

*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  
AUGUST 11, 2022**

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The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education (Committee of the Whole - Operations) was held on Thursday, August 11, 2022, 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 6:00 p.m.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. Colleen Clark, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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, and Mr. Jasper Williams.

Cabinet administrators present: Mr. Steven Madancy, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Frank Pepe, Assistant Superintendent (*Left at 6:45 p.m.*)

Others Present: Mr. John Leary, Chair, Town Finance Committee (*Left at 6:25 p.m.*)

**2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – SAA Contract Negotiations, Superintendent’s Evaluation**

**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 SAA (Southington Administration Association) Contract Negotiations, and Superintendent of Schools Evaluation, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

*Mrs. Clark recessed Executive Session at 7:05 p.m.  
The Regular Board Meeting was reconvened at 7:14 p.m.*

**3. RECONVENE MEETING – REGULAR SESSION**

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

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

#### **4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mrs. Clark called for a Moment of Silence in memory of:

- Sandra Moses who passed away on June 25, 2022. She was hired as a Teacher’s Aid in September 1978 and was a Secretary at Southington High School until her retirement in June 1997.
- Maryellen Crowley Kindelan who passed away on June 27, 2022. She worked in the Southington Public Schools as a nurse before her resignation in April 1993.

#### **5. ADMINISTRATIVE INTRODUCTIONS**

Mr. Madancy introduced the two (2) recently hired administrators for the 2022-2023 school year: Ms. Sue Gariepy, Principal of South End Elementary School, and Mr. Marc DiDominzio, Assistant Principal at John F. Kennedy Middle School. The new administrators spoke briefly and thanked the Board and administration for the opportunity.

*Mrs. Clark called for a short recess 7:21 – 7:31 p.m.*

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

**“Move to move Agenda Item 11.a ‘Approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trip’ to Agenda Item 6.d.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

#### **6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

##### **a. June 9, 2022**

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

**“Move to approve the Regular Board of Education Minutes of June 9, 2022, as submitted.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

##### **b. June 21, 2022 – Special Meeting**

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

**“Move to approve the Special Board of Education Minutes of June 21, 2022, as submitted.”**

**Motion carried by voice vote with Mr. Oshana abstaining.**

##### **c. July 27, 2022 – Special Meeting**

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

**“Move to approve the Special Board of Education Minutes of July 27, 2022, as submitted.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**d. Approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trip** *(formerly Agenda Item 11.a)*

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

**“Move to approve the Out of State/Overnight Field Trip, as submitted by administration.”**

Mr. Patrick O’Keefe, SHS Agriculture-Science teacher, gave a brief summary of the FFA (Future Farmers of America) National Convention and activities to take place in Indianapolis, IN in October 2022.

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

## **7. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

### **a. Communications from Board Members**

There was no communication from the Board Members.

### **b. Communications from Administration**

Administration reported on the following:

1. Administration Return & Upcoming Dates: Mr. Pepe reported on the upcoming meetings for administration including new legislation workshop, administrator retreat, and special education training.
2. Opening Dates for Staff & Students: Mr. Madancy reported on opening dates for staff (August 26) and students (September 1).
3. Athletic Facilities Update: Mr. Madancy addressed signage with QR codes and the project information to be posted with a large sign at the entrance of the SHS Athletic complex, and throughout the community, middle schools, YMCA, and town parks to generate momentum for the referendum.
4. Staffing Update/Certified Vacancies: Mr. Madancy gave credit to the administrators and Mrs. Passamano, Human Resources Manager, for all the work throughout the summer with extreme teacher shortages and teachers moving between school districts. As of August 11, Southington only has eight positions to fill with four in special education.
5. Smarter Balance Results: Mr. Madancy addressed the district Data Team work and administrators looking at Smarter Balance results from 2020-2021 and correlations between programs and interventions.

### **c. Communication from Public**

There was no communication from the public.

## **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Elementary Facilities Committee Meeting – June 8, 2022**

Mr. Madancy reported that the committee met with Mr. Warrington and Mr. Koplas from Colliers, and Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Zuba from SLAM. Discussed was a recap of the Enrollment Study, redistricting, and facility scenarios along with timelines in order to meet deadlines around Town Council authorization, bonding approval, and the 2023 Town Referendum. Draft scenarios will be shared with the full Board at a future BOE meeting.

**b. Policy & Personnel Committee Meeting – July 19, 2022**

Mr. Williams reported that the committee discussed the job description for a new position of Behavior Technician using ARP ESSER funds that was previously approved by the Board for mental health staff. The words “Minimum” and “Preferred Education” are to be added to the job “Qualifications” section as approved by all the committee members. Once the language is added, it will come before the full Board.

**c. Finance Committee Meeting – August 1, 2022**

Mr. Oshana reported that the committee discussed the preliminary financial update for the closeout of FY’2021-2022 Operating Budget and anticipated having approximately \$400,000 in unexpended funds.

Mr. Oshana reported that, due to budget limitations, the base price of \$82,300 for one (1) boiler would be awarded to low bidder Sav-Mor. The FY’23 budget for this project is \$148,000. The committee recommended replacing both (2) boilers at Strong School at the same time at a total bid price of \$164,600 using the FY’21 Non-lapsing funds to cover the \$16,600 remaining balance and have the project completed all at one time.

**1. Bid Award #2023-05: Boiler Replacement at Strong School**

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

**“Move to award Bid #2023-05 - Boiler Replacement Services at Strong Elementary School to Sav-Mor Cooling & Heating, Inc. in the amount of \$164,600, as presented by the administration.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**2. Special Education (STELLAR) Van Purchase**

Mr. Oshana reported that the State Department of Education awarded a new ARP IDEA Special Education grant in the amount of \$285,457 to Southington. The approved grant application includes the purchase of a student transport 10-passenger vehicle for the STELLAR program using the State of Connecticut contract pricing of \$58,862.

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

**“Move to approve the purchase of a new Ford T-350 passenger van in the amount of \$58,862.40, as presented by the administration.”**

Mr. Derynoski pointed out that currently available is a more expensive used (\$67,827) van and the delivery of the new cheaper (\$58,862) 10-passenger van is months out.

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

Mr. Oshana reported on the following:

- Administration approved a one-year contract extension to Select Physical Therapy. The committee will discuss years two and three of the contract.
- A District Voluntary Device Protection Plan has been offered to parents to cover accidental damage to Chromebooks and accessories. The parents can access the MyPaymentsPlus website portal to pay for the coverage. Family Tier Plans will be offered.
- The State Department of Education SMART funds were allotted to Southington for \$633,164 to allow the district time to plan for a return to paid meals with these funds providing free meals to all Southington students until January/February 2023. Mrs. Clark questioned who would notify the families with an update when the state level funds run out and the students have to start paying. Mr. Carson questioned if the school lunch program changes would be posted on the MyPaymentPlus portal.

**9. 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.**

**10. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Town Government Communications**

1. Appointment of Representative on the Town Cable Advisory Council

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

**“Move to appoint David Derynoski as the Representative on the Town Cable Advisory Council.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trip** (*Moved to Agenda Item 6.d*)
- b. **Class Size Report**

Mr. Madancy reported on the elementary enrollment through August 11, 2022 and the projected class sizes and staffing requirements. Mr. Derynoski was concerned on a couple of classes of 23 students. Mr. Madancy addressed cohorts and Paraeducator support where needed.

**c. Obsolete Textbooks**

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

**“Move to dispose of the Obsolete Textbooks in accordance to Board of Education Policy #3260.”**

Mr. Derynoski addressed outsourcing obsolete textbooks to schools in need as done in the past.

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

*At 7:57 p.m., Mrs. Clark called for a recess of the regular meeting and reconvened Executive Session.*

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**“Move to adjourn.”**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Blanchard*

Recording Secretary