

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 25, 2018

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, January 25, 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 6:30 p.m.

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

Administration present: Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Steven Madancy, Assistant Superintendent; and Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business & Finance.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS NEGOTIATIONS (AFSCME & UPSEU) UPDATES AND A STUDENT MATTER ~ 6:30 p.m.

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 Negotiations (AFSCME & UPSEU) Updates, and a Student Matter, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session."

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Goralski declared Executive Session ended at 6:51 p.m.

3. RECONVENE MEETING ~ REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Goralski, Chairperson, reconvened the regular session at 7:00 p.m.

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

Administration present: Mr. Timothy Connellan, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Steven Madancy, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance; and Ms. Margaret Walsh, Director of Pupil Services.

Student Representatives present were Joseph Martin and Bianca Spataro.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The student representatives led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~ January 11, 2018

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

“Move to approve the Regular Board of Education meeting minutes of January 11, 2018, as submitted.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience:

There were 20 students, parents and faculty who spoke regarding the proposed elimination of the Elementary Instrumental Music Program, Middle School French, and Library Media in the 2018-2019 Board of Education Operational Budget. The majority of the people spoke passionately opposing the proposed reduction of the Elementary Instrumental Music program detailing the positive outcomes of this music program. The following are the people who spoke and their topic:

Name	Address	Topic
Sara Ossias	1105 East Street	Instrumental Music
Kaylie Culp	130 Washington Drive	Instrumental Music
David Pestillo	136 Commission Street	Instrumental Music
Patricia Nagle	446 Hart Street	Instrumental Music
Nathanial Huff	936 Prospect Street	Instrumental Music
Madelyn Chasse	51 Country Club Circle	Instrumental Music
Christina Sack	291 South End Road	Instrumental Music
Adam Gwara	82 Buckland Street	Instrumental Music
Trevor Messina	132 Panorama Drive	Instrumental Music
Alex Carabetta	107 Little Fawn Road	Instrumental Music
Dan Callahan	159 Pin Oak Drive	Instrumental Music
Amie Markoski	248 Hitchcock Road	Do not cut any programs
Debbie Mauro	25 Beal Drive	Library Media and all programs
Sarah McAuliffe	73 Brightwood Lane	Instrumental Music
Robert Chasse	51 Country Club Circle	Instrumental Music
Anna Haberski	129 Deer Run	Instrumental Music
Andrea McAteer / Read letters from her son	1408 East Street	Instrumental Music and French Middle School Program
Sarah Lew	15 Foley Drive	Instrumental Music
Tara Bromley	107 Farmstead Road	Do not cut education programs
Joseph Martin	29 Amanda Lane	Instrumental Music

b. Communication from Board Members

Mr. Goralski thanked the Southington YMCA for organizing the annual Sloper Plunge at Sloper's Pond and raising over \$45,000 for children to attend YMCA Camp Sloper in the summer. Many Southington Public School employees participated with representation from each school. Mr. Goralski noted that the STEPS survey, which helps the community keep Southington children safe, was taken by Grade 7, 9 and 11 students on January 25, 2018.

c. Communication from Administration

1. Bread for Life Collaboration: Mr. Madancy announced that Bread for Life will be providing healthy snacks in the school counseling offices at the high school and middle schools for free/reduced lunch students who get hungry during the day and need a snack.
2. Healthy and Wise Committee Award: Mrs. DiNello reported that on January 17 the Healthy and Wise Committee (a partnership between the Board of Education and town) learned that they were the recipient of the Gold Award from the Business Council of Fairfield County for the 2018 Healthy Workplace Employer Recognition Program. The Healthy and Wise Committee has offered many healthy program opportunities to town and Board of Education employees.
3. Human Resources Update: Mr. Connellan reported that Mrs. Passamano, Human Resources Manager and Mr. Mark Sciota, Town Manager, have been collaboratively interviewing for an Assistant Human Resources Manager on the town side with that person starting in the near future.
4. Legislative Breakfast: Mr. Connellan announced that the Legislative Breakfast that is sponsored by the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) and the Hartford area Superintendent's Association is February 15, 2018 at the State Capitol from 8:00-10:00 a.m. Board members are invited to attend.

d. Communication from Student Representatives

Bianca Spataro reported on the following:

- She thanked and praised the students who spoke earlier and noted that their voices do matter.
- Mid-terms ended on Tuesday, January 23 and the second semester had started.
- New themes will be added to decorating the hallways at the high school for Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day.

Joseph Martin reported on the following:

- The winter sports teams were off to a good start.
- The senior class officers were continuing the Winter Wonderland decorating of the hallways.

7. OLD BUSINESS**a. Town Government Communications**

Mr. Goralski reported that the Committee of the Chairs will be meeting the first Wednesday of February to discuss the 2018-2019 budget. He will advocate continuing the process of the town board's sharing a grid showing questions and answers regarding the budget.

b. Budget 2017-2018

Mr. Goralski reported that due to recent reductions from the state, the town is still looking at a \$2.1 million deficit. Mr. Connellan and Mr. Sciota, Town Manager, are collaboratively working on this budget shortfall and closing the gap. Mrs. DiNello gave an update on an appropriation request that was made by the Board of Education. She explained that the Board of Finance and Town Council appropriated \$2.5 million at their last meeting, which was the additional ECS money that was received above what they had originally anticipated. This reduced the \$6.9 million shortfall to \$4.3 million for the current year budget and additional funding would come through the \$3 million contingency fund that both the Board of Finance and Town Council had foresight to set aside when they approved the 2017-2018 budget. The plan is to make appropriations in three installments after getting feedback from the meeting of the Committee of the Chairs. There currently is a town-wide spending freeze in place affecting the Southington Public Schools and the town.

Mr. Goralski explained that the Board of Education will be presenting their adopted 2018-2019 budget at the February Board of Finance meeting. The meeting is scheduled for February 14; however, the date possibly will change. Also at that meeting, Mr. Connellan and Mr. Sciota will be presenting their plan for the \$2.1 million current deficit. The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2018.

8. NEW BUSINESS**a. Early Childhood Collaborative**

Mrs. Joanne Kelleher, Director of the Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington (ECCS) gave a PowerPoint presentation updating the Board on the needs of children in Southington prior to their entry into Kindergarten. She discussed the following in detail: ECCS goals, supporting the community, funding, 2014 report on children born to Southington families, childcare costs, Care4Kids, family childcare providers in town, licensed childcare centers, preschools in Southington, care gaps in Southington, children with preschool experience, upcoming ECCS events and state of Connecticut standards. She encouraged the Board and public to go to the ECCS website for more information at www.southingtonearlychildhood.org. The ECCS is also on social media (Facebook and Twitter).

b. Review / Adoption of 2018-2019 Board of Education Budget

Mrs. DiNello explained that the Board tasked administration with presenting three different reduction scenarios at previous 2018-2019 Board of Education budget workshops. The scenarios were: 1) showing \$1 million in reductions, 2) showing \$2 million in reductions and, 3) showing \$3 million in reductions. After the workshops, the Board members shared recommendations and questions with the administration resulting in Mrs. DiNello distributing a new draft document essentially addressing Scenario #1 and what it would look like without the personnel/staff reductions. This scenario would have the least amount of impact on students. She gave a summary of the document with Board members having many questions. Discussed was middle school cross country and athletic transportation, new textbooks, equipment, special projects and special budgets - Learning Academy and Major Projects. Replacing new textbooks would be districtwide Learning Management System (LMS) software in which Mr. Madancy spoke at length on how it would be utilized, and implementing high school athletic activity fees. These budget adjustments would result in a total reduction of \$681,933.

The Board members had questions and lengthy discussions on the following: Middle school cross country, assessing parking fees at Southington High School, eliminating the high school athletic activity fees from discussion, the impact of eliminating the Learning Academy at the high school, the Fortinet (district firewall and antivirus system) and Mobile Device Management System (MDM) software, Ag-Science students doing field maintenance, districtwide (LMS) software, reoccurring costs, eliminating the purchase of Canyon Creek software for online scheduling of parent-teacher conferences, eBook/License Subscriptions, and textbooks.

Mr. Goralski called for a consensus of the Draft Reduction Scenario page that Mrs. DiNello distributed to the Board and adding back in \$30,000 that was already budgeted and the reduction of \$5,000 for the Canyon Creek software resulting in a total reduction of \$529,433 (2.71%).

<u>CONSENSUS:</u>	Yes -	Mr. Brown	No -	Mr. Derynoski
		Ms. Cammuso		Mr. Oshana
		Mr. Baczewski		Mrs. Queen
		Mrs. Carmody		
		Mr. Goralski		

Mr. Derynoski, Mr. Oshana and Mrs. Queen explained why they did not agree with the consensus because of the elimination of middle school cross country and new textbooks. The Board members discussed at length the Learning Management Software (LMS) and subject areas most dependent on textbooks (math, social studies, world language) with a consensus of adding back \$54,000 for geometry math textbooks.

Mrs. DiNello summarized the new figures by taking out the add back for the LMS, cutting the Canyon Creek and making the textbook adjustment of \$54,000, which gave a new reduction amount of \$475,433 (2.77% increase).

Mr. Goralski stated that the Board of Education did not want to reduce anything in the proposed 2018-2019 Superintendent’s Operational Budget especially with Southington ranking 154 out of 166 school districts in per pupil spending; however, in an effort to be a partner with the Town Board of Finance and being fiscally responsible in helping them make difficult decisions, the Board of Education must make these difficult reductions.

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

“Move to adopt the 2018-2019 Board of Education Operating Budget in the amount of \$96,816,329 for a 2.77% increase over the baseline budget of the current fiscal year.”

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mr. Baczewski, Mr. Brown, Ms. Cammuso, Mrs. Carmody, Mr. Derynoski, Mrs. Queen, Mr. Goralski. NO – Mr. Oshana.

Motion carried by voice vote with seven in favor and one opposed.

Mr. Derynoski and Mr. Oshana stated that they would stand behind this budget when presented to the Town.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

“Move to adjourn.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Blanchard

Recording Secretary