

*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  
MAY 25, 2023**

---

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education (Committee of the Whole - Operations) was held on Thursday, May 25, 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 6:32 p.m.

Board members present: Mrs. Dawn Anastasio, Mr. Joseph Baczewski, Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mr. Sean Carson (*arrived 6:50 p.m.*), Mr. James Chrzanowski, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mr. Zaya Oshana, Mr. Jasper Williams

Cabinet administrators present: Mr. Steve Madancy, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Frank Pepe, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Peter Romano, Director of Operations (*left at 6:47 p.m.*)

**2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – UPSEU Negotiations Update, Personnel Matter (Unaffiliated), School Safety & Security**

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

**“Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing UPSEU Negotiations Update, Personnel Matter (Unaffiliated), School Safety & Security, 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 7:09 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, Mr. Jasper Williams

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 Student Representatives led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**5. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE – Invention Convention Finalists**

For the Celebration of Excellence, Amy Zappone, Director of Teaching & Learning for Secondary Education, and Melissa O’Neill, District Elementary Science Specialist, introduced the 20 fifth grade students who were State Invention Convention finalists this year for their inventions. Mrs. Zappone announced the Invention Convention winners, their school, teacher, and invention. The 20 students would be advancing to the CIAC State Finals at UConn on June 10. The students were presented with a Certificate of Excellence from the Board members.

*Mrs. Clark called for a brief recess at 7:18 p.m.  
Mrs. Clark reconvened the regular meeting at 7:32 p.m.*

The Board members presented the two graduating Student Representatives, Ryan Ogren and Angelina Miacci, with a gift in appreciation for their insight and participation serving on the Board of Education.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 11, 2023**

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

**“Move to approve the regular Board of Education Minutes of May 11, 2023, as submitted.”**

**Motion carried by voice vote with Mrs. Clark abstaining.**

**7. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

**a. Communications from Student Board Representatives**

Uptej Singh reported on the following high school events: Senior Prom, Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Senior Night, PLTW projects, retirement of Mrs. Kari Luise-Peschal PLTW Advisor; Future Farmers of America (FFA) banquet; Annual SHS Club and Activity Fair for incoming freshmen. DePaolo Middle School events: Grade 8 Award night; Spring Band / Orchestra and Chorus Concerts; Baseball/Softball teams; PTO Memorial Plaque and tree planting dedication ceremony for former Band teacher, Rich Santanella; 8<sup>th</sup> grader Lucas Kavic was recognized for his excellence in French studies at the McFarland Book Award Ceremony Alliance Francaise last week.

Angelina Miacci reported on the SHS National Honor Society Ice Cream Social; Seven Angels Annual Halo Awards, SHS Drama Club nominations for Halo Awards; Middle School transition tours for incoming freshmen; Class Night on June 1 at SHS and Class Day June 2 at High Meadow. Kennedy Middle School events: Spring concert series ended; two 7<sup>th</sup> grade teams visited Old Sturbridge Village; 6<sup>th</sup> graders participated in an interactive “Mad Science” onsite field trip; National Junior Honor Society Induction; PTO end of year onsite carnival for 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

Ryan Ogren reported on the SHS athletic season to date with the interscholastic teams currently competing in the CCC (Central Connecticut Conference) post-season play this week preceding the CIAC state tournaments for Girls Outdoor Track, Boys Outdoor Track, undefeated Girls Softball Team (22-0), Girls Lacrosse, Boys Lacrosse, Boys Volleyball, Baseball, Boys & Girls Tennis. The DePaolo and Kennedy Middle Schools Baseball and Softball Teams have ended their season.

Mr. Williams was impressed with all the sports tournaments.

**b. Communications from Board Members**

Mrs. Carmody acknowledged and thanked all the people in the community who contributed to Scholarship Night at the high school. She noted how fortunate Southington was to have such generous citizens. She commented on the SHS Military Luncheon held in the Municipal Center for the nine students entering the various branches of the military service. She was proud of the district's partnership with the town Veterans association to provide this recognition.

Mr. Derynoski reported on the Technology Advisory Board meeting held at the high school and their plans for the next school year. He will give a more detailed report in September. He noted that the food provided and donated by Mission BBQ for the Military Luncheon was delicious. He explained that he spoke to a Navy Recruiter and a Marine Recruiter who attended and were impressed with the Military Luncheon program that Southington provides for the recruits.

**c. Communications from Administration**

1. Mission Barbecue: Mr. Madancy thanked Mission BBQ for their support of the Military Luncheon by donating the food and staff for the event. He thanked Mrs. Teresa Colegrove, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, who organized and coordinated the luncheon along with the Veterans Committee.
2. Student Representative: Mr. Madancy congratulated Uptej Singh who received a scholarship as a junior to attend the Rochester Institute of Technology.
3. June 8-13, 2023: Mr. Madancy noted that June 8-13 were exam half days. He explained that June 14 is the last day of school due to a snow day, and that administration would be notifying families that both June 13 and 14 will be half days instead of having June 14 a full day.

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

Traci Ianni, 46 Alpine Trail, a Paraeducator for nine years, eight years at Kennedy Middle School, spoke in detail against eliminating two (2) Grade 6 teams at both middle schools from the 2023-2024 budget in reallocation. This would result in the elimination of six teaching positions, no layoffs but redistributing teaching positions. She noted the need for smaller class sizes and that eliminating, and redistribution of students would result in overcrowded classrooms. She explained that no one asked her to speak, and this was her personal concern. She had never seen anything restored to the budget once it was cut, except for middle school sports, and questioned Southington's priorities to benefit the youngest middle school students. She urged the Board members to investigate other

options and maintain the current configuration at both DePaolo and Kennedy Middle Schools.

## 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### a. Policy & Personnel Committee Report – May 10, 2023

Mr. Williams reported that the committee met and reviewed suggested edits to Policy 1316 - *Relations between Public and School Personnel* and a proposal for a new stipend for the Advisor to the National World Language Honor Society. The cost of the stipend would be covered by repurposing the unfilled SADD Advisor position. The committee also reviewed the revisions for both the Assistant Department and Department Chairperson positions to update the descriptions to align with current need based on continuing shifts in the high school's organizational structure. These revised job descriptions would come before the Board on this agenda for action.

### b. Curriculum & Instruction Committee Report – May 12, 2023

Mrs. Anastasio reported that the committee received presentations on SHS Accelerated Biology Units 2 (Cell Structure & Function) and Unit 4 (Cell Cycle and Communication). They also received a presentation on Forensic Science II, which is a continuation of Forensic Science I and a half-year elective course offered to juniors and seniors. There was a presentation on Bridges Math Intervention, which provides targeted instruction and assessment for essential Grades K-5 mathematics skills and concepts. Mrs. Carmody pointed out that so many students want to take the elective Forensic Science Course, which is very popular, but there was not enough staff to meet the demand. Mr. Derynoski noted that extra credits were added for graduation, and it was hard when popular electives could not be supported due to balancing the budget resulting in what the Board could offer students as electives.

## 9. OLD BUSINESS

### a. Town Government Communications

Mr. Madancy explained the need for the Districtwide Facilities Committee to schedule a meeting to consider the high priority athletic facilities projects, due to liability concerns, such as the bleachers, the track, and tennis courts that did not pass referendum. Mr. Madancy will contact Mr. Carson, Mr. Oshana, and Mrs. Clark for availability before contacting the town Board of Finance and Town Council to schedule a meeting.

## 10. NEW BUSINESS

### a. 2023-2024 Operating Budget Reallocation /Adoption

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

**“Move that the Board of Education adopt the 2023-2024 Operating Budget in the amount of \$110,460,653 with adjustments, as shown in the proposed Reallocation Plan.”**

Mr. Oshana stated that the proposed Reallocation Plan that came out of the BOE Reallocation Workshop included the reduction of six teachers, three teachers at DePaolo Middle School and three teachers at Kennedy Middle School. He did not think it was in the best interest for the students' education and for the district in the long-term. He explained that at this time they did not have all the information from the state on potential funding that the town might receive for the district, but they should have that information next week based on the voting on the state's budget on June 7. He thought that they should delay voting on the budget reallocation until after the June 7 state budget vote. The Board would know on June 8 what they would be receiving from the state if anything. He added that there was a possibility that the town would receive additional ECS funding to be used to offset the proposed reduction of the six teachers. However, there was no guarantee that they would receive any state funding. Mr. Oshana thought that they should wait until they hear from the state and then make any appropriate reallocation decisions, if needed. He did not think that cutting educators was the answer.

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

**“Move to postpone the vote on the budget reallocation until after the vote on the state level when we know what additional funding that we will be receiving.”**

Mr. Williams asked the Parliamentarian, Mr. Madancy, what the process was in postponing. Mr. Madancy explained that once a motion is made to postpone there is no more conversation about the budget and only conversation about the motion. Mr. Madancy added that he spoke to the Town Manager who noted that there was nothing in the Town Charter that prevents this and he also spoke to the Teachers Union that if they did not vote on the budget tonight it is because the Board of Education is waiting to hear information on the possible state funding on June 8 prior to making a decision on the Board of Education 2023-2024 budget.

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

- b. Ratification of UPSEU Local 424, Unit 113, Southington BOE Physical Therapists & Occupational Therapists Contract**

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

**“Move to approve the tentative agreement between the Southington Board of Education and the Southington Physical Therapists & Occupational Therapists Union (UPSEU), Local 424, Unit 113.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

- c. Policy 1316 – Relations between Public and School Personnel – First Reading**
- d. Approval of Job Descriptions**
  - 1. SHS National World Language Honor Society Stipend – New**

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

**“Move that the Board of Education approve the Job Description for the SHS National World Language Honor Society Stipend, as presented.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**2. High School Assistant Department Leader – Revised**

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

**“Move that the Board of Education approve the High School Assistant Department Leader Job Description, as presented.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**3. High School Department Leader – Revised**

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

**“Move that the Board of Education approve the High School Department Leader Job Description, as presented.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

- e. **SHS Accelerated Biology – Unit 2 – Cell Structure and Function – First Reading**
- f. **SHS Accelerated Biology – Unit 4 – Cell Cycle and Communication – First Reading**
- g. **SHS Forensic Science II – First Reading**
- h. **K-5 Math Curriculum – Bridges Math Intervention – First Reading**

Mrs. Clark explained that these were first readings and would be coming before the Board members at their next Board meeting for action.

**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. Baczewski:

**“Move to adjourn.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Blanchard*

Recording Secretary