

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

JANUARY 11, 2018

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the John Weichsel Municipal Center Public Assembly Room, 200 North Main Street, Southington, Connecticut with an Executive Session scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Brian Goralski, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Board members present: Mr. Joseph Baczewski (*arrived 6:35 p.m.*), Mr. Robert Brown, Ms. Lisa Cammuso, Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mr. Brian Goralski, and Mrs. Patricia Queen. Absent was Mr. Zaya Oshana.

Administration present: Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS NEGOTIATIONS, OT/PT, UNAFFILIATED WAGES (EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT) AND A STUDENT MATTER ~ 6:30 p.m.

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

"Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing Negotiations, OT/PT, Unaffiliated Wages (Executive Assistant for Assistant Superintendent), and a Student Matter, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Goralski declared Executive Session ended at 7:04 p.m.

3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Goralski, Chairperson, reconvened the regular session at 7:10 p.m.

Board members present: Mr. Joseph Baczewski, Mr. Robert Brown, Ms. Lisa Cammuso, Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mr. David Derynoski, Mr. Brian Goralski, and Mrs. Patricia Queen. Absent was Mr. Zaya Oshana.

Administration present: Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Steven Madancy, Assistant Superintendent.

Student Representatives present were Joseph Martin and Bianca Spataro.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The student representatives led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Goralski called for a moment of silence in memory of Patricia Holcomb, who was a current paraeducator at Hatton School with 25 years of service, and Mr. Dick Fortunato, who was a media specialist in the community and an advocate for the Southington Public Schools. They both recently passed away.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ December 14, 2017

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

“Move to approve the Regular Board of Education minutes of December 14, 2017, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote with Mr. Derynoski abstaining.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience:

There was no audience communication.

b. Communication from Board Members

Board members praised the very informative presentation by Mr. Greg Tang, author and math expert, at the K-5 Family Math Night held on January 3 at DePaolo Middle School. This presentation was to help parents / adults understand the concept of the new math. There were over 400 people in attendance. Mrs. Queen requested that Amy Zappone, Math Coordinator, duplicate on paper what was presented for people who could not attend.

Mr. Brown discussed the budget process and encouraged the community to attend the workshops and give specific input on what programs and positions to cut instead of making vague comments.

Mr. Goralski challenged each school to have a staff member participate in the Polar Plunge at Camp Sloper on January 20, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Goralski will be sending an email challenge on Friday, January 12. He requested that Board members make checks payable to the Southington YMCA Polar Plunge, Team BOE.

Mr. Goralski announced that the STEPS biennial survey to grade 7, 9 and 11 students will be conducted on Thursday, January 25, 2018 with a snow date of January 26, 2018. There is an opt-out clause available for taking the survey.

c. Communication from Administration

1. Introduction of Human Resource Manager: Mr. Connellan formally presented a new collaborative between the Board of Education and Town with a new Human Resources Manager, Mrs. Michelle Passamano. Mrs. Passamano took the podium and thanked the Board members and Town Council for this opportunity and gave a brief background synopsis.
2. Family Math Night: Mr. Madancy shared the amazing job that the new Math Coordinator, Amy Zappone did, along with her assistant Tina Camputaro, in orchestrating the presentation of Mr. Greg Tang.
3. AP District Honor Roll: Mr. Connellan announced that Southington High School was named to the 8th Annual AP District Honor Roll. Mr. Brian Stranieri discussed growing the AP courses offered and praised the students and staff. Mr. Madancy pointed out that the AP teaching staff donate their time over the summer to get the AP teacher training without pay.
4. Webster Bank Mentoring Program: Mr. Madancy explained that Webster Bank Corporate headquarters moved to Southington and approached administration for the opportunity to give back to the community. There is a mentoring program in place at Flanders Elementary School with future expansion to Derynoski Elementary School.

d. Communication from Student Representatives

Mr. Goralski invited the student representatives, if they are available, to attend the budget workshops for their input.

Bianca Spataro reported on the following:

- The Winter Music Concert at the high school was held on December 20 at 6:00 p.m. with 700 people in attendance.
- On December 20, Channel 8 News did a story on the Winter Wonderland at SHS which was aired on Thursday, December 28. She will email the link to the Board members.
- All high school students participated in decorating the school the month of December. The decorations will stay up until spring.
- Thursday, December 21, the annual ACHIEVE Christmas Carol sing was held in the ACHIEVE program room with members of the Music Department and others playing instruments.
- Students involved in the Music program at SHS played holiday music all around the school on the half-day before winter break, which was very festive.

Joseph Martin reported on the following:

- On January 8, the American Legion held their Oratorical Contest with three high school students competing.
- The Course Fair was held on January 10, 2018 in the high school cafeteria.
- College 101 was held on January 10 with SHS graduates speaking to the seniors regarding their college experiences.
- Mid-terms are coming up and Wednesday, January 24 is the start of the second semester.

Mr. Goralski announced that Joseph Martin was a senior recognized on Tuesday, January 9 at the Marching Band Banquet as an award-winning member of the band for four years straight.

7. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

a. Personnel Report

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

“Move to approve the Personnel Report, as presented.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Finance Committee Meeting ~ December 18, 2017

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

“Move to approve the Transfer of Funds, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Connellan explained the reduction of funding for the 2017-2018 budget for the town of Southington and that after computing the pluses and minus from all revenue the town is at a \$5 million deficit. There is \$3 million in the town contingency fund that the Board of Finance set aside and that the Town Council approved resulting in a \$2.1 million funding gap. The Town Board of Finance requested that the Town Manager and Superintendent return to the Board of Finance with a Deficit Mitigation Plan for the \$2.1 million and recommend how to distribute the \$3 million. The Board of Finance will look at the distribution of funds in February, March and May.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

Mr. Goralski stated that he spoke bi-weekly to Mr. Christopher Palmieri, Town Council Chair, and often to Mr. John Leary, Board of Finance Chair, regarding the budget. The Town currently has a hiring freeze, except for public safety, and the Board of Education currently has a hard spending freeze in place. He praised Mr. Palmieri for re-engaging the Committee of the Chairs to collaboratively tackle the state revenue deficit to the town. These meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month.

Mrs. Queen reported that she and Mr. Oshana attended the first meeting of the Ordinance Committee in December. The committee discussed charges for excess calls to the police department and revising the blight ordinance.

b. 2018-2019 Proposed School Calendar ~ Second Reading

Mr. Connellan stated that there were two versions of the 2018-2019 calendar with the April break the primary difference. April break in Version A is the week of April 15-19 with April 19 being Good Friday and Version B is the week of April 8-12, which is reflective of the CREC Regional Calendar. The district is no longer obligated under state statute to use the “Common” calendar because each region has adopted its own calendar. Mr. Connellan explained the 52 responses that he received from the staff and a few parents with 65% supporting Version A. Wallingford, Cheshire and Meriden’s April break is the week of April 15. School district’s north of Southington such as Plainville have the April break the week of April 8. The Board members discussed the two versions and how the calendars affect 38 half-day magnet school students and Vocational Technical School students.

MOTION: by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mrs. Clark:

“Move to adopt Version A for the 2018-2019 school calendar.”

Mr. Goralski clarified that Version A is the week of April 15-19, 2018.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mrs. Carmody, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Brown, Mr. Baczewski, Ms. Cammuso, Mrs. Queen, Mr. Goralski. NO – Mr. Derynoski. **Motion carried by voice vote with seven in favor and one opposed.**

Mr. Connellan stated that he planned to work through the Superintendent’s association to get a statewide agreement for the same week for the December and April recesses.

MOTION: Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mrs. Clark:

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

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Unaffiliated Wages ~ Executive Assistant, Assistant Superintendent of Schools**

MOTION: by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mrs. Clark:

“Move to approve an hourly wage of \$29.29 for the currently vacant position of the Executive Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction for the calendar years of 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

- b. Student Expulsion**

MOTION: by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mrs. Clark:

“Move to expel Student 2017-2018-04 as stipulated by the Superintendent.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Blanchard
Recording Secretary