

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 11, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education (Committee of the Whole - Operations) was held on Thursday, May 11, 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

Mr. Joseph Baczewski, Vice Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

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

Board members absent: Mrs. Colleen Clark, Chairperson

Cabinet administrators present: Mr. Steve Madancy, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Frank Pepe, Assistant Superintendent

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Student Matters, Personnel Matters & Legal Matter

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, Personnel Matters and Legal Matter.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Baczewski ended Executive Session at 7:03 p.m.

The Regular Board Meeting was reconvened at 7:05 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, Mr. David Derynoski, Mr. Zaya Oshana, Mr. Jasper Williams

Board members absent: Mrs. Colleen Clark, Chairperson

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

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

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The CyberKnights Team 195 led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE – CyberKnights Presentation

Mr. Madancy explained that the SHS Robotics Team placed as semifinalists in the FIRST Robotics competition World Championship in Houston, Texas the end of April. He noted that many national and worldwide teams want to build alliances with the CyberKnights, who are one of the top-ranked Robotics teams in the world. He noted that the CyberKnights were active volunteering in the community.

The SHS Robotics CyberKnights Team 195 comprised of 47 students gave a demonstration of this year’s competitive robot with team members explaining the timelines, design, development, manufacturing, programming, assembling, software, and testing of two robots in six weeks for competition. Unfortunately, there was a technical issue with the arm during the World Championship competition, which resulted in them falling in the ranking and end up as semi-finalists this year. Team members explained in detail the various roles within the group and different skills sets, events hosted, donation of supplies to Uganda, sponsorships, mentorship, volunteerism, and community outreach.

Some Board members remembered when Team 195 first started and how they have developed over the years to become a powerhouse within robotics and that they were impressed and proud of their accomplishments. Mr. Oshana stated that the CyberKnights Team 195 were wonderful ambassadors for the town of Southington.

Mr. Baczewski called for a brief recess at 7:26 p.m.

Mr. Baczewski reconvened the regular meeting at 7:45 p.m.

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

“Move to add Agenda Item 10.b ‘Student Expulsion’ to the agenda.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 27, 2023

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

“Move to approve the regular Board of Education Minutes of April 27, 2023, as submitted.”

Motion carried by voice vote with Mrs. Carmody abstaining.

7. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Student Board Representatives

Ryan Ogren reported on the following high school events: FBLA 39th Annual Financial Planning Association of Connecticut State Conference; 2023 Academic Awards Ceremony; AP

Exams; Annual Student Art Show May 15; Scholarship Night May 18; Senior Prom May 20 at Aqua Turf; creating the application and process for selecting two new student representatives to serve on the Board when Ryan and Angelina graduate in June with the new representatives presented at the June 8 Board meeting. He wished all teachers a happy National Teacher Appreciation Week on behalf of the student representatives and all students.

Uptej Singh reported on the SHS athletic season to date with all teams qualifying for the CIAC post-season play. Girls Lacrosse were 13-0 with the most wins in the program's history and ranked 10th in Class L; Girls Softball were 13-0 with Coach Davina Hernandez reaching her 200th career win; Boys Lacrosse ranked 10th in the state in Class L with 10-3 record; Boys Volleyball and Boys & Girls Tennis Teams have 12-2 records to date; Boys and Girls Track Team celebrated Senior Day; Blue Knights Baseball Team will hold a pre-game tribute to the late former Baseball Head Coach John Fontana who was SHS Head Coach for 41 years and retired after the 2002 season.

Angelina Miacci reported on the school events at the other schools. Kennedy Middle School (JFK): Successfully piloted an online sign-out system; two sixth grade students organized a Bottle Collection and non-perishable Food Drive to support Bread for Life; Grade 8 student Arshi Roy received the NJHS Outstanding Achievement Award and will receive \$500 and \$529 College Savings Account; Grade 6 student Mia Wills won the National American Legion Auxiliary Essay Contest for sixth graders; students celebrated Unity Week with theme days. DePaolo Middle School (JAD): The JFK/JAD Annual Drama Club production of Matilda was a tremendous success; SHS Agricultural teachers and staff hosted JAD's Animal Helpers; Grade 6 students celebrated Earth Day; JAD and JFK Spring Sports have started. Derynoski (DES) School: The SHS Key Club helped with the DES PTO-sponsored Family Night, which was a carnival on the playground. Thalberg School (TES): The Thalberg Drama Club will perform Xanadu Junior this month.

Mr. Carson questioned how many AP (Advanced Placement) exams were taken by students. Mr. Madancy explained that those statistics would be reported to the Board in August.

b. Communications from Board Members

Mr. Oshana thanked the businesses in town for their involvement and partnership with the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) at the high school.

Mrs. Carmody addressed the Wall of Honor presentations at the high school last week and praised the Maintenance Department for the wonderful job that they did in constructing the Wall of Honor. She also noted that the SHS Art Show was held at the high school the same night as the Wall of Honor with Southington High School having so many talented students. The Special Education students will hold an Art Show Auction at SOCCA (Southington Community Cultural Arts) displaying their photography with the proceeds going to a service dog for one of their classmates.

c. Communications from Administration

1. Southington Education Foundation (SEF): Mr. Madancy thanked the SEF for their work this year for the school district and acknowledged their activities, programs, and grant programs this year. He noted that he and some Board members attended the recent SEF Gala that the community supported.

2. SHS Awards Night: Mr. Madancy reported that a couple of the Board Student Representatives were rock stars and took home a number of awards. The students described the awards that they received.

3. SHS Trip to Dominican Republic: Mr. Madancy explained that he had asked students who recently went on a trip to the Dominican Republic to come to the Board meeting to share their experience. Three students (Nicole Kleinman, Ava Egan, and Francesca Riccio) gave a PowerPoint presentation of their cultural and learning experiences, attending classes at the institute, performing service, and having fun, which enhanced their Spanish language skills resulting in language proficiency. They spoke to students in the Dominican and learned that they have more similarities and interests than differences, which was a learning experience. They thanked the Board for the opportunity to travel. Board members questioned the coffee in the Dominican. The students explained that students in the Dominican never heard of Iced Coffee.

d. Communication from Public – Agenda Items Only

There was no Communication from the Public.

8. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

a. Personnel Report

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

“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 Communication.

b. ConEd Battery Storage Project – Tabled from April 27, 2023 Meeting

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

“Move to Table again.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approval of Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trip SHS – Austria, Germany & Switzerland

English and Social Studies teachers sponsoring and chaperoning the international travel program to Austria, Germany and Switzerland explained that this was the fourth time doing this trip and it would provide students with an opportunity to explore the culture and history of these countries and that there would be special focus on historical events of World War I and World

War II including the Dachau Concentration Camp. The trip is through EF (Education First) Educational Tours and is for students in grades 9-12 for travel in April 2024.

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

“Move to approve the field trip request, as presented by the administration.”

Mr. Derynoski noted that he had visited many of the countries and sites that they would be touring. The teachers explained that they create a Facebook page for their trips posting pictures every day of everything that they do to share their adventures live.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

b. Student Expulsion

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

“Move to expel Student 2022-2023-20, as presented by the administration.”

Motion carried with Mr. Carson and Mr. Williams abstaining.

11. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Public on Non-Agenda Items

There was no Communications from the Public on Non-Agenda Items.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

:

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Blanchard

Recording Secretary