industry Internship Proposal – Teacher Assistant – First Reading**
- f. SHS – Physical Education I Course – First Reading**
- g. SHS – Physical Education II Course – First Reading**
- h. Lifesaving Certification Course – First Reading**
- i. SHS Math Department Curriculum Adoption – First Reading**

Mrs. Clark noted that these were all first readings and would be voted on at the next Board meeting.

- j. Leonard & Gladys Joll Scholarship Committee Appointment**

Mrs. Clark appointed Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Anastasio, and Mr. Williams to serve on the Leonard & Gladys Joll Scholarship Committee.

12. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Communications from Public**

There was no communication from the public.

13. STUDENT EXPULSION

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

“Move to expel Student 2022-2023-15, as stipulated by the Administration.”

Motion carried by voice vote with Mr. Chrzanowski, Mr. Carson, and Mr. Baczewski abstaining.

14. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Blanchard

Recording Secretary

Southington Public Schools

ATTACHMENT #1

ELEMENTARY FACILITIES REVIEW
PLANNING SCENARIOS



SPS_Planning_Scenarios_BOE_2-23-2023.pdf