

*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](http://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  
MARCH 23, 2023**

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The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education (Committee of the Whole - Operations) was held on Thursday, March 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 6:35 p.m.

Board members present: Mrs. Dawn Anastasio, Mr. Joseph Baczewski, Mr. Sean Carson (*arrived at 6:43 p.m.*), Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mr. Zaya Oshana, Mr. Jasper Williams

Board members absent: Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mr. James Chrzanowski

Cabinet administrators present: Mr. Steve Madancy, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Frank Pepe, Assistant Superintendent (*left executive session at 6:38 p.m.*)

**2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Unaffiliated Compensation, Contract Negotiations – UPSEU, and 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 Unaffiliated Compensation, UPSEU Contract Negotiations, and Student Matters, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

*Mrs. Clark ended Executive Session at 7:04 p.m.*

*The Regular Board Meeting was reconvened at 7:09 p.m.*

**3. RECONVENE MEETING – REGULAR SESSION**

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

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 Gloria Brown, who passed away on March 18, 2023. She was the wife of former Board member and teacher, Bob Brown. Gloria was a retired educator who taught in Wolcott for 37 years. Bob asked that all who knew Gloria perform an extra act of kindness in Gloria's memory.

#### **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 23, 2023**

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

**“Move to approve the regular Board of Education Minutes of February 23, 2023, as submitted.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

#### **6. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

##### **a. Communications from Student Board Representatives**

Uptej Singh stated that the Student Representatives were creating a survey to be taken during the BCAP class period for a larger sample size. He reported on the current events and festivities at the high school that included: Unified Theatre on March 16; SAT's start on March 22; third quarter ends on March 29; CyberKnights Robotics Team first competition, and FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) competed at the annual Spring Leadership Conference competition and out of 19 members who competed, 12 placed at the top of their category with the opportunity to compete in Atlanta, Georgia in June.

Angelina Micacci reported on the SHS athletic winter sports season that ended and the results to date. The Boys Swim & Diving Team ended the season with the best season in school history taking eighth place at states out of 98 schools and won the CCC Conference Championship; Girls Gymnastics won the CIAC Class L Championship and the CCC Conference Championship with four gymnasts competing in the State Open Championship; Cheerleading Team won the CCC West Conference Championship and finished fifth at the Class LL Championship. All the other SHS Interscholastic winter sports teams qualified for the CIAC State Tournament post season play including Girls Ice Hockey, Boys Ice Hockey, Wrestling, and Boys & Girls Indoor Track. Spring sports tryouts are underway.

Ryan Ogren reported that Kennedy (JFK) Middle School students and staff participated in the Taste of Culture event on March 22; Teams 8A and 8B visited Newport, Rhode Island on March 23; JAD and JFK Middle Schools combined Drama Club production this year is “Matilda, the Musical” presented on March 30, 31, April 1, 5, 6 at JFK at 7:00 p.m.; Library Leaders at JAD collected used books for all age groups to be donated; JAD students were encouraged to wear green on St. Patrick's Day to support a Cerebral Palsy Awareness fundraiser; Derynoski Elementary School began their one school, one book project with the book Charlie and the Chocolate Factory; students at South End Elementary School are working on a May performance of “Matilda.”

**b. Communications from Board Members**

Mr. Oshana reported that he attended the Business Advisory Luncheon with community members in attendance, which was held for the first time since Covid, with presentations from the presidents and vice presidents of FBLA and DECA. He also noted that Gloria Brown also worked on the state and national level advocating for students and educators. Mr. Oshana addressed the budget for 2023-2024 and that he received questions about the McKinney-Veneto Law to bus homeless students. He explained that this is an unfunded mandate by President Reagan since 1987 that has a significant impact on transportation costs in the budget. He wanted to clarify that it is not a new budget item.

**c. Communications from Administration**

1. Community Forum: Mr. Madancy reported on the Elementary Facilities Project and Community Forum that was held on March 16, 2023 to review enrollment projections and the recent facilities study with various scenarios. There were 20 parents in attendance. Patrick Gallagher from SLAM, the architectural and engineering firm, provided a presentation at the forum. Unfortunately, the video worked but the audio for the recorded livestream was not working. Mr. Madancy explained that the previous presentations to the BOE from SLAM and other documents were added to the Southington Public Schools website along with a “Submit Questions” link for parents who have additional questions.

2. FBLA State Competition Results: Mr. Madancy pointed out that Student Board Representative and FBLA President, Ryan Ogren, won first place for the “Local Chapter Report” state competition.

3. First Robotics Competition: Mr. Madancy reported that Robotics has a competition in Hartford the upcoming weekend before they attend the World Competition. He planned to have the Robotics Team give a demonstration at the first May Board meeting.

4. Upcoming Budget Meetings: Mr. Madancy explained that the Town Board of Finance would be making their budget recommendation to the Town Council at their meeting on March 29, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Chambers. The next public hearing on the budget would be on April 24 with the Town Council in the Municipal Center Public Assembly Room.

Mr. Madancy explained that March was Board of Education Appreciation Month and that his Executive Assistant, Mrs. Teresa Colegrove, put together gift bags that were at the Board members seats to thank them for their time, commitment advocating for the students and staff, attending committee meetings, and civic engagement as unpaid elected officials as their role has become more complex over the years.

**d. Communication from Public – Agenda Items Only**

There were three (3) speakers (*Michael Kryzanski, Ryan Dumond, and Melissa Belanger who all live on Hitching Post Drive – Attachment #1*) that came to the podium advocating to keep Flanders School open and addressed redistricting, enrollment, cost savings, daycare, area growth, and questioned the process and what would happen to the building and property if Flanders were to close. Also questioned was if the costs associated with all the elementary school scenarios were transparent. Mr. Kryzanski also addressed his disappointment on the policy changes regarding Public Communications on general topics that was moved to the end of the

agenda like the Town Council meetings and discourages public comment. Mr. Madancy asked Mr. Kryzanski to follow-up with him on stewardship if school buildings were to close.

## **7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **a. District-wide Facilities Committee Meeting – February 27, 2023**

Mr. Madancy reported that along with the Elementary Facilities Project the committee also discussed FY'24 Capital Plan Projects. The committee recommends including the Town Board of Finance and Town Council in partnership on all these projects because the projects include debt service that impact operating budgets. He addressed timelines and processes if the projects were to go to Referendum. The next District-Wide Facilities Committee meeting has not been scheduled.

Mr. Carson questioned if there was feedback and guidance from the state regarding Renovate-to-New versus New Construction. Mr. Madancy stated that he would address that later on the agenda.

### **b. Policy & Personnel Committee Meeting – March 1, 2023**

Mr. Williams reported that the committee met and had Ms. Nya Welinsky, current Food Service Director who will be retiring at the end of the school year offer revisions to the Food Service Director job description, which is non-union. She proposed a new job description of District Chef to be housed at the high school. Mrs. Rebecca Savelkoul, Digital Learning Coordinator, presented revisions to Policy 4118.5 – Responsible Use of Technology for Staff; Policy 4118.7 – Social Networking; Policy 5131.2 – Use of Private Technology Devices by Students; Policy 6141.9 – Responsible Use of Technology for Students; and Policy 6141.10 – Bring Your Own Device, and gave rationales for these revisions. Mr. Williams stated that Mr. Pepe presented a review of Policy 5113 – Excused Absences and Truancy and offered examples. Mr. Pepe also discussed the Open Choice Stipend for each middle school, which is the same as the approved high school stipend. Mr. Pepe reviewed the Curriculum Specialist Stipends after he was directed by the Board at a previous meeting to develop the stipend description.

Mr. Carson questioned Policy 4118.5 – Responsible Use of Technology for Staff and asked for a synopsis of the discussion including oversight for personal use during work hours and after hours. Mr. Baczewski questioned software that can block certain apps and the responsible use of technology by students including their digital footprint. Mr. Chrzanowski questioned what was being done regarding Smartwatches. Mr. Carson questioned the Curriculum Specialist Stipends and grant funding with Title II funds.

### **c. Curriculum & Instruction (C&I) Committee Meeting – March 10, 2023**

Mrs. Anastasio reported that the committee met with Kara Foley and Kilian Murphy presenting the SHS Asian Studies Course proposal, which is a half-year course; Candace Patten presented the SHS Criminal Justice Course proposal, which is a half-year course; Jan Verderame reviewed “First Tee” K-5 Physical Education that exposes elementary students to golf through a grant from the Calvanese Foundation; and Mr. Pepe explained concerns about the SHS Math Curriculum that was received after the first reading by the Board at their February 23, 2023 meeting. Mr. Pepe offered an informational letter that summarized the concerns, which was

shared with the Full Board by Mrs. Anastasio via email. The next C&I meeting is Friday, April 21, 2023.

**d. Finance Committee Meeting – March 15, 2023**

Mr. Chrzanowski reported that the Finance Committee met virtually and discussed the Select Physical Therapy three (3) year proposal and the shortage of athletic trainers and the required master's degree to become certified. Their proposal for 2023-2024 was for \$45,000. The consensus was to approve the three-year proposal adding contract language stating that Laurie Martin, the current Athletic Trainer, continue to be assigned to the Southington Public Schools. Mr. Chrzanowski reported that the committee discussed the bid results for Bid 2023-10 for lawn mowing and trimming services at Kennedy Middle School and that three bids were submitted.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Carson, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

**“Move to award Bid #2023-10 for the three-year growing seasons of 2023-2025 to Wygant Construction of Bristol, CT for Lawn Mowing and Trimming Services at Kennedy Middle School.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

Mr. Chrzanowski reported that the committee were presented an update on the food service financials by Ms. Hill, Accounting Manager, as of February 28, 2023. The current student debt was \$4,113.15 with 76% of the debt at the high school. All meals are offered free through the rest of the academic year through SMART Funds 2.0. The committee also discussed the Preschool Regular Education Tuition Rates and a rate increase of 5% for the 2023-2024 school year. The last rate increase was in 2019-2020. The rate increase would bring Southington in line with other surrounding districts.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Carson, seconded by Mr. Williams:

**“Move to approve the Preschool Regular Education Tuition Rates for the 2023-2024 school year.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

Mr. Carson addressed the reimbursement by the state for school meals and noted that the district went from January-February 2023 without state funding resulting in an outstanding bill in student accounts of over \$4,000. He noted that in the past, anonymous donors came forward and paid all those student meal debt accounts and stated that any help would be welcome again this year. Mr. Baczewski questioned the meal counts.

**8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**a. Personnel Report**

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

**“Move to approve the Personnel Report, as submitted.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**9. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Town Government Communications**

There was no Town Government Communications to report.

**b. SHS Multi-Language Learner Course Programming Change Proposal – Second Reading**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Anastasio, seconded by Mr. Williams:

**“Move to approve the SHS Multi-Language Learner Course Programming Change Proposal, as presented by the Curriculum and Instruction Committee.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**c. SHS Industry Internship Proposal - Student Help Desk – Second Reading**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Anastasio, seconded by Mr. Williams:

**“Move to approve the SHS Industry Internship Proposal - Student Help Desk, as presented by the Curriculum and Instruction Committee.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**d. SHS Industry Internship Proposal – Teacher Assistant – Second Reading**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Anastasio, seconded by Mr. Williams:

**“Move to approve the SHS Industry Internship Proposal – Teacher Assistant, as presented by the Curriculum and Instruction Committee.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**e. SHS – Physical Education I Course – Second Reading**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Anastasio, seconded by Mr. Williams:

**“Move to approve the SHS Physical Education I Course, as presented by the Curriculum and Instruction Committee.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**f. SHS – Physical Education II Course – Second Reading**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Anastasio, seconded by Mr. Williams:

**“Move to approve the SHS Physical Education II Course, as presented by the Curriculum and Instruction Committee.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**g. Lifesaving Certification Course – Second Reading**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Anastasio, seconded by Mr. Williams:

**“Move to approve the Lifesaving Certification Course, as presented by the Curriculum and Instruction Committee.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**h. SHS Math Department Curriculum Adoption – Second Reading**

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Anastasio, seconded by Mr. Williams:

**“Move to approve the SHS Math Department Curriculum Adoption, as presented by the Curriculum and Instruction Committee.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Elementary Facilities Report**

Mr. Madancy reported that district officials met with the state on February 14, 2023 after last year putting the projects on hold due to uncertainty at the state level with personnel changes. He explained that there are ongoing changes of personnel at the state level and how uncertainty at the state level effected other school districts that moved forward with school construction last year. The person that they recently met at the state Department of Administrative Services told them that the state would not advise the district to Renovate-to-New or build New and that the decision was up to the town after costing out scenarios and other considerations. However, the person that they met with resigned shortly after that meeting, which leave still uncertainty on how to proceed and how much they would receive from the state. The current challenge was to meet the June 30 deadline to submit an application to the state to be considered for a December approval to be placed on the priority list. He noted that the challenge with the costing out of the different scenarios was that there was no scenario where all three of the school projects were going to be done at one time and whether the project would be Renovate-to-New or New Construction. Mr. Madancy noted that Colliers was still working on forecasting out what the cost of the various scenarios would be if one scenario was to be adopted. He addressed debt service, state grant reimbursement, pre-referendum work, uncertainty at the state level, the three elementary schools in need of work, outdated electrical loads, and equitable experiences.

Mr. Carson questioned if the state reimbursed for demolition costs when there was new construction. Mr. Baczewski proposed a rendition of temporarily closing Flanders, demolition of Flanders and rebuilding new on the site. He stated that he preferred neighborhood schools. Mr. Carson stated that he attended a Planning & Zoning meeting where they approved the apartment

complex on West Street with 255 units and the expectation was that the project would only generate 13 additional students into the school district. One of his concerns was for affordable housing in town and the West Street project was approved with a 10% density of affordable housing.

**b. Leonard & Gladys Joll Scholarship Committee Appointment**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Derynoski, seconded by Mr. Williams:

**“Move to approve the recipient recommended by the Leonard & Gladys Joll Scholarship Committee.”**

Mr. Derynoski stated that he has served on this scholarship committee for many years. In the past, they would receive 30 scholarship applications from students interested in pursuing a career in education. This year, they only received three applications, which was difficult to select the recipient because all three were exceptionally good candidates. He would like to see more applications and encouragement by administration for students to apply. Mr. Oshana experienced the same thing with his father’s scholarship.

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**c. Southington High School Graduation Date**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Oshana, seconded by Mr. Carson:

**“Move to approve Wednesday, June 14, 2023 as the date for the Southington High School Graduation Ceremony.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**d. 2023-2024 Healthy Food Certification**

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

**“Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Southington 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, 2023, through June 30, 2024. 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.”**

Mr. Baczewski thought that the district could do better than what they provide the students to eat for meals and that what qualified as “Healthy Foods” by the state he thought were not healthy. He was disappointed by what the state deems healthy and that the Board must adhere to this to receive money from the state and federal government programs.



**Motion carried by voice vote with seven in favor and Mr. Baczewski opposed.**

**e. 2023-2024 Food and Beverage Exemption**

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

**The Southington Board of Education 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 and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

- f. Bid Award #2023-10: Lawn Mowing & Trimming Service – JFK (*Action taken under Finance Committee Meeting Report*)**
- g. Policy 4118.5 – Responsible Use of Staff Technology – First Reading**
- h. Policy 4118.7 – Social Networking – First Reading**
- i. Policy 5131.2 – Use of Private Technology Devices by Students – First Reading**
- j. Policy 6141.9 – Responsible Use of Technology – First Reading**
- k. Policy 6141.10 – Bring Your Own Device Policy (BYOD) and Protocol for Use in Schools – First Reading**

Mrs. Clark noted that these were First Readings and that if anyone had any questions to contact Mr. Williams, Chair of the Policy & Personnel Committee.

- l. Approval of Job Descriptions**
  - 1. Open Choice Stipend – New**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

**“Move that the Board of Education approves the new job description for Open Choice – Stipend, as presented.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

- 2. Curriculum Specialist Stipend Review – New**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

**“Move that the Board of Education approves the new job description for Curriculum Specialist Stipend, as presented.”**

**Motion carried with seven in favor and Mr. Oshana opposed.**

**3. Food Service Director Job Description – Revised**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

**“Move that the Board of Education approves the revised job description for Food Service Director, as presented.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**4. District Chef Job Description – New**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Derynoski:

**“Move that the Board of Education approves the new job description for District Chef, as presented.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

- m. SHS – Asian Studies Course – First Reading
- n. SHS – Criminal Justice Course Proposal – First Reading

**11. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

**a. Communications from Public on Non-Agenda Items**

There was no communication from the public.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**“Move to adjourn.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Blanchard*

Recording Secretary

## Southington Public Schools

### ATTACHMENT #1

### PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

DATE	SPEAKER	ADDRESS	TOPIC
3/23/2023 19:07	michael kryzanski	27 hitching post drive	school closings
3/23/2023 19:07	ryan dumond	89 hitching post dr	schools
3/23/2023 19:08	Ashley Gould	273 Queen ST	school closing
3/23/2023 19:09	Melissa Belanger	147 Hitching Post	school closing on behalf of my children