

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
NOVEMBER 10, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education (Committee of the Whole - Operations) was held on Thursday, November 10, 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 6:30 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, Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mr. Sean Carson, Mr. James Chrzanowski (*arrived 6:38 p.m.*) Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski. Absent were Mr. Zaya Oshana and Mr. Jasper Williams
Cabinet administrator present: Mr. Frank Pepe, Assistant Superintendent
Others present: Southington Deputy Police Chief Bill Palmieri (*left 6:58*)

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – School Safety & Security and Student Matters

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 School Safety & Security and Student Matters, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

*Mrs. Clark ended Executive Session at 7:08 p.m.
The Regular Board Meeting was reconvened at 7:10 p.m.*

3. RECONVENE MEETING – REGULAR SESSION

Board members present: Mrs. Dawn Anastasio, Mr. Joseph Baczewski, Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mr. Sean Carson (*left meeting at 7:33 p.m.*), Mr. James Chrzanowski, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski. Absent were Mr. Zaya Oshana and Mr. Jasper Williams
Cabinet administrators present: Mr. Frank Pepe, Assistant Superintendent, and Mrs. Jennifer Mellitt, Director of Business & Finance

Student Representatives present were Angelina Micacci and Uptej Singh.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE:

The student representatives led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Clark explained that Mr. Steven Madancy, Superintendent, and Board Members Mr. Jasper Williams and Mr. Zaya Oshana were absent due to family or work obligations.

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

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

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mrs. Clark called for a moment of silence in memory of:

Francis “Franny” Falco, who passed away on October 20, 2022. He started as a substitute Crossing Guard in 2016 and then became the regular Crossing Guard for Derynoski Elementary School until resigning the summer of 2022.

Joseph Orsene, who passed away on October 23, 2022. He was hired in September 1952 and taught Physical Education for 39 years. While working in Southington he also served as basketball, football, baseball, and track coach throughout his career until his retirement in June of 1991.

Kathy McGrath, former Principal of Southington High School, who passed away October 26, 2022. Ms. McGrath began her Southington Public Schools career as a Language Arts Teacher, Assistant Principal, and in 2002 she became the first woman to become Principal of Southington High School.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 13, 2022

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

“Move to approve the Regular Board of Education Minutes of October 13, 2022, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

6. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Student Board Representatives

Angelina Micacci reported on the following:

SHS Homecoming Dance on November 18 in the SHS cafeteria for juniors and seniors only; National Honor Society held their induction ceremony on October 20 with 31 students inducted; the first Quarter ended Thursday, November 3; Robotics CyberKnights Team have their first tournament on Saturday, November 12 at Daniel Hand High School; SHS Drama Club will be presenting the 24th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee on December 2 & 3 and tickets cost \$15; the Blue Knights Marching Band held their 29th Annual Music of the Knight Competition; the Marching Band placed third at the New England State Championship held in New Britain and placed ninth at the National Competition. The Bands annual Veterans Day concert was held November 9.

Angelina reported that Thalberg School held a Cereal Food Drive and donated 927 boxes to Southington Community Services. Kelley School honored 34 Veterans with an in-school program in the morning and a car parade for Veterans in the afternoon with students lining the school driveway.

Uptej Singh reported on the following: He gave an updated report on the Fall athletic season and tournaments to date for: Girls Volleyball won the CCC League Class LL Championship Tournament second round; Blue Knights Field Hockey had their best season and will be hosting the state quarter finals; Girls Soccer hosted the second round of the CIAC Tournament and won; SHS Football hosted the annual Military Appreciation Day game on Veterans Day; Girls Diving Team will be competing in the CIAC Diving Championship and the Girls Swimming Team will compete in the CIAC Class LL meet; the Girls Cross Country team finished fifth place at the CIAC Class LL meet and 12th place in the State Open Championship; all SHS Blue Knights sports teams qualified for post season championships this fall including the Boys Soccer team who lost in the first round of the tournament. Uptej reported that DePaolo Middle School (JAD) held activities honoring Veterans Day and students brought in toiletry items, gift cards and cash donations for the Veterans Home in Rocky Hill; the JAD Boys Cross Country team made school history by winning second place in the large school state division competition with hundreds of runners from 40 middle schools; JAD Spanish students learned about a Spanish holiday and traditions; JAD Grade 6 Blue Team students met a Paleo-Oceanography scientist from the Netherlands and currently working in France through the “Skype-a-Scientist” Program. Kennedy Middle School (JFK) Girls Volleyball team played JAD at the annual “Dig Pink” Game with all proceeds donated to the Side-out Foundation that provides research for metastatic breast cancer in honor of a JFK parent who lost her battle with breast cancer in October; JFK thanked Mr. Ron Ingriselli and the UNICO Club for their generous donation to the Unified Theatre Program; SHS and surrounding vocational schools were in the process of visiting JFK 8th grade students regarding programs; JFK students collected over 975 non-perishable food items for Southington Community Services; JFK had a visit from Veterans who gave a presentation.

b. Communications from Board Members

The Board members addressed the passing of Kathy McGrath and Coach Joe Orsene; Veterans Day, Friday, November 11th; sports tournaments; athletic events and sportsmanship. Mrs. Anastasio reported that the SHS Agriculture / Future Farmers of America (FFA) would be holding their annual Holiday Wreath, Poinsettias, and Cemetery Boxes Sale to benefit the FFA Scholarship Fund starting November 22.

c. Communications from Administration

Mr. Pepe stated that the Red Ribbon Rally that was held on the Town Green was well attended and supported by community leaders. He addressed the following:

1. Safety Training at the Municipal Center and SHS: Mr. Pepe reported that there were two safety training sessions conducted by the Southington Police Department and that all Board of Education central office staff and town employees have received ALICE active shooter training. On November 8, School Security and Safety training continued for school employees with the police and fire departments, town, and EMS (Emergency Medical Services).
2. Ten and 20-year Board Member Recognitions: Mr. Pepe reported that at the upcoming CABE/CAPPS Conference on November 18 Board members will be honored

for their years serving on the Board of Education and congratulated David Derynoski (31 years), Terri Carmody (14 years), Collen Clark (14 years), and Zaya Oshana (11 years).

3. Music of the Knight: Mr. Pepe stated that the SHS Marching Band hosted the annual Music of the Knight and thanked the Band Backers and all those involved for their time and efforts for the phenomenally successful program.

4. UNICO Donation: Mr. Pepe reported that Ron Ingriselli from UNICO presented the Unified Arts Program at Kennedy Middle School with a donation of \$1,000 and thanked them for their generosity.

5. Athletic Complex Referendum Results: Mr. Pepe reported that at the Tuesday, November 8 Mid-Term Election and Referendum, the SHS Roof Replacement was on the ballot and was approved by the voters. He thanked the community; however, the SHS Athletic Sports Complex did not pass and would be added to the Capital Improvement Plan to address those needs, which would be discussed at a future Board meeting.

d. Communication from Public

Mr. Carson left the meeting.

Mrs. Elyse Krantz, 44 Bridle Path Drive, addressed an October 3, 2022 email that she sent to the Board members requesting that the Jewish celebrations of Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) and Yom Kippur (most holy Jewish holiday), which requires a 25-hour fast from sunset to the following sunset, for 13 years old and older, to be included as official school holidays. She discussed the current rise of antisemitism and the difficulty and challenge of observance when school is in session on those holidays. Mrs. Krantz noted that there was a number of Jewish families, faculty, and staff in Southington. She pointed out that neighboring school districts such as Cheshire, Hamden, Waterbury, Newington, Farmington, Middletown, Glastonbury, and West Hartford, close for Jewish holidays. She recognized that other religions also have their special holiday celebrations that the school district does not close for although students are given excused absences.

The YouTube video of the meeting is posted on both the Board of Education and Town of Southington websites for detailed information.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Policy & Personnel Committee – October 12, 2022

Mr. Pepe reported that the committee met and discussed the following: Policy 5143 was revised to incorporate Reports of Sexual Assault of children and renumbered as 4118.31; Policy 5127 focused on increasing the completion rate of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by students in Grade 12; Policy 5141.21 was reviewed with no suggested changes; Policy 5144 reflects revisions based on recent legislation with language providing guidelines for staff. The committee also discussed Maintenance HVAC/Plumbing job description revisions that now align with the needed skill set; an Open Choice Liaison stipend was proposed for two positions funded with Open Choice grant funds with the positions serving as liaisons between Open Choice students, families and the school system and designating coordination of transportation for special community events.

b. Curriculum & Instruction Committee – October 13, 2022

Mr. Baczewski reported that the committee met and received curriculum presentations from teachers and administrators on the following: 1) A new half-year elective course called *Introduction to Psychology for Juniors and Seniors*. Students who successfully complete this course may choose to enroll in AP Psychology. 2) A new course curriculum titled *Classic Mythology*, which is a UCONN ECE full-year experience. 3) Southington High School General Chemistry Unit/Bundle 2, *Bonding and Intermolecular Forces*, which is an accelerated general chemistry class. 4) The second unit in Accelerated Physics. 5) The first unit of an accelerated biology course titled, *The Chemistry of Life*. 6) The last of the new K-grade 5 Science Curriculum, which is engaging with a strong focus on critical thinking, collaboration, and the collection/analysis and application of data. 7) Grade 7, third unit titled *Ecosystem Dynamics*. The committee members were impressed with all the curriculum presenters and their presentations.

c. Elementary Facilities Committee – October 17, 2022

Mrs. Clark reported that the committee had met sporadically. At the October meeting they reviewed again the SLAM Redistricting Scenario and student population. Because of changes at the state level, the committee will meet with the state to discuss costs and to arrange for a presentation to the full Board. Mr. Derynoski questioned who was SLAM? Mrs. Clark stated that SLAM was part of Milone & MacBroom, a construction and engineering firm, which recently merged with SLR International Corporation.

d. Finance Committee Meeting – October 24, 2022 & November 7, 2022

Mr. Chrzanowski reported that the committee met two times since the last full Board meeting. He was not present at the October 24 meeting; therefore, Mrs. Mellitt gave the report for that meeting. She reported that they discussed in detail the Self Insurance Report, a budget transfer, update on the SMART (School Meals Assistance Revenue for Transition) Funds, and Title I Funding change of a reduction of \$256,932 due to a drop in Southington's poverty level.

1. Transfer of Funds

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

“Move to approve the Transfer of Funds from the Guidance Counselor Salaries Accounts to the Social Worker Salaries Account, as presented.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Chrzanowski reported that at the November 7 meeting, the committee discussed in detail the Sound Attenuation Proposal at Kennedy Middle School for Service 1 from Trane with an estimated reduction of 5-7 decibels for a cost of \$39,843; Fortinet Firewall and Antivirus Agreement for a three-year financing lease through SHI (Simple Help Editor) and DLL (Dynamic Link Library) for the Fortinet and FortiEDR (antivirus) protection in the amount of \$43,885.51 per year; a request to use Non-lapsing FY'21 funds up to \$120,000 to conduct a Request for Proposal (RFP) for school entryway redesigns to current entryways for security enhancements for five elementary schools and the high school; School Lunch price increase for 2022-2023 by \$0.25 to support the cost of the program when the SMART (School Meals Assistance Revenue for Transition) funds end effective November 30, 2022. Mr. Chrzanowski gave a detailed summary of these agenda items and explanation for the motions below.

2. Sound Attenuation Proposal JFK

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

“Move to approve the Sound Attenuation Proposal for Kennedy Middle School to Trane U.S. Inc., as presented.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

3. Approval of three-year lease for Firewall & EDR (Endpoint Detection Response)

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

“Move to approve the three-year lease through SHI & DLL for the Fortinet and FortiEDR Protection in the amount of \$131,657 with three annual payments of \$43,885.51 in years 2023, 2024, and 2025.”

Mrs. Clark questioned if this equipment was just for the Board of Education or split with the Town. Mrs. Mellit explained that the Town had already implemented it for their network and this equipment was just for the Board of Education.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

4. Request to use Non-lapsing FY’21 Funds for School Entryway Design Request For Proposal (RFP)

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

“Move to approve the use of Non-lapsing FY’21 Funds for the Security Entryway Redesign at Hatton, Oshana, South End, Strong and Thalberg Elementary Schools, and Southington High School in an amount up to \$120,000.”

Mrs. Carmody questioned if an outside firm would be hired. Mr. Baczewski questioned if a vendor was secured. Mrs. Mellitt explained that the Request for Proposal (RFP) was currently out for bid now and next week Mr. Romano, Director of Operations, would meet with interested vendors for a walk-through and the award of the RFP would be brought back to the Finance Committee and then the full Board for action.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

5. School Lunch Price Increase 2022-2023

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

“Move to approve twenty-five cents (\$0.25) increase for school breakfast and lunch prices effective December 1, 2022.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Chrzanowski reported that the committee discussed an additional 457 Plan (Equitable) option for employees. Employees, who are expecting a sick payout upon retirement, are looking to open a 457 Plan before retiring to allow an additional tax deferral. The district accounting system would allow for one other investment firm option but would not allow for more. The committee agreed to leave the options as they are for now.

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 Communications to report.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Student Data Presentation

Mrs. Amy Zappone, Director of Teaching and Learning, Mrs. Stephanie Lawlor, K-8 ELA (English Language Arts) Curriculum Coordinator, and Ms. Sara Baranauskas, District Mathematics and Science Coordinator gave a PowerPoint presentation on student achievement data. They spoke at length on the 2021-2022 Summative Assessment Results for the Southington Public Schools. They highlighted the district performance indicators that included the percentage of students demonstrating mastery of grade level standards and those exceeding mastery in ELA, Math and Science. They addressed the Smarter Balance Summative Performance Overview for ELA, Math and Science Achievement in 2021-2022 for grades 3-8 including historical data, percentage of students meeting Level 3/Level 4 in our DRG D (District Reference Group), Smarter Balanced Growth Data showing state and district growth and targets achieved.

The presentation contained the College Board SAT achievement data for ELA / ERW (English Reading & Writing) and Math including goals, and Southington High School / State percentages that were met. Mrs. Clark questioned when the SAT test was administered, and the skill set of students at that time. Mrs. Zappone explained that the SAT was taken in March of 2022. Discussed was the SAT ELA and Math Achievement DRG comparison and meeting the goals. Addressed was the NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) with an overview of the 2021-22 percentage of students proficient at Level 3 or 4 comparing the district and state averages for grades 5, 8, and 11. This summative data showed years 2019 and 2022; the data for years 2020-2021 were not available due to COVID. Also addressed was the District Performance Indicators for students demonstrating mastery of grade level standards and exceeding grade level standards in ELA, Math and Science in subgroups of Special Education, English Language Learners, and the Free/Reduced student population. The presentation included historical data and percentages of High Needs/Non-High Needs/All students Level 3/Level 4. Discussed at length

was the District Performance Indicators and percentage of elementary, middle, and high school students' attendance rates 90% of the school year, number/percentage in academic tiered intervention levels, and K-8 ELA and Math tiered interventions by grade level and number of students in Tier 2 or 3.

The Board members had many questions. Mr. Chrzanowski questioned who determined what is at level or above. Mrs. Zappone stated that the assessments used were from certain vendors, which are Criterion-Referenced or Norm-Referenced such as STAR. Mr. Derynoski noted the major impact that COVID had on scores and questioned how Southington was trending to get back on track. Mrs. Zappone stated that there was only a slight dip in learning loss. However, one-year post-COVID they are not too far off in moving upward. Teachers were confident to get to where they were pre-COVID and to surpass it with continuous improvement. Mrs. Lawlor stated that every school had put in an intervention block to do what was best for every student. Mr. Baczewski questioned the state vs. district comparisons and the comparisons within the DRG. Mrs. Zappone explained that Southington was in right in the middle of DRG D (like districts), which was higher than the state average. Mr. Baczewski questioned if the higher performing districts would be consulted. Mr. Pepe responded that all administrators were linked with broader groups that included constant sharing. Southington focuses on the Student Growth Model. Mr. Baczewski expressed that he wanted Southington to be at the top within the DRG. Mrs. Clark noted that each child is looked at individually to see what each child needs and thanked the teachers for their challenging work.

- b. **Policy 5143 Revised and Adopted as Policy 4118.31 – School Employee Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Reports of Sexual Assault of Children – Revised – First Reading**
- c. **Policy 5127 – Completion Rates of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) – New – First Reading**
- d. **Policy 5144 – Physical Activity – Undirected Play – Revised – First Reading**
- e. **Approval of Job Descriptions – Maintenance (HVAC/Plumbing) Technician I Job Description – Revised; Open Choice Liaison Stipend Position – New**

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

“Move to approve the Job Description – Maintenance (HVAC/Plumbing) Technician I, as presented.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

- f. **SHS – Introduction to Psychology Course Curriculum – First Reading**
- g. **SHS – Classical Mythology New Course Curriculum – First Reading**
- h. **SHS General Chemistry Unit/Bundle 2: Bonding and Intermolecular Forces – First Reading**
- i. **SHS Accelerated Physics Unit 2: Forces and Motion – First Reading**
- j. **SHS Accelerated Biology Unit 1: The Chemistry of Life – First Reading**
- k. **Science Grade 3 Unit 2: Grand Canyon Seashells – First Reading**
- l. **Science Grade 4 Unit 3: Energizing Everything – First Reading**
- m. **Science Grade 5 Unit 1A/1: Spectacular Sights in the Sky – First Reading**
- n. **Science Grade 7 Unit 3: Ecosystem Dynamics – First Reading**

Mrs. Clark requested that if any Board member had any questions on the curriculum first readings to contact Mr. Pepe or Mr. Baczewski.

o. Capital Improvement Plan 2023-24 to 2027-28 – First Reading

Mrs. Mellitt explained that the administration would be meeting to revisit the Capital Plan based on the recent referendum results and a revised plan would be brought to the December Board meeting as a First Reading. Mrs. Clark acknowledged that this agenda item should then be tabled as a First Reading.

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

“Move to table the Capital Improvement Plan 2023-24 to 2027-28 as a First Reading until the next Board of Education meeting as a First Reading.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Pepe pointed out that under Agenda Item 10.e there was the Open Choice Liaison Stipend, which was a new position and was omitted in the motion that needed to be voted on.

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

“Move to approve the Open Choice Liaison Stipend Position.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

p. Superintendent’s Annual Report – 2021-2022

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

“Move to approve the Superintendent’s Annual Report for the 2021-2022 School Year.”

Mrs. Clark stated that this report needed to be shared with the community. Mr. Derynoski added that this was the third year in a row that it was so well done and easy to follow. Mr. Pepe stated that Mr. Madancy’s intent was to push it out to the public because it illustrates the incredible work that is done in the schools.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

q. Superintendent’s Proposed Goals for 2022-2023

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

“Move to table this agenda item until the Superintendent is present to discuss.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

r. Student Expulsion

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

“Move to expel Student #2022-2023-01, as recommended by the Superintendent.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Blanchard

Recording Secretary