

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
OCTOBER 12, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education (Committee of the Whole - Operations) was held on Thursday, October 12, 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, 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, and Mr. Frank Pepe, Assistant Superintendent

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION –TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT STAFF, STUDENT MATTERS AND PERSONNEL

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

“Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing Technology Department Staff, Student Matters and Personnel, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

*Mrs. Clark ended the Executive Session at 6:50 p.m.
The Regular Board meeting was reconvened at 7:00 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; Ms. Rebecca Cavallaro (*arrived 7:03 p.m.*), Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Student Representatives present: Uptej Singh, Chelsey Arduini, Akari Win

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Student Representatives led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 14, 2023

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

“Move to approve the regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes of September 14, 2023, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

“Move to add Agenda Item 11.b ‘Student Expulsion’ to the agenda.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

6. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Student Board Representatives

Akari Win reported on the following high school events: College Fair, SHS Open House, SHS Clubs booths at the Apple Harvest Festival and Marching Band participation in the parade, STEM for All event, PSATs, National Honor Society Senior Fall Induction, Powder Puff team practice, SHS Music of the Knight competition October 21, 2023, SHS Fall Concert October 24, 2023, Marine Biology class field trip to Mystic Aquarium on October 2, 2023.

Uptej Singh reported on the SHS fall athletic events and scores to date for Girls Volleyball, Girls Swimming & Diving, Boys & Girls Cross Country, Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer, SHS Golf.

Chelsey Arduini gave the district report for the other schools: DePaolo Middle School (JAD): Over 250 Middle School students took part in the JAD Leadership Program by selecting the leadership opportunity that interested them and volunteering in the community; JAD fall sports teams started despite the rainy weather; JAD participated at the Apple Harvest Festival for two weekends and collected donations for Alex’s Lemonade Stand to raise funds for pediatric cancer research; JAD Garden Club wrapped up the growing season and thanked the community members who supported them throughout the summer; JAD students volunteered to help at the Soup Night for Bread for Life.

b. Communications from Board Members

Board members addressed the Soup Night at SHS with DePaolo Middle School students busing and waiting on the tables; Apple Harvest Festival parade with the impressive elementary floats and SHS Marching Band; receiving complaints on curriculum and requests for a formal curriculum review along with the steps needed to be taken. Mr. Madancy explained Policy #1312 procedures for a review including paperwork that needed to be completed with rationale by complainant and 15 days to initiate action to form a committee to review and forward the

recommendation to the Superintendent who in turn will forward his recommendation to the full Board, then notifying parents of decisions, and appeals.

c. Communications from Administration

1. Redistricting-PTO Meetings: Mr. Madancy stated that he attended, along with some Board members, PTO meetings at South End, Kelley, Flanders, and Thalberg Elementary Schools to give an update and answer questions regarding the status of renovations and redistricting.

2. Kindergarten Starting Age Update: Mr. Madancy stated that at the PTO meetings he addressed the new state mandate for the starting age for kindergarten that would impact between 99-125 Southington families for students born after September 1, instead of January 1, to start kindergarten in the 2024-2025 school year. He explained communication from the Commissioner of Education indicated that there would not be a universal assessment given to school districts by the state resulting in every district using their own assessment to determine whether children can qualify for an exception and start school. He had concerns about that because every child is different with districts using different assessments. The legislation states that the principal of a school can make the assessment if a child starts school or not. Mr. Madancy explained the inequities that it would cause and planned to speak to the state for more details and guidance. He spoke at length on the effect to the school district. He noted that he was meeting with the Early Childhood Collaborative and community partners regarding subsidies if a parent decides to put their child in a preschool program to help defray the cost.

3. UEL Program Development: Mr. Madancy explained that he and Mr. Crocco, SHS Principal, met with Mr. Owen McLaughlin, Director of the SHS Ag-Science Center, regarding applying for the Unpaid Experiential Learning Program (UEL) where students receive Ag-Science field-level experience in exchange for high school credit. Mr. McLaughlin volunteered to apply for the entire high school to expand the UEL opportunities beyond Ag-Science. He is waiting to hear if the grant was approved.

4. Science of Reading Update: Mr. Madancy reported that a district committee applied for a Science of Reading Master Class, which is a partnership between the State Department of Education and the Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents (CAPSS). It is professional development for the literary team to help the district to make informed assessments about shifts to reading and literacy instruction in the district with the recent legislative changes.

5. District-wide Facilities Committee: Mr. Madancy planned to schedule a District-wide Facilities Committee meeting within the next couple of weeks to discuss next steps now that they are not going to referendum in November 2023. He noted that with the upcoming November elections there might be changes of members to the Facilities Committee.

d. Communication from Public – Agenda Items Only

Mrs. Susan Zabahonski came to the podium to address a curriculum complaint and was told by Mrs. Clark that it was not an agenda only item. There was no communication from the public on agenda items.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting – September 22, 2023

Mrs. Anastasio reported that the committee met and received a presentation on revisions to the SHS Accelerated Physics Course - Units #3, 4, 5 & 6. They also received a presentation on three updated units (#3, 4 & 5) within the SHS Accelerated General Chemistry course. The committee was presented a Middle School Needs Assessment by Jennifer Discenza, Director of Counseling. This assessment will inform support staff in each middle school of potential topics for group discussions. Student participation in groups is only permitted with parent permission. The committee members agreed to forward these items to the full Board for review and approval.

8. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

a. Personnel Report

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

“Move to approve the Personnel Report, as submitted by the Human Resources Department.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

There was no Town Government Communication.

b. ConEd Battery Storage Project

Mr. Madancy explained why he put this item on the agenda for Board discussion and possible action or to wait until the next Board meeting on October 26, 2023.

Mrs. Clark explained that she visited Ardsley Middle School in New York to view the battery storage system and noted where it was located on the property, which did not appear attractive and were big white cabinets behind fencing with electrical equipment. When she visited, she had missed the discharge period so there was no noise. She was told by Adam Teff that RWE would address any noise attenuation if there was any from the discharging batteries. She would like it to be not so obvious at the Southington middle schools. Mrs. Carmody questioned if there was an area at the middle schools to put the system where it would not interfere with the location of the air conditioning units. A question that a Board member asked was if they move forward with this project if the \$50,000 that they would receive goes to the Town or the Board of Education. Mr. Madancy stated that the Town Manager explained that it would go through the Town and then appropriated to the Board of Education. Another question regarded theft or vandalism of the units (It would be the responsibility of RWE who owns the equipment and are leasing the property with no responsibility to the Town or the BOE). Also discussed was that the Southington Public Schools electricity contract that was due to be negotiated before it expires in October 2024. Currently, the rate is \$0.7 per KWH and projected to be \$0.11 per KWH, which would be an increase of \$250,000 annually. Mr. Madancy thought that the \$50,000 from leasing would help. The Board members discussed that the chiller unit at the middle schools were already a large eyesore, and they did not need a second eyesore. If the Board agreed to move ahead and approve the contract it would be with the stipulation that it is an agreed upon location between the administration and RWE to find a less conspicuous area. Mr.

Madancy explained that RWE offered to install an Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station at the high school, at their expense, to sweeten the deal.

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

“Move that the Board of Education approve moving forward with the concept of the RWE property lease for the battery storage system at Joseph A. DePaolo and John F. Kennedy Middle Schools to be considered by the Town Council with the stipulation that its final location be mutually agreed upon between RWE and the administration.”

Mr. Carson stated that he thought that there were still outstanding questions and concerns such as the location of the battery packs as well as the EV charging station at the high school and who would be responsible to pay for the EV charging events. He would rather see an EV charging station at each of the middle schools to tap into the battery storage pack to charge those units. He believed that the EV charging stations cost between \$1,500-\$2,000 per year to charge vehicles throughout the year. He thought that a conversation needed to take place with the Town Manager and Town Council regarding what the tax benefit to the town would be for this equipment including the value of the equipment and how it would enter the tax roll in addition to the \$50,000 in lease payments.

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

“Move to table a vote until the next scheduled Board of Education meeting.”

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mr. Baczewski, Mrs. Anastasio, Mr. Carson, Mr. Chrzanowski, Mr. Derynoski, Mr. Oshana, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Clark. NO – Mrs. Carmody

Motion to table passed with eight in favor and one opposed.

Mr. Madancy stated that he would get answers to those questions for the Board at their next meeting for action.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Multilingual Presentation

Ms. Simone Crouch, Assistant Principal and Multilingual Coordinator at Southington High School, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Multilingual Department for the district (formerly known as the English Language (EL) Department) explaining the growth of multilingual students into the district, primary responsibilities for the five full time and one part time multilingual tutors (non-certified staff) and TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) Certified Staff consisting of three staff members supporting students with limited English language skills. She explained their responsibilities. For the 2023-2024 school year, there are currently 210 multilingual students in the district at a level 1-2 in English proficiency speaking 27 different languages. Ms. Crouch addressed state requirements, translation support, and family support including Parent Square software that can change the language. She explained the need for more help and tutors especially with the influx of students from war-torn Ukraine who also need counseling and emotional support. At the high school, they have 41 Multilingual students. A survey was distributed to staff for volunteers who could help with the different languages.

Board members questioned the legal obligations of a district to deliver English language skills to students along with legislation laws and state and federal funding, if there were bilingual paras, and if the tutors work under certified staff. Ms. Crouch explained the limited bilingual staff/aides/volunteers that have helped with interpretation of different languages. She addressed the Title III (ESEA) grant that helps to ensure that English learners attain English language proficiency and meet state academic standards. She noted that the many immigrants moving into the district are very studious, eager to learn, and hard workers. Ms. Crouch belongs to an organization of administrators who work with English Language Learners in other school districts that meet four times a year to collaborate. Board members questioned the use of translation software such as Google Translate. Ms. Crouch stated that the district uses Google Translate software for older students, but it is a problem for younger students who do not read or write yet. Monitoring Academic growth of the multilingual students was questioned. The Board members were very appreciative of the dedication to this program and offered their support.

b. STEAP Matching Funds (Small Town Economic Assistance Program)

Mr. Madancy explained that the town applied for and received a \$500,000 grant award for the purpose of resurfacing the SHS track. The STEAP grant is a town administered grant with a stipulation of the grant that the community who applies for it must put up a percentage of funds. The Board of Education's share of the funds is \$206,000 with the town kicking in their share of the \$500,000. He questioned from where the Board wanted to reallocate the Board's share of \$206,000 in order to proceed. The timeline to do the work would be June 2024 through August 2024. The resurfacing of the SHS track was part of the Athletic Facilities Project that went to referendum and did not pass. This grant would allow the track resurfacing to move forward without waiting for it to be addressed over the years as part of the Capital Plan. Mr. Madancy pointed out that there was \$235,000 in unencumbered MERS funds and approximately \$86,366 in unexpended carryover funds. He explained the Board options for the funding source. Mr. Baczewski asked if the district was due to replace the turf field. Mr. Madancy explained that the turf field was at year 12 and in good shape for its age; however, the track was in disrepair and needed to be repaired now but it would have been ideal to replace both at the same time.

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

“Move that the Board of Education approves the reallocation of \$206,000 using first the \$86,366 in Non-Lapsing Funds and the balance of \$119,634 from the Operating Budget to Matching Funds as identified in the recently submitted STEAP Grant, as recommended by the administration.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

- c. SHS Accelerated Physics Unit #3 Momentum & Impulse - First Reading**
- d. SHS Accelerated Physics Unit #4 - Work & Energy - First Reading**
- e. SHS Accelerated Physics Unit #5 - Simple Harmonic Motion - First Reading**
- f. SHS Accelerated Physics Unit #6 - Electrostatics & Circuits - First Reading**
- g. SHS Accelerated General Chemistry Unit #3 - Matter & Energy Changes - First Reading**
- h. SHS Accelerated General Chemistry Unit #4 - Gas Law & Kinetics - First Reading**

- i. **SHS Accelerated General Chemistry Unit #5 - Flint Water Crisis - First Reading**
- j. **Middle School Needs Assessment - First Reading**

These agenda items are all first readings and will come before the Board for approval at the next Board meeting. Mrs. Carmody explained that the Middle School Needs Assessment was a survey that would go home to the parents before students take it in case there were concerns regarding participation. Mr. Carson asked what prompted the need for the middle school assessment.

11. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Clark acknowledged that the Board received numerous letters regarding various topics that were not going to be read into the minutes but would be attached to the minutes. Reading the letters at the Board meeting was done during the COVID pandemic only. Mrs. Clark stated that the emails were received from Michael Kryzanski, Shama Greene, Jim & Shelly Nadwairski, Krista Perrella and Nick & Shelley Vincenzo (attached). Mrs. Zabohonski delivered forms requesting curriculum review that were given to the Superintendent.

a. Public

The following people addressed the Board during Public Communications:

Susan Zabohonski, read a passage from the book Native Son by Richard Wright that was given to 15-year-old students in English class at the high school, which was sexually explicit and written in 1940 and released at that time in the abridged edition due to content. In 1991, it was released in its unabridged edition. She stated that many parents completed a form for curriculum review of this book. She questioned Board of Education Policy #1312 and how this book was approved into the curriculum and the edition. She read both the abridged and unabridged versions of the book and stated that it was controversial material. If reviewed and approved, she requested that parents should sign-off for their child to read it. She thought the book was political, about systemic racism, and family issues causing criminal behavior, which she thought was not appropriate. She noted that the process for review started one week ago.

Effie Moutogiannis, 53 Rustic Oak Drive: She is a parent of a 10th grade student who is currently reading the unabridged version of the book Native Son in school. Mrs. Moutogiannis read this book when she was in high school accelerated English class and agreed that it was a challenging topic but did not have any issues about her daughter reading it and discussing at home. Her daughter's teacher sent home a notice to parents that they would be reading the book before it was distributed to students.

Leslie Parmentier, Hunters Lane: (Read by Susan Zabohonski) Ms. Parmentier is a retired Special Education Teacher with 30 years classroom experience at middle and high school levels. Her background includes degrees in BS SPED, MS Learning Disabilities, and 6th Yr. Degree in SPED Administration/Curriculum. She objected to the explicit sexual content being taught in the book Native Son, unabridged version, at the high school. She believed that during the school year educators spend more time with the students than the children's own parents. She sent the Board members a link to one notable study completed by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2022 that measured time parents spent with children in their homes under the age of 18. The outcomes of the study suggest that American parents spent significantly less time with their children than the classroom teachers. The teacher's role in educating young minds is also to shape social and emotional behaviors and the parents have trusted public schools to teach approved curriculum that is right and good for their children's future success. Parents expect that

curriculum has been reviewed and approved by trusted school administration and the elected Board of Education. She thought that materials with explicit sexual content should never be included in public school classrooms. Parents should be the ones to decide when to introduce sex education that aligns with their own religious beliefs and family values.

b. Student Expulsion

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

“Move to expel student #2023-2024-01, as stipulated by the administration.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS
EMAILS SUBMITTED BY PUBLIC

From: Michael Kryzanski <mkryzanski@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 3:49 PM
To: SBOE
cc: MICHAEL CROCCO
Subject: The book "Native Son" and its use at Southington High School
Attachments: ns.jpg

CAUTION: This message has originated from an External Source. Please use proper judgment and caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email.

Hello Southington Board of Ed Members,

I was recently made aware that the book Native Son is being used in some English classes taught at Southington High School. If I have heard wrong and am mistaken, please let me know and I won't trouble you any more on this topic. I have not read the book but I was made aware of one page of the book that is attached here. After seeing that page, I read some summaries online about the book because I was disturbed by the content on the page I saw. Unfortunately, I don't have the time to read the entire book so I do not have feedback on the rest of the book. I don't like commenting on something that I don't know about (i.e. the rest of the book). However, what I see here is disturbing. I won't go into graphic detail about what this page is describing. I realize that parents have different views on what is appropriate and what is not in a school setting. This makes it a difficult job for school administrators to balance what is allowed and what is not. I think the material on this page is entirely inappropriate for a high school setting. I can discuss my reasoning in a phone conversation with whoever appropriate. I was planning on speaking at the BOE meeting this week on this topic but decided to go to Castle Craig in Meriden with my family to see the full moon from the tower at the top (it is a lot of fun and I highly recommend it). Anyway, If parents want their children to read that book, they can easily do that outside of school. The book is available on Amazon.com. And, no this is not book banning. There are plenty of other reading materials that are not allowed in a school (like pornographic books and magazines) and that is not considered book banning.

Please let me know who will reach out to me regarding my concerns.

Thank you!

Michael Kryzanski
Parent of 9th grader Daria Kryzanski
27 Hitching Post Drive
860-893-5251

From: Shama Greene <shama.greene@gmail.com>
 Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 9:52 PM
 To: STEVEN MADANCY; SBOE
 Subject: A concern from a Southington parent

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PLEASE READ THIS CORRESPONDENCE ALOUD AT THE NEXT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING .
 THANK YOU

Mr. Madancy & Board of Education Members,

My husband and I are lifelong residents of Southington, both graduating from Southington High School. When deciding where we wanted to raise our family, we both agreed that Southington had a great school system and we should raise our family here. Our daughter is currently a third grader.

I emailed Mr. Madancy last year, as I saw some inconsistencies on how report cards were being done across the elementary schools. I was only looking at one particular strand "Reads and comprehends grade level texts". I am emailing this year because I am continuing to see inconsistencies throughout our elementary schools and it has me very concerned.

My main concern is the inconsistency with homework assigned in 3rd grade (because that is what grade my child is in) across all elementary schools in Southington. I have asked a variety of parents in all eight elementary schools and have found there to be little consistency. The only consistent homework I was told about was reading. The amount varies, but nightly reading is assigned.

That is where the consistency ends. A few schools have no homework thus far in 3rd grade. One school assigns reading and cursive. Another school assigns reading and an occasional math worksheet. Yet another school assigns reading and study for a spelling quiz. My child's school assigns reading with a written response and iReady. This is alarming. Students in these schools are going to have different homework, different learning backgrounds. That will filter to the two middle schools. Now, we will have students in sixth grade who did not have the same homework, the same amount of homework, kids with different skill sets, going to middle school where teachers will have to deal with the different learning backgrounds. I am not saying it should be completely the same. However, teachers should be assigning similar things across the grade level in Southington. It should not matter what elementary school your child goes to, they should be getting similar learning and homework experiences to keep the playing field level for all students in Southington. I'd love for my child to learn cursive, but we are apparently not learning that this year because we do not go to that school.

My next concern is in regards to the chromebooks. It is great that Southington is fortunate enough to have each child use a chromebook in school when needed. However, no one is teaching our children how to type. My child is in third grade and still "pecks" at the keyboard. It takes her at least 5 minutes to type a sentence. But now, her homework will be given on a chromebook where she has to type? It will take her 20 minutes to type three sentences. When I asked her teacher about it at Open House, the response was "She can access the typing program on ClassLink and practice at home" Why should my child have extra work to do at home? If Southington schools are giving her the chromebook, shouldn't Southington schools be teaching her how to type? And furthermore, if she cannot type fluently because she has not been taught- why is homework being assigned where she has to type?

Another concern that is becoming more alarming is, when are children being taught to write? Work on their fine motor skills? Learn cursive? How is the town of Southington helping my 'graduate' be able to sign a legal document with her name when she gets older? I am an educator, and the handwriting of students has gotten worse as the years have gone on. Yes, children should become familiar and comfortable with technology. However, they should still be writing things by hand to practice their handwriting and work on their fine motor control.

My last concern for this email is the homework policy. The Board of Education homework policy has not been revised since 2012. I was shocked to see that Grades 9-12 was still under revision, yet, no revision had actually been made public. Since that policy, there has been plenty of research to support that homework, especially in the elementary school, has no effect on student performance. None of us know what a student's life looks like outside of school. No one has any idea of how many extra-curricular activities they may be involved in or if both parents are working and whether the student has support to complete the homework at night. The only truly beneficial homework is reading. I'm going to include some current article links that show the research on homework for elementary school students.

Mr. Madancy & current Board of Education members, I urge you to look into this matter. Not just for third grade, but for all grade levels. Southington should have consistency throughout the grade levels no matter where a student attends elementary school. Teach our students to become proficient with technology if they are going to utilize it in and out of school. Teach our "graduates" how to be successful by giving them the keys to success— which includes being able to use cursive to sign their name on a legal document. Revisit your homework policy, taking into consideration that no one knows what a student's life looks like outside of school. No one knows if that child has the opportunity to complete assignments in a timely manner. My husband and I chose Southington as the town to raise our daughter in because of our exceptional education experience. Please give our daughter the same experience.

Sincerely,
Shama Greene
67 Memorial Drive
Southington

Article Links:

<https://time.com/4466390/homework-debate-research/>

<https://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/what-research-says-about-homework/#~:text=The%20average%20high%20school%20student,remains%20something%20of%20a%20mystery>

<https://www.popsci.com/science/do-kids-need-homework/>

From: STEVEN MADANCY
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2023
12:41 PM
To: TERESA COLEGROVE
Subject: FW: Board Of Ed

From: James Nadwairski <jsnads@att.net>
Sent: Monday, October 9, 2023 7:52 PM
To: SBOE <SBOE@southingtonschools.org>
Subject: Board Of Ed

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Dear Southington Boards Members.

I am writing to request a formal review of the book Native Son, an approved book that was assigned reading for the 10th grade English classes.
The book contains sexually explicit content that is not appropriate for minors.
I am requesting this review per Policy #1312

Please read my email into record at the next board meeting:

Our children should be protected in their innocence as long as they can. Don't rush the inhumanity of adulthood.

Jim & Shelly Nadwairski

From: Krista Perrella <kristaperrella@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2023 7:58 PM
To: SBOE
Subject: Don't delay the elementary facility project any further

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Hello BOE members,

I'm a mother of a current and future Kelley school student. I've seen the state of the building and I'm asking you to reinstate the vote on this project as soon as possible. The building was too hot the first week of school. Now there are garbage cans collecting rain water in the gym because of leaks in the roof. The playground is gone because it was too old to repair. The condition of this building is unacceptable for children and adults to be in.

I do not support the BOE decision to delay for referendum til 2025! We need this project to move forward. Please put in a grant application as soon as possible, to receive funding from the state. Please do whatever needs to be done to rebuild this school.

The BOE has already spent thousands of dollars on having a company do cost analysis, building/land analysis and provided their findings to the BOE and even parents last year at a special elementary facility project meeting for parents. Please consider these findings this year and vote to rebuild Kelley school by next May. Building costs are only going to rise.

Please consider moving the vote to may or next November at the latest. We can not wait until 2025. Kelley school is run down and in desperate need of repair.

Best,
Krista Antigiovanni

From: Shelley Vincenzo <shelley.vincenzo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2023 1:07 PM
To: SBOE <SBOE@southingtonschools.org>
Subject: September 28 BOE Meeting

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Good Afternoon,

I hope this email finds you well. My husband and I are unable to make it to the BOE meeting tonight, and I ask that the following be read into the record. I appreciate your assistance.

,"Dear Members of the Board of Ed:

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of tonight's meeting. Our names are Nick and Shelley Vincenzo, and we moved to Southington at the beginning of August. Our oldest just started Kindergarten at Kelley Elementary School.

We were told by many neighbors when we moved in how great of a community Southington is, and how Kelley school is second to none. Our son is thriving in Kindergarten and he is loving his experience so far, however, it is no secret that the school itself is lacking. I don't think we need to tell you to drive by (or visit) and see for yourselves because as we understand it, the prospect of rebuilding and/or renovating Kelley School has been before you for a while now.

You are all on the Board of Education because the students in this great town are important to you. Their health, wellness, and education are certainly at the forefront of your minds. We, as parents, share that same mindset. By way of this letter, we are before you tonight to urge you to NOT delay the improvements at Kelley School any further. Please do not delay the referendum any longer and instead move it up and put in a grant application this year so that a decision can be made on which building scenario to go with. The families and students at Kelley School are counting on you.

We appreciate your time.

Nick and Shelley Vincenzo
246 Hightower Road"

Respectfully,
Shelley Vincenzo